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## Limited Resources Delaying Srinagar Master Plan: Chief Town Planner

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Six years after the Srinagar Master Plan draft was completed, the Chief Town Planner of Kashmir who prepared the blueprint terms limited resources as the main impediment in the implementation.

The Master Plan for Srinagar City was completed in 2016 and it took almost three years to notify it in 2019.

"It was to be implemented by the development authority and the municipal corporation after I completed the final draft," said Iftikhar Hakim, Chief

Town Planner, Kashmir. "But I lost track after my transfer."

With 35 years of experience in the preparation of urban planning and policy framework at micro, macro and regional levels, Iftikhar said that in developed countries, it's seen how much of the master plan has been implemented.

"But there's no such mechanism in Kashmir," said the town planner who has supervised colony developments, road planning and other schemes.

"We've to keep in mind that in developing countries, the resources are limited. The



implementation of Master Plans needs a lot of investment.

So, that issue is still prevalent." In a freewheeling interview

with *Kashmir Observer*, the town planner talks about the urban scenario and the vision document lost in translation.

**What has happened to the Srinagar Master Plan?**

As a vision document of the city, I prepared the Srinagar Master Plan in 2016. It took almost three years to notify it in 2019. But I lost the track after my transfer.

But as someone who has framed all the master plans since 2008, I can say it involves expansion of the city and proper functioning of civic affairs.

It's designed after a period of twenty years and reviewed after every five years.

However, the dearth of resources has delayed its implementation. So many Departments, like Roads & Buildings (R&B), Public Health Engineering (PHE), Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Srinagar Development Authority (SDA), etc are involved in its implementation.

**Are you saying you've nothing to do with the implementation?**

Our basic | [More on P10](#)

## Srinagar Records Season's Coldest Night At -1.4°C



Agencies

**Srinagar:** Cold conditions prevailed in Jammu and Kashmir as Srinagar, the summer capital of J&K, recorded the season's coldest night on Friday.

A MeT department official here said that Srinagar recorded a low of minus 1.4°C against minus 0.8°C on the previous night. The temperature was 1.5°C below normal during this time of the year for the capital city so far, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 2.2°C against minus 2.0°C on the previous night, while in Pahalgam, the mercury settled at minus 3.6°C against minus 4.4°C on the previous night and it was 1.2°C below normal for the south Kashmir resort, he said.

Kokernag recorded a low of minus 0.5°C against minus 1.0°C on the previous night and it was 1.1°C below normal for the place, he said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 0.0°C against minus 2.4°C on the previous night, the official said. It was 2.1°C above normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, the official said.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at minus 2.4°C, the same as on the previous night, the official said. It was 1.9°C below normal for the north Kashmir place, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 9.8°C against 9.1°C on the previous night. It was 1.7°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said. Banihal recorded a low of 5.0°C (2.6°C above normal), Batote 5.6°C (0.8°C above normal), Katra 9.8°C (0.1°C above normal) and | [More on P10](#)

## Decks Cleared For Assembly Polls In J&K

EC Concludes Electoral Roll Revision, 7.72 Lakh New Voters, 613 Polling Stations Added

Observer News Service

**Jammu:** Paving way for the conduct of first-ever assembly polls in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, the Election Commission Friday concluded first special summary revision (SSR) exercise in the Union Territory by adding 613 new polling stations and nearly 8 lakh new voters, taking the total number of eligible voters in J&K to 7586899.

According to an official spokesperson, this was for the first time in the history of J&K that more than 11 lakh names were included in a single SSR period.

"Overall net addition of 772872 electors i.e. more than 10% of the draft electors is a milestone as the best figure till date even in Election year SSRs was less than 2 lakh," he said.

The spokesperson said that in the revised electoral rolls, gender ratio has shown a remarkable

**OVERALL NET ADDITION OF 772872 ELECTORS**  
i.e. more than 10% of the draft electors is a milestone as the best figure till date even in Election year SSRs was less than 2 lakh."

increase by 27 points and stands at 948, which is much above the census gender ratio of the UT. "Overall there has been a 6% increase in the Elector Population Ratio making it 58% from 52%," he said.

He said that the Photo coverage in the Electoral Roll was maintained at 99.99% showing that no new | [More on P10](#)



Artist Deepa Soni fixes her gaze at one of her paintings during an exhibition titled 'The Autumn Art Exhibit' held in Srinagar on Friday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## Schools To Close For Winter Break From December 1

Zaid Bin Shabir

**Srinagar:** After sending confused signals initially the School Education Department on Friday announced three-month winter vacations for all the schools in the Valley in a phased manner beginning December 1.

The announcement of winter break in schools came on a day when Srinagar city, recorded the season's coldest night at minus 1.4 degree Celsius.

According to an order issued by the Principal Secretary, School Education Department, Alok Kumar all schools up to class 5th shall observe winter vacation from December 1 while the middle classes (6th to 8th standard) will cease academic activities on December 12.

Similarly, secondary and higher secondary level classes will observe winter vacations from December 19.



The schools will reopen after winter break on February 28.

"The Teaching staff of High and Higher Secondary Schools shall report back to their respective schools on 20th February, 2023, so that they remain available for making arrangements

preparation of ensuing examinations," reads the order.

All teachers, the order said, shall remain available on demand for any online guidance of students during vacation period.

"Any default on part of the Head of the Schools/Teaching staff in observance | [More on P10](#)

## PM Modi Has Been 'Very Firm' On China: Jaishankar

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been "very firm" on China and he should be judged by the strong deployment of our forces on the Sino-India border, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Friday, rejecting the Opposition's criticism of the prime minister's recent handshake with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Jaishankar said while dealing with China, there is the reality that it is the second biggest economy in the world, India's proximate neighbour but also one with whom it has had a difficult history, conflict and a very major boundary dispute.

Speaking at the Times Now summit, Jaishankar said the right way of dealing with China is to be firm when one has to be firm.

"If you have to move troops up to the border to deal with what they are trying to do, we should



do that. On issues where they do not support or undermine our interests, to be frank about it, to be public about it where required. I don't say public about it all the time but where diplomacy requires it is often useful to be public," he said.

"...At the same time maintain the decorum and dignity of how leaders behave...this is exactly how this has happened," he said.

Apparently responding to the criticism from | [More on P10](#)

## SEC Bars Exit Poll For 2 DDC Seats Till Dec 5

Observer News Service

**The Jammu & Kashmir State Election Commission** has prohibited the conduct of any exit poll in Drugmulla (Kupwara) and Hajin-A district development constituencies till December 5. According to an order, the poll-body has prohibited the conduct of any exit poll or its | [More on P10](#)

## Panel To Revisit Selection Criteria For Hirings Under NHM

Another Panel Formed For Recommending Members For Authority Agencies

**Srinagar:** Health and Medical Education Department J&K has constituted a committee for revisiting the selection criteria for hiring manpower under National Health Mission while a separate committee has been constituted to recommend members

of an authority under National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professionals act, 2021.

"As decided in the Executive Committee meeting, sanction is hereby accorded for the constitution of the committee to revisit the selection criteria for hiring of manpower under National Health Mission," reads the order.

As per the order, Mission Director, NHM, J&K will be Chairman of the committee while | [More on P10](#)

## IED Found In Mini-Bus In Ramban

**P**olice found an improvised explosive device (IED) in a mini-bus that was carrying around 20 passengers on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway in Ramban district on Friday, officials said. "We received specific information that a matador is carrying a suspicious object. The vehicle was search and a suspected object was found at 12 pm," SSP Ramban Mohita Sharma told reporters here. The bus was intercepted at the Nashri checkpoint. The IED kept in a container in the back seat was found by the bomb disposal squad, she said. An investigation is on to find out what is material used in this IED, the SSP said.

## 3 Boys Drown In Kathua River



**T**hree boys drowned while taking a bath in a river in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, officials said. Pankaj Sharma, Pankaj Kumar and Sheetal Kumar, all residents of Billawer, were swept away into the deep waters of the Bhini river while bathing, they said. Police launched a search operation after they received | [More on P10](#)

## Ashok Yadav Is New IG BSF Kashmir

**I**nspector General of Border Security Force Kashmir, Raja Babu Singh on Friday handed over the command to the new IG BSF Kashmir, Ashok Yadav. In a statement, a spokesperson said Raja Babu commanded a very challenging Frontier of Kashmir for over one year and the Kashmir Frontier has achieved tremendous success under his command. The statement reads during his tenure, BSF along with army achieved tremendous success on the LoC resulting in a decline in LoC-related incidents. "His tenure witnessed the mobilization of large numbers of BSF Coys for law and | [More on P10](#)

## Minor Girl Slips To Death In Kupwara



**I**n a tragic accident, a minor girl died on Friday after slipping into a stream in North Kashmir's Kupwara district. 3-year-old Aaliya Rafiq, daughter of Mohammad Rafiq Chechi, was alongside her sister, when she accidentally fell off a bridge into Mawar Nallah, reports said Friday. The minor girl was evacuated from the water source | [More on P10](#)

## NIA Files Charges Against OGW

**T**he National Investigation Agency on Friday filed a supplementary chargesheet against a youth from Kishtwar in a case related to criminal conspiracy of carrying out terror strikes in different places in Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country. In a statement issued Friday, an NIA spokesperson said that the case was initially registered as FIR No. 06/2018 dated 12.09.2018 at PS-ATS, Lucknow and re-registered by NIA on 24.09.2018 against Danish Naseer of Kishtwar, under section 120B of IPC and section 17, 18 & 38 of UA (P) Act 1967. | [More on P10](#)

## Govt Transfers Two JKAS Officers

**T**he Jammu and Kashmir government Friday ordered transfer of two JKAS officers in the interest of administration. Vipin Bhagat, Junior Scale JKAS 2012-II batch, presently posted as Assistant Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Rural-II, Jammu, and posted as Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, with immediate effect, reads a government order issued here on Friday. According to a separate order, Tanveer-u-Majid Wani, JKAS, General Manager, DIC, Shopian, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Divisional | [More on P10](#)

S H O R T T A K E S





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# Antioxidant Flavonols Intake Linked To Slower Mental Decline: Study

Press Trust Of India

People who eat or drink more foods with antioxidant flavonols, found in several fruits, vegetables, tea and wine, may have a slower rate of memory decline, according to a study.

Flavonols are a type of flavonoid, a group of phytochemicals found in plant pigments known for its beneficial effects on health.

"It's exciting that our study shows making specific diet choices may lead to a slower rate of cognitive decline," said study author Thomas M. Holland of Rush University Medical Centre in Chicago, US.

After adjusting for other factors that could affect the rate of memory decline, such as age, sex and smoking, researchers found that the cognitive score of people who had the highest intake of flavonols declined at a rate of 0.4 units per decade more slowly than people whose had the lowest intake. Holland noted this is probably due to the inherent antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties of flavonols.

The findings have been published in the journal American Academy of Neurology.

"Something as simple as eating more fruits and vegetables and drinking more tea is an easy way for people to take an active role in maintaining their brain health," said Holland.



The study also broke the flavonol class down into the four constituents: kaempferol, quercetin, myricetin and isorhamnetin. The top food contributors for each category were: kale, beans, tea, spinach and broccoli for kaempferol; tomatoes, kale, apples and tea for quercetin; tea, wine, kale, oranges and tomatoes for myricetin; and pears, olive oil, wine and tomato sauce for isorhamnetin.

The researchers found that people who had the highest intake of kaempferol had a 0.4 units

per decade slower rate of cognitive decline compared to those in the lowest group. Those with the highest intake of quercetin had a 0.2 units per decade slower rate of cognitive decline compared to those in the lowest group.

People with the highest intake of myricetin had a 0.3 units per decade slower rate of cognitive decline compared to those in the lowest group. Dietary isorhamnetin was not tied to global cognition, the study said.

The study involved 961 people with an average age of 81

without dementia. They filled out a questionnaire each year on how often they ate certain foods. They also completed annual cognitive and memory tests including recalling lists of words, remembering numbers and putting them in the correct order, the study said.

They were also asked about other factors, such as their level of education, how much time they spent doing physical activities and how much time they spent doing mentally engaging activities such as reading and

playing games. They were followed for an average of seven years, the study said.

To determine rates of cognitive decline, researchers used an overall global cognition score summarizing 19 cognitive tests. The average score ranged from 0.5 for people with no thinking problems to 0.2 for people with mild cognitive impairment to -0.5 for people with Alzheimer's disease, the study said.

The people were divided into five equal groups based on the amount of flavonols they had in their diet.

While the average amount of flavonol intake in US adults is about 16 to 20 milligrams (mg) per day, the study population had an average dietary intake of total flavonols of approximately 10 mg per day. The lowest group had an intake of about 5 mg per day and the highest group consumed an average of 15 mg per day; which is equivalent to about one cup of dark leafy greens, the study said.

Holland noted that the study shows an association between higher amounts of dietary flavonols and slower cognitive decline but does not prove that flavonols directly cause a slower rate of cognitive decline.

Other limitations of the study are that the food frequency questionnaire, although valid, was self-reported, so people may not accurately remember what they eat.

Office Of The Headmaster  
Government High School Bonzanigam

Zone: Hardupanzoo  
Berwah Budgam

No: HSBZG/1308-01-22

DATED 21-11-2022

AUCTION NOTICE

There is some serviceable material of one demolished ACR Viz Bricks timber, windows (three numbers) one door which is likely to be auctioned on 29th November 2022 (Tuesday at 12:00 Noon with following terms and Conditions

1. The parties can inspect the material along with committee members from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon and submit their bids before the committee.
  2. The participating bidders will have to deposit CDR (amounting to Rs 1000) in cash on the same day.
  3. The base price (minimum bid value) has been fixed at Rs 18000.
  4. The bidding agencies would be required to lift the material and clear the site at their own cost in one day, failing which deposit amount will be forfeited.
  5. The material/items will be permitted to be removed only after the full and final payment by the bidder.
  6. The auction committee and the undersigned reserves the right to accept /reject the bids.
- The interested parties can call on the mobile numbers 8082312821, 9622429973, 8082644511 for further information.

Headmaster  
Govt. High School  
Bonzanigam Budgam

bmg

F. No. A-4-38/2022-Estt.  
Government of India

National Archives of India,

(Ministry of Culture)

Janpath, New Delhi-110001.

Applications are invited for appointment to the 01 (one) post of Deputy Director of Archives, classified as General Central Services Group A' post (Gazetted), Non-Ministerial in Pay Matrix Level-12 (Rs.78,800/- - Rs.2,09,200/-) on Deputation (including short term contract) in the National Archives of India, New Delhi.

The details regarding eligibility conditions, educational qualifications and experience, application form etc. may be seen on the website of the National Archives of India. (www.nationalarchives.nic.in).

The application (in duplicate) in the prescribed proforma furnishing with details may be sent to the Deputy Director of Archives (Admn.), National Archives of India, Janpath, New Delhi-110001 through Proper Channel within a period of 45 days from the date of the publication of this advertisement. The applications received after the last date or otherwise incomplete will not be considered and stand rejected.

cbc -09108/12/0005/2223

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION CHADOORA

NOTICE INVITING FRESH E-TENDERS

E-NIT No. 210 of R&B /9118-27/2022-23 Dated:- 24/11/2022

SINGLE COVER SYSTEM

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

SN	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion (days)	M.H OF Account	Class Of Contactor	Accord	Technical sanction
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Repairing of Damaged Malwari culvert on Bonyar Surasary road.	2.44	200.00	4880.00	15	3054	DEE	N/A	Sanctioned

Position of AAA: - Accorded,

Position of funds: - Available.

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	24/11/2022
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	24/11/2022
3	Bid submission Start Date	24/11/2022
4	Bid Submission End Date	30/11/2022 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	30/11/2022 at 4.10 PM in the office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Chadoora.

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (deposited in MH: 0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender receiving authority).

Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan and Earnest Money / Bid security must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

1.1 The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Chadoora within 07 (Seven) days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for beyond bid validity.

2. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 3% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/ bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 3% of the allotted cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP.

Note:- The Bidders shall mention the name of the advertised work/ reference to NIT & S. No. on the EMD / Bid security (CDR/FDR/BG) while submitting the bidding documents, in order to avoid using the same multiple times for multiple works.

3. The date and time of opening of Financial Bids of a responsive bidder shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.

4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

- a) The earnest money/ performance Security shall be forfeited if:- Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
- c) Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

6(A). Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

6.1 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

6.2 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate {DSC}' as per information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

6.3 The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

6.4 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

6.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original documents related to the bid shall be submitted by L1 before issuance of Allotment in his favour.

6.6 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including earnest Money Deposit, tender documents fee in terms of soft copies and all other documents required as per NIT with technical bid. No document (s) which has/have not been uploaded shall be entertained for technical evaluation in the form of hard copy. However in case of any clarification the bidders all have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

6.6(a) Bidders should note that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract has been awarded are found forged/fake/not genuine at any time, the contract shall be cancelled and the contractor/bidder shall be recommended for blacklisting and debarred from taking part in tendering in PWD/Other Departments for a period of one year in the first instance, besides the performance security deposited for the said work shall be forfeited.

7. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

8. For item rate method the unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

9. The %age rate method requires the bidder to quote a percentage above / below / at par at the bottom of the BOQ percentage template for the work. The percentage quoted by the bidder shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

10. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

11. Price escalation and Taxes: No price escalation shall be permissible. The deduction on account of taxes shall be made for the bills of the contractor for the gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

12. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

13. In case of CRF and any other specified project. The relevant guidelines standard bidding document shall be followed.

No. 9118-27

Dated:25/11/2022

DIPK-14097/22

Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Chadoora

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the number plate of my vehicle bearing Regd No; JK01P 3365. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the Concerned RTO Office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

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## انتقال پر ملال



پیر انتہائی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ مرحوم الدین میر ولد مرحوم محمد صدیق میر ساکد محبوب آباد، محل سر پتھر موزوں 24 نومبر 2022ء بروز جمعرات انتقال کر گئے۔ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحوم کو جنت الفردوس میں یکجا عنایت فرمائیں۔ آمین۔ اس سلسلے میں مرحوم کے گھر میں تعزیت پڑی تین دن یعنی اتوار تک رہے گی اور چھ ماہ و مہر و کی تقریب نہیں ہوگی۔ مرحوم کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی ان کے آہنی مقبرہ واقع چنوں بازار کدہ کدول سر پتھر میں 10 بجے بروز اتوار انجام دی جائیگی۔

سوگواران

نوٹ: مستورات سے گزارش ہے کہ وہ اپنے ساتھ کسی قسم کا میوہ وغیرہ ساتھ نہ لائیں

2ND HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISH TO ANGEL  
"MAHNOOR"  
You are our sweetest cuddly cos.  
Your smile makes us woo.  
You make our life happiest too.  
You are our family bliss.  
Happy Birthday  
our beautiful Angel.

May Allah Bless You (Ameen)  
fiko  
From Baba & Mamma

حاجی محمد اسماعیل خان ندر ہے!  
یہ شہر انتہائی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ حاجی محمد اسماعیل خان ولد علی محمد خان ساکن باری باغ جواہر نگر میری نگر موزوں 24 نومبر 2022ء بروز جمعرات کو اس دار فانی سے رحلت کر گئے۔ انا للہ و انا الیہ راجعون ۵۰ مرحوم ایک شریف انفس، غریب پروں نیک سیرت، خوش اخلاق، مصمم و صلوة کے پابند صفات کے مالک تھے۔ اللہ سبحان و تعالیٰ مرحوم کو جنت الفردوس میں اعلیٰ مقام عطا کرے۔ آمین

اس سلسلے میں مرحوم کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی موزوں 27 نومبر 2022ء بروز اتوار یوسف صبح 10 بجکر 30 منٹ پر ان کے گہائی مقبرہ واقع اخراج پورہ میں انجام دی جائے گی۔

سوگواران

انتہا زائدہ خان، پو پڑمیاں ویل خان (فرزند ان)





## ‘Naji Munawar Day’ Observed At KU

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Department of Kashmiri University of Kashmir in collaboration with Gayoor Foundation organised a commemorative event to observe ‘Naji Munawar Day’.

Registrar Dr Nisar A Mir was the chief guest on the occasion, while Prof Shafi Shauq presided over the function.

Dr Nisar said such commemorative events are important to recall the rich contributions of literary personalities like Naji Munawar, noted Kashmiri poet and writer who passed away in 2021. He assured the University’s full support to such programmes that aim at further promotion and development of Kashmiri language and literature.

In her welcome address, Head Department of Kashmiri Prof Mehfooza Jan highlighted the contribution of the department towards growth and progression of Kashmiri language and literature. She apprised the audience about the achievements of the department’s publication wing.

Er. Showket Gayoor Andrabi, President, Gayoor Foundation delivered the introductory remarks and defined the role of the Foundation in promotion and

preservation of Kashmiri language, culture and heritage. He also offered to sponsor Ghulam Rasool Gayoor gold medal for toppers in PG Kashmiri and further financial assistance to two deserving research scholars.

Eight books authored by Naji Munawar, Shafi Shauq and Shafqat Altaf were released. The books have been published by Meezan Publishing House. Ali Shaida and Gulshan Badarni expressed their views about Naji Munawar’s contribution to Kashmiri literature.

Earlier, Director, Habba Khatoon Center for Kashmiri Language and Literature, IUST Awantipora, Prof Majrooh Rashid, who was a guest of honour on the occasion, shared his views about Naji Munawar.

Prof Shauq delivered the presidential address, highlighting the literary and life experiences about Naji.

“Naji was an inspiration for me as well as for all lovers of Kashmiri literature,” he said.

Prof Shafqat Altaf conducted proceedings of the inaugural session and also presented a formal vote of thanks.

The function was also attended by Dr Arifa Bushra, Dr Mufti Mudasar, Dr Sheeba Hassan, M Y Ganai, Izhar Mubashir and Lone Imtiyaz.

## SAMCI Restaurant Sealed On Court Directions

Agencies

Srinagar: On the directions of the High court of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, the administration has sealed the SAMCI restaurant at Polo-View in summer capital Srinagar.

Reports said SAMCI restaurant was sealed by a team

of officials on the directions of the High Court on Tuesday and, same was immediately conveyed to the court.

The restaurant was found violating the norms and was thereby sealed, they said adding that the restaurant was being runned without having the proper food license required. (KDC)

## VC LC&MA To Hold Charge Of SMC Commissioner

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The government on Friday assigned charge of Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) to Vice Chairman J&K Lake conservation and Management Authority (LCMA), Bashir Ahmad Bhat in addition to his own duties.

As per an order, issued by Secretary to the Government, Piyush Singla, Bhat shall hold the charge of SMC Commissioner till

Athar Aamir ul Shafi Khan resumes his duties.

“In the interest of administration, Mr. Bashir Ahmad Bhat, IRS, Vice Chairman J&K Lake conservation and Management Authority (LCMA), shall hold the charge of the post of Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation and chief Executive Officer, Special purpose vehicle for Srinagar Smart city in addition to his own duties, till Mr. Athar Aamir Ul Shadi Khan, IAS resumed his duties,” the order reads.



## Academic Event On ‘Nuclear Medicine’ Commences At SKIMS

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Department of Nuclear Medicine SKIMS inaugurated a two day academic event on Friday at SKIMS auditorium. The theme of the event is “Recent advances in Nuclear Medicine: Imaging and Therapy”.

The programme, organized by the Nuclear Medicine Department of the Institute, was inaugurated by Director SKIMS and Ex Officio Secretary to the Government, Prof Parvaiz A Koul. The inaugural session was attended by Prof Bashir A Laway, Dean Medical Faculty, SKIMS, Prof Farooq A Jan, Medical Superintendent, SKIMS and Dr Tanveer Ahmad Rather, HOD Nuclear Medicine (SKIMS). Two ex HODs of Nuclear Medicine also graced the occasion.

While congratulating the Nuclear Medicine Department for organizing a CME of this kind, Director SKIMS Prof Parvaiz A Koul, address-

ing on organizing more of such programmes, Prof Parvaiz said that they provide a platform for medical professionals to share their ideas.

Experts also deliberated on various topics of significance including recent advances in management of Lymphoma, PET guided CT Biopsy, PET CT in brain tumor and radiotherapy planning in brain tumor etc.

HOD nuclear medicine, Dr Tanveer said that SKIMS has always remained a hub of educational and research activities.

“Nuclear Medicine department is expanding its activities with every passing day. The department caters to the needs of malignancy patients who visit the department from different parts of the UT

ing the inaugural session, said that SKIMS over the past few years has shown remarkable improvement in the field of research and patient care. He said that the Nuclear Medicine department of SKIMS was the third department of this specialty to be established in the whole country. He said that the department is equipped with the latest machines and caters patients of the whole UT. Urg-

## 3-Day Painting Exhibition Begins At Arts Emporium

Agencies

Srinagar: In a bid to attract the youngsters towards folk art, a three-day painting exhibition ‘Autumn Art Exhibit’ has been organized at Arts Emporium Abdullah bridge Srinagar on Friday.

The exhibition has been organized by a reputed national artist, Deepa Soni.

Soni, who belongs to Udhampur district of Jammu, said that the exhibition in which different types of paintings wherein oil colors, water colors, fusion, three-dimensional and other paintings have been displayed, is aimed at spread-

ing art through different forms.

“The young generation is too attracted towards three-dimensional arts, but the folk art at the same time is being ignored. Through this exhibition, we are trying to come up with unique way of clubbing folk art and other latest techniques to inspire the younger generation and keep them intact with the folk art. This will help to take our heritage to next generations,” she said.

The exhibition will continue for three-days where the people can sit, learn from each other, she said, adding that if the response is good, such exhibitions will be organized in the future as well.

“Art field is a creative field, any youngster willing to pursue his education in this field should be encouraged. The parents should also allow their wards to go ahead with the arts field as instead of wasting time of any other degree, the parents should pave the way for the youngsters to pursue what they aspire,” she said.

Spl DG CID J&K R R Swain, Secretary to tribal affairs Department & Chief Executive officer, Mission Youth Shahid Choudhary, VC KVIB Dr Hina Bhat, DIG Sujit Kumar, SSP Srinagar, SSP Traffic, City were also present on the occasion—(KNO)

KASHMIR OBSERVER™

Srinagar | Saturday | 26-11-2022

3

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2479488,2452222,2452155  
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AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

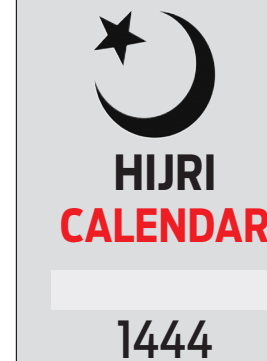


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• ANANTNAG: 01932-228243  
• BARAMULLA: 0194-102029  
• BIJBHERA: 01932-228243  
• PAMPORE: 01933-294132  
• PATTAN: 01954-293507  
• QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



PRAYERS

FAJR	5:45
ZUHR	12:16
ASR	3:46
Magrib	5:26
ISHA	7:50

## This Day In History

- 1865 - "Alice in Wonderland" by Lewis Carroll is published in America
- 1865 - Battle of Papudo: The Spanish navy engages a combined Peruvian-Chilean fleet north of Valparaiso, Chile
- 1901 - Italy and Britain sign an agreement fixing the frontier between their colonies of Eritrea and Sudan in East Africa
- 1924 -- Mongolian People's Republic proclaimed
- 1925 - Netherlands & Germany sign trade agreement
- 1940 - Nazi Germany began walling off the Jewish Ghetto in Warsaw
- 1941 - Japanese naval carrier force left its base & moves east toward Pearl Harbor
- 1942 - Anti-fascist Council for National Liberation (AVNOJ) forms
- 1948 - 1st polaroid camera sold for \$89.75 in Boston at the Jordan Marsh department store. The Land Camera model 95 becomes prototype for all Polaroid Land cameras for next 15 years
- 1949 - The Constituent Assembly of India formally adopts a new constitution
- 1956 - USSR single sculls winner Vyacheslav Ivanov wins Olympic gold medal in his excitement he jumps for joy, & loses his medal, it sinks
- 1963 - Explorer 18 spacecraft launched by NASA
- 1965 - France launches 1st satellite, 92 lb (42 kg) A1-capsule (Asterix), named after the popular French comic character
- 1984 - US & Iraq re-establish diplomatic relations
- 1985 - 23rd Space Shuttle Mission (61-B)-Atlantis 2-is launched
- 1985 - France performs nuclear test at Mururoa atoll
- 1989 - India's Congress Party led by then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi loses the general election to an opposition front led by V. P. Singh
- 1990 - Mikhail Gorbachev tells Iraq to get out of Kuwait
- 1998 - Tony Blair becomes the first Prime Minister of the United Kingdom to address the Republic of Ireland's parliament.
- 2003 - India accepts Pakistan's offer of a ceasefire in Kashmir
- 2003 - Supersonic airplane the Concorde makes its last ever flight, returning to Bristol, England.
- 2011 - NATO forces in Afghanistan attack a Pakistani checkpoint in a friendly fire incident, killing 24 soldiers and wounding 13 others

From KO Archives

## Guns Fail To Fall Silent

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Hours after the Ramadhan ceasefire announced by the Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, came into effect, reports of escalated violence have come in from various areas shattering the prospects of unilateral truce. Eighteen people, including six security personnel, were killed and 23 others were injured in separate incidents across the state since early morning today.

In a major incident, four security personnel were killed and 14 others were injured when a powerful explosion ripped apart the vehicle they were travelling in at Nowpora-Dooru, 74 km from here on Srinagar-Verinag road in the south Kashmir district of Anantnag this afternoon, official sources said. Condition of most of the wounded soldiers were reported to be critical. The incident took place around 2 p.m.

Officials said militants detonated the improvised explosive device (IED) immediately after the army vehicle carrying jawans of 36 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) passed over it. The explosion was possibly triggered by using a remote control device. The vehicle was blown up killing four jawans and injuring 14 others. All the wounded soldiers were rushed to the base hospital here.

Soon after the incident, the security forces laid siege to the entire area after which fear gripped the people. But no searches had been carried out till the reports last came in.


No Jet up in Begaar, frisking Hizb-ul-Mujahideen has claimed responsibility for the incident and said they would intensify the attacks during the month of Ramadhan. Hizb spokesman, Salim Hashmi, telephoned reporters in Srinagar to claim the responsibility for the blast.

“The unilateral ceasefire announced by the Indian government is not a serious effort, but an attempt to ward off international pressure on it to resolve the Kashmir issue,” he alleged.

A NAFA report said a foreign militant identified as Tanzeel-ur-Rahman alias Abu Zareen, belonging to Lashkar-e-Taiba was killed in an encounter with the troops of 28 RR at Atri Narbal in Rafiabdd area of Bammulla district today.

Rajinder Singh reports from Jammu: Barely an hour after the ceasefire came into force, nine people, including two security personnel and five militants, were killed in a gun battle at Dhana-Sawlian village in the border district of Poonch. Eight civilians were also injured in the encounter.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 26 NOVEMBER, 2000)

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Whereas Mr. Syed Aadil Bashir, 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 13/09/2022 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely M/s Wani Carpets, Jenab Sahib, Prop. Mushtaq Ahmad Wani S/o Ghulam Qadir Wani R/o Jenab Sahib Soura Srinagar (Borrower), Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Wani S/o Ghulam Qadir Wani R/o Jenab Sahib Soura Srinagar (Mortgagor), Mr. Shabir Ahmad Wani S/o Ali Mohammad Wani R/o Manz Mohalla Anchar Soura Srinagar (Guarantor), Mr. Farooq Ahmad Taploo S/o Mohammad Ismail Taploo R/o Taploo Mohalla Anchar Soura Srinagar (Guarantor) and Mr. Naseer Ahmad S/o Mohammad Sidiq R/o Gadoora Ganderbal (Guarantor) to repay an amount of Rs. 14,19,834.55 (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Nineteen Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Four And Fifty Five Paise Only) being the balance outstanding as on 13.09.2022 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 symbolic 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 23<sup>rd</sup> day of November, 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. 14,42,441.55 (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Forty Two Thousand Four Hundred Forty One And Fifty Five Paise Only) together with future interest thereon from 01.11.2022 and other charges incurred or to be incurred. The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

**Description of the Immovable Property**

A residential House along with a piece of Land measuring 08 Marlas underneath and appurtenant thereto falling under Khasta No 247 of Khata No. 5583 & Khewat No. 1680 Situated in Estate Zoomimar Tehsil Eidagah & District Srinagar standing in the name of Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Wani S/o Ghulam Qadir Wani R/o Jenab Sahib Soura, Srinagar.

Ref. No. JKB/ZONC/IAPM/SRFS/2022-  
Dated:- 23.11.2022  
Place : Srinagar

Sajad Ahmad Wani  
Authorized Officer

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India  
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## Pak Army Chief's Record - And Why It's So Relevant To India

**KARACHI:** Pakistan named Lieutenant-General Asim Munir as the head of the country's nuclear-armed military, the most powerful institution in a nation seldom far from its next crisis.

The appointment could have a crucial bearing on the future of Pakistan's fragile democracy, and whether relations with India are allowed to improve.

The Army's Role In Pakistan  
During the 75 years since independence and formation of Pakistan out of the Partition of India, the army has seized power three times and directly ruled the Islamic republic for more than three decades, fighting three wars with India along the way.

Even when a civilian government holds power, Pakistan's generals retain a dominant influence over security matters and foreign affairs.

### WHO IS ASIM MUNIR

Munir will replace General Qamar Javed Bajwa, who retires later this month after a six-year term.

Munir served in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and also in Saudi Arabia, a major financial supporter of Pakistan.

He later headed Pakistan's two most influential intelligence agencies - Military Intelligence (MI) in 2017 and then the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in 2018. He was removed as ISI chief after just eight months on the request of then-Prime Minister Imran Khan. No reason was given for his removal.

Munir is currently serving as the army's quartermaster general, in charge of supplies.

### WHY IT MATTERS GLOBALLY

Pakistan's army chief will play a key role in managing risks of conflict with nuclear-armed rival India on its eastern border, while dealing with potential instability and friction with Afghanistan on its western frontier.

Many world capitals, including Washington and Beijing, have direct ties with Pakistan's military, given the country's strategic location in a volatile



neighbourhood, and a coastline close to major shipping lanes serving the oil-rich Gulf.

Foreign governments have periodically questioned the safety of a nuclear arsenal, which includes long-range missiles, in a country so frequently needing IMF bailouts and where anti-Western and anti-India terrorist groups have proliferated.

And internal security has been a near constant problem due to insurgencies in ethnic Pashtun and Baloch regions.

Despite all the risks, Pakistan and its military have dismissed foreigners' concerns over the command and control, and security of its nuclear weapons.

### WHY IS THIS APPOINTMENT IMPORTANT DOMESTICALLY?

The military has long been accused of manipulating the democratic process to maintain its dominance. Nineteen of Pakistan's 30 prime ministers were elected, but not one of them completed their five year terms.

Having recently admitted to its past meddling in politics, the army has said it would no longer interfere. Whether the new chief stands by that commitment could be key to Pakistan's democratic evolution.

Pakistan is in the midst of another bout of political uncertainty as Khan has led country-wide protests in an attempt to force Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif into early elections.

The incoming army chief could potentially play a key role in lowering the political temperature as Pakistan attempts to survive an economic crisis and recover from historic floods.

## Even After Independence, We Are Taught History Written Under Conspiracy During Colonial Era: Pm Modi

### Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** Stressing on the need to rewrite India's history, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday that despite country's rich history of victory and sacrifice, colonial-era history is taught in educational institutes.

While speaking at the 400th birth anniversary celebration of Lachit Barphukan, the Prime Minister said that India's history was distorted deliberately.

