

Ahead Of Christmas, Papier Mâché Artisans Receive Orders In Bulk

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: After witnessing few bookings from outside Kashmir for more than two years due to the Coronavirus pandemic, Papier Mache artisans are busy giving final touches to their Christmas artworks. Mohammad Shafi Bhat, a papier mache artisan from the city's old city area said he is a trained professional and has learned the art in his childhood. Shafi says more than locals, people from outside Kashmir especially western countries appreciate the art.

“The art of papier mache in itself is dependent on Christmas. All the decorative pieces we make are sold during the Christmas season. Shafi said. “Balls, Bells, Eggs are all related to Christians and Westerners purchase these artworks as gifts and give it to their family and friends during the Holiday season.” Shafi says Papier Mache artisans receive orders from New Delhi and other parts of India as well. However, he says, foreigners value this art more than Kashmiris. “Trends show that people from western countries especially from the USA, UK,



Canada and Australia purchase papier Mache items. “This is something which remains there forever. A

BALLS, BELLS, EGGS ARE ALL RELATED to Christians and Westerners purchase these artworks as gifts and give it to their family and friends during the Holiday season.”

decorative art work is there forever. We want to continue this legacy. Shafi says due to high inflation, it is difficult to earn a livelihood out of this profession. “We want the government to provide us with a subsidy so that we can purchase colors

and paper at affordable prices.” Mohammad Maqbol Jan is another Papier Mache artisan who is busy in his work and can't afford to waste time at this crucial time of the festive season. Maqbol says that he has been busy preparing Christmas orders. We have [More on PIO](#)

NIA Raids 14 Locations Across J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: National Investigation Agency on Friday said that it conducted multiple raids across J&K in connection with a militancy related case. In a statement released to media, an NIA spokesperson said that it conducted searches at 14 locations in J&K, including Kulgam, Pulwama, Anantnag, Sopore and Jammu in connection with a case registered on June 21, this year at NIA Police Station, Jammu. The case, the premier investigative agency said, pertains to the criminal conspiracy for carrying out militant & subversive activities hatched by the cadres and OGWs of various proscribed organizations and their affiliates/off-shoots, operating under various pseudo names, at the behest of their Pakistani commanders/handlers. “They are involved in carrying out militant attacks by using cyber-space in J&K, targeting of minorities, security personnel and spreading [More on PIO](#)

5 Cops Among 17 Held For Running Drug Racket



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Five cops were among 17 persons arrested as a major narcotics smuggling module, originating from Pakistan, was busted in the Kupwara district, police said on Friday. “In one of its biggest successes against drug smuggling and peddling in the district, Police has arrested 17 persons, including five policemen, a political activist, a contractor and a shopkeeper from different areas

of the districts of Kupwara and Baramulla, unearthing another narcotics smuggling module originating from Pakistan,” a police spokesman said. He said while working relentlessly to identify and act against the drug peddlers active in the north Kashmir district, police zeroed in on some drug peddlers active in Kupwara town and its adjoining areas. “On a tip-off, one Mohammad Waseem Najjar -- a poultry shop owner and a [More on PIO](#)

Will Deal With Drug Menace, The Way We Deal With Militancy: DGP

A day after The Resistance Front (TRF) issued a threat to BJP office bearers in Kashmir, the Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh said on Friday that militants have “stopped very low” and have nothing to do apart from trying to damage the spirit of harmony and brotherhood among the people of the Union Territory. “Some people have stooped so low that they have nothing to do and now they are trying to damage the spirit of harmony and brotherhood of the people of J&K,” Singh said, while speaking to reporters at Bakhshi Stadium here on Friday. He was responding to a question about the threat issued by TRF, believed to be an offshoot of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, to BJP office bearers in Kashmir. The



DGP, who was the chief guest at the inaugural function of the 18th Police Martyrs Memorial Football Tournament, said that the militants and their masters cannot digest the peace and development taking place in the Valley. In response to a question about the arrest of five cops allegedly involved in drug trade, the DGP said that stringent action has already been taken against all those involved in [More on PIO](#)

HORROR IN ANANTNAG

Man Goes On Rampage, Kills Mother, 2 Neighbours



KO Web Desk

Srinagar: A “mentally challenged” man went on a rampage in a South Kashmir village on Friday killing three people, including his mother, reports reaching here said. Javid Hassan Rather reportedly picked up a stick and started hitting unsuspecting people, including his mother, who were out for early morning chores in the Ashmuqam, the officials said. Giving details, Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Pahalgam, Syed Naseer said a mentally challenged person “went on a rampage” in the morning in Ashmuqam area, leaving three persons,

including his mother, dead and several others injured. He attacked his family members first in which his parents were injured and later came out and attacked several passers-by outside his house. The deceased have been identified as Ghulam Nabi Khadim, his mother Hafiza Bagum, and Mohammad Ameen Shah—all residents of Ashmuqam. The injured are being treated at hospital, among them one critically injured has been shifted to SKIMS Soura. One of the injured persons told police that several people tried to overpower the assailant but failed. “The attacker, [More on PIO](#)

DRUG MENACE

33 Booked Under PSA, 85 Cases Filed In Kupwara

Agencies

Kupwara: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday said that 33 people involved in narcotics smuggling have been detained and lodged in different jails under Public Safety act during the current year in the frontier Kupwara district. As per a local news agency KNO, police said that during the ongoing year, 85 cases have been registered against 161 persons, who were involved in the drug menace across the district. Police also said that 33 people involved in narcotics smuggling have been detained and lodged in different jails under PSA (PIT-NDPS Act). A senior police officer said that anyone found involved in the drug menace will not be spared in the district. “Kupwara police have done a lot of operations against drug menace this year and will continue to do so in the future,” he said. Meanwhile, the district police appealed to [More on PIO](#)

SOME PEOPLE HAVE STOOPED SO LOW THAT THEY HAVE NOTHING to do and now they are trying to damage the spirit of harmony and brotherhood of the people of J&K.”

J&K Fully Geared To Tackle Covid Situation: Experts Tell CS

- Genome Sequencing Facilities Being Created In Both Cities
- People Encouraged To Go For Voluntary Testing If Symptomatic

Observer News Service

Jammu: Amid a scare caused by the resurgence of deadly Coronavirus infection, the health experts of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday said that the new variants are not lethal but the spread might be faster, while suggesting people to take precautions to keep themselves safe as well as others. In a meeting with Chief

Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday, the health experts, including Director SKIMS; Principals of Medical Colleges and Heads of Medicine and other experts from the Medical Colleges assured that there was no need to panic in view of rising Covid-19 cases in neighboring countries as no surge have been reported so far in the UT, an official spokesperson said. Mehta, he said, enjoined upon all these health experts to take pre-emptive measures so that the administration is fully prepared to meet any contingency. He said that the Chief Secretary also asked them to activate all the Covid testing facilities so that any [More on PIO](#)

KP, Dogra Employees Won't Become Sacrificial Goats: BJP Chief

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The BJP on Friday expressed its “full support” to Kashmiri Pandit and Dogra employees to their demand for relocation to Jammu from Kashmir and said the party will not allow them to become “sacrificial goats”. The employees are on a strike here for the past over seven months in the wake of the targeted killings of their community members by militants in the Valley. They are demanding that they be relocated to Jammu and they will perform their duties from there. “I assure you that we will



not allow you to become scapegoats. You cannot perform duties in such a situation,” Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina told protesting employees at the party office here. “The party will not allow you to become sacrificial goats”, he added. His remarks come two days after Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said reserved category employees (Dogra) cannot be transferred to Jammu and those (KP employees) sitting at home will not get salaries. J-K BJP chief Raina said the demand of the protesting employees was “justified”. “We are with you regarding your demand for relocation (to Jammu). We support this demand and it should be fulfilled. There should be a transfer policy and they (employees) should be relocated,” he said. These employees [More on PIO](#)

Slight Respite From Cold Conditions In Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: There was a slight respite in cold conditions in the Kashmir Valley as the minimum temperature improved at most places, officials said on Friday. The meteorological department said the weather is likely to remain mainly dry for the next two-three days. The minimum temperature in Srinagar city, which recorded so far its lowest of minus 5.5

degrees Celsius Wednesday night, settled at minus 4.8 degrees Celsius Thursday night, the officials said. They said Pahalgam, which serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a low of minus 6.4 degrees Celsius, compared to minus 6.8 degrees Celsius Wednesday night. The famous ski-resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district [More on PIO](#)

Fog Hits Air, Rail Operation In Jammu

Dense fog and intense cold conditions threw normal life out of gear in Jammu, while air and rail operation also remained hit. As per meteorological department, dry, cold and foggy conditions will prevail for next [More on PIO](#)

SHORT TAKES

Man Held 22 Yrs After Deadly Accident

A man was arrested here on Friday, 22 years after causing a death by rash driving in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, officials said. Based on specific information, a police team repeated raids and arrested Bopinder Singh, the accused, from Reasi. Singh was in hiding since the commission of the crime in 2000 and therefore he could not be apprehended, they said. The accused evaded investigations by going underground and was continuously changing his hideouts, they said. A warrant of arrest under Section 152 CrPc was issued against him by the court of Reasi.

