

## J&K Received Rs 64,000 Cr Investment Proposal: Centre

### Rs 2500 Crore Already Received

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** The Jammu and Kashmir government has reported investment proposal to the tune of Rs 64,000 crore of which over Rs 2,500 crore has already been received, Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday.

Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said Rs 840.55 crore

investment has come in 2017-18, Rs 590.97 crore investment in 2018-19, Rs 296.64 crore in 2019-20, Rs 412.74 crore in 2020-21 and Rs 376.76 crore in 2021-22.

The government of Jammu and Kashmir has reported receiving proposals for investments worth approximately Rs 64,000 crore so far, he said replying to a written question.

## LG Orders Pace In Setting Up Industrial Estates In J&K



Observer News Service

**T**he Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Tuesday directed the revenue department to work in close coordination with Industries & Commerce department to expedite setting up of Industrial Estates and to resolve all pending issues within one month. Sinha passed these directions while chairing a high-level meeting to review the sectoral progress of the Industries

& Commerce department here Tuesday, an official spokesperson said. He said Prashant Goyal, Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department gave a comprehensive overview of the present scenario of the infrastructure, execution of Incentive Policy, Land Bank, progress of work on Industrial Estates, collaboration with ONDC, export promotion initiatives for One District One Product and progress in handicraft sector etc. The LG, the spokesperson said, **More on P6**

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## Bijli, Sadak Not Our Agenda In Upcoming Polls: Omar

### Says Will Repeal Public Safety Act On The First Day Of NC Govt

KO WEB DESK

**Srinagar:** Former chief minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said the National Conference government will repeal the controversial Public Safety Act (PSA) on the first day if his party came to power in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Public Safety Act was first enacted by the J&K government headed by National Conference founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah in 1978 to curb timber smuggling. The law, which provides for detention of up to two years without trial, was used against separatists after the eruption of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir in 1990. Interestingly Omar Abdullah himself was detained under the

same law by the government on the eve of abrogation of J&K's special status in August of 2019.

"They (Centre) have only kept those (old) laws here which can be used to harass the people. There is no (Public) Safety Act anywhere in the country... it is only in Jammu and Kashmir. I have said it earlier and I repeat when National Conference government comes, on the first day, this law will be repealed," Omar told party workers at Dooru in Anantnag district.

While the Centre did away with a large number of laws passed by the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, PSA was one of the few laws that were retained even after abrogation of Article 370 and **More on P6**

## Sajad Lone Mocks Omar's PSA Repeal Remark

**T**he Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference on Tuesday hit out at the National Conference for promising to repeal the Public Safety Act, saying the assembly of a Union Territory does not have the power to amend or **More on P6**



**AMIDST SUB-ZERO TEMPERATURE AND FROZEN LEAVES,** a woman carries on with her jogging exercise inside a public park in Srinagar on Tuesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## Gulmarg Coldest Place In Kashmir At -5.5°C

Agencies

**Srinagar:** The minimum temperature in Kashmir Valley plummeted again to sub-zero level on Tuesday with ski-resort of Gulmarg recording night temperature of minus 5 degree Celsius.

The mercury also dropped in Jammu division and barring Katra and Bhaderwah, all meteorological department stations recorded below than the normal minimum temperatures.

A meteorological department official said Srinagar recorded a low of minus 2.2 against 1.6°C on the previous night. The temperature was 1.2°C below the normal for this time of the year in Srinagar, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 2.2°C against minus 0.2°C on the previous night while Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 3.0°C against minus 2.6°C on previous night and it was 0.8°C above normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Kokernag recorded a low of minus 0.4°C against **More on P6**

## 2639 KPs Given Govt Jobs Under PMDP: Centre

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** As many as 2,639 government jobs have been provided to Kashmiri migrants under Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP), 2015, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in Lok Sabha.

He also said the government has approved construction of 6,000 transit accommodation for Kashmiri migrant employees engaged or to be engaged in different departments of government of Jammu and Kashmir in the valley.

"2,639 government jobs have been provided to Kashmiri migrants under Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP), 2015," he said in a written reply.

Further, the minister said the government of Jammu and Kashmir has

## TAWANG SHOWDOWN

### IAF Closely Monitoring Situation Along LAC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi:** The Indian Air Force scrambled fighter jets last week following China's increasing air activities on its side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh, people familiar with the matter said on Tuesday.

The deployment of some aerial platforms including drones by China in the region preceded the Chinese attempts on December 9 to unilaterally change the status



quo in the Yangtse area of the Tawang sector, they said.

The people said a number of Chinese drones flew close to the LAC prompting the IAF to scramble the jets and increase

the overall combat readiness.

They said the IAF has also stepped up its overall surveillance in areas in view of the Chinese attempt of transgression on December 9, adding it follows standard operation procedures that included scrambling of fighter jets in case of specific security concerns.

"The situation is being monitored closely by both the IAF and the Army," said one of the people cited above.