"In every corner of the country, bravehearts of Maa Bharati faced the oppressors and sacrificed their lives. This history was deliberately hidden. Is the valour of Lachit Barphukan not important? Are the sacrifices of thousands of people in Assam against the Mughals not important?" said PM Modi.

He said that there was a need after independence to fight the agenda of those ruling over us. But that was not done.

Unfortunately, even after independence, we were taught the same history that was created under a conspiracy during the colonial era. After independence, it was needed to change the agenda of those who colonised us but it wasn't done," said the Prime Minister.

PM Modi said that India's history is not just about colonialism but it is a history of warriors. "For centuries, it was attempted to tell us we are people who always get looted, beaten and lost. India's history is not just about colonialism, it's a history of warriors. India's history is about displaying valour against oppressors, about victory, sacrifice and great tradition," he said.

He further said that today India has broken the shackles of colonialism and is moving forward, celebrating our heritage and remembering our heroes with pride.

"Today, India is not only cel-



### 'India Not Just The Story Of Aurangzeb, Babar Or Jahangir..'

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday urged historians to portray India in a new light to fulfill the nation's dream to be "Vishwa Guru".

"Humble request to historians - India is not just the story of Aurangzeb, Babar, Jahangir, or Humayun. India is of Lachit Barphukan, Chhatrapati Shivaji, Guru Gobind Singh, Durgadas Rathore. We should make an effort to see in a new light. It'll fulfill our dream to be Vishwa Guru," the Chief Minister said at the 400th birth anniversary celebration of Lachit Barphukan, as quoted by news agency ANI. (AGENCIES)

brating its varied heritage but also remembering its braveheart unsung heroes," he added.

"Assam's history is a matter of great pride in India's journey. We believe in uniting the various thoughts, beliefs and cultures of India. India has always valued its rich and cultural heritage; we have always protected our spiritual and cultural principles. That's what makes us a marvellous civilization."

The Prime Minister said India has the ability to give a befit-

ting reply to those who practice atrocities.

"India's history is the history of warriors, the history of victory, the history of sacrifice, selflessness and bravery. Each and every youth of India is a warrior when it comes to saving their cultural heritage from any external forces," he said.

While addressing today, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had asked historians to highlight the achievements of leaders like Lachit Barphukan, Chhatrapati Shivaji, Guru Gobind Singh, and Durgadas Rathore among others to show history in a new light.

"Humble request to our historians that India isn't just the story of Aurangzeb, Babar, Jahangir or Humayun. India is of Lachit Barphukan, Chhatrapati Shivaji, Guru Gobind Singh, Durgadas Rathore. We should make an effort to see it in a new light. It will fulfil our dream to be a Vishwa Guru," Sarma said.

This comes a day after Union Home Minister Amit Shah made a similar statement, saying no one can stop rewriting history adding that Indian history is twisted and inaccurately written and appealed to historians and research scholars to rewrite it.

"I have always heard that our history is twisted and inaccurately written. It might be true, but who can now stop us from writing about our glorious history? We have to take the courage, rewrite and present our history before the world," the Union Home Minister said.

Shah appealed to the historians and research scholars attending the function to get over this narrative that Indian history is twisted and inaccurately written.

He asked them to write about 30 empires that ruled for more than 150 years in any part of the country and 300 such great personalities who fought and sacrificed themselves during the country's freedom struggle.

## No Institution In Democracy, Including Collegium, Perfect: Chief Justice

### Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** No institution in a constitutional democracy, including the collegium, is perfect and the solution is to work out within the existing system, Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said on Friday.

Speaking at the Constitution Day celebrations organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) in New Delhi, he said judges are faithful soldiers who implement the Constitution. Since 2015, November 26 is observed as Constitution Day to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly in 1949. Earlier, the day was observed as Law Day.

On the issue of collegium, the CJI said: "Finally, criticism about the collegium. I thought I will reserve the best for the last. No institution in a constitutional democracy is perfect. But we work within the existing framework of the Constitution as it is interpreted and



Chief Justice of India Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju during a programme as part of Constitution Day celebrations, in New Delhi, on Friday. PTI

given to us. All the judges of the collegium including me, we are faithful soldiers who implement the Constitution. When we talk of imperfections, our solution is to work our way within the existing system." He said getting good people in the judiciary and paying them high salaries would not reform the collegium system.

The president (of SCBA) raised a query about good peo-

ple. Getting good people to enter the judiciary, getting good lawyers to enter the judiciary is not just the function about reforming the collegium. Getting to be judges is not a function of how much salary you give judges. However high you pay judges, it'll be a fraction of what a successful lawyer makes at the end of one day," the CJI said adding that people become judges for a sense of commitment to public services.

## India Abstains From UN Vote To Probe Iran's Alleged Human Rights Violation

**GENEVA:** India on Thursday abstained from voting on a United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) resolution to set up a fact-finding mission to investigate the alleged Human Rights violation committed on protesters in Iran that started on September 16.

Taking to Twitter, United Nations Human Right Council said, "At its 35th special session, the @UN Human Rights Council decided to create a new fact-finding mission to investigate "alleged #HumanRightsViolations in the Islamic Republic of #Iran related to the protests that began on 16 September 2022."

This resolution came amid the protests that started on September 16 after 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who was taken into custody by Iran's morality police for wearing an 'inappropriate' headscarf, later died, drawing allegations of custodial violence.

Apart from India, Malaysia, Indonesia, UAE, and Khakhsatan had also abstained from the resolution. Meanwhile, Pakistan and China rejected the resolution.

However, the resolution in the UNHRC was passed, with 25 votes in favour, six against, and 16 abstentions, at a special session of the 47-member human rights body, and now the Human Rights Council has created a fact-finding mission, related to the protests in Iran.

This follows calls from UN human rights chief Volker Turk for an independent investigation, UN News reported.

In the meeting, the UN High Commissioner highlighted how the security forces, "notably the Islamic Revolutionary Guard

Corps and Basij forces have used live ammunition, birdshot, and other metal pellets, teargas and batons" against the protest movement as it has spread to a reported 150 cities and 140 universities in all provinces of Iran.

Before calling for an independent probe into all alleged rights violations, the High Commissioner noted that his Office had received "multiple communications" from Iran about the episode, "including domestic investigations". These efforts "have failed to meet international standards of impartiality, independence, and transparency", UN News quoted Turk as saying.

Responding to the High Commissioner's comments, Iran's representative, Khadijeh Karimi, Deputy of the Vice President for Women and Family Affairs, insisted that "necessary measures" had been taken to seek justice by the Government, after Amini's death. These included the formation of an independent, parliamentary investigation commission as well as a forensic medical team.

"However, before the formal announcement of the probe analysis, the biased and hasty reaction of a number of Western authorities and their interventions in internal affairs of Iran turned the peaceful assemblies into riots and violence," she maintained.

Since Amini's death following her arrest by Iran's so-called Morality Police on September 13 for not wearing her hijab properly, more than 300 people have been killed in protests, including at least 40 children, according to the latest UN human rights office information.



## 2 Dead As Heavy Rains Hit Saudi Arabia, Block Road To Mecca

**RIYADH:** At least two people died on Thursday as heavy rains hit western Saudi Arabia, including the coastal city of Jeddah, delaying flights and forcing schools to close, officials said.

"Two deaths have been recorded so far, and we call on everyone not to go out unless necessary," the Mecca regional government said on its Twitter page.

The Mecca region includes Jeddah, the kingdom's second-largest city of roughly four million people, and Mecca city, the holiest city in Islam where millions perform the hajj and umrah pilgrimages each year.

The road connecting the two, which many pilgrims use to reach Mecca, was closed on Thursday once the rains began, state media reported, although it was later reopened, authorities said.

The state-affiliated Al-Ekhabariya channel showed footage of worshippers at the Grand Mosque in Mecca circling the Kaaba -- the cubic structure that is the focal point of Islam -- under a heavy downpour.

In Jeddah, images posted to social media showed standing water snarling traffic and partially submerging some vehicles.

The city's King Abdulaziz International Airport said that "due to weather conditions, the departure of some flights has been delayed" and urged passengers to contact carriers for up-to-date schedules.

The official Saudi Press Agency reported before dawn that schools in the city would temporarily be closed as rains were forecast to continue throughout the day. Schools were also closed in the nearby towns of Rabigh and Khulais "to preserve the safety of male and female students", SPA said.

The kingdom is in the middle of final exams, yet schools had already been closed nationwide on Wednesday after King Salman declared a holiday following Saudi Arabia's shock defeat of Argentina in the World Cup.

Winter rainstorms and flooding occur almost every year in Jeddah, where residents have long decried poor infrastructure.

## NEWS MAKERS

## Rape Convicts Ram Rahim Back In Haryana Jail After 40-Day Parole Ends

### Press Trust of India

**CHANDIGARH:** Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh was back in Sunaria jail in Haryana's Rohtak district on Friday at the end of his 40-day parole.

The Dera chief, who is serving a 20-year jail term for raping his two disciples, had gone to his Barnawa ashram in Uttar Pradesh after his release on October 14.

"At the end of his parole, he (Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh) returned to Sunaria jail Friday evening," a police official said.

Notably, during his parole period, the 55-year-old Sirda Dera chief held several online 'satsangs' at the Barnawa ashram. Some of these were also attended by BJP leaders from Haryana,

including Deputy Speaker Ranbir Gangwa. The Dera chief's parole had once again coincided with some polls in the region, the third such instance in the current year.

Haryana witnessed three-phase panchayat elections between October 30 and November 25, and the bypoll to the Adampur Assembly seat was held earlier this month.

The Dera chief had come out of prison on month-long parole in June ahead of the elections to 46 municipalities in Haryana.

He was granted three weeks furlough from February 7, barely two weeks before the Punjab Assembly elections.

The Sirda Dera has a large number of followers in Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh,

and Rajasthan.

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), the apex religious body of the Sikhs, had earlier raised an objection to the 40-day parole of Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh.

SGPC president Harjinder Singh Dhama had alleged that while "special kindness" was being shown to Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, Sikh prisoners lodged in jails for three decades were not being released even after completing their sentences.

The Dera chief was last year also convicted along with four others for hatching a conspiracy to kill Ranjit Singh, a dera manager. The Dera chief and three others were convicted in 2019 for the murder of a journalist more than 16 years ago.

## India Invites Egypt's Sisi As Guest On R Day

### NEW DELHI, November 25

India has invited Egyptian President Gen. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi as the Chief Guest at the Republic Day Parade in 2023. Wion TV has reported. A Chief Guest for the parade is likely after two barren years. The five Central Asian Presidents couldn't come this year due to the Covid pandemic and a similar reason kept then UK PM Boris Johnson away in 2021.

Gen. El Sisi had last visited India in 2016 but there have been several high-level visits. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had visited Cairo last month and had handed over a "personal message" from PM Modi to Gen. El-Sisi.

The invite to Gen. El Sisi



follows India's invitation to Egypt to participate as a guest country in the G20 meetings that will be held during the India's year-long presidency beginning from December 1.

India's invitation to Egypt "reflects the historic rela-

tions between the governments and peoples of the two countries and embodies Egypt's regional and international position and influential role regarding the main international economic issues and files," said the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ragy El-Etreby, Egypt's Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, will be Gen. El-Sisi's personal representative at the G20 meetings.

In the past, Gen. El-Sisi has participated in the G20 summits under the Presidency of China in 2016 and under the Presidency of Japan in 2019. Egypt was also granted the status of Dialogue Partner by the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation at its last summit in Tashkent in September.

## Adar Poonawalla's Pic Used On WhatsApp To Steal ₹ 1 Crore, 7 Arrested

### Press Trust of India

**PUNE:** Seven people have been arrested for allegedly using the image of Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla and getting a director of the leading vaccine-producing firm to transfer ₹1.01 crore to various bank accounts, Pune police said on Friday.

As per the First Information Report registered with Bundgarden police station in the second week of September, the accused had used Poonawalla's image in a Whatsapp account and sent messages about money transfer to Satish Deshpande, one of the directors of the firm, an official said.

Believing the messages were from Poonawalla, the director transferred ₹1.01 crore of the firm's funds to eight bank accounts mentioned in the Whatsapp conversation, he said.



## KP Quarters In Shopian To Be Complete By Sept 2023: Officials



Observer News Service

**SHOPIAN:** Secretary, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR), Nazim Zai Khan on Friday visited Shopian and inspected ongoing construction work on transit accommodation being raised for Kashmiri Pandit employees at Allowpora. Secretary was accompanied by District Development Commissioner, Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Chief Engineer PW(R&B), Joint Director Planning and other concerned officers.

While reviewing progress on work at Allowpora, Secretary exhorted upon the executing agency to expedite the pace

of progress and complete the work within the set timelines.

On the occasion, Secretary was informed that the transit accommodation project, coming up at an estimated cost of Rs 2880 lakh, is at the final stage of completion. Besides, 32 flats have already been completed and ready to be handed over to the concerned. It was further apprised that the rest of the flats shall be completed by September, 2023.

Secretary also reviewed the provisions of basic facilities to be kept in place there. He was informed that power supply, drinking water facility and other facilities have also been made available in the said transit accommodation at Allowpora.

### ANTI-MILITANCY OPS

## Traffic Allowed On Jammu-Poonch Highway

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The traffic movement on Jammu-Poonch highway was restored on Friday after remaining suspended for several hours following a massive search operation in Nar forest area of Mendhar in Poonch district on Thursday night, officials said.

They told a local news agency GNS that a combing operation was launched by army several days back on apprehension of presence of militants in the dense forest area. "The army at

around 1230 hours on Thursday fired some 15 rounds of speculative gunshots in Bhatadurian forests, however there was no response", they said.

As a precautionary measure, the vehicular traffic on highway between Bhimber Gali and Jaranwali Gali was suspended, they said. This morning at around 8100 hours, the traffic was allowed, they said.

A police official confirmed that the highway was reopened but said that search operation was continuing.

## District Surveillance Team Inspects Private Labs At Shopian

Takes Samples For Testing To See The Implementation Of Proper Testing Practices



Observer News Service

**SHOPIAN:** A Surveillance team of District Public Lab of DH Shopian, under the supervision of Chief Medical officer Shopian, Dr Arshid Hussain Tak on Friday inspected various Private Labs of the town Shopian and took samples for testing.

The team was headed by Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Shopian, Dr Khalid Abas.

The team emphasised upon Lab Operators to ensure best testing practices and keep their Labs neat and clean and also

adopt all SOPs in letter and spirit to avoid any kind of infection.

The Medical Superintendent said that District Health Lab Shopian has started functioning recently and added, all kinds of tests shall be done in a scientific way. The people of the district, he said have no need to go for tests out of the district now.

CMO and MS praised the efforts of Deputy Commissioner Shopian regarding the timely operation of District Health Lab.

The health functionaries during inspection to labs also guided operators of these labs to ensure strict adherence of SoPs.

## V K Singh Blames Nehru Govt For 'Not Securing Pok'

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** Union Minister General (retd) V K Singh on Friday blamed the Jawaharlal Nehru government for not securing Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) in the 1948 war for keeping "Mountbatten" happy.

Speaking at an event related to the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack, he also claimed that some of phone numbers used by its perpetrators had been already given to the IB, and India's response to the attack could have been better.

The former Chief of Army Staff said the country's defence forces have the capability to reclaim PoK, and will execute the task once they get orders.

"We could have secured PoK in 1948, but the government at the time said, enough now, our Mountbatten will be unhappy, and stopped," Singh claimed.

Lord Mountbatten was then the governor general of independent India.

"If we get an opportunity today, our forces are ready. From the military point of view, (there is) no need to discuss it or put stress on it. I think, whatever you want to do, keep it in your mind and do whenever you get the orders. There is no need to discuss it," he said.

The event, titled '26/11 Mumbai Sankalp', had been organised by the right-wing publication Panchajanya as part of the 14th anniversary of



the 2008 raid by Pakistani terrorists on Mumbai.

When India took initiatives for dialogue earlier, Pakistan thought that it was scared due to terrorism, the former Army chief said.

"Now, Pakistan understands that India is ready to initiate dialogue not because of fear of terrorism but (due to concern) for safety of civilians on their side," he added.

Singh also said that the common people of Pakistan, its government and its armed forces speak in different voices. "This is a change we are observing," he added.

India was ready to improve the relations with Pakistan if the neighbouring country reined in terrorism, he said, adding that India has always helped Pakistan in difficult times.

When the November 26, 2008 terror attack in Mumbai took place, he was posted with the Eastern Command in Kolkata, Singh said.

"During the posting in Kolkata, we got news that one man, whom we knew, had come to Kolkata to purchase some SIM

cards. We made enquiries and gave those 10-12 numbers to the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and told them these numbers were purchased by the man and they may be used (for terror activities) in Jaipur, Ahmedabad or some other places," he said.

"You will be surprised that four numbers among those were used in the 26/11 terror strike. If you had got 10-12 numbers and somebody had told you they can be misused, if you had kept an eye on those numbers, monitored it, then in my view, you could have caught them as those mobiles were on. It means there were some deficiencies (in utilising available intelligence)," the Union minister said.

India's response to the 26/11 attack could have been much better, he said, adding that he was making this statement "as I am from the force".

Before 2014, if any terror attack took place, India would condemn it and then repeat the condemnation in stronger terms after another incident, and then say "we very very strongly condemn it" when still another attack took place, the retired COAS said.

After 2014 (when Narendra Modi government came to power) an attack is condemned with a stern warning that a repeat will not be forgotten and "we will storm into your house and hit you."

"This is the change," he said.

## Jitendra Singh To Inaugurate 25th NCeG At Katra Today

Theme Of The Two-Day Conference Is "Bringing Citizens, Industry And Government Closer", Says Secretary DARGP

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARGP), V. Srinivas Friday informed that the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARGP) and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, in association with the Government of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir is going to organize the 25th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) from 26th - 27th November, 2022 in Katra, Jammu & Kashmir.