2 Medical Shops Sealed At Kulgam

The drug control authorities on Friday sealed two medical shops in South Kashmir's Kulgam for not maintaining proper sale records of Scheduled H1 Drugs and absence of a registered pharmacist at their premises, an official spokesperson said. He said that the officers informed that from the last few months intensive drives are continuously going on under the guidance of Divisional and District administration across the length and breadth of the district and during inspections carried out in Katrasoo, Yaripora, D.H.Pora, Frisal and Qumoh, almost 12 other medicated found violating conditions of licenses and other rules [More on PIO](#)

KU Announces Winter Break From Jan 2

The authorities at Kashmir University (KU) on Friday announced winter vacations for the students and the teaching departments of the varsity from January 2 to February 15 of 2023. “The teaching faculty of the main and satellite campuses shall observe winter vacation w.e.f 2 January, 2023 to 15th February, 2023,” the KU notice stated. However, the Heads of the Departments have been instructed to ensure that the examinations and implementation of extraordinary funded research projects do not get affected. “The remedial classes, if any, shall be conducted in offline or online mode during vacations,” the notice read.

Lt Gen Sandeep Jain Is GOC 16 Corps



Lieutenant General Sandeep Jain has taken over the charge of new General Officer Commanding of 16 Corps, Officials said on Tuesday. Lt Gen Manjinder Singh, YSM, VSM relinquished the command of the elite White Knight Corps, today. The General laid wreath and paid tributes to the brave [More on PIO](#)

Pak Drone Shot Down By BSF

A drone entering India from Pakistan through the International Border in Punjab was shot down by the Border Security Force (BSF) on Friday, a spokesperson of the force said. The unmanned aerial vehicle was detected at around 7:45 am near the Pulmoran border post in the Amritsar sector. “BSF troops fired at the drone and brought it down. The drone has been seized. A search of the area is in progress to find out if it has dropped any consignment,” the spokesperson said. The drone, he said, is six feet in expanse and can carry a 25 kg payload. It also has [More on PIO](#)

Police Charges 4 OGWs In Rajouri

Police on Friday filed a charge sheet against four associates of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) for their involvement in terror activities in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said. The charge sheet was filed against Talib Hussain, Mohd Shabir, Mohd Sadiq and Mohd Qasim alias Suleman in NIA court in Jammu under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and Explosive Substances Act, they said. While three accused were arrested in June and July this year, Suleman is currently in Pakistan, the officials said. During the investigation, it was found that all of them were associated with the proscribed terror group and involved in [More on PIO](#)

27 Surgeries Conducted At Super Speciality Hospital Daily '600 patients visit hospital every day'

Agencies

Srinagar: A major caseload of patients is being managed at Super Speciality Hospital Shireen Bagh Srinagar where on average 27 major and minor surgeries are being conducted on a daily basis.

An average 600 patients visit the hospital per day with 13 major and 14 minor surgeries being conducted at the hospital, a health official said.

"In a rare achievement, a team of doctors at Super Speciality Hospital, Government Medical College Srinagar performed endoscopic ultrasonography-guided biliary drainage (EUS-BD) or Choledochoduodenostomy (CDD) recently for the first time in Jammu and

Kashmir. This procedure was the first of its kind in Kashmir as previously, these patients had to go to New Delhi for treatment which would cost them Rs 2 to 3 lakh," he said.

He added that 11 cardiac interventions, 81 GE procedures (UG/LGI/ERCP/F.S) and 12 renal intervention procedures are being conducted on a daily basis at the hospital.

An official from SMHS Hospital said that 79,870 patients visited SMHS OPD in November which means on average over 3,000 patients are visiting the hospital.

He said that 1,998 surgeries were conducted at SMHS in November which means on average 67 surgeries are conducted at the hospital on a daily basis—(KNO)

On Christmas Eve, Tourism Deptt Organizes Cake Competition

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As part of the year end festivities and on the eve of Christmas, the Directorate



of Tourism, organized a cake competition at Institute of Hotel Management, Raj Bagh, here on Friday.

The competition was based on two rounds-preliminary and final rounds which saw an encouraging participation from young enthusiasts from across the Kashmir valley. Many well-skilled entrepreneurs entered the final round.

With the start of the Christmas festival, different kinds of celebrations are going on in

Kashmir valley and the Department of Tourism is organizing interesting activities to make the festival more joyful for the tourists and locals in the valley.

Director, Tourism, Kashmir, Fazlul Hasseb was the chief guest on the occasion who distributed prizes among the winners of the competition.

In his address, the Director Tourism complimented the young boys and girls for participating in today's competition. He said while on one hand the Department is promoting the local tourist potential, on the other hand it is providing a platform to young and budding creative minds to hone their talent.



Dal Dwellers Deserve A Life Of Dignity: Altaf Bukhari

The era of exploitation and discrimination is over: Junaid Mattu

Observer News Service

Srinagar: President Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Friday said that the traditional political parties in the valley have neglected and deprived the Dal Lake dwellers of basic facilities for decades.

"For decades, our brothers and sister of Mir Behri and adjoining areas in Dal have been deprived of basic necessities like accessibility, clean drinking water, electricity infrastructure, good schools, healthcare and employment opportunities. Both traditional political parties have exploited the inhabitants of Dal Lake while intentionally subjecting them to a life of penury and misery. Successive MLAs and regimes hid behind numerous excuses to justify the ruthless discrimination meted out to the people of Dal" he said.

Bukhari was speaking during a public meeting in Mir Behri, Dal along with other senior leaders of the party, including the Mayor of Srinagar and the Party's Youth President, Junaid Azim Mattu who happens to be the elected Corporator from Bod Dal Ward of Mir Behri.

Bukhari said that both traditional political parties have used the Dal dwellers for their political gains. "These exploiters snatched from your children their rights to be equal citizens of Srinagar but now I am proud to say that as your elected representative and our Mayor, Junaid Mattu has taken visible and unprecedented steps to address the enormous governance deficit in Mir Behri. Today's outpouring of love, affection and support is a heartening testimony to your unwavering faith in him" he said.

Bukhari said that both the National Conference and PDP have offered nothing but fake promises and lies to the inhabitants of Dal. "You are the crown of the Dal ecosystem and the lake is incomplete without you - its most prized and valuable human component that makes Dal Lake one of the most unique living and breathing human ecosystems in the entire world. You not only represent but also enchanted the beauty of Dal Lake but unfortunately, these areas were deprived of all the basic facilities and no one in the past bothered to transform these areas into tourist villages and model areas which would attract tourists and generate employment and economic

impetus in the area," he stated.

Mayor Srinagar and Apni Party Youth President, who is also the elected representative of Bod Dal, while addressing the public meeting said that he has made it a mission to change the destiny of the inhabitants of Dal and transform their lives out of the darkness of hopelessness - towards a future of hope and dignity. He said it is his utmost honour to represent the people of Dal as their elected representative and that he would leave no stone unturned to continue the mission of providing basic infrastructure and facilities to the people.

