# KASHMIR

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## **Ensure Online Services Benefit** People: LG

'Govt Schemes, Departments Should Be Accountable For Providing All Services To Citizens Without Any Interruption And Hassles'



**Observer News Service** 

The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday that the government departments should be accountable for providing all the services needed by the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir without any

interruption and hassles. "We must utilize the

potential of e-Governance to provide seamless, quality services any time anywhere. Senior officials should also ensure timely and quality disposal of complaints and nodal officers to strictly monitor disposal of complaints, especially the quality aspect of disposal," the LG said.

He made these remarks during the "LG's

Mulaqaat"- Live Public Grievance Hearing programme, at the Secretariat on Tuesday, an official spokesperson said.

The LG, he said, heard grievances of people and issued direction for their appropriate redressal. Sinha also sought details of complaints received on JKIGRAM portal from the concerned deputy | More on P10

**WE MUST UTILIZE THE POTENTIAL OF E-GOVERNANCE** to provide seamless, quality services any time anywhere. Senior officials should also ensure timely and quality disposal of complaints and nodal officers to strictly monitor disposal of complaints, especially the quality aspect of disposal."

#### Abdullah's, Mehbooba to Join Bharat Jodo Yatra

Muhammad

Tarigami among oth-

ers are joining the

Bharat Jodo Yatra in

Jammu and Kashmir,"

Venugopal said while

addressing a news con-

ference here at Srinagar

ple of J&K are eagerly

waiting for the yatra,

saying that the entire

country is looking for

J&K BJY yatra. He added

that every Congress

worker will be in the

field to make the pro-

gramme | More on P10

He said that the peo-

**Observer News Service** 

All India Srinagar: Congress Committee General Secretary (Org) and Member of Parliament, K.C.Venugopal Tuesday the likeminded people including former chief ministers of erstwhile J&K State are joining the Bharat Joda Yatra in the Union Territory.

"It is a happiest moment for us that Dr Farooq Abdullah, his son Omar Abdullah,

**His Party** Mehbooba

Yousuf

**Press Trust Of India** 

New Delhi: Ghulam Nabi Democratic Azad-led Progressive Azad Party has published a public notice informing people its intention to register as a political party.

**Azad To Rename** 

The public notice is part of an elaborate exercise parties have to undertake before being registered by the Election Commission.

The notice published in a Hindi and an English daily on November 25 and 26 says that the party has submitted an application before the EC for registration as a | More on P10

### **J&K Achieves Milestone, Provides** 444 Services Online: Govt

'Auto-Appeal And RAS Ensuring Timely Delivery And Public Feedback About Services'

**Observer News Service** 

**Jammu:** Continuing its march on the path of providing E-governance to its citizens Jammu and Kashmir has been successful in providing nearly 444 services online including all the major

services commonly availed by the people, an official spokesperson said Tuesday.

The information, he said, was revealed on Tuesday in a meeting held by Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta with the Administrative Secretaries

of all the departments. On the occasion, he said, Mehta commended the IT Department for working tirelessly towards 'Digital J&K'. The Chief Secretary, he said, impressed upon them to continue the momentum and make | More on P10

H O E S

#### PM Modi's **Brother Hurt In Accident**

**Press Trust Of India** 

rime Minister Narendra Modi's brother Prahlad Modi and family members sustained injuries when the car in which they were travelling met with an accident near here, police said on Tuesday. According to sources, other than the driver, Prahlad Modi, his son. daughter-in-law and a grandchild were in the car. They are said to have suffered some injuries and have been | More on P10

#### 2 Labourers **Die While Cleaning Well**

wo labourers died on Tuesday while cleaning an unattended well in Lasjan area of the city outskirts. A medico at SMHS hospital confirmed that two workers who were brought to the hospital in an unconscious state died at the hospital. A local news agency KNT quoted sources as saying that the two labourers

were found unconscious

while cleaning an unused

They were shifted to SMHS

well in the Lasjan area.

Hospital | More on P10

#### **Tanker Falls** Into Gorge, **Driver Dead**

n oil tanker driver died after his vehicle fell into a deep gorge in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday morning. News agency **GNS** quoting officials reported that an oil tanker bearing registration number JK01AJ 9101 purportedly skidded off the road and fell into a deep gorge near Kalamorh, resulting in on spot death of the driver identified as Sameer Ahmed Rather son of Ghulam | More on P10

Transfer Tussle Reaches Tribunal

## **KP Employees Challenge Order Barring Transfer From Valley**

**Press Trust Of India** 

Jammu: Protesting Kashmiri Pandit employees have approached the Central Administrative Tribunal against a Jammu and Kashmir administration order stating those granted employment under the prime minister's special package cannot be transferred.

The move to approach the CAT's Srinagar bench comes days after Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha announced that the striking employees would not be given salaries, a statement crit-

icised by all major political parties. Kashmiri Pandit employees have been on a strike for over seven months to demand their "relocation" from the Valley in view of



targeted killings by militants. The protesting employees have also sought interim relief from being forced to join work at their respective postings till

the government provides them a secure work environment and releases their pending salaries. The petition filed by Boopinder Bhat

#### **Cold Wave Refuses To Relent In Kashmir**

**Press Trust Of India** 

**Srinagar:** Cold wave conditions gripped Kashmir as the mercury fell by a couple of degrees across the Valley to push the minimum temperature further below freezing point, officials said on Tuesday.

The minimum temperature on Monday night fell by one to two degrees compared to the previous night.