The Secretary informed this while interacting with media during a press briefing held at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra.

While interacting with media, V. Srinivas said that the theme of this Conference is "Bringing Citizens, Industry and Government closer" and the Conference will be inaugurated by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Minister of State of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, Government of India.

The Secretary also said that as 26th November is being celebrated as the Constitution Day to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India, Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh will be adminis-

tering reading of the Preamble to the Constitution with all the participants during the Inaugural Session of the 25th NCeG.

The Valedictory Session will be presided over by Shri Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor, Jammu & Kashmir on 27th November, 2022 in the 25th NCeG. Chief Minister of Haryana will be attending the Valedictory Session which will witness Launch of digital J&K initiatives and Signing of MoUs by the J&K Government.

The National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) will be presented under 5 categories of the NAeG Scheme - 2022 to 18 e-Governance initiatives at Central, State and District levels, Academic & Research Institutions and Public Sector Undertaking, the Secretary informed.

The Secretary also said that the digital innovation will play an important part in the next decade for governance to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. This will necessitate conversations around topics and technologies which would shape Digital Governance in the future to enhance the delivery of Government services to citizens, he added.

This conference will be a platform for discussion on some of these technologies by inviting distinguished speakers to share their knowledge and insights on the subject, the Secretary said.

He further said that the conference would provide considerable momentum to the e-

Governance initiatives across the country including J&K, providing opportunities for civil servants and industry captains to showcase their successful interventions in e-Governance in improving end-to-end service delivery.

Discussions will be held on ten sub-themes in Plenary sessions on Digital Governance Across Whole-of-the-Government, Digital Economy Strengthening Start-up Ecosystem & Employment Generation, Modern laws to promote national growth and to secure citizen's rights, Transparent and Real-time Grievance Management System, 21st Century Digital Infrastructure for next-generation services and security in cyberspace, Shifting the gear on emerging technologies from exploration to population scale solutions, the role of e-Governance in bridging the digital divide, Digital Governance for Enhancing Ease of Doing Business and Ease of Living, J&K State: Digital Transformation in Jammu & Kashmir; and e-Governance Initiatives in J&K.

Delegates from Central Ministries/Departments and 28 States and 8 Union Territories have confirmed their participation in the Conference, over 1600 delegates are expected to attend this Conference at Katra, the Secretary informed.

He further informed that an Exhibition will also be organized during the event to showcase India's achievements in the field of e-Governance, along with a Wall of Fame/ photo exhibition on the award winners.

## JMC Seals Jewellery Showroom at Channi Himmat



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The Jammu Municipal Corporation on Friday sealed the showroom of Roshan Shah Jewellers at Channi Himmat for violating the building nor

As per the JMC, Roshan Shah Jewellers was carrying out the commercial activity in its building at Channi Himmat in violation of the set norms.

"After following due course of law under provisions laid down

under Control of Building Operations Act, 1988, the Enforcement wing of Jammu Municipal Corporation sealed the Building to restrain the violator to undertake any commercial activity," the JMC stated.

"Jammu Municipal Corporation, in its endeavor to make the City encroachment and violation free, fervently appeals the residents to adhere to the extant Building and Civic laws" it stated further.

## 3 Gram Rozgar Sahayaks Sacked In Doda

Observer News Service

**DODA:** District Development Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Paul Mahajan on Friday disbanded the services of three Gram Rozgar Sahayaks for dereliction of duty and long absence.

District Development Commissioner's office received a written report from Assistant Commissioner Development Doda vide his letter No. ACDD/ MGNREGA/SS/2022-23/19555-59 Dated 14/11/2022, wherein it was reported that the three Gram Rozgar Sahayaks were not performing their duties satisfactorily and they remained unauthorisedly absent from duty for a long time.

Assistant Commissioner Development Doda (Additional District Programme Co-ordina-

tor, MGNREGA) had reported that the Block Development Officers concerned have recommended the termination of the three Gram Rozgar Sahayaks for dismal performance and long absence.

The terminated GRs are Surjit Singh from Block Dali Udhyanpur, Varsha Kotwal from Thathri Block and Yasir Hussain from Bhaderwah Block.

It is important to mention here that a GRs is engaged under MGNREGA, for effective implementation of the scheme. It is a temporary engagement linked with the successful implementation of the MGNREGA in the panchayat and their temporary services can be discontinued without assigning any reason by the competent authority.

## Calamity Relief Cases Reviewed At Bandipora



Observer News Service

**BANDIPORA:** The Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Bandipora, Ali Afsar Khan Friday convened a meeting of SOP committee to review and discuss the calamity relief cases of the damages caused to private property/livestock due to natural calamity.

The meeting was attended by

Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Waseem Raja, Tehsildar Bandipora/Aloosa Sheikh Tariq, District Treasury Officer Bandipora, Tehsildar Bandipora, Executive Engineer R&B Bandipora and other concerned.

The agenda of the meeting was discussed threadbare and 03 cases were considered and recommended for financial assistance under SDRF norms.

## DC Ganderbal Discusses Roadmap To Measles-Rubella Elimination



Observer News Service

**GANDERBAL:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyamir Friday chaired a meeting of the District Task Force to discuss the roadmap to Measles-Rubella elimination in the district.

At the outset, the CMO Ganderbal, Dr Afroza Shah briefed the DC about the steps taken with regard to the implementation of a road map formulated by the Government for Measles, Rubella Elimination.

The DC urged the Health functionaries of the district to take all possible measures and give focused attention towards the Measles, Rubella Elimina-

tion in the District. He stressed on active participation of educational institutions in spreading awareness and sensitizing students about the infection of Measles and Rubella.

He sought coordinated efforts from all stakeholders and urged the health functionaries to adopt the multipronged interventions to identify the target and arrest the disease at the right time.

The DC also stressed for generating mass awareness about the preventive measures of Measles-Rubella disease, and asked the officers to identify the target groups and prepare separate plans for vulnerable groups.

## Rs 1.9 Cr Fine Recovered From Traffic Violators In Rajouri

Observer News Service

**RAJOURI:** Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal Friday chaired a meeting of the District Road Safety Committee to review the measures being taken for the effective implementation of road safety plan in the district.

The meeting held detailed deliberations on the action plan, including raising awareness about road safety, strict implementation of provision of Motor Vehicles Act, establishment of trauma centres, removal of illegal encroachments/hoardings, fixing of road safety signages, installation of Crash barriers along accident prone road stretches etc.

Speaking at the meeting, the DC said that effective execution of the road safety plan was



necessary for prevention and protection of road accidents.

While reviewing the enforcement of road safety rules, the meeting was informed that Rs 1.9 crore compound fine including Rs 19 lakh by Motor Vehicle Department and Rs 90 lakh by Traffic police has been recovered.

Referring to the public complaints of violation of traffic rules by the commercial drivers, the DDC asked the traffic authorities to recommend the

permits and licenses of such habitual violators for cancellation.

Regarding the establishment of the trauma centre, the meeting was apprised that the land for the establishment of the same was being identified.

Taking note of the illegal encroachment along the roadsides, the DDC said that the major chunk of roads in Rajouri is under BRO and passed strict instructions to the concerned officers from the BRO to remove the illegal encroachments at the earliest.

He further asked the concerned officers to identify the black spots on the roads and take effective measures to rectify the same within the shortest possible time. Stress was also laid on installation of crash barriers within one month.

Reviewing corrective measures taken by PWD(R&B), the meeting was informed that the department has rectified sixty blind spots to prevent mishaps. The DDC also asked them to mark Zebra crossings at prominent places.

Similarly, reviewing the performance of the PMGSY Department, the concerned officer informed that crash barriers are being installed on the under construction roads, while the installation would be done on the completed roads and when funds are made available.



# Wazwan On Trial

Raees Ahmad

Additionally, this traditional cuisine finds itself complicit in crimes that weren't essential to it. With the stress and flattery of history, Wazwan has taken on an identity beyond itself. Whether it is being a broker in the politics of the day or being a badge of prestige for the elites who keep adding absurd innovations to it; Wazwan has had to take it all on

What fascinates a visitor to Kashmir? Its mesmerizing beauty, a convivial host, and its culture. Kashmiri cuisine, with Wazwan being its formal banquet, has arguably attracted far more attention than anything else. Usually served in marriage ceremonies and festivals, and prepared by master chefs of Kashmir called Wazas, Wazwan is a multi-course meat-based meal with its roots in Central Asia. However, wazwan has experienced evolution over the years.

Wazwan has not only been an addition to our cultural prestige and beautified our festivals and marriages, it has also played an active part in shaping our modern political history and political relations with mainland India. Many great world leaders have come to Kashmir and been swayed by its taste. Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad and Nikita Khrushchev fed each other Ghustab, during the latter's state visit to India in 1955; thus ushering a new era of friendship between the USSR and India. Visiting EU parliamentarians were ensorcelled by Wazwan (along with Shikara ride) while Kashmir was held incommunicado back in October 2019.

An attempt was made by Ghulam Mohammad Sadiq, with a socialist touch of the 70s, to phase out Wazwan for being a "vestige of aristocrats of Kashmir". He wanted to buy all the utensils from the cooks to put them in a museum. Sadiq's attempt failed, as did Vivek Agnihotri's who attempted to saffronise it by having Kashmiris, one of the highest mutton consumers in the subcontinent per capita, eat "Veg Wazwan".

Not only did Wazwan impress the Soviet leader but it has also been a tool of diplomacy for many Kashmiri leaders.

It's widely believed that Wazwan saved the government of Ghulam Mohammad Shah who, in 1985 was facing threats of isolation from his Congress allies. Before his opponents could do anything, he flew to Delhi with a bunch of local Wazas from Kashmir to entertain Rajiv Gandhi. Rajiv was swooned; thus power was influenced, tensions were eased and relations were built. Shah was saved.

The modern lavish evolution that Wazwan has seen, however, doesn't seem warranted. No sane Kashmiri would even try to rationalise such unnecessary extravagance and alien trends. Such decadence necessarily seems to be associated with the "modern" culture; and it hasn't left Wazwan unsullied. Ghulam Mohammad Sadiq would've been nodding his head all along.

But is Wazwan really a "vestige of aristocrats"? There are no aristocrats any-



where in the world anymore, let alone in Kashmir. So who are the so-called 'aristocrats' of today? It's the Upper class 'elites' of Kashmir, who have, with novel alien innovations and additions made the dish unaffordable for common people. Let them eat haakh batte!

Substantial social pressure exists in Kashmir. The standard of profligacy, a standard unheard of before, has been set. More than 50,000 girls, a number so colossal in itself, have crossed socially-perceived 'marriageable' age in Kashmir and find themselves single due to reasons beyond their control. According to a Srinagar based non-profit organisation, Tehreek e Fala-Ul-Muslimeen, it is because of "unnecessary fashion and trend" — a phrase implying pompous ostentatious — is the reason that women are finding it difficult to get married in Kashmir. One of the most important reasons of these late marriages, they said, was "the competition set by a group of people wherein the underprivileged families try to compete with their neighbours belonging from the well-to-do families."

Additionally, this traditional cui-

sine finds itself complicit in crimes that weren't essential to it. With the stress and flattery of history, Wazwan has taken on an identity beyond itself. Whether it is being a broker in the politics of the day or being a badge of prestige for the elites who keep adding absurd innovations to it; Wazwan has had to take it all on.

Now, it has assumed a negative connotation in a common man's vocabulary and brings along with it ills of various orders. For instance, while efforts are being made at the global level to rid our lives of plastic, Kashmiri Wazwan is wholeheartedly embracing its persistent and unneeded use. Mineral water is getting served in plastic bottles in our Wazwan; curd, which used to come traditionally in earthenware, nowadays comes with plastic along with beverages, another novel intervention.

From all these—undue squander, foreign waste as well as the political flattery—Wazwan needs preservation.

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

# Aladdin's Djin, Lamp and History

Ali A Olomi

In popular depictions like Disney's Aladdin, genies are trapped in lamps with possession of the lamp granting the owner dominion over the genie and its powers via wishes. But the relationship between jinn and vessels is an ancient one of mystery, folklore, and magic.

The idea of containing spirits is relatively widespread throughout the ancient near east.

We have material evidence of bowls from Babylonian Jewish incantation bowls and other similar healing and apotropaic talismanic objects (see Gross & Manekin-Bamberger's Babylonian Jewish Society: The Evidence of Incantation Bowls and Shaked's work).

Similar practices are found in the Islamic world where vessels, bowls, and jars would come to be linked to the jinn, a hidden race of fiery supernatural beings.

Pre-Islamic reference to the jinn, particularly in poetry, often align the jinn to animals. Something which later encyclopedic works like that of al Qazwini would continue.

But we also see a connection to caves, holes, and cracks. Not unlike cats, jinn seem to like to nestle themselves into crevasses. As such humans are warned not to pour hot water into a hole as it may anger or harm a jinn.

Damiri even tells a story of how a man accidentally killed a jinn by tossing the seed of a date into a hole.

Additionally because the jinn are shapeshifters they are able to squeeze their way into any crack or opening. This allows them to slip into homes easily, but could be their undoing.



In one popular tale, a jinn had fallen in love with a woman and so took to the guise of her husband to enter their home. When the real husband came back he found the jinn doppelganger in his own house.

Causing a scene brought the neighbors who were all confounded by the appearance of two of the same man. They were all taken before the local magistrate and wise man who knew just how to handle the matter. He proposes a contest: whoever can squeeze inside the small jar in his hand would be the true husband.

The jinn gave a triumphant shout and quickly changing his form, leaped into the jar only for the magistrate to close the lid, trapping him.

These stories alternatively reveal the jinn as immensely powerful with the ability to ride desert storms to wipe out whole towns but at the same time easily killed by tossing a seed in a hole.

They are described as infinitely cunning, yet simple enough to fall for ruses that trap them. (Human propaganda most likely).

Yet the combination of the jinn as shapeshifters and dwellers in cracks and holes along with the older tradition of magic bowls are perhaps an origin for jinn vessels in the form of bowls, jars, and rings and in the case of Aladdin the lamp.

Various legends of King Solomon further this connection. The Qur'an speaks of Solomon's dominion over the jinn who serve him as soldiers and builders (Q 27:17).

Rebellious jinn are punished by trapping them in vessels others are put in service of building great monuments. The tales are found in pre-Islamic poetry like that of al-Dhuby n and further confirmed in the Qur'an. (See Stetkevych)

These threads of traditions of the jinn come together in the form of folk

These stories alternatively reveal the jinn as immensely powerful with the ability to ride desert storms to wipe out whole towns but at the same time easily killed by tossing a seed in a hole. They are described as infinitely cunning, yet simple enough to fall for ruses that trap them. (Human propaganda most likely)

practices and magic. By the medieval era we encounter a body of literature of how to tame and exorcise jinn. Mages and the wise give instructions for the prescription of talismanic objects which include techniques like the creation of jinn vessels.

Constructed as jars they are inscribed with a seal to contain the mighty jinn. Other objects include magic rings with semi-precious stones like carnelians within which reside jinn servants and familiars.

The jinn ring in particular is drawn from the legend of the Solomonic seal which contains the sacred Name of God and was given to Solomon from God by the angel Gabriel.

We are also given instructions for the construction of magic bowls. Some of which are inscribed with various Qur'anic verses and used in healing practices usually by drinking water out of them.

Finally, we find the relationship between vessels and jinn in popular folk practices as well. Muslims are often advised to avoid leaving jars and bottles open lest a jinn slip in.

Damiri even attributes the advice to Umar, the companion of Muhammad, who advises that jinn feed on anything left in open containers. Muslims are also told not to pour hot water down the sink, a call back to the older stories of pouring hot water into holes.

Further advice warns not to leave open containers of water around as they attract the jinn. Yet that can sometimes be desirable. For example for those who are disturbed by jinn at night, a bowl of water next to the bed can be a solution for the jinn will be drawn to the bowl then trapped in it.

The water can then safely be disposed away from the home. It is not uncommon for bowls of water to be used as a folk healing practice against nightmares and dreams.

And of course some of this makes it way into the Arabian Nights where stories abound of jinn trapped vessels and cast into the sea, or in the case of the story of Aladdin can be found trapped inside a lamp.

But what is often forgotten is there are two jinn in Aladdin! The jinn of the lamp and the jinn of the ring. Both descend from a much older history of jinn and vessels.

*This article was originally published on the author's twitter*

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



# Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota?

Saadia Peerzada

Unattainable body standards are not only targeted at female consumers of media, but also at men. In an attempt to secure the ideal physique, eating disorders are on the rise. The November issue of Esquire Singapore brought attention to the rise of 'superhero culture,' one that celebrates a specific kind of masculine body, and puts pressure on men to perform that ideal.

A study carried out at the Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences suggested that continued exposure to extremely muscular male portrayals was detrimental to self-worth in men. This negative effect on self esteem can then lead to anxiety, loneliness and problems in relationships with family or spouses. Not only can such stressors manifest as physical ailments, they can also have a negative effect on those around us.

One media portrayal that acts as a case study is Vasan Bala's 2018 project Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota. It garnered positive reviews internationally for its play with gendered tropes yet it still falls back on the idea of the superhero. It reads as an example of two steps forward, one step backward. Even as it drives away from misogyny, any loss is dealt with through violence and revenge. This is mediated through the muscular body, trained into a buff superhero spectacle. Surya's character embodies personal revenge and muscularization to the effect of being read as the hero of a vigilante film.

## But first... the refreshing choices in the film

We have all heard of the trope 'men don't feel pain.' Mard ko Dard Nahi Hota takes this saying literally to then spin it on its head. The main character Surya is born with a rare disorder that makes him resistant to any and all pain. This seemingly unique condition subjects him to bullying at school, the other kids curious to see what it's like to not feel any pain at all. Supri, a classmate of Surya, defends him when such situations arise. Surya tells his grandfather, "Supri mereko protect karti hai, puri dunya se." The film tries to make the female the protector to flip the trope



of the knight in shining armor.