The people indicated that the IAF has **More on P6**

## India Foiled Chinese Attempt To Change Status Quo: DM

**C**hinese troops tried to "unilaterally" change the status quo along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Yangtse area of Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang sector last week but the Indian Army compelled them to retreat by its "firm and resolute" response, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said in Parliament on Tuesday. In similar statements in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, Singh **More on P6**



## Sanskrit Is Mother Language Of All Civilized Languages Of World: LG

Asserting that Sanskrit is more than a language and the source of social values that has been guiding humanity since times immemorial, the

Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday that we must work together with flexible and non-formal **More on P6**

## J&K Administration Unveils Land Grant Rules -2022

'All Outgoing Lessees To Handover Possession Of Land Taken On Lease To Government; Leases Expired Or Determined Prior To Rules Not To Be Renewed'

Agencies

**Srinagar:** In a significant move, the Jammu & Kashmir administration has notified that all the outgoing lessees, except in the case of subsisting/expired leases for residential purposes, shall immediately handover the possession of the land taken on lease to the government, failing which the outgoing lessee shall be evicted.

According to The Jammu & Kashmir Land Grant Rules-2022 notified by the Revenue Department, all the outgoing lessees (except in the case of subsisting/expired leases for residential purposes) shall immediately handover the possession of the land taken on lease to the government, failing which the outgoing lessee shall be evicted

as per the provisions of public premises (eviction of un-authorized occupant) Act, 1988.

The Rules, however, state that the outgoing lessees shall, however, be paid for any improvement carried out or structure constructed thereon at the value assessed as provided under Sub-Rule (xi) of Rule 13 provided that the lessee has not violated any of the conditions of the lease.

The Land Grant Rules further state that all leases (except the subsisting /expired residential leases) including lease granted under the Jammu and Kashmir Land Grants Rules 1960, Notified Area (All Development Authorities set in Tourism Sector) Land Grants Rules, 2007 and leases expired or determined **More on P6**

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

### Couple Killed As Car Rolls Into Gorge

**A** retired government official and his wife were killed Tuesday after their car skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir, an official said.

Mangat Ram (62) and his wife Shakuntla Devi (58) were on way to Jammu from their Gandoh residence and the accident occurred near Jathi village, the official said. Ram was a retired Tehsil Supply Officer (TSO) of Food Civil Supplies **More on P6**

### IED Defused In Seer Sopore

**P**olice on Tuesday claimed to have averted a major tragedy by timely detecting and defusing an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) planted by militants in Seer area of Sopore.

The IED was detected by joint teams of Police and Army's 52RR on a bypass road near Seer crossing in Sopore, a police spokesperson said Tuesday. Soon after the detection of the IED, he said, the traffic was halted and the movement of people was restricted. **More on P6**

### Mughal Road Reopens After 5 Days

**T**he Mughal Road, connecting the twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri in the Jammu region with south Kashmir's Shopian district, was reopened for vehicular traffic on Tuesday after remaining closed for five days due to heavy snowfall, officials said. The road was reopened for traffic in the afternoon. All the vehicles stranded on the highway moved to their respective destinations, they said. **More on P6**

### 'Terror Associate' Held In Pulwama

**P**olice on Tuesday claimed to have arrested an over-ground worker (OGW) of Al-Badr in South Kashmir Pulwama district. Yawar Bashir Dar of Arigam in Pulwama was arrested by a joint team of police, army's 55RR and the personnel of CRPF at a checkpoint established at Bandzoo crossing, a police spokesperson said. Dar, he said, is a terror associate of Al-Badr and incriminating materials, including **More on P6**

### Cop Killed After Car Hits Divider

**A** policeman was killed after a vehicle he was travelling in met with an accident in Awantipora area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district, an official said. Quoting an official, news agency KNO reported that an accident took place on Jammu-Srinagar national highway near Samboora Awantipora link road in which Alto vehicle (JK04H-0495) hit the road divider and turned turtle. The driver of **More on P6**

### Fire Damages CRPF Camp In Srinagar

**A** camp of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and a tin shed were partially damaged in a fire incident in Indra Nagar area of Srinagar on Tuesday morning. Quoting an official, news agency KNO reported that fire broke out from the top floor of 73BN CRPF camp at Indra Nagar this morning. He said the fire was timely put off, however, the top floor of the camp was completely damaged and a tin shed was also damaged in the incident. **More on P6**

### Search Continues To Trace Missing Teen Girl

**T**he search operation to locate the body of a teenage girl who jumped in the river Jhelum near Jamia Qadeem bridge of Sopore town in North Kashmir's Baramulla district, entered second day on Tuesday. An official said that the search operation to trace the missing teenage girl started today morning. He said the operation was being carried out by a team of SDRF and local fishermen to locate the girl's body. On Monday, a **More on P6**





KASHMIR OBSERVER

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Now Tawang

Chinese troops on December 9 once again carried out an incursion across the Line of Actual Control, this time in Yangtse area of Tawang sector in Arunachal Pradesh, and attempted to unilaterally change the status quo. However, Indian troops resisted, leading to clashes between the soldier and causing injuries on both sides. However, the situation has since returned to normal. Subsequently, the local commander of the Army held a flag meeting with his Chinese counterpart on December 11, where the Chinese side was asked to maintain peace on the border. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that the matter had been raised with the Chinese side at the diplomatic level as well.