The intense cold led to water supply lines freezing in several areas. The interiors of Dal Lake and several other water bodies in the Valley also froze, the officials said. The minimum temperature in Srinagar settled at minus 4.8 degrees Celsius -- down from minus 3.5 degrees Celsius on Sunday night, the officials said.

Pahalgam, which serves as a base camp for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a low of minus 6.7 degrees Celsius, down from minus 5.7 degrees Celsius.

The minimum | More on P10







## **Attention GST Taxpayers!**

Please file your Annual Return in FORM GSTR-9\* and FORM GSTR-9C# for F.Y. 2021-2022





### \*Taxpayers required to file FORM GSTR-9

All GST taxpayers having Aggregate Annual Turnover above ₹ 2 Crore (during F.Y. 2021-22) except the following:

(i) Input Service Distributor

(ii) TDS Deductor

(iii) TCS Collector

(iv) Casual Taxable Person

(v) Non-Resident Taxable Person

## \*Taxpayers required to file FORM GSTR-9C

A self-certified reconciliation statement in FORM GSTR-9C needs to be filed along with Annual Return in FORM GSTR-9 by the taxpayers whose Aggregate Annual Turnover is above ₹ 5 Crore (during F.Y. 2021-22)



Please Scan for details on GST Annual Returns

Late filing of FORM GSTR-9 and FORM GSTR-9C will attract late fee



















Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm) No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>™</sup> Srinagar | Wednesday | 28-12-2022

## **Addicted To Chilli? Here's How It Might Help Us Regain Our Sense Of Taste After Covid**

**Press Trust Of India** 

he news of a hot chilli sauce shortages earlier this year due to high temperatures and drought in agricultural regions prompted warnings to stock up on supplies or forego adding this flavour to your food. But what prompts people to want to do this in the first place?

We are usually born with an aversion to the sensations like the taste of chilli on our tongue. This isn't surprising because the key ingredient in chilli is a compound called capsaicin, which causes a painful and even burning sensation when it comes into contact with sensitive areas of our skin, eyes and mouth. Little wonder that it is also a key ingredient in pepper spray.

But in smaller, tolerable amounts, we can adapt to the sensations evoked by chilli and find them de-

Chilli can even act as a natural opiate, making our bodies release endorphins in a similar way to a runner's high.

#### A taste sensation

We react to capsaicin because we have a family of receptors in sensory nerves lining the epithelial (outer) layers of our skin, naso-oral and gastrointestinal tract. These bind to the capsaicin and relay signals to our brain.

These receptors are temperature sensitive and respond to heat in addition to being activated by capsaicin.

In the case of biting into a chilli pepper, the re- compounds with flavour can

lease of capsaicin onto our tongue generates a sensation that ranges from mild tingling to burning heat, depending on the degree to which we have adapted to it.

What distinguishes the sensation compared to other flavours for example, salty, sweet and bitter is that it continues long after we have swallowed the mouthful of food containing the chilli. This is because capsaicin is soluble in fat so it is not easily washed off from its receptors on our tongue and mouth by drinking water. In this way, the sensation can intensify with further mouthfuls of chilli-containing food.

We experience capsaicin as a burning sensation that is amplified when the temperature of the food is hot. Our brain interprets this as both pain and excessive warmth, which is why our facial skin flushes and we start to sweat.

Sounds horrible, so why do some people love it?

Well, firstly, all that burning increases saliva production, a response that dilutes the heat as well as enhancing the ability to chew the food. This also dissolves and spreads other flavours in food around the tongue, which enhances the perception of these

Some volatile organic

also rise up from the back of the mouth to the nasal sensors when the food is swallowed. Think of the pungent hit of wasabi that comes with sushi or the complex mix of aromas in a Thai red curry. Relatively bland food like rice has its flavor increased by the addition of chilli.

Another factor is that endorphins are released in response to the painful stimulus, which provide their own pain-numbing and mood-enhancing effects. This is a similar situation to people who get addicted to running the effect of endorphins released by prolonged or intense exercise is to reduce feelings of pain and make us feel good.

People may increase their consumption of chilli as their response to capsaicin receptors adapts and they develop more tolerance and preference for the taste and its

sumption of chilli (more than 50 grams or three or four tablespoons per day) and declines in memory.

#### **Covid and taste**

One thing people have noticed as a frequent side-effect of Covid infection and some antiviral treatment is that their sense of taste and smell is temporarily reduced or lost.

While this eventually recovers in most people, it can go on long after the initial illness. This loss of the ability to smell and taste flavours in food (anosmia and ageusia) leads to reduced enjoyment and qual-

ity of life. effects. However, it is possible to have too much chilli, shown in the link between high daily con-

## Office Of The Executive Engineer Construction Division Kashmir **J&K SPORTS COUNCIL**

Sub: Development of playground near High school Sadunara Sonawari by way of earth filling and chain link fencing (District Bandipora).

Ref: This office allotment No: SC/CDK/319/3493-97 dated: 12/11/2021, Notice No: SC/ dated: 21/05/2022 & Final call issued vide No: SC/CDK/319/5986-CDK/319/671-73 94 dated: 19/12/2022.