"When you elected me as your representative four years ago, I promised you that I would leave no stone unturned to fight against the mindset and administrative eco-system that has discriminated against you for decades - depriving you of your basic human rights. Today, while a lot remains to be achieved, I am proud to say that we have done what successive Chief Ministers, Governments and local MLAs from Hazratbal promised yet failed to deliver. I assure you that this journey will continue until the Dal dwellers are brought at par in rights and dignity to their fellow citizens in the rest of Srinagar" he said.

Dissemination Workshop On Good Governance Held At DC Office

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With a view to promote citizen centric Governance, Redressal of Public Grievances and Improving Service Delivery system, a District Level Dissemination workshop focusing on Good Governance practices/initiatives in the District under the Nationwide campaign- 'Good Governance Week'(Sushashan Saptah)-Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur, 2022', was held at Meeting

Hall of DC Office Complex here on Friday.

Former Secretary GAD, Dr Farooq Ahmad Lone, who has served as /Ex Deputy Commissioner Srinagar was the Chief Guest on the Occasion.

While Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr Syed Haneef Balkhi, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Shabir Ahmad, Chief Planning officer, Mohammad Yaseen Lone, besides all District/Sectoral and other concerned were present in the Workshop.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr.DEN-IV/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date 12.01.2023 up to 15:00 hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Type	Open	Tendering Section	Works	Bidding System	Single Bid System
	20.12.2022		29.12.2022		12.01.2023 15:00 hrs.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender
1.	348-2022-23-JAT-DRM-FZR	Through Turnouts Renewal of 28 nos (BG Track) on PTK-JAT Section KTHU 1 in 8.5 = 7 nos., OR/D/S=01 BMMN 1 in 8.5=11 Nos., JAT 1 in 8.5=01, MDPB 1 in 12=04, SJNP 1 in 12=01, & 1 in 8.5=02 OR PTK 1 in 8.5=01 NO (1 in 8.5 = 8+11+1+2+1=22 NOS) OR D/S=01 AND 1 IN 12 12=4+1=05 Nos

Advertised Value	Earnest Money	Validity of offer	Period of Completion
₹1,74,15,352.27	₹2,37,100/-	60 Days	12 months

Similar Nature of Work: Track work involving CTR/TRR/TFR/TTR including raising of track/screening distressing of track/pre & post works for track maintenance machine like tamping machine/ballast screening/regulating machines & TTR by T-28

Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.

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HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS

HIJRI CALENDAR
29 Jumad al-Awwal 1444

FAJR	6:03
ZUHR	12:28
ASR	3:49
Magrib	5:30
ISHA	6:55

This Day In History

- 1476 - 400 Burgundian soldiers freeze to death during siege of Nancy
- 1715 - Swedish troops occupy Norway
- 1798 - Russia & Britain sign Second anti-French Coalition
- 1814 - Treaty of Ghent signed, ending the War of 1812 between the United States, the United Kingdom and their allies
- 1864 - Battle of Gordonsville, Virginia
- 1877 - Thomas Edison files a patents for the phonograph
- 1884 - Austria-Hungary admits King Leopold II's Congo Free State
- 1889 - Daniel Stover & William Hance patent bicycle with back pedal brake
- 1900 - Foreign powers present the Chinese Empress with their list of 'irrevocable conditions' before their nations will withdraw troops from China
- 1914 - German plane drops bombs on Dover, England
- 1924 - Albania becomes a republic (ex-premier Ahmed Zogoe's coup)
- 1936 - 1st radioactive isotope medicine administered in Berkeley, California
- 1939 - World War II: Pope Pius XII makes a Christmas Eve appeal for peace.
- 1942 - Red army occupies German airports at Tasjinskaja & Morozowsk
- 1943 - US President FDR appoints General Eisenhower Supreme Commander of the Allied forces
- 1946 - French Fourth Republic is founded
- 1948 - Greek government disbands due to state of war, press censorship
- 1951 - United Kingdom of Libya gains independence from Italy via UN
- 1954 - Laos gains its independence
- 1962 - USSR performs nuclear test at Novaya Zemlya USSR
- 1963 - Greek & Turks riot in Cyprus
- 1966 - Soviet spacecraft Luna 13 lands on Moon
- 1966 - USAF C144 military charter aircraft crashes near Binh Thai, Vietnam, killing 129
- 1967 - China performs nuclear test at Lop Nor, PRC
- 1979 - 1st Ariane rocket launched 1986 Iran offensive against Iraqi islands of Shatt al-Arab

From KO Archives 12 Bangladeshis Killed Near Jammu

OSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Twelve Bangladesh nationals were killed when Border Security Force (BSF) jawans opened fire at a group of people attempting to sneak into Jammu region from across the border today, official reports here said. The reports said BSF personnel noticed a group of persons attempting to sneak into Indian territory from Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (PCK) near Sangral village in R.S.Pura sector of Jammu in the few hours today. They mistook the intruders for militants and opened fire at them when they tried to flee back after being asked to surrender. The reports said, adding the deceased were totally unarmed. In the past, a number of Bangladeshi nationals were either arrested or killed while making attempts to sneak into this side. However, a Jammu dateline PTI report, weaving a cock-and-bull story, said: "On being confronted by the BSF jawans and asked to surrender, the intruders started running back, they (official sources) said."

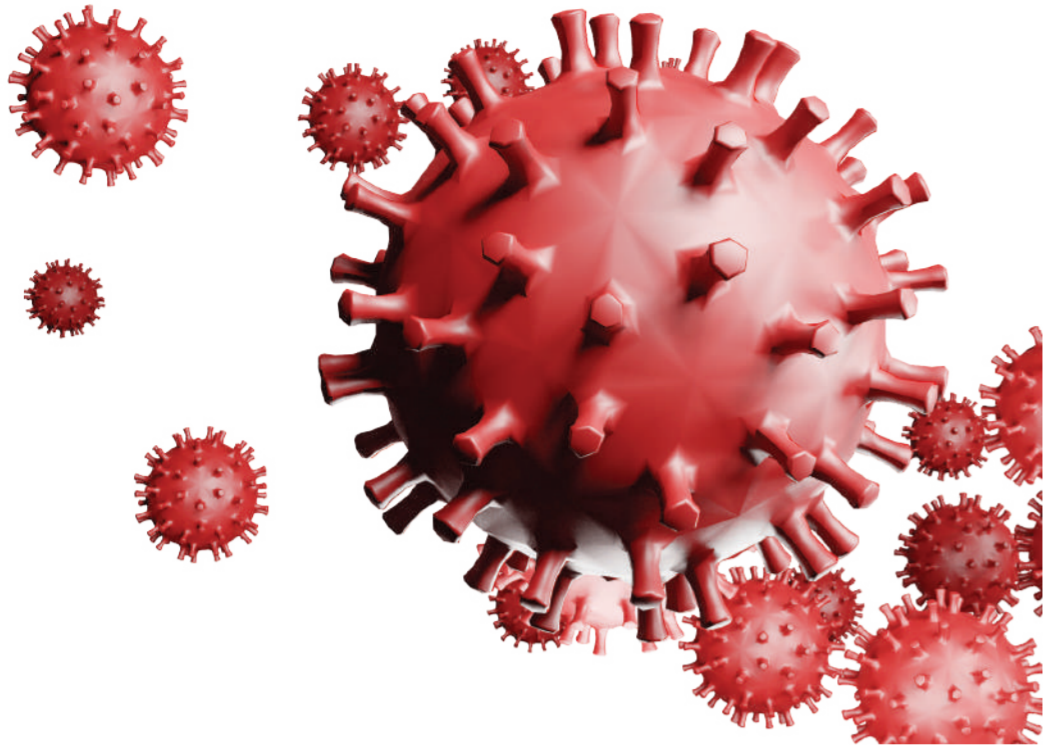
Meanwhile, Pakistani troops resorted to firing from across the border forcing BSF jawans to retaliate. In the exchange of fire, the intruders were killed, the sources said. "Senior BSF and police officers have rushed to the area and the bodies of the intruders are being handed over to police for further investigation," the sources said.