The soldiers on the two sides are reported to have beaten each other with sticks and canes. This was the closest encounter that Indian troops and the PLA have had since the deadly Galwan incident in eastern Ladakh in June 2020 in which twenty Indian soldiers were killed and an unspecified number of their Chinese counterpart. The incident came days after China expressed objection to India-US joint military exercise at Auli in the Uttarakhand hills, claiming it was a violation of 1993 and 1996 border agreements. And it also follows the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping at the G20 summit in Bali in November during which they exchanged courtesies but did not hold any substantive talks or discussions.

The two countries have already been engaged in a bitter eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation ever since the Chinese army staged incursions across the Line of Actual Control in multiple areas in April-May 2020. In September, India began disengaging from the Gogra-Hotsprings border area in Ladakh after reaching a consensus in the 16th round of India-China Corps Commander-level meeting. This had created some hope that the antagonism between the two countries would come to an end. Through sustained negotiations they finally found an amicable way out. And the situation in recent months seemed to have been improving. In October, the outgoing Chinese ambassador Sun Weidong in his farewell speech talked about 'broad prospects' in ties between India and China. He, however, added that both countries should refrain from interfering in the internal matters of the other, while acknowledging that it was natural for the neighbours to have differences. But with the Tawang incident, the situation seems to have gone back to square one. It has injected fresh bitterness into the bilateral ties. And if the situation continues like this, it won't be good for the region. For a peaceful neighborhood it's important that India and China reach a modus-vivendi by resolving the issues dividing them.

OTHER OPINION

Rate hike: Inflation remains a concern

The decision of the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to raise the benchmark policy repo rate was not unexpected. At its meeting on Thursday, the MPC decided to raise the rate by 35 basis points, taking it to 6.25 per cent. This is a level last seen in March 2019, and the decision shows that the MPC's view is that retail inflation is still a threat and needs to be fought. The decision was taken by a 5-1 vote with one member, Jayant Varma, voting against the hike. The MPC also decided by a majority of two to remain focused on withdrawal of accommodation. The decisions show that inflation remains the core concern of the RBI. The RBI's pace of rate increase has moderated now, but indications are that the end of the current rate cycle is still not in sight.

The central bank expects retail inflation to be 6.6 per cent in the current quarter (October-December), and 5.9 per cent in the next (January-March 2023). It might mean that the level of inflation in 2022-23 would be 6.7 per cent, which will be higher than the upper band of the RBI's mandated level. October marked the 10th straight month in which inflation was higher than 6 per cent. An easing was seen in October but that was because of a fall in food inflation. The rate of core inflation is not showing any downtrend. The policy statement noted that the "battle against inflation is not over", and further policy action is needed to keep "inflation expectations anchored, break core inflation persistence and contain second-round effects". The RBI, however, hopes that price pressures will ease in the medium term and average 5.2 per cent in the first half of the next financial year. But it should be noted that even this level will be above the target of 4 per cent. The RBI is likely to expect inflation to stabilise at lower levels before reviewing its present stance.

The central bank has also lowered its forecast for growth to 6.8 per cent this year, down from its September assessment of 7 per cent and its August forecast of 7.2 per cent. The estimates for the current quarter and the next have also been lowered to 4.4 per cent and 4.2 per cent from the 4.6 per cent projected earlier. It also said that the new projections were occasioned by the risks to growth from protracted geopolitical tensions, tightening global financial conditions and slowing external demand. With the tightening of monetary conditions, growth outcomes will be affected but the RBI's attention is focussed on maintaining price stability. This is based on the well-established wisdom that inflation tends to do more harm to the economy than slack growth.

Deccan Herald

# US, Sanction and South Asia

Samara Ashrat

The post-cold war era has seen a significant shift in the foreign policy of the USA. Earlier, the USA used to follow military intervention to achieve its foreign policy objectives. Examples of those interventions have been seen in the cold war era. But gradually, with the growing importance of geopolitics and geoeconomics, the US follows a tool to pressure countries to meet its foreign objectives: sanctions. Especially economic sanctions are increasingly being used to promote the full range of American foreign policy objectives.

To accomplish the objectives of the USA's foreign policy sanctions take the form of arms embargoes, foreign assistance reductions and cut-offs, export and import limitations, asset freezes, tariff increases, revocation of most favored nation (MFN) trade status, negative votes in international financial institutions, withdrawal of diplomatic relations, visa denials, cancellation of air links, and prohibitions on credit, financing, and investment.