#### **CANCELLATION OF ALLOTMENT**

The Contractor/Agency namely Mr. Abdul Rehman Magray was instructed from time to time to resume the work captioned above through various notices issued from Division as well as Sub. Div. office. Since the said contractor did not resume the work and after issuing notice from this office in respect of the said contractor vide this office No: SC/CDK/319/671-73 dated: 21/05/2022, the contractor still did not bother to resume the work. Even the said contractor was served a Final call through this office No: SC/CDK/319/5986-94 dated: 19/12/2022 for resumption of the work at the said site within 02 days from the date of issuance of the Final call/ publication of the notice through print media, but the said contractor has failed to resume the work at the site as reported by the concerned JE. The allotment for the work viz; Development of playground near High school Sadunara Sonawari by way of earth filling and chain link fencing (District Bandipora) issued vide this office No: SC/CDK/319/3493-97 dated: 12/11/2021 allotted for an amount of Rs 48,34,877/- in favour of Mr. Abdul Rehman Magray S/o Ali Mohd Magray R/o Khanan kangan, Kashmir Regd No. 103/A/CE/KCC/PDC OF 1994-95 is hereby cancelled forthwith. Besides, the EMD submitted by the contractor in the shape of CDR bearing No: 2900738 dated: 18/10/2021 for an amount of Rs. 1,46,000/- is hereby forfeited. The bill deposit, if any is also being forfeited and shall not be released in favour of the Contractor/Agency. The work done, if any against the work shall not be entertained by this office as well. The said Agency is hereby debarred from participation in the fresh tenders to be invited for the instant work.

No: SC/CDK/319/6134-40

DIPK-NB-5783/22

Dated: 27 /12/2022

**Executive Engineer Construction Divison Kashmir J&K Sports Council** 

## عنوان: درخواست منجانب داؤداحد شیر گوجری ولدغلام حسن شیر گورجری ساکنه پلهالن تخصیل پیش بمرادا جرائی OBC سر شفیکیٹ اشتہار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام معامله عنوان الصدر ساءل کے نسبت درخواست بغرض OBC سر شفیکیٹ پیش کی مع ملد وان العدر من والعلم على المستحدد واست بر ن ما مل مر يدي بير ن من من من المن من المن من من من من من من م من ر مائش پذیر ہے۔ اور سائل نے سوشل کا سٹ سر تفکیف زیر نیمر من TP/m/2021-22/58 مور خد 2021-08-16 مخصیل پیٹن سے عاصل کی ہے۔اب سائل OBC بذمرہ شیر گوجری حاصل کرنے کا خوال ہے ں حوالے ہے اگر کشی خص یاا شخاص کو مزکورہ سرٹفکیٹ اجرا کرنے میں کوئی عذریا عتراض ہوتو وہ سات دن کے اندراندرا پنااعتراض دفتر ہازہ میں پیش کریں۔معیاد لْزِرْنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

#### **ASF ENTERPRISES**

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Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

#### Office Of The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Department **Mechanical Irrigation Division Anantnag,** H/Q Awantipora.

**CORRIGENDIUM** 

PROVIDING AND INSTALLATION OF HORIZONTAL PUMPING UNITS 6 CUSEC CAPACITY STANDBY UNIT WITH ALLIED ELECTRO MECHANICAL WORKS AT KHUDPORA PHASE II LIFT IRRIGATION SCHEME

REFERANCE: E NIT NO 49 OF 2022-23 DATED: 06.12.2022

Please read

1. INCOMING FEDER: The incoming feeder I consist of:
a).04 no's air insulated aluminum Bus Bars of adequate strength and capacity rated at 1000 Amps phase and 100 Amp
b).01 TPM Air Circuit Breaker, manually operated draw out type 1250 Amp capacity having no fault capacity of not les
c).03 No's 220 volt, 5 Watt neon type phase indication lamps.
d).01 No. 0-1250 Amp capacity 96mm square dial flush pattern industrial grade, C.T. operated Ammeter of L&T make
e).03 No's 1250/5A-10 volt suitable current transformer coils.

Instead of

SPECFICATIONS:

The L.T. control panel shall be totally enclosed free standing type sheet metal enclosed, dust and vermin proof indoor type IP-54 enclosure and is suitable to work on A.C. 3 phase L.T. for voltage and frequency as 415+15% volts and 50 HZ internally wired. The panel shall be painted with enamel paint. The panel is extensible type and comprise of the one incoming, and one auxiliary feeder and is as per 15 specification. The feeders shall be derived as under:

1. INCOMING FEDER:

The incoming feeder I consist of:
3),04 no's air insulated aluminum Bus Bars of adequate strength and capacity rated at 1250 Amps phase and 100 Amp neutral having a fault with standing capacity not less than 53 MVA at 500 volts.

b),01 TPM Air Circuit Breaker, manually operated draw out type 1000 Amp capacity having no fault capacity of not less than 53 MVA at 500 volts provided with over load protection relay system.

c),03 Mo's 220 volt, 5 Watt neon type phase indication lamps.

d),01 No. 0-1000 Amp capacity 96mm square dial flush pattern industrial grade, C.T. operated Ammeter of L&T make.