Elsewhere in Kashmir valley, militants shot dead a civilian, injured a surrendered militant and a BSF jawan and abducted a villager, while security forces repulsed a militant attack on a police station since last evening, an official spokesman said.

Unidentified gunmen shot dead a farmer Abdul Aziz Dar inside his house at Puthahi-Lalpora in frontier district of Kupwara early today, he said. Jammu and Kashmir police and CRPF jointly repulsed a militant attack on police station Lalpora in frontier district of Kupwara late last night, the spokesman said.

A group of militants opened heavy fire and hurled grenades on the police station. However, the police and CRPF contingent stationed there retaliated and repulsed the attack. No casualty on either side was reported, he added

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 24 DECEMBER, 2000)



CHINA IN COVID CLUTCHES

Should INDIA Worry About China's Fresh Covid Wave?



Gagandeep Kang

China may have to experience in weeks what the rest of the world saw over years. What does this mean for the rest of the world? New variants? Why not travel bans? What should we be doing?



At the moment, India is doing fine. We have few cases, we have had the XBB & BF.7 for a while and they have not driven an upsurge in India. In the absence of an even more highly infectious variant, I do not expect a surge. But will we be able to detect a new variant or a surge? We have ample sequencing capacity & if sequencing is done in real-time, absolutely we can

So many calls about China, about what that means for India, about XBB, about 3rd waves, about new mandates, about travel bans, about vaccine boosters- thought best to get views out to summarise the current situation. Long thread, be warned

Let's start with China. China is opening up fast at a time when their population has low levels of exposure to natural infection. The current circulating variants are Omicron, which have evolved in vaccinated populations and are therefore very infectious.

This means that China will have lots and lots of infections. Remember India's 100s or 1000s of cases in April-May 2021 and Jan 2022? In the absence of significant mitigations, this will be similar. Lots of infections lead to lots of sick people.

Most of China's population has received 2 doses of vaccines. Most infections can be managed at home, but sheer numbers mean that even a small proportion getting severely ill, means that many people will have severe disease and that a proportion of those will die.

The risk factors for severity remain the same. Older age (& news from funeral homes in China indicate that the age related mortality pattern has not changed) & co-morbidities will continue to be drivers of severe disease & deaths. Lots being said about 'ineffective' vaccines.

Most of China has received 2 doses of inactivated vaccines with low levels of boosting (although the government is trying to boost boosters). AFAIK, the Sinopharm vaccine has been used mainly in China, but good data from the similar Sinovac/Coronavac vaccine from Lat Am.

The Chinese inactivated vaccines work well to prevent severe disease/death, but somewhat less well than the mRNA/vectored vaccines. A booster with these will help, but other platforms likely to be better. Hope we get effectiveness data from China, but probability low.

So the vaccines will prevent a proportion of severe disease/deaths, but numbers of people needing hospitals and dying will be higher than we have become used to in the past several months. But this will be higher than with slower opening or at a different time, 2 reasons.

When lots get sick, that includes healthcare workers. Understaffed, overloaded hospitals mean poorer care for patients. Also in winter, other viruses/infections result in more hospitalisations (the triple epidemic in the rest of the world), making this bad time in hospitals.

Chinese govt pushing vaccinations, getting Paxlovid all good but with peak travel time coming up, this is a race against time. China may have to experience in weeks what the rest of the world saw over years. What does this mean for the rest of the world? New variants? Why not travel bans? What should we be doing?

As far as we know, there are no new variants. China has the capacity to sequence, & we hope it will share data in real time. The variants now circulating in China have been in the rest of the world for months. The behaviour of the virus is not any different from expected.

In India as well, we already have XBB and BF.7 (the 2 being hyped as new monsters). They are, like all Omicron subvariants, very good at infecting people because they escape the immune response that prevents infection, but are not causing more severe disease than delta.

Omicron does result in severe disease in a proportion of infected, but not as severe as delta. It is not mild, but it does infect the upper respiratory tract more than lower. Each new subvariant thrives only if it is better at immune escape than the prior ones.

Therefore, greater infectiousness of new variants is a given & not news. Worry with China is not just the tragedy unfolding for them as they undergo what we have already experienced, but that high levels of replication mean increased opportunity for new variants to emerge.

For this, they & we should maintain variant & clinical surveillance to ensure that we detect signal



Two doses of any vaccine protect against severe disease/deaths. We have no data from India that any Indian vaccine has a reduction in effectiveness over time, but from the rest of the world, the value of a booster in the elderly population is clear. So if you have an elderly person in your family, please get them an additional dose, as a precautionary measure even without any Indian data

of any changes in the behaviour of the virus. This is a public health function where stable surveillance runs in the background & ramps up for emerging threats.

What should stable surveillance be? All cause severe acute respiratory infection surveillance at all or sentinel hospitals (depending on resources), detection & investigation of clusters. Periodic serosurveys & environmental surveillance can be useful depending on pathogen.

Randomly increasing testing has little value. Testing incoming travellers needs a risk based framework, but X% sampling also means that you accept that every incoming case will not be detected. In other words, increasing testing needs a strategic approach.

Does all of the hype mean that the threat to India is high? Our population is vaccinated with the primary series and has had high rates of infection (90% estimated). Most infections were during Omicron, and this gives us hybrid immunity. How long will it last and vaccines?

At the moment, India is doing fine. We have few cases, we have had the XBB & BF.7 for a while and they have not driven an upsurge

in India. In the absence of an even more highly infectious variant, I do not expect a surge.

But will we be able to detect a new variant or a surge? We have ample sequencing capacity & if sequencing is done in real-time, absolutely we can. When hospitals begin to see severe cases, we will know. Need to & can understand & measure both the virus & the disease.

A signal maintained over a couple of weeks is a generally useful construct of the shape of the future. Look at where we are in India. There is no signal at the moment, & we are watchful.

So to vaccines. Who needs boosters? Booster doses on any platform are likely to have an incremental benefit in anyone, at least for a while. Among vaccines in India, all vaccines are fine, but order based on immune response will be protein, adenovirus vectored, inactivated.

Two doses of any vaccine protect against severe disease/deaths. We have no data from India that any Indian vaccine has a reduction in effectiveness over time, but from the rest of the world, the value of a booster in the elderly population is clear.

So if you have an elderly person in your family, please get them an additional dose, as a precautionary measure even without any Indian data. May help, unlikely to harm.

For younger, healthier people, the value is likely to be less, but not zero. For public health programmes to be delivered by the government, this is a different situation where vaccinating everyone for marginal benefits means that other healthcare will be deprived of resources.

So without data and comparative analysis, I am unsure what the need & potential impact a booster vaccination for all will have as a public health programme. But the need for continued surveillance, I am sure about.

Now to other interventions. Masks? I think more important than mandate is an understanding of the purpose & setting for mask use.

If you have any respiratory infection, stay home. If you need to go out, go masked. If you are vulnerable, stay masked in unfamiliar company or if someone around you is obviously ill. If there is a lot of infections/cases in the community, staying masked in crowds is good.

If you are healthy and there is little infection in the community, outdoors, how much value does masking have? (And really the best masks-not cloth, not the used for 5 days tatty masks). That depends on your individual risk perception, but to me, very little.

Next FAQ is- should we travel? Risk perception again, but no need to stop right now. There is very little infection in India. Travel, wear a mask if you are worried. Outside India, some places have more infections, wear a mask and go travel (not China at the moment).

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by the author on their socials. Gagandeep Kang FRS is an Indian Microbiologist and virologist who is the Professor in the Department of Gastrointestinal Sciences at the Christian Medical College, Vellore, India.



BOOK REVIEW

TRANSLATING YUSUF'S FRAGRANCE

Badr-u-nissa Bhat

The Postmodern writer Italo Calvino once said to a reporter of New York Times,

"Without translation, I would be limited to the borders of my own country. The translator is my most important ally. He introduces me to the world."