As an adult, Supri is stuck in an abusive relationship to help her family's medical costs. She is soon guided by her mother into an escape plan. She doesn't continue to suffer resolutely. An idol is not created out of victimhood. The mother is able to secure herself treatment while the daughter escapes her abusive partner.

Often wheelchairs or crutches are cast as invitations for ableism, that is discrimination against disabled people, through expressions of pity. But in the final action scene in the film, Karate Man passes his crutches to Surya as he's broken his leg. The mobility aid is claimed as the need arises in the middle of a fist fight. The spectacle of a fight, the center stage of muscular masculinity shows crutches simply as mobility aids, the hero is not emasculated if he uses them, instead they help him fight.

This is an instance of positive disability representation in a Hindi film, hopefully a baton that is carried forward by other filmmakers as well.

## A Vigilante Film?

A closer look at the film reveals a certain return to the tradition of films that dominated 70s and 80s Bollywood – that of the vigilante film.

Karen Gabriel, Professor of English and Director of Centre for Study of Gender at St Stephen's College names vigilante masculinity as violent and redemptive according. She states that this masculinity emerges inside a matrix of loss and violence, prioritizing revenge over legal resolution.

Surya loses his mother to a chain snatching incident soon after his birth. We watch him bring up the death of his mother over and over again in the film,

especially in relation to the fact that his father and grandfather let the 'chain choir' go. To not let the proverbial thief run away in his own life becomes the be all and end all for Surya.

The emotional excess from his mother's passing is turned into a muscular masculinity channeled in Karate. And any violence acts are always underscored by a redeeming personal history. The narrative is such that he can beat up the nurses looking for Karate Man and injure them in the process, because he must find the teacher who will help him in the journey to become the hero.

Hence Surya's personal loss fuses with his public acts in deciding to become a figure that never loses to the chain chor. Anguish and resulting masculine violence takes our attention away from other afflictions generated by it, says Gabriel. This is observed in the relationship between Surya and his father, who re-



## IT READS AS AN EXAMPLE OF TWO STEPS FORWARD,

one step backward. Even as it drives away from misogyny, any loss is dealt with through violence and revenge. This is mediated through the muscular body, trained into a buff superhero spectacle. Surya's character embodies personal revenge and muscularization to the effect of being read as the hero of a vigilante film.

peatedly says he wanted a normal child. Shaking Surya as a toddler, he asks, "tuje kuch mehsos kyu nahi hota?" The tensions in their relationship are not properly explored because the revenge arc takes the spotlight.

Karen Gabriel's theorization of the vigilante figure says women and villains are treated as props, they simply testify to the narrative of the hero. But in this film, they are well fleshed out, there is the creation of a vigilante figure that shares the center stage with them.

Even as the film shows a disabled hero in the form of Karate Man, it circles back to Surya's hyper-muscularity and superheroism. His physical appearance is complete with six pack abs, and tree-trunk like arms. This film helps us visualize the amount of work needed in divesting from superhero culture and its unattainable representations. It is not enough to stage sidelined masculine figures as sidekicks to the superhero. Body diversity is a call for all forms of media if we are to move away from damaging and absurd body standards.

# Bidding Adieu

Dr Tauseef Ahmad Parray

"Goodbyes make you think. They make you realize what you've had, what you've lost, and what you've taken for granted" (Ritu Chaturay)

In the Higher Education Institutions (like Colleges), November and December are the months when we bid farewell to the outgoing batch students. Govt. Degree College Sogam (Lolab), located in the remote but beautiful valley of Lolab of north Kashmir's Kupwara district (where this writer is presently posted), also bid farewell to its batch-2019 students. The function was organized on 23rd November 2022 and I had the opportunity to deliver a brief speech in this function. Keeping in view the message and spirit of this speech, I hereby present the same in a slightly revised manner as a message from a teacher/mentor for his students/ mentored. It is a message, I believe, every teacher wishes to convey to his students on this occasion.

Dear outgoing students of batch 2019! 'Farewell Function' is an "emotional day"; it is the day of cherishing memories, spending last moments with teachers and colleagues with whom you've spent your good and bad moments. Someone has rightly said: "The two hardest things to say in life are hello for the first time and goodbye for the last".

Despite some hard and tough tasks, sadness, and grief that you (may have) encountered in the course of your studies in this college, at the end of it all, you completed this part of the journey with great achievements and beautiful memories. So say to Negativity and yes to Positivity; for positivity is what actually matters. Someone has rightly said: "Don't focus on negative things; focus on the positive, and you will flourish".

It's human nature that we remember and recall "bad memories/ tragedies" than we adore, rejoice and relish good moments and incidents. Remember that being tough (hard or harsh) with you at times doesn't mean that a teacher hates



or abhors you (or has any kind of animosity or rancor with you), but its sole purpose is to correct and mend you; to prepare you for a greater challenge ahead; and to foster and nurture you to build a strong foundation for your next level. That is, morality, manners, discipline and decency are the values/ qualities that are very important—as an individual and as a student as well: "It is not enough to be nice; you have to be good. We are attracted to nice people; but only on the assumption that their niceness is a sign of goodness".

Under the able and dynamic leadership and supervision of the worthy principals—Professor Muhammad Shafi Lone (presently posted as GDC Kupwara) and Professor Dr Shamim Ahmad Dar (the incumbent Principal of GDC Sogam)—and under the guidance and mentorship of active, effective and efficient faculty (be it the permanent faculty or the teachers on academic arrangement) and other staff members, you've accomplished this exciting and impressive milestone in your life with great honor, and integrity, decency and diligence. Therefore, I feel privileged to say, we are proud of your many achievements over these years: on

your various accomplishments in different kinds of events/ activities/ areas (curricular, co-curricular and extracurricular activities)—be it in the debates or essay competitions, speaking or participating in seminars, quiz or painting competitions, sports or cultural activities/ events. You've showcased your talent and skill; performed well as per your potential and propensity, interest and inclination.

Dear Students! I (personally) feel privileged to acknowledge accomplishments of some of you as "Budding Writers", which I consider both remarkable and extraordinary. I personally feel delighted that I've not only guided and mentored you and refined your writing skills, but have collaborated with you as co-author (Therefore, it is fair to mention some of these 'budding writers', of batches 2019 to 2021, by name: Mr Danish Bashir, Mr Fayaz Ahmad (Faiz), Mr Peer Jafar Akbar, Ms Rehana Imtiyaz Wani, Ms Shabeena Bashir, Ms Kulsuma Bano and Shazia Rashid among the outgoing batch and Ms Adfar Farooq, Mr Shahid Shafi Shah and Mr Saqib Sarwar Mir from 3rd and 4th semesters).

Your contribution and achievements, in different capacities and areas, are indeed acknowledged and appreciated.

Without mentioning any one by name (here), it will be unfair and sheer injustice if we do not acknowledge and appreciate the uncommon zeal, passion and eagerness you've demonstrated towards your studies; in your relationship and rapport with the teachers; in participating, managing and handling events and programs; in participating and cooperating in awareness rallies, NSS activities and outreach programs; in participating and representing college outside college programs and events (and bagging positions) and much more.

To summarize all this, I would like to mention that collectively you've left behind a very good legacy for your juniors. As you will be leaving this institution (which is no less than a DanishGah-e-Ilm-Adab-wa-Hunnar: Centre of Knowledge, Disciple and Skills), expect that some challenges await you, which of course (I strongly believe that) you'll surely overcome. It's not just an exaggeration and over-praise, but I am saying all this by taking into consideration both your antecedents and the manner you've conducted yourselves during your stay in this college and the skills and knowledge, integrity and decency, that the teachers here have imparted in you.

At this point, I want to implore and appeal to you all that you should always see yourself as "good ambassadors" of this college and never allow "selfish interest" to blemish, harm or deface the integrity, uprightness, decency and decorum you've developed, nurtured and cultivated over the years in this "garden of knowledge".

**Here is my advice (as Teacher/ Mentor) to you all: Think big; be optimistic; be creative; explore & express whatever potential, propensity and skills you possess; work hard (with dedication and seriousness); face challenges; move on and never look back. Someone has rightly said: "Dear Past, thanks for all the lessons. Dear Future, I'm ready now".**

While I bid you farewell, I wish you the best of luck in your days ahead. I believe each one of you is precious (a star/



**THINK BIG; BE OPTIMISTIC; BE CREATIVE;** explore & express whatever potential, propensity and skills you possess; work hard (with dedication and seriousness); face challenges; move on and never look back

a treasure/ a gem in itself) and will take the studying and learning gathered here to a higher level of success. I would like to bid adieu to you all with these two (2) Urdu couplets:

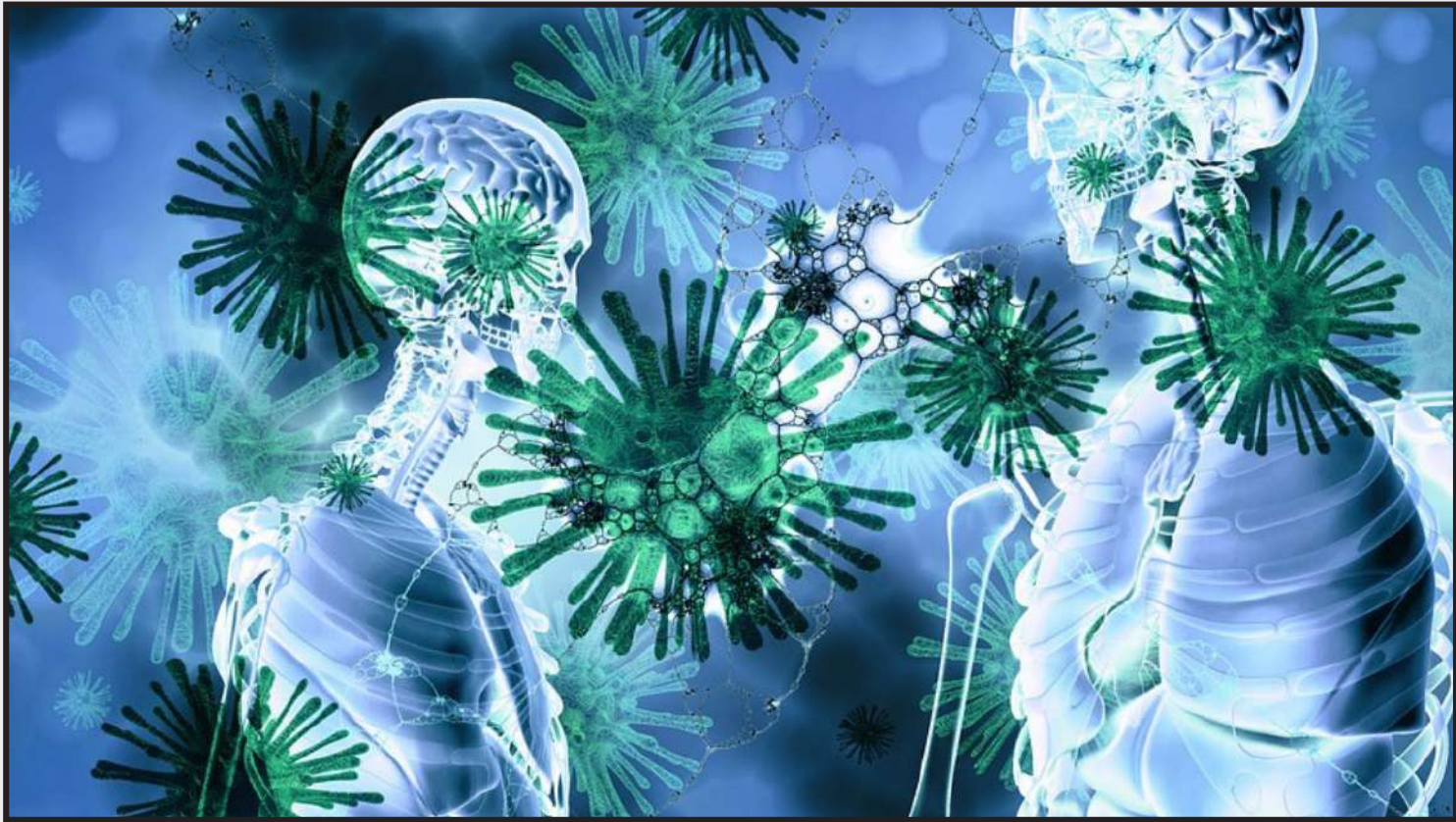
*Khoobiyan Itni To Nahin Hum Main ke Tumhe Yaad Aayenge  
Par Itna To Aitbaar Hai Hammye Khud Par  
Aap Hameey Kabhi Bhool Nahin Payenge  
Aankh se Durr Sahi, Dil Se Kahan Jayega  
Jaanyee Waale Tu Hammye Yaad Bohat Aayega*

My Dear Students: May Almighty Allah bless you all! I wish you all the very Best! Remember that I am always available for you—to guide and mentor you, to counsel and advise you, and to help you improve and refine your writing skills.

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

The author is Assistant Professor, Islamic Studies (and has been Convener, Debates & Seminar Committee and Editor-in-Chief of the 'LOLOV'—Annual College Magazine during 2021-22) at Govt. Degree College Sogam (Lolab), Kupwara. Feedback at tauseef.parray21@gmail.com. Views personal.





# Why Covid Infection In Some Causes Fatal Inflammation, Study Finds

Press Trust Of India

Scientists have uncovered a new mechanism that could help explain why some Covid infected people develop a potentially fatal systemic inflammation, according to a study.

Researchers at the University of Sao Paulo (USP) in Brazil have found that severe COVID-19 is associated with an imbalance in an important immune system signalling pathway.

The researchers detected “dysregulation”, or a dysfunctional regulation, of the immune system mediated by adenosine triphosphate (ATP), one of the main sources of energy for cellular processes.

Severe COVID-19 patients had higher levels of ATP in their blood and lower levels of adenosine, which should increase when ATP is metabolised for energy production, the study said.

“The immune system comprises several signalling pathways that provide alerts in response to invasion by a pathogen, for example. One involves ATP, which triggers the release of inflammatory substances in defense cells to attack the invader,” said study author Maria Notomi Sato.

“The immune system also has control mechanisms to avoid excessive inflammation, but when this error in ATP metabolism occurs, it results in a huge imbalance and systemic dysfunctions in the immune response,” said Sato.

The increase in unmetabolised ATP, according to the study, produces a pro-inflammatory state and triggers a potentially fatal systemic inflammation known as a cytokine storm.

“The study pointed to an imbalance in the signalling system and a dysfunction in the regulation of these components, as one more factor at the systemic level that attacks the organs

of severe COVID-19 patients,” Sato said.

ATP is constantly produced by cells and is broken down in the extracellular environment by enzymes called ectonucleotidases.

“ATP turns into a danger signal when it exits cells in large amounts. When does that happen? When an exacerbated inflammatory response is activated, when cells are badly injured or when some other severe damage occurs,” said Anna Julia Pietrobon, co-study author of the article.

“In response, ATP triggers an inflammatory process that involves other cells in a chain reaction,” said Pietrobon.

For the study, the researchers measured ATP and adenosine levels in blood samples collected in 2020-21 from 88 severe COVID-19 patients. None of them had been vaccinated.

“We found cell-surface ectonucleotidases that cleave ATP to be less expressed in cells from both mild and severe COVID-19 patients, but particularly the latter. In fact, we concluded that the higher the ATP level, the more severe the disease,” Pietrobon said.

The researchers also investigated possible alterations in immune system cells.

“We found that some immune cells, especially B lymphocytes, expressed less CD39 and CD73, enzymes that break down ATP.

“Lymphocyte levels generally tend to be low in COVID-19 patients, but in our study, not only the levels of B cells in blood from severe patients were low, but these cells also expressed lower amounts of both enzymes, contributing to less ATP metabolism and hence less production of adenosine, the anti-inflammatory component that would try to regulate this response,” Pietrobon said.

Given this finding, the researchers decided to isolate the B cells present in the blood samples and provide them with ATP.

The immune system comprises several signalling pathways that provide alerts in response to invasion by a pathogen

# ‘Samsung’ One Of The Most Commonly Used Passwords In 2021: Study

IAN S

Samsung, or rather “Samsung” with a lowercase S, is one of the most commonly used passwords in at least 30 countries, a recent study by password management solution company Nordpass has showed.

According to SamMobile, using the name of your smartphone/TV/home appliance brand, for example, Samsung, as a password is not the worst offender, but it has grown in popularity in recent years.

While the “samsung” password ranked 198th in popularity in 2019, it rose to 189th in 2020 and 78th in 2021, breaking the top-100 mark last year.

The most popular password is “password,” which was reportedly chosen by nearly 5 million users, while other commonly used passwords in-

clude “123456,” “123456789,” and “guest”, according to the report.

In the case of “samsung,” it turns out that it is not the only brand-based password used by a large number of online users.

According to a recent report, a simple and predictable password can be decrypted in less than one second, whereas combining lowercase and uppercase letters with numbers can also produce variable results.

A seven-digit password containing all of those elements can be decrypted in about seven seconds, while an eight-digit password takes about seven minutes, said the report.

The research firm discovered that the majority of commonly used passwords can be decrypted in less than one second because they are short and consist only of numbers or letters with no uppercase characters, the report added.

# Self-Cleaning Coating Developed By IIT For Easy Maintenance Of Solar Panels

Press Trust Of India

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Jodhpur have developed a coating technology for self-cleaning of solar panel surfaces.

According to officials, these coatings are transparent, scalable, durable and superhydrophobic. It reduces dust accumulation on solar panels and

of their initial efficiency due to dust accumulation within a few months,” said Ravi K R, Head of Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, IIT Jodhpur.

“Some of the methods currently used to clean the solar panel are expensive, inefficient, have various practical problems in continuous use and can cause irreversible damage to the solar panel. The developed superhydrophobic coating has



is capable of self-cleaning with very little water, and is also suitable for easy integration with solar panel manufacturing plants.