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in above referred E NIT

No MIDA/4191-97

DIPK-15654/22 DATED: 27-12-2022 Executive Engineer,

Jal Shakti Deptt Mech. Irri. Div., Anantnag H.Q. Awantipora46

### **OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER** KPDCL DIVISION GANDERBAL

Phone/Fax no: 0194-2416236

E-mail:-edgbl123@gmail.com

#### **CORRIGENDUM NOTICE**

Ref:e-NIT no: 88 of 2022-23 dated 21/12/2022 e-NIT no: 89 of 2022-23 dated 21/12/2022

Name of the work:-

1. Improvement of HT/LT Network within jurisdiction of ED Ganderbal under Capex Budget UT Component for the Year 2022-23

2. Replacement of HT/LT Poles and wornout conductor at Bugoo Rampora, Pati Rampora, Ludwina and Pati Saloora Tulmulla under Capex Budget UT Component for the Year 2022-23

The rates offered for the material supplied by the Department shall be considered inclusive for loading / unloading and delivery upto site for above referential e-NITs. Further the terms and condition shall remain same as laid down in the e-NIT.

No: EDG/ V/ 7473-80 /Ts

DIPK-NB-5799/22 Date: 27-12-2022

**Executive Engineer** ED-5th Ganderbal



## **6 Houses Damaged In Late Night Blaze At Dalgate**

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: At least six residential houses were damaged in an overnight blaze in Dalgate area of Srinagar, officials said here on Tuesday.

An official said that fire broke out in one of the houses in Kunrache area of Dalgate during late night hours and soon engulfed the nearby houses.

He said soon after the incident fire tenders reached the spot and brought fire under control with the help of locals

However, in the incident at least six houses were damaged, while the cause of fire was not immediately known,"

Meanwhile, on the direc-

tions of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, a team of District Administration visited Abi Buchwara Dalgate.

On the occasion, the team provided immediate assistance to the fire victims of 8 families residing in the houses which got damaged in a massive fire incident.

The team assessed the damages caused due to the fire incident and expressed sympathy with the affected families on loss of property.

On the occasion, an immediate assistance in the form of 40 blankets, 24 mattresses, 24 bed sheets and 8 kitchen sets, in addition Rs 40,000 were also provided to all affected families each Rs 5000 out of Red Cross fund of District Administration Srinagar.

### **Awareness Camp For Artisans & Weavers Held** At Shahr-E-Khaas

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: An Exhibition cum Awareness Camp for Artisans and Weavers of Shahr-e-Khaas was held at Marriage Hall Near Makhdoom Sahib Shrine on Tuesday.

The awareness camp was organized by Assistant Director Handicrafts and Handloom Srinagar, Zahid Rashid in which a large number of Artisans and weavers of Shahr-e-Khaas participated.

On the occasion, the participants were apprised about various Government schemes being implemented for welfare and overall socioeconomic development of the Artisans and Weavers.

During the programme, Authority letters for participation in the Exhibition were distributed and various Artisans/ Weavers were registered with the Department so that they are able to take advantage of various Government schemes.

Among others, Lead District Officer JKBank, Manager Cluster 2nd JKBank Zoonimar, Manager JK Bank Islamia College Hawal and Chief Designer School of Design also participated and sensitized the participants regarding various schemes.

## **Workshop On E-Governance Initiatives Held In City**

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: With a view to improve the effectiveness of the day to day Governance and make public services delivery mechanism face-less, paper-less, seamless and hassle free in a prompt manner, a workshop /interaction session for District and Sectoral Officers of Srinagar District was held at DC Office Complex here on Tuesday.

The programme was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad while Advisor, IIT Jammu Professor Manoj Kumar Aggarwal was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

During the interaction various aspects outlining the agenda of the interaction programme were deliberated upon threadbare including improvements seeming in citizens service delivery system, e-Office and e-Governance initiatives taken by Government, effectiveness of citizen's participation on Jan Bhagidari Portal, besides early hiccups and redressal strategies.

Speaking on the occasion, the Advisor, IIT Jammu, Professor Manoj Kumar Aggarwal also shared his views and took a detailed appraisal about online service mechanisms adopted by various Departments in Srinagar District.

Professor Manoj took department wise feedback from Officers of Revenue, Rural Development, SMC, FCS&CA,

Agriculture, Horticulture and other Departments and was informed about the various digital interventions being implemented and further software ugradations incorporated in the existing applications and websites to overcome the earlier hiccups.

He was also apprised about the measures required for fully switching over to digital interface in implementation of day to day Government schemes and services to citizens in public friendly mode.

Addressing the Workshop, the Deputy Commissioner said that the purpose of organizing such a Workshop is to improve the effectiveness of the Governance with prime objective to make services face-less, paperless, prompt and hassle free in an effective and efficient manner so that Citizens do not face any inconvenience.

The DC said many initiatives have been undertaken by the Government to improve the public service delivery mechanism to ensure responsiveness and accountability, transparency in every Department, besides increasing the participation of people in policy making by empowering them with the right information at the right time.

While underscoring the need for transition of Government Websites to user friendly mobile versions the DC emphasized on making collaborative efforts to achieve the goal of endto-end services in all e-Governance services to eliminate the need of physical intervention.

## **Police Arrests 6 'Criminals' For Extorting Money**

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: Police have arrested 6 alleged criminals for extorting money from people in Srinagar outskirts.

The arrests have been made by the Zakura police station.

Srinagar police in a tweet said that 6 members of a criminal gang involved in robberies were arrested.

The police said that the mo-

dus operandi of the gang was to threaten and extort money from people using toy pistols, Walkie Talkie sets, and other articles.

The police said that two vehicles used by the gang for criminal activities have also

been seized. A case vide FIR number 94/2022 has been registered under relevant sections of law in Zakura police station in this regard.



## In A First, GMC Performs Bone **Marrow Stem Cell Transplant**

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Government Medical College Srinagar and its associated SMHS hospital has successfully performed its first and milestone Autologous Bone Marrow Stem Cell Transplant on in a case of high risk multiple myeloma.