"Yusuf's Fragrance" is a translation of Kashmir's preeminent nineteenth century poet Mahmud Gami's poetry. He is essentially considered the pioneer of Kashmiri Sufi poetry. Mahmud Gami was born in 1765 in a village called Advedar in (now known as Mahmoodabad), Shahabad. His eleven mathnavis, and hundreds of lyrical poems, represent a mystical style of Kashmiri poetry which almost all poets after him followed in terms of the metaphors, similes, allegories, melodies and rhythm, as well as the fundamental leitmotifs of Islamic mysticism. He was well-versed with Islamic thought, Persian poetry and religion, and, as such, Mahmud Gami experimented in a variety of ways to imbue Kashmiri poetry with a variety of expressions, wide range of themes, and intellectual depth, especially in his vatsun (a form of poetry exclusive to Kashmiri which can be understood as a love lyric though mystical in nature) and nazms (longish free verse poems); to the extent that he also introduced Persian genres of naat, gazal, masnavi and nazm in Kashmiri. Kashmiri poetry before him is scant and comprises mainly of lyrics passed down orally from one generation to another. Though the mystical and didactic poetry of Lal Ded and Shiekh ul Alam laid the foundation of Kashmiri poetry. Mahmud Gami is the first truly prolific poet trying his hand in multiple genres.

The book includes a sixty-three page introduction to the life of the poet, Persian influence on his style of poetry, and various genres of poetry that Gami uses extensively and how he borrows themes

and subjects from the great Persian masters like Jami, Nizami, Attar and Rumi and how stunningly he makes them his own by portraying them in his Kashmiri style. A number of poems have been taken from the Kulliyat e Mahmud Gami (vatsuns and nazms) and also six of his narrative poems (mathnavis) have been translated. Around 2750 couplets have been translated. The book is the first ever English translation of Gami's poetry from his enormous oeuvre. And it has been published by Penguin Publishing House under its most prestigious imprint: the Penguin Black Classics.

The Translator here, Dr. Mufti Mudasar, who being a polyglot and a professor of English Literature, is well versed with the rich cultural and literary history of Kashmir and understands the nuances of both languages; Kashmiri as well as English; is familiar with the tones and shades of poetry is able to do justice to the original Kashmiri by producing it in English and it can be thoroughly relished even by a reader who has no knowledge of the original text and to some extent we can say that the work stands on its own.

The translator documents; Mahmud Gami was born in the times of upheaval in Kashmir and witnessed the brutality of three reigns of Kashmir history: the Afghan Rule, the Sikh Rule, and the initial ten years of the Dogra Rule, but borrowing from the impressionable past of mystical tradition and Gami himself being engrossed in the macrocosm of his own soul and also the dominant practice of the poet's time whereby the poets wrote mostly on love and metaphysical themes, there is not even a single reference to the political vicissitudes of his time.

As of today Gami is considered to be a romantic poet but the translator takes pains in explaining how for Gami, similar to many other Kashmiri and Middle Eastern Sufi poets, the metaphor of worldly love (Ishq e Majazi) is just a vehicle to achieve a communion and real love (Ishq e

Haqiqi). The translator writes:

"As this introduction has tried to demonstrate, an acute awareness of transcendental dimension of existence pervades Gami's verses even where he treats romantic and earthly love. He is not unique in possessing this profound spiritual consciousness as all pre-modern Kashmiri poetry bears this mark.

...even such a poetic theme as erotic love was invariably anchored in a religious or at least spiritual paradigm and could never have been conceived in secular terms"

To quote an example from the book, the translator has beautifully captured the essence and yearning of Sheikh San'an in the narrative poem (Mathnavi) 'Shiekh San'an' (which Gami borrowed from Faridudeen Attar's iconic book Mantiq ut Tair (Conference of the Birds)) when he sings a song in the rapture for the Hindu girl:

"The world is a mirage, how many have wasted away!

Heal my pain, be pleased with me, my love is very deep

Don't put on airs, all lives will end on a shriek of mourning

O Hindu girl, my bewitching love, give ear to my wails"

There is a very famous vatsun of Gami which legendary Sufi singers have sung for over years, Chani bar tal raweym ha raetsi and every Kashmiri is in love with this beautiful lyric and the translator is able to infuse the same trance inducing experience and the realization of the cruelty of human transience with the translation which the original creates."

"Countless nights passed
As I sat by your door, calling.
Didn't my call reach you?
Of crimson cups and yellow petals
I am jasmine of Paradise.
Long is the wait till Judgment Day



PENGUIN CLASSICS

MAHMUD GAMI
Yusuf's Fragrance

Didn't my call reach you?"

The book also includes some of Gami's most famous nazms including Pompir Namah (the Moth's Tale) which captures the trepidations and anguish of a lover with the most famous trope there is in Sufi poetry of a moth and a candle. The translator also includes in the book the nazm: Tamsile-Adam (Parable of Adam) in which Gami shows that human life is akin to an air bubble on water which again touches the theme of impermanence of humans. The use of the motif of air bubble is also found in some great Sufi poetry, for example in the poem "Paani da Bulbula" by Bu Qalandar. This significantly shows the maturity and ripeness of Gami as a poet and as well as a Sufi.

Along with the narrative poem "Shiekh San'an", the book features six of Gami's major Mathnavis including "Yusuf Zuleykha" which is borrowed from Quran and many Sufi poets have exploited the theme earlier as well like Jami etc. The literary merit of Gami's this mathnavi made German orientalist Karl Burkhard translate it into German in 1875. Gami made the story significant in terms of poetic demands, like figurative expression, human passion, conflicts, and Zuleykha's role in society and family.

Dr. Mufti Mudasar's luminous translation brings the Kashmiri poet Mahmud Gami's timeless poetry to a new audience, giving it a new life in English by conveying the same

vibrancy of the original text while also sounding fresh. The introduction of the book also shows how phenomenal Gami was in using the same tropes, themes, metaphors which were used by Nizami, Attar, Rumi etc and making them richer and crisper in Kashmiri. This collection gives the reader an insight into the brilliance of Gami, regardless of whether she has ever read him in the original (source) language. It is an engaging read, encompassing the themes of spirituality, love, death etc. The poems are poignant and more importantly, eloquent in nature. There's plenty for the reader to gain from this book in terms of artistic value and knowledge. Although it is generally thought that translation cannot convey the richness of the original, this book, nonetheless, leaves the readers enthralled and amazed. It is particularly perfect for those who want to get drunk with the wine of Sufi poetry. It's a beautiful paperback, the cover being a picture of a painting of roses which adds to its charm.

"Yusuf's Fragrance: Poems of Mahmud Gami"
Introduced and Translated by: Mufti Mudasar Farooqi.
Publisher: Penguin Random House
Imprint: Black Classics
Year: 2022

The reviewer is an artist and is pursuing Ph.D. in English Literature from University of Kashmir

The Rise of Kashmir's Self-Taught CALLIGRAPHER

Aabida Rashid is a self-taught Islamic calligrapher and medical student from Zainakote, HMT area of central Kashmir's district, Srinagar Jammu & Kashmir. Despite growing up in a community where certain professions are highly regarded while others are overlooked, Aabida has always been drawn to Islamic calligraphy. She began her journey as a calligrapher during the pandemic, using the extra time to improve her skills and turn her passion into a lifelong pursuit.

Aabida has always excelled in her art, winning numerous local competitions during her school days. She is now working hard to become proficient in Islamic calligraphy, which she sees as more than just a hobby. She finds peace and calm in the practice, and believes it is an effective way to communicate and pass on messages in a beautiful way.

In addition to her calligraphy, Aabida

also enjoys drawing and painting, which bring her joy and peace. She sees calligraphy as a therapeutic art that helps her focus and forget about her problems and stresses.

Aabida has received a lot of positive feedback and appreciation for her work from her family, friends, and anyone who sees it. She has even been recognized for her talent on a larger scale, winning the 1000 Women of Asia Awards. This award is a testament to Aabida's dedication to her craft and her exceptional talent as an artist.