The institute has also applied for a patent for the technology. “Industries manufacturing solar panels claim that it operates at 80 to 90 per cent of their efficiency for 20 to 25 years. However, it is well known that dust and sand deposits on solar panels reduce their performance. Depending on location of the solar power plant and the climate in which it is used, solar panels have been found to lose 10 to 40 per cent

an excellent self-cleaning property and exhibits no transmittance or power conversion efficiency loss. Accelerated laboratory-scale tests have shown that the coating has exceptional mechanical and environmental durability,” he added.

According to the team, the coating method is an efficient and easy process to use in existing photovoltaic power generation with simple spray and wipe techniques. Self-cleaning using superhydrophobic coatings does not require much water for cleaning purposes. Thus, it can be used in water-scarce areas with low maintenance costs.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Chief Accounts Officer  
District Fund Office Budgam

Subject:- Grievance Redressal-cum Awareness Camp (5<sup>th</sup> of December 2022 to 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2022)

NOTICE

J&k Funds organisation is organizing ""Grievance Redressal-cum-Awareness Camp"" through District Fund office, Budgam which is scheduled to be held with effect from 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2022 to 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2022 with the aim to redress the grievance of the G.P Fund Subscribers/S.L.I Insurants and to sensitize the subscribers about the various services/E-Services being provided by the District Fund office, Budgam.

Through the medium of this Notice, all esteemed Subscribers/Ex subscribers and S.L.I Insurants who have their account maintained with District Fund office, Budgam are hereby informed that they may visit the office of the undersigned during working office hours for on spot registration of their grievances and Redressal thereof under relevant rules. Concerned subscribers/ Insurants may also register their grievances on our office e-mail id (grvdfobud@gmail.com). A dedicated cell of the below mentioned officials have been constituted who shall remain available in the camp during the working office hours for set purpose.


Name of official	Designation	Mobile No.
Mr. Nisar Ahmad Shah	Examiner	7006858130
Mr. Jahangir Saleem	Sr. compiler	8899005616

Further DDO'S operating upon this office through all the treasuries of District Budgam are also requested to intimate all the employees/subscribers working on their establishment about the forthcoming Grievance Redressal-Cum-Awareness Camp.

Chief Accounts Officer  
District Fund Office  
Budgam

No. CAO/DF/Bdm-2416  
Dated-25-11-2022

DIPK-14111/22



UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

Office of the Executive Engineer,  
Construction Division

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

For and on behalf of the University of Kashmir, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on **Percentage (%age) basis** from approved and eligible Civil Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/U.T/ Central Governments for the following works

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc in shape of E- Challan (in Rs.)	Earnest Money in Rs.	Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender.	Date & Time of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Renovation of 5 <sup>th</sup> Floor of Allama Iqbal Library at Main Campus.	19.12Lacs	Rs.600/-	Rs.38,240/-	23-11-2022 to 01-12-2022 (6.00 PM)	02-12-2022 (11.30 AM)	“BEE” & “CEE”
2.	Repair/Strengthening of outer Boundary wall facing Nallah at Sub-Office Bathindi, Jammu, University of Kashmir.	5.00Lacs	Rs.200/-	Rs.10,000/-	23-11-2022 to 01-12-2022 (6.00 PM)	02-12-2022 (11.30 AM)	“DEE”
3.	Construction of Parking on the sides of New building School of Law.	2.71Lacs	Rs. 200/-	Rs.5,420/-	23-11-2022 to 01-12-2022 (6.00 PM)	02-12-2022 (11.30 AM)	“DEE”

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the web site [www.kashmiruniversity.net](http://www.kashmiruniversity.net) / [www.iktenders.gov.in](http://www.iktenders.gov.in).

NIT No:- F(E.Tend)(UCD)/KU/58/22  
DATED: 25/11/22.

DIPK-NB-5210/22

Executive Engineer



## Secretary Tourism Reviews Preparations For Winter Season At Gulmarg

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Secretary, Tourism & Youth Services & Sports, Samad Hafeez Friday took a detailed review of the preparations made by respective Departments for the upcoming winter season at the famous resort of Gulmarg.

Samad Hafeez took a detailed review of the arrangements made by the Tourism Department, JKTDC, Gulmarg Development Authority & Cable Car Corporation, Youth Services & Sports to make the winter season at the famed destination more interesting and hassle free for visitors.

Addressing the meeting, the Tourism Secretary impressed upon the concerned Departments and agencies to work together as a single entity to ensure that all facilities at Gulmarg are kept in a state of readiness and visitors leave the destination with memorable experiences.

MD, JKTDC, Menga Sherpa; Director, Tourism, Kashmir, Fazlul Haseeb; CEO, Gulmarg Development Authority, Ghulam Jeelani, officers of Tourism Department, Youth Services & Sports, JKTDC, Indian Institute of Skiing & Mountaineering were present in the meeting.

Samad Hafeez asked the concerned Departments to work on innovations and new ideas for making the coming season

memorable for visitors. In this regard, he suggested working on concepts like illuminations, winter carnival, snow activities, skiing, cuisine, music etc besides quality services in different segments of the tourist interface.

The Tourism Secretary also took a detailed review of the logistics at the destination and directed their upgradation and proper upkeep. He reviewed the snow clearance plan and road connectivity, drinking water supply, homologation of slopes, signages at the destination, snow safety, working of ski patrols and rescue teams, medical facilities etc. at the destination.

Samad Hafeez also reviewed the status of facilities and services available at the local club and other outlets of the JKTDC and directed constant monitoring and innovation. He also reviewed the calendar of skiing courses being run by the Youth Services Department and IISM and directed close coordination between them and the Tourism Department for optimal results.

The Tourism Secretary asked the local hoteliers to prepare for the coming season in their own way and make improvements in services, rates and experiences to the tourists. He sought their support in creating new experiences at the winter destination so that tourists return back with joyful memories.

## Union Agriculture Minister Honored Clover Organic



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Union Agriculture Minister honored Clover Organic Pune for helping more than 50 FPCs to adopt organic farming of crops, achieving the target of selling 18 MT of Organic Pineapple and 350 MT of Organic Ginger in the State of Mizoram and for Outstanding Contribution in the Agriculture Sector.

Promoted by Clover and supported under MOVCDNER, Tulichangral FPC in Khawzawl district of Mizoram State was awarded the best FPC in the state at the function.

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare felicitated Clover Organic for its excellence and valuable contribution in the field of agriculture under DOWBT at a function held in Pune.

Vanlalremratpuia, CEO, Tulichangral FPC, Khawzawl District, Mizoram, was awarded the Best FPC by the Union Agriculture Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar, at a grand ceremony.

The company was motivated to work as a team, guided and supported by all the above agencies to fulfill an order of 18 MT of chemical free pineapple placed

by a buyer from Haryana.

The award for Clover Organic was received by CEO Sanjay Agarwal. CEO Sanjay Agarwal after achieving this unique achievement attributed it to the hard work of the farmers and the trust reposed by them in the organic process in the company and all other supporting agencies.

Sanjay Agarwal said that Clover Organic Pvt Ltd was established in the year 2008 keeping in mind the goal of providing maximum economic benefits to the farmers through the sale of their crops. Clover Organic has partnered with various state governments in the interest of farmers.

Under the schemes like Mission Organic Value Chain Development, North Eastern Region, Farmer Producer Companies or Farmer Producer Organizations like National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd., North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd., Uttar Pradesh Diversified Agriculture Support Project "UPDASP", the Formation & Promotion of 10,000 FPOs, etc., Clover Organic is helping farmers in several Indian states in the entire value chain of farming.

## J&K To See Major Boost In Business, Tourism Investment: Officials

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir administration is working to boost business investment and enhance income of the local population by simplifying rules and procedures, and digitising records, senior officials said.

The Union Territory, since the abrogation of Article 370 from the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir in 2019, has received investment proposals from various business houses to the tune of about Rs 56,000 crore while sanctions have been granted to proposals worth Rs 38,000 crore, they said.

The work is already on for projects worth about Rs 12,000 crore, a top official of the administration said.

He said Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has directed officials and authorities to ensure that all activities that are linked to the people are made "vibrant and viable".

The government is translating land records into as many as 22 Indian languages so that investors can readily use them and even locals can peruse them, a senior revenue department official said. For this purpose, software developed by C-DAC is being used, he added.

Officials said the Union Ter-



ritory (UT), over the last three years, has attracted investments mainly in the manufacturing and food processing sectors, and some projects in automobile and allied sectors are being discussed at present.

"The aim is to boost the overall economy of the state. At the same time, we are working on the tourism sector and development sector in a major way so that the income of locals can be boosted. The government has recently relaxed and streamlined guidelines related to opening of home stays in the Kashmir Valley, including in remote areas," a senior officer told PTI.

People having four or less rooms with basic living ameni-

ties for tourists can obtain the licence by applying on the tourism department portal, he said. We are holding hospitality-related training for the hosts, the officer said.

Some new locations for adventure sports are being developed and the infrastructure present at Gulmarg and other locations is being bettered, the officer said.

"The aim of all these initiatives is to ensure that the local youth does not drift towards terrorism and at the same time, Kashmiris get the benefits of what they deserve. Defining Kashmir only through the security scenario should end," another officer said.

## Samoon Inaugurates Mega Job Fair; 5000 Candidates Registered

25 Multi National, National, local companies participate

Observer News service

**JAMMU:** Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department (SDD), Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon, Friday inaugurated mega Job fair organised by Skill Development Department in collaboration with Desh Bhagat University (DBU), Mandi Gobindgarh Punjab at Government Polytechnic Birkram Chowk, Jammu.

About 5000 candidates registered themselves through online and offline mode while around 25 reputed Multi-National, National and Local companies and Industries participated to hire the candidates.

Director, SDD, Sudershan Kumar, was the guest of honour on the occasion while Leena Padha, Mission Director, Skill Development Mission, Ramesh Chander, ADDC Jammu, Arun Bangotra, Principal, Government Polytechnic Jammu, Dr. Sandeep Singh, President, Desh Bhagat University, Dr. Harsh Sadawarti, Vice President, Desh Bhagat University and Principals of various Government Polytechnics and ITI's of Jammu and Kashmir were



also present.

Dr Samoon lauded the efforts of the Government Polytechnic Jammu administration for conducting this Job fair. He highlighted various challenges a student faces in seeking job and encouraged them to convert these challenges into fruitful opportunities by continuous hard work and dedication. He further said that this job fair will adopt an integrated approach in addressing the employment and employability issues by making jobs available to the candidates according to their potential and educational qualification.

Samoon added that amid

high unemployment, employers face challenges filling the technical and skilled jobs and such job fairs can help to overcome this talent paradox.

Later, Dr Samoon inaugurated CIIT Hostel Block constructed by PWD.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Skill development, briefed about various aspects of skill development department and the latest updates in terms of skill add-on courses being offered by the department along with three-year diploma courses. He said that the job fair will be the platform for students to meet their future sponsors.

## IRDAI Relaxes Entry Norms For Insurance Biz, Reduces Solvency Margin

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Insurance regulator IRDAI on Friday approved a host of reforms, including easing the entry norms and reducing solvency margin that will unlock Rs 3,500 crore-worth capital for the insurers.

The latest decisions are aimed at increasing the insurance penetration in the country and enabling 'Insurance for All by 2047'.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) at its board meeting has also approved a proposal to permit Private Equity (PE) funds to invest directly in insurance companies.

Besides, the watchdog has allowed subsidiary companies to be promoters of insurance companies.

According to a statement issued by IRDAI, a single entity making investment of up to 25 per cent of the paid up capital and 50 per cent for all investors collectively will be treated as 'investor' in insurance companies. Investments over and above that will only be treated as 'promoter'.

Earlier, the threshold was 10 per cent for individual investors and 25 per cent for all investors collectively.

IRDAI said that a new provision has been introduced to allow the promoters to dilute their stake up to 26 per cent, subject to condition that the insurer has satisfactory solvency record for preceding 5 years and is a listed entity.

"The amendments to regulations pertaining to registration of Indian insurance companies are aimed at promoting ease of doing business and simplify



the process of setting up an insurance company in India," IRDAI said.

In order to enable the policyholders to have wider choice and access to insurance, the maximum number of tie-ups for Corporate Agents (CAs) and Insurance Marketing Firms (IMFs) has been increased.

"Now, a CA can tie-up with 9 insurers (earlier 3 insurers) and an IMF can tie up with 6 insurers (earlier 2 insurers) in each line of business of life, general and health for distribution of their insurance products," IRDAI said.

With an objective to allow general insurers to efficiently utilise their capital, the solvency factors related to crop insurance has been reduced to 0.50 from 0.70 which will release the capital requirements for insurers by around Rs 1,460 crore.

In case of life insurers, the factors for calculation of solvency for Unit Linked Business (without guarantees) has been reduced to 0.60 per cent from 0.80 per cent and for PMJJBY to 0.05 per cent from 0.10 per cent. This will provide a relaxation in capital requirements by around Rs 2,000 crore, IRDAI said.

PMJJBY is the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana.

According to the statement, the regulator has committed to enable 'Insurance for All' by 2047.

## Centre Releases Rs 17k Crore GST Compensation To States/UTs For April - June

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The central government has released Rs 17,000 crore to states towards balance GST compensation, taking the total amount released so far this fiscal to over Rs 1.15 lakh crore, the Finance Ministry said on Friday.

"With this release, the Centre has released, in advance, the entire amount of Cess estimated to be collected this year till March-end available for payment of compensation to States," the ministry said in a statement.

Goods and Services Tax (GST) was introduced in the country with effect from July 1, 2017, and states were assured of compensation for the loss of any revenue arising on account of the implementation of GST for a period of five years.

For providing compensation to states, a cess is levied on certain goods and the amount of cess collected is credited to the compensation fund.

The central government released an amount of Rs 17,000 crore to states/UTs on Novem-



ber 24, 2022, towards the balance GST compensation for the period April to June 2022.

The total amount of compensation released to the states/UTs so far, including the aforesaid amount, during the year 2022-23 is Rs 1,15,662 crore, the statement added.

"This is despite the fact that total Cess collection till October 2022 is only Rs 72,147 crore and the balance of Rs 43,515 crore is being released by the Centre from its own resources," the ministry said.

This decision was taken to assist the states in managing their resources and ensuring that their programmes, especially the expenditure on capital are carried out successfully during the financial year, it added.

## SHORT TAKES

### Dir Agri Interacts With Farmers In Baramulla

**SRINAGAR:** The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal Friday visited different areas of district Baramulla and held interaction with the farmers of different villages besides monitoring various agriculture activities. The Director met the farmers of different areas on field and took on spot feedback regarding the various interventions introduced by the Department and adopted by the farmers of the area.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director assured the farmers that the Department is committed to provide technical guidance to them during various agriculture activities. He asked the farmers to strictly follow the instructions and guidance provided to them by the department (Extension workers).

He said that the Department is endeavoring to provide farmers with the latest technological interventions during the cultivation of different agricultural crops so that the good returns could be fetched and socio-economic transformation of the farming community of the region could be achieved.

Iqbal directed the concerned officers of the Department to assist and facilitate the farmers during different post harvest management activities and winter cultivation of different agriculture crops. He asked the officers to work shoulder to shoulder with the farming community of the region. **ONS**

### RBI Conducts Consumer Financial Awareness Program

**DODA:** Reserve Bank of India, Jammu Friday conducted an awareness event under Nation-wide Consumer Financial Awareness Programme, here at Community Hall Doda.

The programme aims at improving customer relation with financial institutions and general awareness on extant regulations to protect consumer interests, alternative grievance redress mechanisms, safe banking practices, etc., under the aegis of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav". RBI Keh-ta hai, Jankar Baniye, Satrak Rahiye Programme is being organised by various Banks and RBI in all over India from 1st Nov to 30th Nov.

Deputy Commissioner, Vises Paul Mahajan was the chief guest on the occasion, besides RBI ombudsman, RM SBI, LDM, Cluster Head JK Bank Doda, Director RSETI, SBI BM Doda, and Branch Manager PNB, EDB, ICICI attended the program.

RBI Ombudsman Ramesh Chand discussed in detail about complaints & redressal mechanism, Digital frauds and avenues available to customers. Sushil Kumar Hans, RM SBI discussed customer grievances Redressal mechanism, customers' rights and other issues related with financial institutions working under RBI. In his address, the DC urged the public to stay vigilant against cyber frauds and asked the RBI officials to give wide publicity to the safeguards available for the customers and circulate the helpline number(s) among them through which they can register their complaint in case they feel cheated. **ONS**

### 95 Women Entrepreneurs Complete Training Under EDP

**DODA:** A group of 95 women aspirants completed their training under Tejaswini scheme of Mission Youth initiative under the Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP).

The EDP was held at JKEDI, District Centre, Doda with effect from October 29 to Nov 11, 2022 in which women aspirants within the age group of 18-35 years were trained for self-employment and entrepreneurship development. The candidates were trained for services, trading, manufacturing and agri-allied activities under the Tejaswini (the Radiant scheme of the Mission Youth J&K).

The training program based on Entrepreneurship lasted for 10 days and the trainees were provided basic business training to help them establish small business ventures like retail outlets of readymade garments, boutiques, salons, electrical goods, provisional stores, poultry, sheep and dairy farms in different areas of Doda. The services of various guest faculties from line departments were utilised during the EDP. An interaction and experience sharing of a successful entrepreneur sponsored by JKEDI was also part of the program to motivate these young aspirants towards self-employment.

DDC and ADDC Doda also interacted with women entrepreneurs and discussed with them about their future plans regarding business establishment and management. **ONS**

### States Demand More Funds In Pre-Budget Meeting With FM

**NEW DELHI:** State finance ministers in their pre-budget consultation have stepped up their demand for more funds, greater say in implementing centrally-sponsored schemes and an increase in payments for royalty on minerals.

These issues were raised by the states at a meeting called by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to elicit their views on the 2023-24 Budget to be presented on February 1.