According to statement issued to Kashmir Observer, a spokesperson said the patient was admitted in Medical Unit-III of the Postgraduate Department of Medicine and the whole procedure was conducted by the qualified and experienced Clinical Hematologist Dr. Mir Sadaqat, Assistant

Professor-Department Medicine and Clinical Hematology Unit of GMC and Associated Super-Specialty Hospital Srinagar. The statement reads the

procedure involved stem cell mobilization, stem cell harvesting, myeloablation and stem cell rescue. "The patient remained admitted for 22 days in the hospital and was discharged after

successful engraftment of the stem cells," it reads. It reads it was due to the visionary approach of principal GMC Srinagar Dr Masood Tanvir and his administration along with guidance from Dr Rakesh K Koul, HoD Medi-

cine GMC Srinagar, support

from Dr Mohammad Ismail HoMU-III, mentorship by Dr Javid Rasool, HoD Clinical Hematology SKIMS Soura and full blood bank support from Dr Sheikh Bilal, HoD Pathology/Blood Bank and Transfusion Medicine which made this successful.

"This is the first time in the history of GMC Srinagar that this type of treatment modality in a blood cancer patient has been provided that too in a resource limited setting.'

"By providing such treatment modalities to cancer patients will definitely help them not only as a standard care for a disease but also an option which was never available before.

## **LCMA Demolishes Illegal Constructions In Various Areas**

Observer News Service

FREE

Srinagar: The Enforcement Wing of Lake Conservation & Management Authority (LCMA) today undertook a demolition drive in the areas of Beigh Mohalla Ashaibagh, Old Nishat, Arabal Shalimar, Kral Mohalla Shalimar, Bagwanpora and General bagh

During the drive, one con-

crete platform, one 2nd storey. three Plinths and one room/ compound walling, were demolished/removed.

Moreover, illegally dumped earth filling in the area of Karpoora to the Botanical Garden was also removed on spot. Further, legal action against the violators was also initiated. Police Contingent from PCR was accompanying the drive.

People within LCMA Jurisdiction are time and again warned not to resort to any illegal construction/ encroachments within LCMA Jurisdiction. Further, before taking any construction work in hand they are requested to get proper building permission from the competent Authority, otherwise, strict action shall be taken against the violators.

One to one and group mental health counselling services in the clinic as well as in online mode

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SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081 Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

#### **AIRPORTS**

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



#### **RAILWAYS**

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

#### **HIGHWAY STATUS**



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



1444

#### **PRAYERS FAJR** 6:06 **ZUHR** 12:32 **ASR** 3:51 Magrib 5:33

6:58

#### This Day In History

1308 - The reign of Emperor Hanazono, Emperor of Japan, begins

ISHA

- 1612 First observation of Neptune Galileo observes and records a "fixed star" without realising it is a
- 1614 Sperm whale beached at Noordwijk 1732 1st known ad for "Poor Richard's Almanack" (Pennsylvania Gazette)
- 1781 Comte de Rochambeau and Nicolas Luckner are the last generals to be made Marshal of France by Louis XVI before the Revolution
- 1828 6.8 earthquake strikes Echigo Japan, 30,000
- 1832 John C. Calhoun becomes 1st VP to resign (differences with President Jackson) 1877 - John Stevens, applies for a patent for his flour
- 1904 1st daily wireless weather forecasts published
- (London) 1908 - Earthquake strikes Messina, Italy, killing nearly
- 1914 Turks are repulsed by the Russians after fighting
- in Armenia for weeks. 1926 - Imperial Airways begins England-India mail &
- passenger service.

#### From KO Archives

#### Lolab Clash Claims 4 Soldiers, 6 Wounded SI, Top Ikhwani Gunned Down

**Observer News Service** 

RINAGAR- Four security personnel were killed and six others, including an officer, were injured in a militant attack in Lolab area of Kupwara district this afternoon. Elsewhere, a sub inspector of police and a top-ranking counter-insurgent were among four people killed in various incidents across the state since yesterday. An ONS report from Baramulla, quoting official

sources, said four jawans from the army's 32 Rashtriya Rifles camp at Vowra were killed and six others, including a junior commissioned officer (JCO) were injured in a militant attack at Patushai in Lolab area of Kupwara district this after-noon. The incident took place when the security per-

sonnel were on a routine patrol at about 3.15 p.m. Soon after the incident, the security forces cordoned off the entire area and launched combing operations to flush out the militants.

Unidentified gunmen killed sub inspector of police, Abdul Aziz Dar (No 3702/NGO) at Magam chowk this afternoon, Reports said gunmen fired thrice in Dar's head from point blank range, killing him on the spot. Dar was a resident of Gotpora, Budgam.

In the recent past, Dar was working as incharge police post, Magam, and waspr moted as sub inspector recently. Reports said he was returning to his office after receiving his salary. Tension is prevailing in the town after the incident with shopkeepers pulling down their shutters.

Suspected militants shot dead a top-ranking counterinsurgent at Bulbul Lanker in downtown city this evening. He was identified as Niaz Ahmad Bhat s/o Abdul Ahad alias 'Niza Kalar/o Botayar, Alikadal. The incident took place at 9.15 p.m. Senior security officials rushed to the spot soon after the incident. According to CNS, militant group, Jaish-e-Muhammad, has owned responsibility for the killing.