With the growing geopolitical significance of South Asia, India and Bangladesh have seen the same policy from the USA. For instance, On December 10, 2021, the USA imposed sanctions without any prior information on Bangladesh's elite paramilitary force, the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), and seven of its current and former officials accused of human rights abuses and abductions. The sanctions mean the RAB will neither be allowed to own properties in the US nor engage in any financial transaction with a US body or personnel. The sanctions also ban seven current and former top officials of the RAB, including Benazir Ahmed, the inspector general of Bangladesh Police, from entering the US.

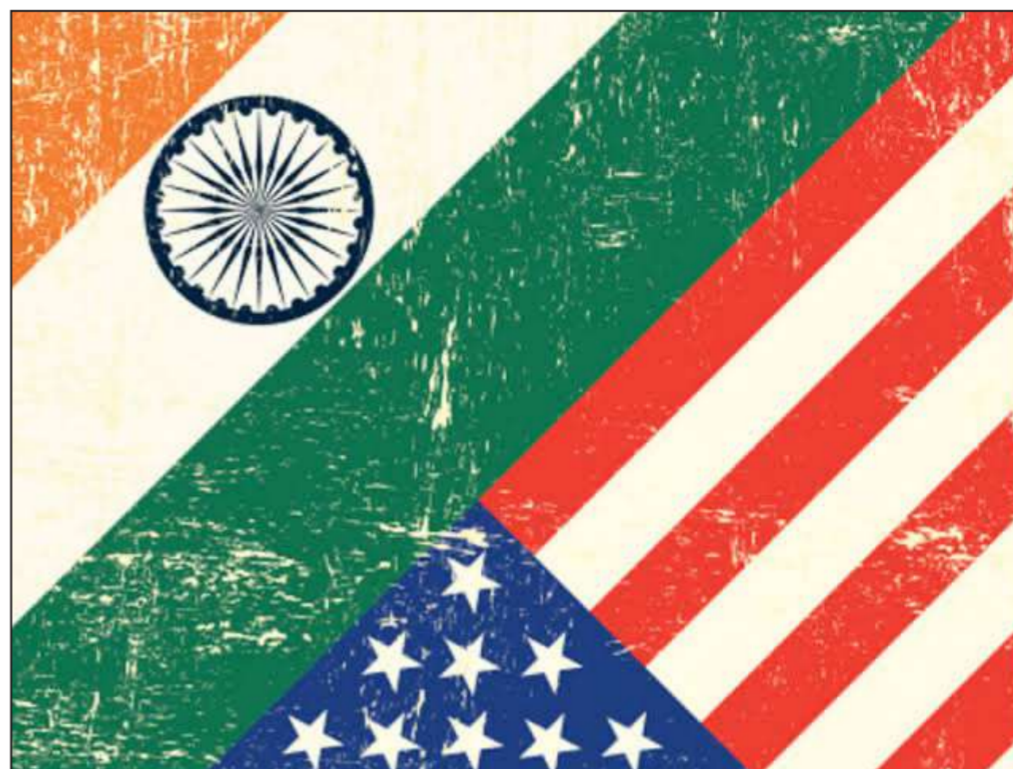
On the other hand, the US Treasury Department imposed economic sanctions against an Indian petrochemical company Tibalaji for allegedly "purchasing millions of dollars" worth of Iranian petrochemical products for onward shipment to China. Not only that, they threatened India to impose a sanction for buying Russian missiles. So why is this imposition of sanctions in the era of cooperation?

A geopolitical ploy to create pressure?

It is nothing other than a geopolitical ploy to create pressure on the two geopolitically important countries of South Asia to align with the foreign policy objectives of the USA. The USA didn't take any strict action against any of the countries. Not only that, the USA waived the sanction from India for buying Russian missiles because their economic interest lies with India.

US sanctions show that the country has made a "significant policy shift" not only over Bangladesh and India, but in the US foreign policy in general, by placing electoral democracy and human rights at the heart of its foreign relation. The USA often uses the catchy words "democracy" and "human rights" in serving its foreign policy interest against the 'targeted' nations. The country shows its double standards in imposing sanctions in those places where its interest lies. For instance, the USA is silent on the gross human rights violation of Israel to the Palestinians, the authoritative rule of Saudi Arabia, or the failure to address the fatal police violence by race and state. Not only that, it didn't even bother about Myanmar for the persecution of Rohingyas. But, they are too opinionated on the human rights violations of China, Russia, North Korea, and Bangladesh. The double-standards on country-specific human rights violations questions the credibility of the sanctions.

Whenever it sees any country's alignment with its chosen competitor, the USA weaponizes sanctions to create pressure on them. The case of India and Bangladesh is a prime example of that. Whenever India started to



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Why the US is using sanctions as a foreign policy tool?