Tamil Nadu Finance Minister P Thiaga Rajan said that states, cutting across party lines, said that centrally sponsored schemes are constraining states' fiscal autonomy since in some schemes states end up contributing large amount which is more than the Centre's contribution.

"All states, irrespective of political party, expressed common theme states fiscal autonomy is greatly constrained by the extent of centrally sponsored scheme, by the extent of changing ratios of funding of such schemes," Thiaga Rajan told reporters.

States demanded that they should be given greater flexibility in implementing CSS.

CSS are implemented through a joint contribution of the Union Government and State Government. Bihar Finance Minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary said centrally sponsored schemes should be limited as the burden on states for such schemes is increasing. **PTI**

### India, UAE Central Banks Discuss Rupee, Dirham Trade

**NEW DELHI:** The central banks of India and UAE are discussing a concept paper on promoting bilateral trade in rupee and dirham with a view to reduce transaction cost, a top official said on Friday.

India's Ambassador to the UAE Sunjay Sudhir said that the concept paper for trade in local currencies was shared by India.

The central banks of both the countries will discuss the standard operating procedures and modalities, he told reporters here.

The objective of the exercise is to reduce the cost of transactions, he added.

India and the UAE had already signed a free trade agreement (FTA) in February to give a fillip to bilateral trade and economic ties.

The free trade agreement was aimed at providing significant benefits to Indian as well as UAE businesses, including enhanced market access and reduced tariffs.

Following the free trade pact, bilateral trade is expected to increase from the current USD 60 billion to USD 100 billion in the next five years.

Bilateral trade between India and the UAE stood at USD 43.3 billion in 2020-21. Exports were worth USD 16.7 billion and imports aggregated at USD 26.7 billion in 2020-21. The two-way commerce stood at USD 59.11 billion in 2019-20. **PTI**



# India Doesn't Believe In World Order Where Few Are Considered Superior To Others: Rajnath Singh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Friday said India doesn't believe in a world order where a few are considered superior to others and asserted the country's actions are guided by the essence of human equality and dignity that is part of its ancient ethos.

In his address at the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) 2022 held here, he also said India has always seen security and prosperity as a "collective pursuit" of the entire humankind.

"It is my firm belief that if security becomes a truly collective enterprise, then we can think



of creating a global order that is beneficial for all of us," Singh said. The defence minister said that now "we require to elevate the

paradigm of collective security" to a level of shared interests and shared security.

"India believes in a multi-aligned policy which is realised through diverse engagements through multiple stakeholders so that views and concerns of all can be discussed and addressed for prosperity for all," Singh said.

To talk of the security paradigm, national security should not be considered a zero-sum game, and "we should strive to create a win-win situation for all," he added.

The defence minister also asserted that "a strong, prosperous India wouldn't be built at cost of others. Rather, India is here to help other nations realise their full potential".

"India doesn't believe in a world order where a few are considered superior to others. India's actions are guided by the essence of human equality and dignity, part of our ancient ethos and its strong moral foundation," Singh said at the IPRD 2022.

The fourth edition of the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD), an apex-level international annual conference of the Indian Navy, began here on Wednesday. The IPRD seeks to foster an exchange of ideas and promote deliberations on regionally relevant maritime issues.

# India Must Be Cautious In Dealing With US: Ex-Army Chief Bikram Singh

Press Trust of India



**Mumbai:** Former Army chief General Bikram Singh has urged the government to exercise caution while dealing with the United States on strategic matters, saying the world's mightiest nation so far has not proved its trustworthiness to its close allies. He said despite India being a member of the Quad grouping, it should move cautiously when it comes to dealing with the US, which has expanded and deepened its ties with New Delhi in recent years.

The Quad, or Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, comprises India, the US, Japan and Australia.

"While it's good that we are part of the Quad (seen as a counterweight to China in the Indo-Pacific region), it will be in our interest that we move cautiously with the US, because Washington has never made itself trustworthy in its dealings with any of its strategic and defence allies," he told the SBI Banking & Economic conclave here on Thursday evening.

# Border Violence: Low Attendance In Meghalaya Offices; Assam Police Issues Travel Advisory

Press Trust of India

**Guwahati/Shillong:** Attendance in government offices in Meghalaya was thin on Friday in response to a call by various organisations for a non-cooperation movement in protest against the November 22 violence along the border with Assam, which left six people dead, officials said.

Assam police officials on Friday issued a fresh advisory asking its citizens not to travel to Meghalaya as the situation is still "not very good" in the neighbouring state where police vehicles were torched and several people were injured during protests on the previous night.

In a relief to the people of Meghalaya, the Assam Petroleum Mazdoor Union (APMU) decided to resume transportation of fuel to that state, which it has suspended on Thursday, following assurance of security of tankers and crew from the neighbouring state.

Violence had broken out at Mukroh village near the disputed border between the two states in the early hours of Tuesday after a truck allegedly laden with illegally felled timber was intercepted by forest guards from Assam. Six people, including five tribal villagers from Meghalaya a forest guard from Assam, were killed.

Meghalaya Chief Minister

Conrad Sangma called on Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Thursday. Shah assured him that a CBI probe will be initiated into the border violence.

Several social organisations and student associations of Meghalaya, including the influential Khasi Students Union (KSU) and the Federation of Khasi Jaintia and Garo People, declared a "non-cooperation movement" following the incident.

"We urged our brothers and sisters working in both central and state governments to support us by not attending offices on Friday as a mark of respect to the victims of extra-judicial firing at Mukroh by Assam Police," KSU general secretary Donald V Thabah said.

In the Meghalaya capital Shillong, attendance was thin in both central and state government offices, officials said.

The situation is the same in the seven districts of Khasi Hills and Jaintia Hills region, senior officials of the districts told PTI.

"Yesterday in Shillong, public burnt police vehicles. The situation is not very good. That's why we are advising people not to travel (to Meghalaya)," Deputy Commissioner (East) of Guwahati Police Sudhakar Singh told PTI.

Cachar Superintendent of Police Nomal Mahatta also said a similar restriction on people and vehicles from Assam entering Meghalaya through his district also is in force.

Violence erupted in a portion of the Meghalaya capital shortly after a demonstration and a candlelight vigil concluded on Thursday night.

Police had to use tear gas shells to bring the situation under control as unidentified miscreants lobbed petrol bombs at a police bus and a jeep besides pelting the police personnel with stones injuring four of them. Three civilians were also assaulted nearby.

Shops and business establishments run by non-tribals in Khyndailad, Lewduh and certain other areas in Shillong remained shut since Thursday, apprehending violence.

Security in areas, identified as

vulnerable, in the city was tightened, a senior district official told PTI.

The violence had led to the suspension of fuel supply from Assam to Meghalaya.

The Assam Petroleum Mazdoor Union had sent letters to IOC, HPCL and BPCL, informing them of its decision to not load fuel in tankers meant for Meghalaya following attacks on trucks supplying non-petroleum products in the last two days. However, the decision was changed on Friday.

"We have received assurance from the Meghalaya authorities that safety and security of the tankers, our drivers and other staff will be ensured. But we

have also told them that if any untoward situation happens, we will immediately stop the vehicles once again," APMU general secretary Ramen Das told PTI.

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma on Friday said there is no shortage of petrol and diesel in the state and requested all citizens not to resort to panic buying of any essential commodities.

Food and Civil Supplies director Pravin Bakshi directed the deputy commissioner of seven districts bordering Assam to arrange for police escorts to vehicles coming from Assam after APMU announced that it has stopped transporting fuel to Meghalaya fearing violence.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Limited Resources

objective is to take the consultation of every stakeholder and design a Master Plan and it has to be implemented by all the departments involved.

For example, the road infrastructure part has to be done by the R&B. If there's a metro system, it has to be done by the MRTD, while solid waste management has to be done by the municipality.

**How do you see the violations of the Master Plan?**

The city is like your child, you want to see it in the best shape. Whenever I see the Master plan being violated, it hurts.

As I already told you that the implementation of the Master plan is not our domain. It's in the hands of SMC, SDA, etc.

But while nobody is satisfied with the progress, we've to keep in mind that in newly developing countries the resources are limited.

The implementation of master plans needs a lot of investment. So, that issue is still prevalent.

### What's the way out now?

We should go for the sector-wise master plans and focus on the plans that are implementable.

If the vision document is bigger, the implementation gets more complex and difficult.

**When did town planning begin in Kashmir?**

It started somewhere in the 1960s. As far as I remember, Mr. Muhammad Sultan Pampori was the first Chief Town Planner in Kashmir. He has done quite good work, I'm the fourth Chief Town Planner in Kashmir.

Basically, a town planner is responsible for the preparation of master plans of towns and cities, regional development plans, tourism development plans, traffic and transportation schemes, town planning schemes, urban development related policy documents, etc.

Earlier, there used to be one chief town planner in Jammu and Kashmir. Now, there're separate town planners for Jammu and Kashmir.

### How has been your journey as a town planner in Kashmir?

As a native of Downtown Srinagar, I grew up watching urban evolution over the time. I was quite receptive about the change since my school days at SSI Mission School Mallaratta, Srinagar.

Later, I did Bachelors in Civil Engineering from Regional Engineering College (REC)—now National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, but I was not able to fit in the system.

So, I decided to shift to something that is allied with Civil Engineering and went into Planning.

In 1988, I went to the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi and did Masters in Planning.

I'm a gold medalist of my batch. In 2005, I completed Masters in Urban Planning, Regional and International Development from University of California, Los Angeles.

Since then, I've supervised the preparation of the Master Plan for all major towns and tourist destinations in Jammu and Kashmir.

As Director Planning and Coordination of Jhelum and Tawi Recovery Project, I've also been involved in the procurement of the consulting services and the implementation of the Jhelum-Tawi Flood Recovery Project which inter alia included the pioneering work in the field of River Morphology Studies, Multi-hazard Risk Assessment and the design guidelines for buildings.

Earlier, I introduced the Geographic Information System (GIS) in Master Plans. The technology is very relevant and important as it provides all the important information in any geographic zone. We created the Srinagar Master Plan with GIS only.

**Srinagar Records**

Bhadarwah 3.4°C (1.3°C above normal).

In Ladakh, Kargil recorded a low of minus 11.3°C, Leh minus 8.8°C and mercury in Drass, the world's second coldest place after Siberia, settled at minus 12.7°C, the official said.

The MeT department has forecast mainly dry weather for next 24 in J&K and said that no large change was expected till the end of this month.

### Decks Cleared

entry without a proper photograph has been allowed in the Electoral Roll.

"There are 57253 marked PwD electors in the Final Electoral Roll, an increase of 46% over the draft roll," he added.

However, the spokesperson added that though the SSR -2022 culminated with the publication of final electoral rolls in the UT on Friday, the process of continuous updation shall continue and any eligible citizen who has been left out of the electoral roll can apply through any of the modes of registration, including online through NVSP portal, Voter Helpline APP, Voter Portal or Offline by making an application to the ERO concerned.

"With the implementation of four qualifying dates as part of the Commission's Electoral reforms, the qualifying date would get updated to 1st January 2023, after 31st December, 2022, paying way for all those young citizens to get registered, who have attained the qualifying age of 18 years between 1st October 2022 and 1st January 2023," he said.

Giving further details, the spokesperson said that after the completion of delimitation exercise in J&K, the Election Commission of India ordered pre-revision activities in the UT on June 10 this year, which primarily included the task of mapping the existing electoral rolls of 83 pre-delimitation constituencies to the post-delimitation 90 constituencies, in accordance with the delimitation Commission's order, rationalization of polling stations and integrations of the electoral rolls.

"On completion of post delimitation

follow-up and pre-revision activities, the Commission ordered Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, with reference to 01-10-2022 as the qualifying date," he said.

As per schedule notified by the Commission, he said, the draft rolls were published on September 15, 2022.

"The draft roll saw an addition of 613 new polling Stations, which resulted in the total Polling Station count as 11370 for the UT of J&K. Total Electors on Draft Electoral Rolls were 7586899 out of which 3948525 were Male Electors, 3638262 were Female Electors and 112 Third Gender Electors," the spokesperson said.

He said that a total of 39192 Electors were flagged as PwD and 1226 as Marked Electors, while Photo coverage in the Electoral Roll stood at 99.99% as compared to 96.81% during final publication 2019.

"Gender ratio of the Draft Electoral Roll was 921 as compared to Census Gender ratio of 914, as per the projected population. Elector Population Ratio of the Draft Electoral Roll was 0.52," he added.

The spokesperson said that the emphasis of the Commission led by Chief Election Commissioner, Rajiv Kumar on registration of young voters as well as the marginalized sections of society including persons with disabilities, third gender, women, etc., has yielded positive results.

He said that the claims and objections were accepted for a period of 40 days beginning from September 15, 2022. This, he said, was followed by a period of 15 days till November 10, 2022 for the disposal of all claims and objections.

"During this period a record 1140768 claims were received through Form- 6 for inclusion of names in the Electoral Rolls across the UT. Out of these, 1128672 claims were accepted and only 12096 claims were rejected. This included 301961 claims of inclusion in the age group of 18-19. A total of 412157 requests for deletion were received out of which 358222 were accepted and 53935 were rejected," the spokesperson said.

He further said it resulted in a net increase of 772872 electors in the Final Electoral Roll, i.e. a 10.19% net increase of the registered electors over the Draft Roll.

"The final Electoral Rolls have a total of 8359771 electors, out of which 4291687 are Male, 184 are Third Gender and 4067900 are Females. The Elector Population Ratio has increased from 0.52 to 0.58 during this SSR. The Gender Ratio of the Final Electoral Roll has increased from 921 to 948," the spokesperson added.

**SEC Bars Exit Poll**

publication till December 5.

"In exercise of powers conferred under Section 36 of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, the Election Authority (State Election Commission) hereby prohibits the conduct of any exit poll and publishing or publicizing/displaying the result of exit poll by means of the print or electronic media or in any other manner

during re-poll in DDC Constituency Drugmulla (Kupwara) and Hajin-A (Bandipora), till the hour fixed for conclusion of re-poll at 02.00 PM on December 05, 2022," reads the SEC's order.

**Panel To Revisit**

Director Finance, Health & Medical Education Department, Civil Secretariat, J&K, Director Health Services Jammu, Director (Coordination), New Govt. Medical Colleges, J&K- Member, Director AYUSH, J&K, Director Health Services, Kashmir and Managing Director, J&K MSCL will be members of the committee.

"In supersession to Government Order No. 627-JK(HME) of 2022 dated 31.08.2022, section is, hereby, accorded to the constitution of a Search Committee for inviting applications from the desirous/interested candidates for an authority at Union Territory level under National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Act, 2021, reads the order.

As per the order, Principal, Government Medical College, Jammu will be chairperson of the committee, Principal, Government Medical College, Srinagar will be co-Chairman while Director Health Services, Jammu and Director, Health Services, Kashmir will be members of the committee and Director Coordination, new GMCs will be Convenor/Coordinator of the committee.

"The Search Committee shall invite applications strictly in accordance with the qualifications prescribed under National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Act, 2021 and the Search Committee shall scrutinize the applications, so received, and submit its concrete recommendations to the Administrative Department within a period of 04 weeks from the date of issuance of this order," the order reads further—(KNO)

### Schools To Close

of the above schedule shall attract strict action under Rules," it added.

Meanwhile, the announcement of winter vacations amidst the falling mercury has come as a huge respite to the students and their parents.

"It was the need of hour. Winter vacations at the stipulated time are very important in Kashmir since the weather is bone-chilling cold and there are as such no proper heating arrangements in-place in schools on both private and government level," says Rosina Ashraf, a parent from Srinagar.

Echoing similar views, another parent Shabnam Mattoo said that winter vacations, especially for younger kids is welcome news.

"However, the prolonged session this time makes one grieve the loss of precious academic time due to the March session. Moreover there are many confusions around the fee structure which needs to be clarified as far as private schools are concerned," she added.

**PM Modi Has**

certain quarters, especially the Opposition parties, of the handshake between Modi and Xi at the G20

summit in Bali earlier this month, Jaishankar said, "I guess there are people who can take positions, especially if they are free of responsibility, you can be pretty casual or thoughtless of what you say. It is a free country, people are entitled to say things. I think responsible, sensible people will see that there are ways in which a leader of India behaves." If one is going to be a president of the G20, of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, those are responsibilities that one have taken up," he said.

"I don't think the prime minister has postured publicly on China. I think the prime minister has been very firm on China. The prime minister has been very clear and not just in his words, he has actually been very clear in his actions.

Please understand the efforts that were made from 2020 onwards in maintaining such a large force on our borders. It is an enormous enterprise," Jaishankar said.

"At the end of the day that is the answer. I would rather have a prime minister who does things than to have a prime minister who pontificates but does not actually do it out there. In the case of Prime Minister Modi, I think he should be judged by the fact that the Indian military today is deployed in strength on the borders with China to respond to the challenges of 2020," he said.

Prime Minister Modi and Chinese President Xi shook hands earlier this month at a side event at the G20 Summit. A live video feed for the media from the welcome dinner hosted by Indonesian President Joko Widodo for G20 delegates showed the brief exchange between the two leaders.

Several Opposition leaders had criticised Modi and questioned the gesture in the wake of strained bilateral ties.

Talking about ties with China going forward, Jaishankar said he does not think the China relationship should be approached as a behavioral or a term-driven policy.

"I think we have structural long term challenges. My regret is that we have not taken that seriously. Today I am speaking about sending troops up there but remember ten years ago you had people saying that our best defence is not to develop the border and that is the way of dealing with the border problem," the external affairs minister said.

"Finally to developing your border infratructure...creating greater capabilities within the country, all these are part of how India prepares for the world and it does not have to be against somebody," he said.

Jaishankar also asserted that India has two huge handicaps in dealing with China including the defeat in the 1962 war, the consequence of which, he said, the country is still feeling today.

"When people write about a bridge that is coming up or a village that is coming up, please remember these were in areas that you lost in 1962. If that had not happened this would not have happened. The loss in 1962 is still a handicap that we carry. We may regret it, it does not reverse it,"

Jaishankar said.