Police said a militant believed to be the chief commander of a Fidayeen group was killed in an encounter with the security forces at Lassana bridge in Surankot sector of Poonch district yesterday afternoon. He was identified as Abu Rala. Some arms and ammunition were seized from the spot Jammu and Kashmir police claimed to have recovered the body of an unidentified militant at Lancha in Cool sector of Udhampur district yesterday.

Officials said a grenade had reportedly exploded in his hand which resulted in his death.

(Kashmir Observer, 28 December, 2000)

### KASHMIR OBSERVER

Wednesday | 28-12-2022

#### Pandits' Dilemma

ashmiri Pandits are continuing their protest in Jammu over the issue of rehabilitation. The Pandit employees are demanding their relocation to Jammu till the time Kashmir Valley is safe for their return. However, the administration wants them to rejoin their duties in the Valley. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said employees who do not work, would not be paid, a statement that has drawn flak from some major politicians and political parties. Union Minister Jitendra Singh said that Pandits shouldn't be forced to go back to the Valley at a time when they faced threat to their lives. "I would say that if there is a threat to even one life, even a dozen offices could be shut," Dr Jitendra Singh told media in Jammu.

Singh's opinion was echoed by Ghulam Nabi Azad, the leader of Democratic Azad Party, who sought posting of Pandit employeesto Jammu till there was no threat to their lives in Kashmir. The politicians have drawn the line around the safety of Pandit employees. And rightly so.

After targeted killings of the minorities and the migrant labourers over the last three years, Kashmiri Pandits have received fresh threats from the militants. The threat to Pandits follows the one against Kashmiri journalists which led to resignation of about five journalists from their jobs. The Resistance Front (TRF) has asked the Valley's Hindus to leave the region, saying that non-locals and Kashmiri Hindus were taking away jobs and land in Kashmir. In fact, the list of Kashmiri Pandits, the TRF plans to target is the same one that the government had decided to employ under the prime minister's scheme.

This has been a source of deep concern for security agencies and also among the people. The disclosure of names is being seen as a big breach of security as questions are being raised as to how the TRF got access to this confidential document. The Jammu and Kashmir police have taken cognizance of the threat and begun an investigation, which hopefully should reveal the truth.

However, the government needs to take the threat very seriously. So far, twenty four people have been killed in Kashmir over the last year, the victims including Kashmiri Pandits, migrant labourers and security personnel returning for holidays to their homes. This has created a fraught situation. According to an estimate, there are around 8000 minority employees including Kashmiri Pandits who are posted in Kashmir. Hence the serious concern expressed by the various political parties including also by Kashmiri Pandit groups is understandable.

Pandit employees are demanding that the government waive off the bond requiring them to remain permanently posted in Kashmir. This has created a tricky situation for the administration which wants all Kashmiri Pandits to return to Kashmir . But may be, we need to wait for it for sometime more. Kashmir has to be made safer before this happens.

#### OTHER OPINON

## Why Family ID?

Fadheelah Riyaz

ammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha announced recently that every family in Kashmir will be given a unique 8-digit alphanumeric family ID. The ID will consist of a database containing digitally stored, relevant information about families.

Sinha, at a press conference, claimed that the objective of the ID is to make welfare benefits directly accessible to poorer families. "We want to ensure that the poverty-stricken families are enrolled for government schemes with minimal human interference," he said.

mai human interference," he said.

Many states have proposed, or in the case of Haryana and Punjab, already implemented a similar ID. Haryana launched the Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) plan in 2019, and Punjab followed suit in 2021. Utter Pradesh recently introduced the UP Parivar Kalyan card, which draws its inspiration from Haryana's PPP. Rajasthan also has the Jan Aadhaar card which identifies both families and individuals for financial subsidies.

While the BJP has welcomed the proposal in the UT, mainstream opposition parties such as the PDP and National Conference have opposed it. The family ID proposal is, on the surface, completely non-threatening and Kashmiris may even benefit from it. The opposition's claims that Kashmir is being specially targeted appear baseless, as other states have created similar databases.

However, the family ID seems redundant as the Aadhar card, the ration card, and the PAN card all supply social services directly to poverty-stricken households.

The Aadhar card, especially is the most secure and efficient form of identification in the country. World Bank Chief Economist Paul Romer described Aadhaar as "the most sophisticated ID programme in the world".

In addition, the Aadhar Act, passed in 2016, already facilitates the delivery of financial subsidies, benefits, and services to the eligible digitally. The Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme transfers subsidy money to Aadhar-linked bank accounts.

Despite appearing transparent about the ID, the regional government has been deliberately vague about the purpose of another identifier. The family ID is being described as more speedy, efficient, and comprehensive than its predecessors. But, why should the government propose a new and expensive project instead of improving upon the existing IDs? Unless the ID performs another function entirely, which has been conveniently omitted in the official statement.

The author studies in 9th class



## Saudi-Iran Ties on Mend

Asad Mirza

It is expected that normalisation of ties between the two biggest Muslim nations may lead to greater regional stability, besides an increase in the influence of the middle-eastern bloc in global politics. This may lead to a further refresh of the U.S. policy for the region, because if the two nations come together then it may translate into a more demanding and assertive bloc

Recent developments in Saudi, Iran seems to be on an upswing and may lead to a better understanding amongst two old foes besides unfolding a new regional and global security paradigm

It seems as if in this winter season, the ice between two largest Muslim countries i.e. Saudi Arabia and Iran have started melting. One claims to be the leader of the Sunni domination, while the other is the Shiite leader. Though this difference doesn't hold any importance in the difference of opinion between the two on various regional and global issues.