Basically, sanctions are a way to signal official displeasure with a certain behavior. They can reinforce a commitment to a behavioral norm, such as respect for human rights or opposition to proliferation. American reluctance to use military force is another motivation. Sanctions provide a visible and less expensive alternative to military intervention and doing nothing. The greater reach of media is still another explanation. The CNN effect can increase the visibility of problems in another country and stimulate a desire on the part of Americans to respond.

Previously, these sanctions helped the USA to achieve various significant foreign policy objectives. Sanctions introduced in the aftermath of the Gulf War increased Iraqi compliance with resolutions calling for the complete elimination of its weapons of mass destruction and diminished Iraq's ability to import weapons. In the former Yugoslavia, sanctions were one factor contributing to Ser-

bia's decision to accept the Dayton agreement in August 1995. With burgeoning geopolitical interest, China's deep engagement with Bangladesh had made the country a victim of the USA's double standard sanction.

Double Standards?

Nonetheless, Washington is guilty of double standards. When President Ziaur Rahman railroaded the trials of hundreds of rebel soldiers in 1977 and secretly hung an undisclosed number of them, America did not publicly chastise him, let alone impose sanctions. Only Jane Coon, the then deputy assistant secretary of state, blocked his visit to the White House, ignoring Ambassador Ed Masters' push.

Washington's sanctions strategies often carry hidden agendas. When America imposed sanctions on the Soviet Union after it invaded Kabul, they were billed as part of a mission to rescue Afghanistan, but they were actually intended to warn Moscow not to march into Iran. There are growing rights abuses in the West itself, given the rise of neo-Nazis and white supremacists and a history of violent racism against the black and indigenous population.

The main issue is Western insecurity and a concern that the world might shift from unipolarity to multipolarity. In all, the main objective is geopolitical, and the USA doesn't want China or Russia to dominate the Indo-Pacific Region or even South Asia.

The main issue is China's rising geopolitical dominance in South Asia through BRI and the fear that Bangladesh might officially join the mega project. And for India, it is burgeoning defense and economic cooperation with Russia. So, at the end of the day, Bangladesh's core foreign policy is similar to India's. The "Friendship to all, malice to none" policy wants to diversify its engagements with multiple actors to bolster its ability to act independently and on its own terms. Suppose the USA understands this basic reality. In that case, they will be more successful in strengthening relations with and achieving their broader goals in the Indo-Pacific region as well as South Asia.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The author is a PhD Candidate, International Relations, University of Bucharest



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## Keeping Power Theft in Check

WITH the potential to generate 20,000 megawatts of hydropower, Kashmir is still in darkness. Being the chief producer of electricity in India, Kashmir should have the least electricity crisis but that is far from the ground reality. The valley faces power cuts throughout the year but during winter it becomes very hard to live with electricity for several days.

Electricity, in the 21st century, is not a luxury rather a necessity, like air and water. But in Kashmir, even the capital city of Srinagar faces a lot of power cuts. And even when electricity is available the voltage is so low that a bulb doesn't work prop-

erly, let alone other heavy electrical appliances.

With such circumstances, people are left with no option but to go through unethical and illegal means like electricity theft. The PDD department needs to understand the necessity and provide electricity accordingly. That's the only solution to curb power thefts. Also, transformers burn at least every five days during winter, leaving people suffering for days.

The price people pay for electricity is unfair because first of all rates are higher than the supply and secondly, electricity should be cheap because it is generated domestically.

Why would anyone pay such a huge amount for a bare minimum? If the government had to purchase electricity from outside then it was somewhat justified.

One of the reasons for electricity theft is that many people don't consider it as theft because they feel it's their own as it is produced in the valley. It could be stopped only when the population is made aware that this is theft as most of the population doesn't consider it as theft. The clergy delivering Friday sermons should educate people regarding the theft.

The PDD should carry regular checks to make sure employees are not indulging in corruption and do-

ing their work with proper ethics. Whenever any field staff member is caught taking bribes and helping the public in thefts, strict action should be taken against them.

While government agencies should set an example by taking strong action against the field staff and public involved in the wrongdoing, at the same time PDD should update their infrastructure and make sure that the public is getting sufficient amounts of electricity during winters, so that they won't resort to theft.

Tabia Masoodi  
Srinagar

# Christianity in Question in Britain and America?

Asad Mirza

Official census figures from Britain points to the falling number of Christians in the country, while in America a demand is growing to declare the country a Christian nation.

Over the years, it was believed that Christianity was ebbing in the United Kingdom, but now the fear has been proved right. The figures made public on 29th November, from the 2021 census published by the Office for National Statistics show that, for the first time, less than half of the population of England and Wales consider themselves to be Christians.

Their number fell by 17% in a decade, to 27.5 million; the number of people who ticked the "no religion" box rocketed by 57%, to 22.2 million. Though some may say that now the UK is becoming more secular, but others also points to the fact that at the cost of Christianity, some other religions are growing.