The second is that India started reforms 15 years later than China and its reforms were "half-hearted" and they were never deep enough as that of China.

"We have not built that economic strengths. In 1988 when Rajiv Gandhi went to China, our economies were of the same size, today their economy is four times that of ours. What does it tell us, it tells us even if we progressed we did not progress fast enough. I am not saying this as a blame game," he said.

The eastern Ladakh border standoff erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas. Both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers and heavy weaponry.

As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process last year on the north and south banks of the Pangong lake and in the Gogra area.

The disengagement in the Pangong Lake area took place in February last year while the withdrawal of troops and equipment in Patrolling Point 17 (A) in Gogra took place in August last year.

### 3 Boys Drown

information about the incident from locals and fished out the bodies from the river, they said.

**Ashok Yadav**

order duties in Kashmir. He was instrumental in the welfare of the 'SEEMA PRAHARI' and developing basic infrastructure for troops deployed on LoC," it added.

It further reads in his farewell message, Raja Babu complimented all ranks of BSF Kashmir Frontier for their dedication and thanked other organizations for their support.

**Minor Girl Slips**

and taken to District Hospital Handwara for treatment. However, the doctors there referred her to a Srinagar hospital for advanced treatment.

In Srinagar, the minor was declared dead on arrival.

**NIA Files Charges**

"Investigations have established that Danish Naseer was working as an OGW for the HM and also providing shelter and all kinds of support to active HM militant," he said.

Naseer, the spokesperson said, was a part of the larger conspiracy, and knowingly facilitated HM terrorist Kamruz Zaman for committing terror acts.

"Inter alia, Danish Naseer transferred an amount of Rs. 30,000/- to arrested accused Kamruj Zaman, to further the terror activities of HM. Further investigations in the case are in progress," he added.

**Govt Transfers**

Magistrate, Gool, against an available vacancy, with immediate effect. "He shall also hold the charge of the post of SubRegistrar, Gool, in addition to his own duties, till further orders."



# FIFA World Cup: Iran Beats Wales, Senegal Overcome Qatar

## Agencies

Roozbeh Cheshmi and Ramin Rezaeian's goals in stoppage time helped Iran stun Wales 2-0 in a Group B match here at Ahmed bin Ali Stadium. Substitute Roozbeh Cheshmi's goal in the 98th minute took the game from Wales as they scored a goal in injury time to take a crucial 1-0 lead.

Things were on level terms till Wales' goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey got a red card in the 86th minute. Iran took advantage of 10-man Wales and scored the decisive goal. The Asian side who suffered a heavy defeat in their previous match against England made it 2-0 as Ramin Rezaeian scored off a counter-attack to seal the victory.

Gareth Bale created history for Wales as he was playing in his 110th appearance for the country. In the 15th minute, Sardar Azmoun tried a through ball, but Ali Gholizadeh was caught offside. Five minutes later Mehdi Taremi's yet another assist helped Ahmad Noorollahi from taking a shot but his right-



## TODAY'S MATCHES

Teams	Kick Off
Tunisia vs Australia	3:30 PM
Poland vs Saudi Arabia	6:30 PM
France vs Denmark	9:30 PM
Argentina vs Mexico	12:30 AM

footed shot from outside the box was blocked. In the 23rd minute, Sardar Azmoun's header from the centre of the box went high and wide to the left.

With this win, Carlos Queiroz's Iran now have a real chance of qualifying for their first World Cup knockout stages.

## QATAR ON VERGE OF ELIMINATION

Host nation Qatar are perilously close to crashing out of the World Cup after they slumped to a 3-1 defeat by Senegal at the Al Thumama Stadium on Friday, despite Mohammed Muntari netting a first-ever World Cup finals goal for the Qataris.

A win or a draw for Netherlands against Ecuador, who beat Qatar in the tournament's open-

ing game, later on Friday will see the Qataris become the first side mathematically eliminated from the competition.

Qatar defender Boualem Khoukhi's attempt to clear a routine low pass into the box by Krepin Diatta went disastrously wrong as he went to ground without making proper contact with the ball.

Khoukhi's fluffed effort allowed Dia to pounce, and the 26-year-old striker needed no second invitation to rattle the ball in at the near post to give Senegal the lead.

With the Qatari crowd thinned out somewhat at the start of the second half, Famara Diedhou doubled Senegal's advantage with a brilliant glancing header from an Ismail Jakobs corner in the 48th minute.

Muntari reduced the deficit in the 78th with a bullet header from Ismail Mohamad's cross but Senegal substitute Bamba Dieng swept home his side's third to consign Qatar to the bottom of Group A with no points, while their group rivals all have three.

## 7's Rugby Championship Concludes At Polo Ground

Adil Hussain Khan

**SRINAGAR:** The 14th UT Level Rugby 7's Championship concluded on Thursday at Polo Ground here. The Championship was held from the 21st to the 24th of November.

The tournament was organised by J&K Rugby Association and sponsored by J&K Sports Council for All Categories of Male and Female players, including Sub-Junior, Junior, and Senior of Jammu and Kashmir. Irfan Aziz was organising secretary of the tournament.

While sharing his views as a special guest, the General

In the Sub-Junior Girls division, Jammu won the Gold, Srinagar won the silver, and Budgam won the bronze. In the Junior Girls division, Jammu won the Gold, Srinagar won the silver, and Pulwama won the bronze. In the Senior Girls division, Srinagar won the Gold, Jammu won the silver, and Baramulla won the bronze.

Under-17 Boys: Srinagar wins Gold, Bandipora takes silver, and Kupwara takes bronze.

Senior Men: Royal Rugby Club wins the Gold. Srinagar takes the silver, and Kupwara. Bandipora split the bronze.

At the closing ceremony, the



Secretary, Tariq Ahmad Zargar encouraged the participants to showcase their sports through such tournaments.

For young children (ages -12), Gold by Taqwa School Budgam, Silver by Budgam, and Bronze by Jammu. Throughout Sub-Junior, Kupwara won Gold, Pulwama won silver and Srinagar won bronze.

chief guest, Mr. Faisal Ali Dar (a recipient of the Padma Shree Award), presented prizes to the winners, shared his opinions, and praised J&K Rugby and the officials for their commitment to the game and ongoing efforts.

With the most Gold in the Medal Tally, Srinagar won the overall trophy, and Kupwara took home the runners' prize.

## Inter Club Taekwondo Championship Ends In Srinagar

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The closing ceremony of Inter Club Taekwondo Championship was held on Friday at JKSC Gindun Sports Complex, Rajbagh, Srinagar.

The Championship organised by District Srinagar Taekwondo Association under the aegis of J&K Taekwondo Association (JKTA).

This was the first competition in District Srinagar which was completely free for every individual as it was sponsored and co-sponsored by Atul International Taekwondo Academy and Breathzone, respectively. The competition was comprised of all age divisions with inclusion of the youngest age division (Pee Wee).

The final day witnessed a massive combative skill show between the Senior and Junior Athlete's in both male and female categories. More than 180 players participated in different

weight categories.

The Championship was closed off with the demonstration of Taekwondo fights by young boys and girls of different clubs. The Chief Guest of the closing ceremony was Dr. Surjeet Singh Bali (Assistant Professor, Department of Physical Education and Sports, UOK).

Guest of Honours were Sheikh Adil (Gymnasium Coach, DPES), Mirza Irshad (SO, DPES).

Special Guests on the occasion were Nazir Hussain (Senior Footballer), Chandrashekhar (Handball Coach), Maqsood (Joint Secretary, WAJK), Nissar Hussain (President, DSTA), and Aijaz (Wushu Coach, Kupwara).

The technical team was led by Master Atul Pangotra (2x Commonwealth Medallist) along with Rohit Sharma Instructor Khelo India, Faisal Shafi Instructor and all the officials to make this event technically fair for every participant.



## 1st ODI: Latham, Williamson Guide NZ To Win Over India



## Agencies

**AUCKLAND:** Tom Latham smashed a career-best 145 not out and forged a marathon stand with skipper Kane Williamson to lead New Zealand to a seven-wicket victory against India in the first one day international in Auckland on Friday.

Williamson remained unbeaten on 94 having raised 221 runs with Latham as New Zealand chased down a victory target of 307 with 17 balls to spare.

Latham, whose whirlwind 104-ball knock contained five sixes and 19 fours, was named

Player of the Match. Earlier, India's top three batsmen smashed individual half-centuries before Washington Sundar provided the late flourish with an unbeaten 37 off 16 balls to propel them to 306-7 at Eden Park.

The visitors got off to a strong start with skipper Shikhar Dhawan (72) and Shubman Gill (50) raising 124 runs in 23 overs. Lockie Ferguson broke the stand dismissing Gill and, in the next over, Tim Southee (3-73) sent back Dhawan, who is leading a depleted India side bereft of senior batters including regular captain Rohit Sharma.

Ferguson (3-59) dismissed Rishabh Pant and Suryakumar Yadav in the same over before Shreyas Iyer (80) and Sanju Samson (36) propped up India with 94-run stand. Down the order, Sundar belted three sixes and as many fours to take India, who won the preceding T20 series between the sides, past the 300-mark.

New Zealand openers Finn Allen (22) and Devon Conway (24) could not build on their starts and Daryl Mitchell made 11 before becoming debutant Umran Malik's second victim of the match.

## England Fans Face Stadium Ban Over Crusader Costumes In Qatar



## Reuters

**DOHA:** England fans will be barred from Friday's match in Qatar against the United States and future World Cup games if they wear crusader replica costumes which are considered culturally insensitive in a Muslim country, FIFA has said.

England supporters have used imitation chain-mail armour, plastic helmets and toy weapons as a fancy dress for games for years.

But images of some fans dressed as crusaders at Monday's 6-2 win over Iran in the Qatari capital Doha were criticised online, prompting the

sport's world governing body to crack down on the costumes. "These costumes in an Arab or Middle Eastern context can be perceived as being offensive so that's the reason for them not being permitted in stadiums," a FIFA spokesperson said.

For many Arabs, the word crusade summons up a painful history of violent invasion by Christians seeking to capture Jerusalem and nearby areas under Islamic rule in the 11th to 13th centuries. Issues around culture and rights have been in focus almost as much the soccer at the World Cup in Qatar.

Some Wales fans were ordered to remove hats with the

rainbow colours of the LGBT community at their team's first match of the tournament against the United States earlier this week. Same-sex relations are illegal in Qatar.

Welsh football authorities said on Thursday that FIFA had confirmed that supporters with rainbow-coloured hats and flags would be allowed entry to the stadium for Wales' match against Iran on Friday, which Wales lost 2-0. The captains of England, Wales, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany and Denmark this week dropped their plans to wear armbands to back gay rights under pressure from FIFA.

## Iran Regime Supporters Confront Protesters At World Cup Game

Press Trust of India

**DOHA:** Iran's political turmoil cast a shadow also over Iran's second match at the World Cup on Friday, with pro-government fans harassing anti-government fans outside the stadium in Qatar.

Unlike in their first match against England, the Iran players sang along to their national anthem before the match against Wales as some fans in the stadium wept.

Some Iran fans confiscated Persian pre-revolutionary Iranian flags from supporters entering the Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium and shouted insults at those

eign media outside the stadium.

Shouting matches erupted outside the security checkpoint at between fans screaming "Women, Life, Freedom" and others shouting back "The Islamic Republic." Many female fans were visibly shaken as Iranian government supporters surrounded them with national flags and filmed them on their phones.

A group of fans wearing hats emblazoned with the name of the Iranian former soccer player Voria Ghafori, who was arrested in Iran on Thursday, said they had their hats stolen by government supporters.

Some anti-government fans



wearing shirts with the slogan of the country's protest movement, "Woman, Life, Freedom." Small mobs of men angrily chanted "The Islamic Republic of Iran" at women giving interviews about the protests to for-

waved signs in support of the protest movement at Iran's first match against England earlier this week. Before that match, Iran's players remained silent as their national anthem played. On Friday, they sang along.

## Neymar To Miss Rest Of Group Stage With Ankle Injury

Agencies

**DOHA:** Brazil duo Neymar and Danilo will miss their country's remaining two World Cup group games and face a fight to be fit for the knockout stage after sustaining injuries in Thursday's 2-0 win over Serbia, a source close to the team told Reuters on Friday. Brazil top Group G and next face Switzerland and Cameroon, without their most famous player Neymar and ever-reliable fullback Danilo, though the team's doctor confirmed only that they would miss the Swiss game.

"Neymar and Danilo went through an MRI on Friday afternoon and we found ligament damage in the ankle of both of them,"

Rodrigo Lasmar told reporters.

"They will miss the next game for sure and we will be cautious as they will undergo treatment in order to try to get them in shape so they can play again in the World Cup."

Neymar has had problems with his right foot and ankle for several years and looked distraught when he left the pitch late in Thursday's match.

In the 2014 World Cup he suffered a back injury in the quarter-final victory over Colombia, ruling him out of the 7-1 semi-final defeat by Germany. Adding to Brazil's problems, winger Antony and midfielder Lucas Paqueta are both ill and could also miss the match against Switzerland on Monday.





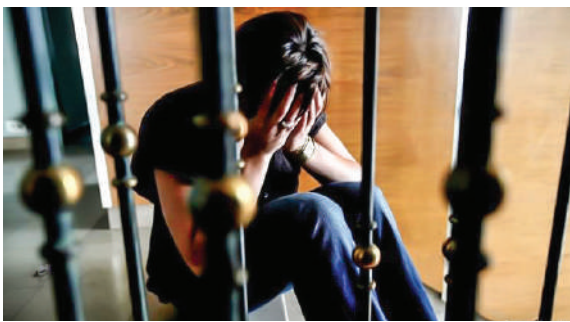
# A Woman Is Killed Every 11 Minutes By An Intimate Partner Or A Family Member, States UN Report

Agenceis

A woman or a girl is killed every 11 minutes by an intimate partner or a family member and approximately 56% of all female homicides are committed by intimate partners or other family members, reiterated Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary General, ahead of the International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women on November 25.

"Violence against women is the most pervasive human rights violation in the world and governments should implement national action plans that tackle this scourge-involving grass-roots and civil society groups at every stage of decision-making and ensuring that laws are implemented and respected, so survivors see their rights to justice and support upheld," he said on Wednesday.

Guterres' remark has



come at a time when India is processing the brutal killing of 27-year-old Shraddha Walkar by her live-in partner Aftab Amin Poonawala. The accused bought a 300-litre fridge and stored the body parts of Shraddha before dumping them across Mehrauli forest in Delhi. As this grisly case develops in the nation, several gender-rights activists and researchers have urged Indian policymakers to pay heed to intimate partner violence.

The UN report reveals that women and girls in all regions are affected by gender-

based killings. While Asia is the region with the largest absolute number of killings, Africa is the region with the highest level of violence relative to the size of its female population. While the overwhelming majority of male homicides (81 per cent) occur outside the private sphere, for women and girls, the most dangerous place is the home.

A 2021 World Health Organisation (WHO) report revealed that globally, one in every three women experience physical or sexual violence from their intimate partners across their lifetime,

making intimate partner violence the most prevalent form of violence in the world.

The report revealed that women who experienced violence were 1.3 times more likely to report mental and emotional stress than those who had not. Seven in 10 said they thought verbal or physical abuse by a partner became more common during the pandemic, and three in 10 were of the opinion that violence against women, in their community, had increased.

The latest report suggested that violence starts early for women (aged 15-24 years). One in four women who have been in a relationship will have already experienced violence by an intimate partner by the time they reach their mid-twenties.

The WHO also highlights that the likelihood of women undergoing intimate partner violence in their lifetime is at a higher range in the Global South than in the Global North.

## Elon Musk Hires George Hotz, Who Hacked iPhones As A Teen, To Fix Twitter Search

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Ever since Elon Musk completed \$44 billion deal to take over Twitter at the end of October, the company's headcount has decreased through layoffs and resignations to a tiny fraction of its original number. Now amid this, the "Chief Twit" has hired George Hotz, the man who rose to instant fame for hacking iPhones in 2007, as a Twitter intern for 12 weeks.

According to a Twitter conversation between Mr Musk and Mr Hotz, the former iPhone hacker has been hired to fix the "broken" search feature on the platform and remove the non-dismissible login

pop-up that appears if one is trying to browse. Mr Hotz received the offer from Twitter's new boss after he appreciated Mr Musk's ultimatum to Twitter employees to go "extremely hardcore" or leave.

"This is the attitude that builds incredible things. Let all the people who don't desire greatness leave," Mr Hotz said. "I'll put my money where my mouth is. I'm down for a 12 week internship at Twitter for cost of living in SF. It's not about accumulating capital in a dead world, it's about making the world alive," he added in a separate tweet. To this, Mr Musk responded with an offer to talk. "Sure, let's talk," he wrote.

## Twitter 'Verified' Next Week, All Accounts To Be Manually Authenticated: Musk

Agenceis

Elon Musk on Friday said Twitter will tentatively relaunch 'Verified' service on Friday next week and all verified accounts will be "manually authenticated before check activates".

The new Twitter owner had earlier paused its \$8 Blue subscription service with verification after it faced chaos on the platform as fake accounts with blue badge impersonated real accounts after paying \$8, saying it will relaunch it from November 29 -- this time more "rock solid".

"Sorry for the delay, we're tentatively launching Verified on Friday next week," said Musk.

"Gold check for companies, grey check for government, blue for individuals (celebrity or not) and all verified accounts will be manually authenticated before check activates. Painful, but necessary," he added.

Musk said that all verified individual humans will have the same blue check, as the boundary of what constitutes "notable" is otherwise too subjective. "Individuals can have a secondary tiny logo showing they belong to an org if verified as such by that org. Longer explanation next week," said the world's richest man.

**ALSO TRYING TO GET RID OF** that non dismissible login pop up after you scroll a little bit ugh these things ruin the Internet."

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