Aabida's message for other artists and beginners is to follow their hearts and do what brings them happiness and peace. She encourages them to stay motivated and not let circumstances hold them back. She also advises them not to hide their talent, but to come forward and show the world what they can do.



Rotating Molecule Of Europium Could Lead To New Tech For Quantum Computing, Find Scientists

Press Trust Of India

Scientists at the US Department of Energy's (DOE) Argonne National Laboratory report they can precisely rotate a single molecule that could lead to new technologies for microelectronics, quantum computing and more, according to a study.

The key ingredient is a single atom of europium, a rare earth element. It rests at the centre of a complex of different atoms and gives the molecule many potential applications, it said.

"Our primary mission is to understand at the level of atoms the properties of rare earths, which are critical materials to US industry," said Saw Wai Hla, physicist at the Center for Nanoscale Materials (CNM), a DOE Office of Science user facility at Argonne, and a physics professor at Ohio University.

The term "rare earth" is deceptive. The rare earth elements are not exactly rare but are critical materials used in many electronic devices, such as cellular phones, computer hard drives, solar panels and flat screen monitors.

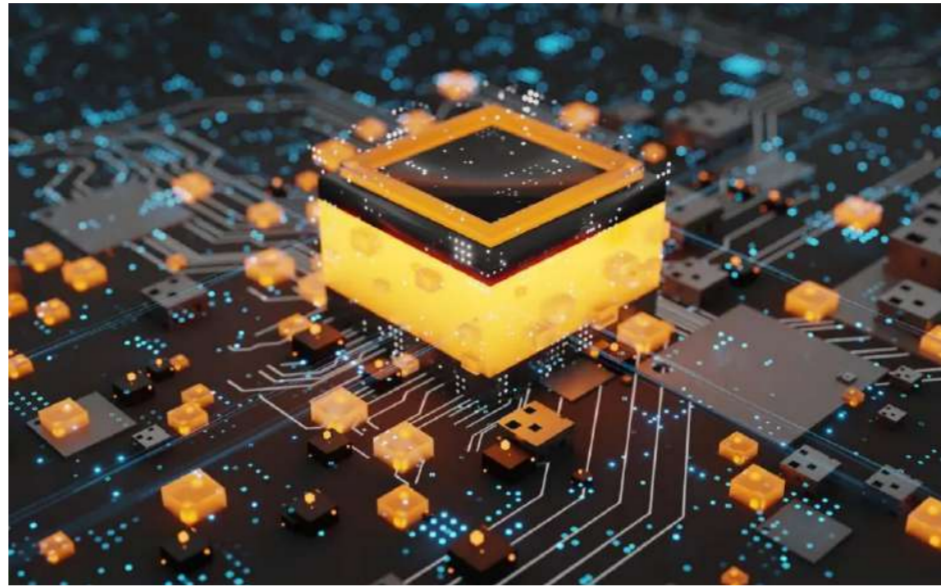
"We are able to rotate this europium complex by 60 or 120 degrees to the right or left," said Hla. "The ability to control

the motion of a rare earth complex such as this could impact a wide spectrum of technologies." The capability to rotate this europium molecule on demand could expand their applications into next generation microelectronics that run with relatively low power, quantum computers and more, according to the study.

Rare earths readily combine with other elements in the Earth's crust. It is thus difficult and costly to produce pure rare earths for devices. It is also expensive to harvest them from rare earth containing waste. The team's europium complex would reduce the amount of rare earth needed for a particular device and would be much less expensive to manufacture in mass quantities, the study said.

Key components in the complex are a single europium atom with positive charge and two small molecules with negative charge. The europium atom sits at the centre of the complex, while one of the small molecules is on the side and the other at the bottom, the study said.

According to the study, because opposites attract, these negative and positive charges keep these components together without the need for a chemical bond. And the small molecule at the bottom anchors the complex to a sheet of gold. This sheet acts like a table to hold the whole complex



in one place, just as you need a flat solid surface to spin a bottle.

"Normally, if you attach a complex like ours with positive and negative charges to a metal sheet, the charges dissipate," said Hla. "So, we were thrilled when that did not happen here. Our calculations indicated that the atoms in the complex surrounding

the europium atom act as an insulator that prevents the charges from dissipating to the gold sheet." The two negatively charged molecules in the complex work together to act as a control unit. To spark the rotation, the team applied electrical energy to a specific point on the complex through the tip of an instrument called a scanning tunnelling

We are able to rotate this europium complex by 60 or 120 degrees to the right or left. The ability to control the motion of a rare earth complex such as this could impact a wide spectrum of technologies

microscope. This probe not only controls the rotation but also can visualize the complex for study, the study said.

At a temperature of 100 Kelvin (minus 208 Fahrenheit), the team's complex rotates constantly. That rotation stops when they decrease the temperature to an ultracold 5 K. Applying the electric energy starts the desired rotation of 60 or 120 degrees, clockwise or counterclockwise depending on where the electric field is directed.

"Developing, fabricating and testing this nanoscale complex would not have been possible without the one-of-a-kind instruments in CNM," Hla noted.

Protein Found In Brain May Be New Drug Target For Schizophrenia: Study

Press Trust Of India

Scientists have identified a protein in the brain of patients with schizophrenia which can be targeted by drugs to treat the neurodegenerative disease.

To identify effective drugs, Francesca Rapino, Lee Rubin, and colleagues from Harvard University, US have developed an efficient method to make large numbers of C4-secreting human astrocytes from stem cells.

In a paper recently published in Stem Cell Reports, the researchers followed-up with a screen of 464 drugs and identified a small group of about 20 that reduced C4 secretion from astrocytes. These drugs were effective in both healthy astrocytes and in astrocytes made from Schizophrenia patients' stem cells.

Brain cells called astrocytes regulate the immune response and inflammatory environment in the brain by secreting immune proteins such as C4. Consequently, astrocytes are a primary target for C4-lowering therapies.

Therapies lowering C4 levels in the brain and reducing inflammation may benefit Schizophrenia patients but are currently not available.

In Schizophrenia, increased levels of the immune protein C4 have been measured in patients' brains and increasing C4 levels due to variations in copy number are associated with an increased risk for developing Schizophrenia.

Inflammation and overactivation of the immune system in the brain can cause loss of synapses and the death of neurons, leading to neurodegenerative and psychiatric diseases.

This research opens up new avenues for studying inflammatory responses and their regulation in human astrocytes and serves as a platform to identify therapeutic drugs in large-scale screening approaches.

'Glassfrogs Turn Transparent By Concealing Red Blood Cells In Liver'

Press Trust Of India

Scientists have finally unraveled the mystery behind a glassfrog's ability to turn transparent while they rest, according to a new study.

According to the study, a team of biologists and biomedical engineers has shown that glassfrogs achieve transparency while resting by taking red blood cells from circulation and concealing them in their livers. The findings have been published in the journal Science.

It is easy to miss a glassfrog in its natural environment. The northern glassfrog, *Hyalinobatrachium fleischmanni*, measures no more than a few centimeters, and they are most active at night, when their green skin helps them blend in with the surrounding leaves and foliage.

But these amphibians become true masters of camouflage during the day when they're asleep.

"When glassfrogs are resting, their muscles and skin become transparent, and their bones, eyes and internal organs are all that's visible," said Carlos Taboada, co-first author of the paper.

"These frogs sleep on the bottoms of large leaves, and when they're transparent, they can perfectly match the colours of the vegetation," said

Taboada.

Glassfrogs are some of the only land-based vertebrates that can achieve transparency, which has made them a target for study. One reason transparency is so difficult to achieve is because of red blood cells in the circulatory system, the study said.

Red blood cells are adept at absorbing green light, which is the colour of light usually reflected by plants and other vegetation. In return, these oxygen-rich cells reflect red light, making blood - and by extension the circulatory system - highly visible, especially against a bright green leaf, the study said.