The annual British Social Attitudes Survey, by contrast, found in 2020 that 53% of British adults belong to no religion, with only 37% Christians. Separately a poll commissioned by Humanists UK in 2019 showed that 29% of British adults hold all the fundamental beliefs and values of humanists, hinting at the widespread shift in popular values, opinions, and identity the UK has undergone in the 21st century.

The census showed that the number of Muslims has risen by 42%; they now constitute 7% of the British population. British Hindus hit the million mark for the first time. These changes also reflect big demographic shifts. One in six of those who filled in the census were born abroad, compared with one in ten a decade ago. Three cities are "majority-minority": Birmingham (51.4%), Leicester (59.1%) and Luton (54.8%), i.e. Christians have become a minority in these cities.

The Economist magazine says that some on the right are bemoaning the revelation that Christianity is now a minority religion. But will passing this symbolic threshold actually change anything? It could influence discussions over the state funding of faith schools. Most are still Christian amidst concerns that non-Christian faith schools may exacerbate ethnic



**MEANWHILE, IN THE U.S. GROWING NUMBERS OF RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL LEADERS** are embracing the 'Christian nationalist' label, and some dispute the idea that the country's founders wanted a separation of church and state. On the other side of the debate, however, many Americans – including the leaders of many Christian churches – have pushed back against Christian nationalism, calling it a 'danger' to the country

segregation: Hindu schools, for example, tend to be populated only by children of immigrants from south Asian countries.

There is another related worrying thought, if immigration continues to rise, secularisation will slow. As it is assumed that immigrants tend to have a reviving effect on all religions; that is largely why church attendance has held up better in London than it has in other places.

Meanwhile, the Labour Party is

proposing to abolish the House of Lords, bishops and all. Yet, the most distinctive element of Britain's form of theocracy is likely to adapt rather than disappear. Though he promised in September to "inviolably maintain and preserve the settlement of the true Protestant religion" King Charles III seems taken by the practices of other believers, too. At his coronation next May, he may try to cast himself as defender of all faiths. It helps that he is king alongside a

Hindu prime minister and a Muslim mayor of London, opines The Economist.

The ONS figures also revealed that the majority of Muslims are living in the areas of England and Wales with the worst levels of deprivation. Muslims now account for 7 percent of the population in England and Wales, some 3.9 million in 2021, however, the data showed 61 percent of them live in the lowest 40 percent of areas ranked by deprivation score, The

Guardian has reported.

Added to it, immigration has always been one of the major drivers of the UK's politics and there is a belief amongst the 'Whites', that the immigration is responsible for changing the UK's nature and character. Brexit was chosen as a direct result of this fear along with related economic woes.

Meanwhile, in the U.S., growing numbers of religious and political leaders are embracing the 'Christian nationalist' label, and some dispute the idea that the country's founders wanted a separation of church and state. On the other side of the debate, however, many Americans – including the leaders of many Christian churches – have pushed back against Christian nationalism, calling it a 'danger' to the country.

According to a report released by the Pew Research Centre on 27th

October, more than four-in-ten U.S. adults say the country should be a 'Christian nation,' but far fewer want churches to endorse candidates, speak out on politics

Most U.S. adults believe America's founders intended the country to be a Christian nation, and many say they think it should be a Christian nation today, according to the survey designed to explore Americans' views on the topic. But the survey also finds widely differing opinions about what it means to be a 'Christian nation' and to support 'Christian nationalism'.

For instance, many supporters of Christian nationhood define the concept in broad terms, as the idea that the country is guided by Christian values. Those who say the United States should not be a Christian nation, on the other hand, are much more inclined to define a Christian nation as one where the laws explicitly enshrine religious teachings.

Overall, six-in-ten U.S. adults – including nearly seven-in-ten Christians – say they believe the founders "originally intended" for the U.S. to be a Christian nation. And 45% of U.S. adults – including about six-in-ten Christians – say they think the country 'should be' a Christian nation. A third say the U.S. 'is now' a Christian nation.

These juxtaposing findings lead us to wonder whether the Western world is trying to really abandon the Christianity as the state religion, or taking a leaf from the current Indian politics, are they going to reassert and re-establish themselves as leading Christian nations that need to be watched. Does it also sound to be a death knell of a secular state, needs to be seen.

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

*Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. He was also associated with BBC Urdu Service and Khaleej Times of Dubai.*

*He writes on Indian Muslims, educational, international affairs, inter-faith and current affairs. He can be contacted on [www.asadmira.com](mailto:www.asadmira.com)*

## How Are Books Made?

Lara Farina

Books are material things – usually made of paper, ink, thread and glue – but a lot of work goes into making them before they get assembled into something you might find at a library or bookstore. Most of this work has to do with a book's content, the writing and art on its pages.

### ▶ COOKING UP IDEAS

Book authors usually begin the writing process by brainstorming ideas. They write down a number of thoughts and make notes about things they've observed or read.