However, it seems that the current Saudi dispensation, led by Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman is ready to forget the old enmity and forge a new relationship with its old foe.

This development also comes in the background of strained relations between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia, on the issue of oil pricing and supply and defence cooperation.

Last week, the Iranian side also showed signs of reconciliation when Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian met with his Saudi counterpart, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, in Jordan.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian announced that Tehran is ready to reach an agreement with Western powers regarding its nuclear file if "red lines are respected."

In a tweet, Amir-Abdol-

lahian stated that he had a "friendly conversation" with his counterparts in neighbouring countries on the sidelines of the second Baghdad Conference for Cooperation and Partnership in Jordan, adding that that he met the foreign ministers of Jordan, Iraq, Qatar, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia at the event, adding that the Saudi minister asserted his country's readi-

Iran talks in April. There have been no rounds since then. In June, then-Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi said the talks had made "remarkable progress." Iran delayed a sixth round of talks with Saudi Arabia in August due to the political instability in Iraq at the time.

Regional wire service Amwaj Media reported

ed the fifth round of Saudi-

fate and the rest of the regional countries are interconnected."

The Iranian FM was accompanied in Amman by his deputy Ali Bagheri Kani Ali Bagheri.

Amir-Abdollahian held a two-hour meeting with Josep Borrell and Enrique Mora, the European Union's foreign policy officials.

#### US-Iran tussle

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian announced that Tehran is ready to reach an agreement with Western powers regarding its nuclear file if "red lines are respected."

"In the past two to three months, the US made hypocritical statements and took action that did not match their words," the FM said about the nuclear talks.

Washington "has repeatedly claimed it is ready to take the final step of all parties returning to the agreement in Vienna, but they behaved hypocritically in the media," he added.

Amir-Abdollahian stated that the parties to the talks are returning to "realism," noting that if "red lines are respected, we are ready to take the final steps to reach an agreement."

Analysts feel that Saudi Arabia is seeking an end to direct and indirect Iranian attacks on its territory, while Tehran wants better diplomatic relations with the Gulf due to Iran's economic problems and also to create a wedge between Saudi Arabia and the United States.

It is expected that normalisation of ties between the two biggest Muslim nations may lead to greater regional stability, besides an increase in the influ-

## Saudi Arabia cut-off relations with Iran in 2016 after Iranian protesters attacked the Saudi Embassy in Tehran. The demonstrators were upset over Saudi Arabia executing Shiite cleric Nimr al-Nimr.

ness to continue dialogue with Iran.

#### Saudi-Iran Relations

Saudi Arabia cut-off relations with Iran in 2016 after Iranian protesters attacked the Saudi Embassy in Tehran. The demonstrators were upset over Saudi Arabia executing Shiite cleric Nimr al-Nimr.

Saudi Arabia and Iran have long been at odds over numerous regional issues, perhaps most prominently Iran's nuclear program. The two countries are also on opposite sides of the Yemen civil war, with Saudi Arabia backing the internationally recognized government and Iran supporting the Houthi rebels.

In 2021, officials from Saudi Arabia and Iran began holding direct talks - facilitated by Baghdad - in an effort to reduce tensions. The bilateral dialogue continued in 2022 also.

Previously, Iraq host-

earlier that Saudi Arabia stopped the dialogue with Iran. This was due to concerns over Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, who replaced Kadhimi in October, according to Amwaj. Kadhimi had a pro-US

outlook, whereas Sudani is an ally of Iran-backed political forces in Iraq. Sudani said he hoped to continue hosting the dialogue upon taking office.

In December, The Associated Press had also

reported that the dialogue had come to a halt. Citing Iraqi officials, the AP said that Iran felt that Saudi Arabia was instigating the widespread anti-government protests in Iran.

Amir-Abdollahian's

Amir-Abdollahian's tweet is therefore significant because it seemingly signals that the dialogue could be back on.

Minister of Security Esmail Khatib said, in an interview to the website of Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, that "our ence of the middle-eastern bloc in global politics. This may lead to a further refresh of the U.S. policy for the region, because if the two nations come together then it may translate into a more demanding and assertive bloc, challenging the American policy and strategy in the region, which seems to have faltered recently.

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, interfaith and current affairs. He can be contacted on www.



All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, spaceand accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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## Be Sensitive Towards Those Who Died By Suicide

ASHMIR has witnessed many suicides in the past week. While our heart aches for the departed souls, many are indulging in unnecessary and insensitive shaming of the suicide victims. It is true that suicide has to be discouraged and as muslims it is to be avoided at all costs. However, in talk-

ing about suicides our focus should be on helping people rather than shaming them. What good does it bring to you or the dead if you shame them in their departure as well?

Yes, it is unfortunate. However, if you're truly so abhorred by the act, why not actually constructively create a dialogue around mental health

issues. Instead of shaming people for lack of imaan, why not find a way to bring Islamic lense of mental health teachings to our society?

e need to realise that more the circumstances driving one to suicide, it is mostly mental health issues that encourage people to take to such extremes. The need of the hour is to

educate people about mental health issues, use religious knowledge to bring awareness around psychology, health, well being and try to raise issues of systemic discrimination that might be pushing people to the edge.