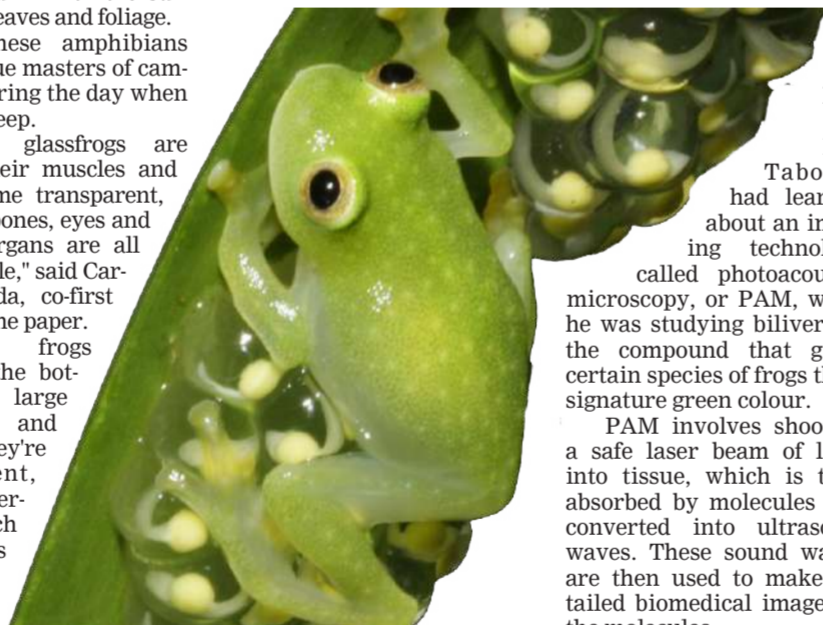
Taboada's team observed that red blood cells seemed to be disappearing from the circulating blood

whenever the frogs became transparent. They conducted additional imaging tests on the animals, proving via optical models that the animals were able to achieve transparency because they were pushing red blood cells out of their vessels.

Taboada suspected that the cells were being stored in one of the frog's inner organs which are packaged in a reflective membrane, the study said.

"If these frogs are awake, stressed or under anaesthesia their circulatory system is full of red blood cells and they are opaque," explained Jesse Delia, co-author of the study.

"The only way to study transparency is if these animals are happily asleep, which is difficult to achieve in a research lab," said De-



lia.

But

Taboada had learned about an imaging technology called photoacoustic microscopy, or PAM, when he was studying biliverdin, the compound that gives certain species of frogs their signature green colour.

PAM involves shooting a safe laser beam of light into tissue, which is then absorbed by molecules and converted into ultrasonic waves. These sound waves are then used to make detailed biomedical images of the molecules.

Researchers Reveal What Keeps Bones In Good Function

ANI

What enables bones to self-regulate and maintain health? Researchers from Charité Berlin have uncovered information about the essential role of non-collagen protein molecules and how they support the response of bone cells to external loads. To clarify discrepancies in microstructures and the incorporation of water, the researchers employed fish models to investigate bone samples with and without bone cells. They were able to accurately measure the water diffusion across bone material for the first time using 3D neutron tomography at the Berlin research reactor BER II, with a startling outcome.

Around 500 million years ago, early vertebrates in the seas became fish, adopting an inner skeleton and a flexible spine based on a nanocomposite of fibers and mineral, known as bone material. This "invention" of evolution was so successful that the basic

structure was also adopted for later vertebrates that lived on land. However, while the bones of all terrestrial vertebrates are basically equipped with bone cells (osteocytes), certain fish species continued to evolve and finally managed to create a more energy efficient material: bone lacking bone cells, found today for example in fish such as salmon, medaka or tilapia. Samples with and without bone cells

"We asked ourselves how bone samples with and without bone cells actually differ in their microstructures and properties," said Prof. Paul Zaslansky, who heads a research group at Charité Berlin and specializes in mineralized biomaterials including teeth and bones. Together with PhD student Andreia Silvera and international partners, they have now compared bone samples from zebrafish and medaka. Both fish species are of similar size and live in similar conditions, so their skeletons must withstand similar stresses. However, while zebrafish have

bone cells, the skeleton of medaka do not. "The background to the question is that the function of bone cells in bone and how they change with age is of great interest to the aging population," Silvera explains. Bone cells can respond to physical stress by sending biochemical signals that lead to the formation or resorption of bone tissue, adapting to load. But with age or in diseases such as osteoporosis, this mechanism no longer seems to work. "With our basic research, we want to find out how bones with and without bone cells differ and cope with the challenges of external stress," Zaslansky said.

Strength and elasticity Bones have a complex structure: they comprise nanofibers of collagen and nanoparticles of mineral but also other minor ingredients. Certain protein compounds, so called Proteoglycans (PGs), are embedded in a tissue of collagen fibers and nanocrystals and play important roles in tissue formation and maintenance. "PGs may be compared to salt in the soup.

Office Of The Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian

Fax No/ Tel No: 01933-260226 Email: rnbdivisionshopian@gmail.com

INVITATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Subject:- Permission for laying of OFC/providence of Right of Way at District, Shopian.

The authorized signatory **District Coordinator Jio Digital Fibre Pvt Limited** vide Letter No. **RJOF/OFC/SPN/2022-23** Dated: **14/12/2022** has submitted a proposal in this office for seeking of permission for Right of Way/ for the purpose of laying of fibre utility on road side. After joint visit the details of RoW is as under:

S. No	Name of Road	Chainage		Length In Mtrs	Width of Trench In Mtrs	Estimated amount for restoration In lacs
		From KM	To KM			
1	Daramdora to Nawpora Bala road	1st	2nd	1360	0.50	17.45
2	Alamgang to Hermain Reshpora road	1st	2nd	1450	1.00	1.45
3	Melhora to Loktypora road	1st	2nd	1113	1.00	1.09
4	Kutpora to Nadigam road	1st	2nd	1256	1.00	1.27
5	Qongonah to Darazpora road	1st	2nd	1188	1.00	1.09
6	Moshwara Nasarpora road	2nd	3rd	92	0.50	1.79
7	D.K Pora Nildoora road & Nildoora Hermain road	1st	2nd	3800	1.00	4.52

The above proposal for seeking of permission for laying of fibre utility on above roads is published for public comments within seven days in the interest of general public.

In view of above the comments of public are invited on captioned proposal on rnbdivisionshopian@gmail.com or below mentioned address

Office of Executive Engineer
R&B Division Shopian
near Old Bus Stand.

DIPK-15497/22 dated: 23-12-2022

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Shopian

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Kulgam (Main), 192231 J & K, India
T +91 (0)1931 260218; 9906963768, 9906024477
E kulgam@jkbmail.com W www.jkbank.com

POSSESSION NOTICE

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002
Whereas Mr. Iftikhar Abdullah Sofi 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 13.01.2022 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely Mr. Habibullah Dar S/O Ab Gani Dar R/O Begam Kulgam and other comfort providers to repay an amount of Rs.21,19,540.39/- (Rupees Twenty One Lacs Nineteen Thousands Five Hundred Forty & Thirty Nine Paise Only) being the balance outstanding as on 31.12.2021 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/s having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower/s in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 20th day of December of the year 2022.

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs. 18,24,513.39 (Rupees Eighteen Lacs Twenty Four Thousands Five Hundred Thirteen and Thirty Nine Paise Only) together with future interest thereon from 30.11.2022 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

(As per the schedule provided in mortgage deed/latest particulars including any accreditations)
Residential House along with land underneath appurtenant thereto measuring 04 Marlas 06 Sirsai falling under Khasra No 557, Khata No 298, Khawat No 173 situated at Estate Mouza Begam Kulgam and Land measuring 02 Marlas 03 Sirsai falling under Khasra No 557 Khata No 298, Khawat No 173 Situated at Estate Mouza Begam Kulgam.