Authors writing a made-up story, called fiction, might imagine the possible characters' personalities and habits. They might also outline a plot, or the sequence of events that will happen in the story.

An author who is writing nonfiction – like history or science – will research the topic and decide how to interpret what they find. The research may involve looking at archival documents, interviewing people or visiting locations where important events happened.

Once authors have ideas about what they want to write, they need to think about whom they'd like to read their book. If, for example, an author is writing about outer space for a general audience, it's important to explain the science in way that everyone can understand. An author who is writing for other astronomers who already know a lot about the subject shouldn't spend much time explaining the most basic things.

### ▶ REVISE, REVISE, REVISE

After authors have brainstormed, researched, plotted and outlined their projects, they draft and revise. Few authors write something down once and never change what they've written. Most write a first or rough draft and later change many things, from the order of topics to the particular words they use.



tribute, advertise and sell it. When

writers want to work with an editor, and hope to turn their story into a real book, they send their revised draft to publishers in hopes that the company will purchase it. This way, authors get paid for their writing, but the publisher also profits from book sales.

Editors work for publishers, the companies that help create the final form of the book and then dis-

tribute, advertise and sell it. When writers want to work with an editor, and hope to turn their story into a real book, they send their revised draft to publishers in hopes that the company will purchase it. This way, authors get paid for their writing, but the publisher also profits from book sales.

Many other people work at a publishing company, too. Copy editors and proofreaders check for mistakes

in an author's writing. Designers and typesetters are responsible for the look of the book, including its cover. Publishers may also find illustrators for a book, although many authors want to illustrate their own.

### ▶ THE FINAL STEPS

When the content of a book is all ready, it will be sent to a printer to be inked onto paper, glued or sewn together as a collection of pages, and

bound into hardback or paperback copies. Hardbacks are books with stiff cardboard bindings and paper dust jackets to protect the covers. Paperbacks have a cover of only thick paper and are cheaper to make.

The first printing of some kinds of books, like novels or histories, is often a hardback. If lots of people want to buy the book and the publisher prints another batch of books – called a print run – they will typi-

cally be paperbacks.

So far, I have described the way that most books are made now. But book creation predates modern publication, printing and even paper. For many centuries, books were written by hand on vellum, which is made of animal skin.

Before the invention of the printing press around 1440, most writing was done by scribes, artisans who were trained to write in special scripts called calligraphy. Authors could recite their work aloud to scribes, and the scribes would write it down. Scribes also copied a lot of material from other books to make new books for patrons, readers who told scribes what they wanted in a book and paid for it.

In my work as an English professor, I study many of these medieval handwritten books, called manuscripts. Often, manuscripts can give modern readers an idea of what particular people in the past wanted to read. For example, a book written for a queen might contain the stories she liked, calendars of important dates, a history of her family or her country and prayers and poems she might recite. There's a good chance that the queen's book was unique, because it was written specifically for her.

You can look here at pages from a manuscript made for use by one particular woman: Christina of Markyate, a holy woman in 12th-century England. She ran away from home as a teenager to become a recluse and later became a spiritual adviser to the monks of St. Albans monastery. The monks made this very beautiful book of prayers for her.

You can make your own mini-book just by folding a single piece of paper. Think of some content, write a draft and then be your own scribe by writing and illustrating your book!

*By arrangements with The Conversation*







## Srinagar Wushu Girl Credits Parents For International Bronze

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** A young girl from Bemina area of Srinagar, who created history by winning a medal at World Junior Wushu Championship, Tuesday said the hard work has paid off and also expressed gratitude to her parents and coach for supporting her.

Talking to the news agency KNO, Ayeera Chisti, said she was proud of her achievement.

She revealed that her hard work has paid off and also the support extended by her parents and coach helped her to achieve this feat.

Chisti added that children should follow their goal along with their studies and parents should also extend support to

their children. Ayeera's mother also expressed happiness over the achievement of her daughter and said she is very happy and has no words to express her joy.

"My daughter has always made us proud and today also, she made the entire country proud," she said.

She also appealed to parents to support their children in their endeavour.

Pertinently, Ayeera reached home Tuesday morning. She was received by the officials of Sports Council at Srinagar Airport, who also visited her home later in Bemina here.

Notably, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and Union Minister for Sports, Anurag Thakur also congratulated Ayeera. (KNO)

## Moroccan World Cup 'Dream' Faces Biggest Test Against France



Agencies

**DOHA:** Morocco's improbable, history-making run at the World Cup is about to get its ultimate test.

Africa's first World Cup semifinalist is playing defending champion France and its star striker Kylian Mbappé, the leader of a new wave of soccer superstars coming out of an era dominated by Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo.

Wednesday's match has cultural and political connotations — Morocco was under French rule from 1912-1956 — and the outcome is far from the foregone conclusion many would presume by looking at the names of the players and the rankings of the teams.

Morocco has exceeded all expectations in Qatar by beating second-ranked Belgium in the group stage and then eliminating European powerhouses Spain and Portugal in the knockout phase to reach the

semifinals.

No African or Arab nation has ever gotten this far.

It is one of the biggest stories in the World Cup's 92-year history and Morocco is not done yet.

"I was asked if we can win the World Cup and I said, 'Why not? We can dream, it doesn't cost you anything to have dreams,'" said Walid Regragui, Morocco's French-born coach. "European countries are used to winning the World Cup and we have played top sides, we have not had an easy run. Anyone playing us is going to be afraid of us now."

Morocco might have some injuries now — Aguerd and fellow center back Romain Saiss could be missing Wednesday — but Regragui's game plan relies on team shape and discipline more than any specific individual.

"We recovered well. We have good doctors and every day we get good news. No one is ruled

out and no one is for certain," Regragui told reporters on Tuesday. "We'll use the best team possible."

"We're going to fight to move on, for the African nations, for the Arab world," he said.

Regragui said defender Achraf Hakimi is looking forward to a "nice duel" with Mbappé, his teammate at Paris Saint-Germain, but added that France doesn't just depend on its star player.

"We'll have to block Kylian, but not just him. Hakimi is super motivated to beat his friend," he said.

The key to winning the game, he said, will be Morocco's "team spirit" and the support of the crowd at Al Bayt Stadium, where French President Emmanuel Macron is set to be in attendance along with tens of thousands of green-and-red-clad Morocco fans. It will feel like a home game for Morocco's players, which might level things up even more. (AP)

## Cycle Polo National Trials Today

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A press release from J&K Cycle Polo Association stated that the association is conducting selection trials for the upcoming Sub-Junior, Junior and Senior (Boys) National Cycle Polo Championship 2021-22 at Gindun Ground, Raj Bagh, Srinagar on Wednesday 14th December 2022 at 11 am.

"Eligible players from affiliated districts units and interested players are asked to come along with two passport size photograph, Aadhaar Card Xerox, age proof & Physical Fitness Certificate for the trials. For more information please contact 7006294963, 7006919285," the statement concluded.

## Test Of Rahul's Captaincy As India Face Bangladesh In 1st Test



Press Trust of India

**CHATTOGRAM:** KL Rahul's tactical acumen will be tested along with his batting prowess when a depleted Indian team clashes with a tricky Bangladesh in the high-stakes two-match series, the result of which will have an impact on India's chances for the World Test Championship final qualification.

India are currently fourth in the WTC table behind Australia, South Africa and Sri Lanka. The only way of qualifying for the final in June is to straightaway win both the Tests against Bangladesh and then all four at home against Pat Cummins' Australia to eliminate any ifs and buts.

The journey starts at the Zahoor Ahmed Stadium, which has traditionally favoured the batters but also offers some turn towards the business end of the match.

The visitors will start as overwhelming favourites in Test format, in which the Bangladesh is yet to beat India but the absence of Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami and Ravindra Jadeja could hurt the side.

Jadeja's absence on these kind of tracks always puts Indian team on the back-foot especially when the opposition team is batting in the third innings or fourth innings. Jadeja-Ashwin duo, at least against lesser Test nations on sub-continental tracks could be lethal but Axar Patel has done his hard yards over the past two seasons as the second choice left-arm spinner.

As many as 10 Indian players, if all are fit, select themselves in the playing XI and the most important call that the two Rahuls — skipper KL and head coach Dravid — need to make is about the fifth specialist bowler — a third pacer or a third spinner.

Whether India will field a third choice specialist spinner in wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav or slow left-arm orthodox Saurabh Kumar is there to be seen.

Saurabh, who has been a star performer for India A team in the recently concluded two-Test series against Bangladesh A with 15 wickets, would feel that he has made his case for a Test Cap in at least one of the two games.

## J&K Bank Seal Semi-Final Spot In Christmas Gold Cup

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** In the third quarter final match of the ongoing Christmas Gold Cup on Tuesday, J&K Bank defeated Sainik Colony FC 1-0 to advance into the semi-finals of the football tournament.

Bank's talismanic striker Akif Reshi scored in the 6th minute of the match to seal the deal.

The match was fiercely contested as Sainik Colony boys kept one of J&K's best teams at bay.

The match saw a total of three yellow cards, with Azad of Sainik Colony receiving the first in the 27th minute. Jamshed of J&K Bank was booked in the 40th minute, while his teammate Faisal Thakur saw a yellow in 59th minute.

Amardeep Singh (International Player) was Chief Guest on the occasion and was accompanied by Ramesh Chander (International Player), Yousaf Don (Org. Secy.), Varinder Sharma (President NGR), and various others. LoneStar Kashmir FC is the other team that has qualified for the semi-finals.



# Bun Maska



## Chai Ka Chaska With Bun Maska



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