Dated: 20-12-2022
Place : Begam KulgamMohammad Shafi Bhat
Authorized Officer

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L6510JK19385GC000048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928 ; E : info@jkbmail.com ; W : www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-5716/22 DATED 23-12-2022

"Have To Sue A Lot Of People": 'Bikini Killer' Charles Sobhraj Out Of Jail



Agenceis

Kathmandu: French serial killer Charles Sobhraj, responsible for multiple murders in the 1970s across Asia, said he felt "great" after being released from prison in Nepal where he served almost 20 years. "I feel great... I have a lot to do. I have to sue a lot of people. Including the state of Nepal," Sobhraj told AFP on board a plane for his deportation to France.

Asked if he thought he had been wrongly described as a serial killer, the 78-year-old said: "Yes, yes." Nepal's top court ruled on Wednesday that he should be freed on health grounds and deported to France within 15 days.

On Friday, he was released and put on a flight at Kathmandu airport to take him via Doha to Paris, where he was due to land early on Saturday.

'Bikini killer'

Sobhraj's life was chronicled in the series "The Serpent" co-produced by Netflix and the BBC. Born in Saigon to an Indian father and a Vietnamese mother who later married a Frenchman, Sobhraj embarked on an international life of crime and ended up in Thailand in 1975. Posing as a gem trader, he would befriend his victims, many of them Western backpackers on the 1970s hippie trail, before drugging, robbing and murdering them.

Suave and sophisticated, he was implicated in the murder of a young American woman whose body was found on a beach wearing a bikini in 1975. Nicknamed the "bikini killer", he was eventually linked to more than 20 murders. He was arrested in India in 1976 and ultimately spent 21 years in jail there, with a brief break in 1986 when he drugged prison guards and escaped. He was recaptured in the Indian coastal state of Goa. Released in 1997, Sobhraj lived in Paris, giving paid interviews to journalists, but went back to Nepal in 2003.

The 'Karma' question

He was spotted in a casino playing baccarat by journalist Joseph Nathan, one of the founders of the Himalayan Times newspaper, and arrested. "He looked harmless... It was sheer luck that I recognised him," Nathan told AFP on Thursday. "I think it was karma." A court in Nepal handed Sobhraj a life sentence the following year for killing US tourist Connie Jo Bronzich in 1975. A decade later, he was also found guilty of killing Bronzich's Canadian companion. Behind bars, Sobhraj maintained he was innocent of both murders and claimed he had never been to Nepal before the trip that resulted in his arrest. "I really didn't do it, and I think I will be out," he told AFP in 2007 during an interview at Kathmandu's Central Jail.

Covid: UK Researchers Call For Nasal Spray Vaccine To Fortify Protection



Agenceis

Antibodies produced in the nose decline nine months after COVID-19 infection, while antibodies found in the blood last at least a year, a new study has found. Antibodies in the nasal fluid, known as immunoglobulin A, or IgA, provide first-line defence against COVID-19 by blocking SARS-CoV-2 virus when it first enters the respiratory tract. These antibodies are very effective in preventing the virus from entering cells and causing infection.

However, the investigators found that the nasal antibodies were only present in those recently infected and were particularly short-lived against the Omicron variant, compared to earlier variants. The research was led by teams from Imperial College London and the University of Liverpool.

Based on the study, the researchers have called for the next generation of vaccines to include nasal spray or inhaled vaccines that target these antibodies more effectively, which could potentially reduce infection and transmission. These new findings, published in the journal eBioMedicine, may explain why people who have recovered from COVID are at risk of reinfection especially with Omicron and its sub variants.

The study also found that vaccination is very effective in creating and boosting antibodies in the blood, which prevent severe disease, but had very little effect on nasal IgA levels. "Before our study, it was unclear how long these important nasal antibodies lasted. Our study found durable immune responses after infection and vaccination, but these key nasal antibodies were shorter-lived than those in the blood."

"While blood antibodies help to protect against disease, nasal antibodies can prevent infection altogether. This might be an important factor behind repeat infections with the SARS-CoV-2 virus and its new variants," said Dr Felicity Liew, first author of the study. The researchers note that more studies that directly analyse these nasal antibodies and reinfections are needed to confirm their results.

The research studied almost 450 people who had been admitted to hospitals with COVID-19 between February 2020 and March 2021, before the emergence of the Omicron variant and prior to vaccine rollout. "Our results highlight a need for nasal spray vaccines that can boost these local antibodies in the nose and lungs. Such vaccines might be able to prevent people from getting infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus and reduce transmission of the virus between people."

"This could help us to better control the pandemic and stop new variants emerging," said Peter Openshaw, co-senior author of the study. "Our current vaccines are designed to reduce severe disease and death and are dramatically effective in this aim. It's now essential to also develop nasal spray vaccines that can provide better protection against infection," said Openshaw.

The study analysed antibodies of the participants to understand how long nasal antibodies lasted, compared with antibodies found in the blood. They also studied the effect of subsequent COVID-19 vaccines on antibodies in the nose and blood. They also found that blood antibodies from participants continued to bind the original SARS-CoV-2 virus, and the Delta and Omicron variants a year after infection, but found that booster vaccines are needed to maintain this immunity.

"Does Saffron Belong To Hindus...": Farooq Abdullah Amid 'Pathaan' Row

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After several BJP leaders raised objections to Deepika Padukone wearing saffron-coloured clothes in Shah Rukh Khan's new film 'Pathaan', former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah has come out in support of the film and slammed elements for creating division by linking 'saffron colour' to Hindus and 'green' to Muslims. "A controversy erupted over wearing saffron-coloured clothes in Shah Rukh Khan's new film (Pathaan). Does it mean that saffron belongs to Hindus and green belongs to Muslims? What is this? Cow belongs to Hindus and ox belongs to Muslims? Abdullah said.

Abdullah also issued a piece of advice, saying that it is imperative that people of all religions should practice brotherhood so that the country can survive. "It's true that hatred has increased in India but leaving the country is not a solution. We've to stay united & finish it (hatred). If this country has to survive, people of all religions should practice brotherhood," Abdullah said on RJD leader AB Siddiqui's statement.

Notably, RJD leader Abdul Bari Siddiqui said that he asked his son and daughter to get jobs abroad, and if possible, get citizenship there as well. Recently, a seer from Ayodhya has threatened to "burn Shah Rukh Khan alive," in the wake of the controversy triggered by the recently released "Besharam Rang" song, a dance sequence from the superstar's upcoming movie "Pathan" which features Deepika Padukone and Khan. Talking to reporters, Jagadguru Paramhans Acharya of Tapasvi Chhawani also said that he would defend in court anybody who will "burn" the actor. The seer also called for a ban on the film in theatres and added that if the film is screened in any cinema hall, then that cinema hall will be burned down.

They have insulted our Bhagwa rang (saffron colour). Such films should be boycotted...Shah Rukh Khan has made no web series against the Prophet because he has no guts... He only insults Sanatan Dharma. Insulting Sanatan Dharma has been made a means of earning money. If Sanatan Dharma is insulted, then a death sentence will be given. I will burn Shah Rukh alive if I see him," Paramhans Acharya said. Shah Rukh Khan and Deepika Padukone's song titled "Besharam Rang" depicting a dance sequence has triggered controversy since its release. The song is facing severe criticism with several BJP leaders also raising objections. Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra said earlier talking to reporters, "The costumes in the song at first glance are objectionable. It is clearly visible that the song of the film 'Pathaan' has been shot with a dirty mindset."

Mishra's statement came two days after the song was released. "I don't think this is right, and I will tell the director and makers of the film to fix it. Earlier also Deepika Padukone came in support of 'Tukde Tukde Gang' at JNU and that's why her mentality has come in front of everyone before. And that is why I believe that the name of this song 'Besharam Rang' is also objectionable in itself and the way saffron and green have been worn, the song's colours, the lyrics and the title of the film are not peaceful. It needs improvement. If it is not done, then we will consider whether its telecast should be allowed in Madhya Pradesh. Now let's see, so far all those who have been asked have improved. If it's not done then we will consider it," he added. The song is a dance sequence composed by Vishal-Sheykhar with lyrics by Kumaar. Helmed by Siddharth Anand, 'Pathaan' is scheduled to hit theatres on January 25, 2023.

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