Tania Saeed Tanias@rediffmail



Iffat Nazir

n today's world, sincerity is very costly. It is extremely rare to find a truly honest person with whom you can share innermost thoughts and secrets

As human beings, relationships are crucial for survival and sustenance of the human race. As we live life on this planet, we all are connected by certain bonds of consanguinity and contiguity with our family and friends (respectively) that make life worth living and enjoying. As we grow, we just not only learn from parents but more from the people with whom we have built our relations and associations. But each kind of relationship has its own requirements as well as rules for success and survival. What I mean is that no relationship can flourish solidly without sincerity. It is by this virtue only that we can lay the foundation of a strong and everlasting

relationship. This desire characterized by the lack of feelings of deceit, pretensions, hypocrisy and dishonesty can build a solid and genuinely happy relationship. Sincerity, based on honest behavior and truthfulness in dealing with other people, is the essence of lifelong happy friendship. Being sincere in all your relationships is no doubt an uphill task, but not an impossible one. This kind of virtue forces you to question and evaluate your own thoughts as to what extent they are filled with truth and honesty with relation to other people's welfare.

Many people lie to maintain good relations with others, but this is not good. No matter how tough it is, better to tell the stark truth than to stab someone from the backside with poisonous falsehood. Of course, there are situations which force you to break certain rules and avoid moral scruples, but it must be remembered that such a solution of

6

By this malignity for your own false respect and reputation you try to build a house of fire which surely will burn you to ashes in due course of time. In a sincere relationship, words are not only enough, make sure you stay true to your word and keep your promises all the time

false nature will save a person only in the short term, and will hurt him/her in the long run. It is better to behave in a harsh manner, rather than to arouse false hopes with unlimited interpretations.

In today's world, sincerity is very costly. It is extremely rare to find a truly honest person with whom you can share innermost thoughts and secrets. In this darkest time, try to be a person of integrity and secrecy to become someone who is both trustworthy and respected for

his confidentiality. What wrenches your heart is when people destroy the sanctity of relations by gossiping and revealing your secrets covertly to others for the purpose of selfish motives and gains. This kind of practice is always unfair. When you gossip, you defame someone else's name. By this malignity for your own false respect and reputation you try to build a house of fire which surely will burn you to ashes in due course of time. In a sincere relationship, words are not only

enough, make sure you stay true' to your word and keep your promises all the time. Don't build castles in air; be humble and sincere enough to offer only what you can deliver. This responsibility of realizing what you have offered in words and transforming them into real actual experience can create heaven out of hell. In any circumstances, sincerity ought not to be compromised at any cost. What makes you feel bad in a relationship with other people and for which your conscience rebukes you must be avoided. Relations and friendships are priceless, and no one should try them to weigh against material possessions of this mortal world. We all should have a deep and everlasting faith in true and sincere relations for the greater good of each one of us.

While sincerity and honesty builds relationships, insincerity and deceit destroys the very soul and spirit of a relationship. We are living

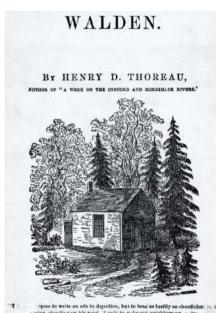
in an age where people are pursuing self-interests at the expense of others. Believe me the world could end with hurting people and there are already a lot of people who are suffering from deep wounds inflicted by those close to them.

Let's bring true sincerity in all our relations to make yourself and the person you love happier and more comfortable without asking for anything in return. Have the courage and strength to speak up and express your dislike towards a certain situation. Be sincere enough to open up and to never hide your fears, questions and objections that concern your relationship and jeopardize its peace.

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Kupwara with an interest in Oratory and Poetry. Feedback at ifatnazir627@gmail.com

## 5 Wintry Books To Read During Long Nights



#### Liz Rosenberg

inter solstice brings the shortest day and longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. It's a great night to spend reading.

I've taught English and creative writing in snowy Binghamton, New York, for more than 40 years – reading, writing, reviewing and judging books all the while – so it's never hard for me to find something to read. Only to choose.

To save you the same indecision, I've picked five books for the darkest time of the year.

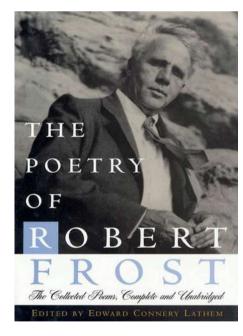
#### 1. Henry David Thoreau, "Walden Pond" (1854)

Thoreau's "Walden Pond" is America's most celebrated nature book, filled with the author's observations of the woods near Walden Pond in Concord, Massachusetts. "Walden" begins in July, but Thoreau welcomes winter in some of the book's most beautiful passages.

"The north wind had already begun to cool the pond," Thoreau writes, when he "went into winter quarters." Not that he

stayed indoors much.

Most of us won't stretch out face down
"on ice only an inch thick," as Thoreau re-



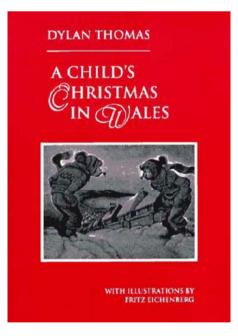
ports doing, but we can read about him doing it while staying warm. Thoreau noticed frozen bubbles, stacked "like a string of beads" or "silvery coins poured from a bag." He catalogs – how he loves cataloging! – the colors of the pond, from "transparent" to dark green to "opaque and whitish or gray." In winter he burned pine, decaying stumps, hickory, dry leaves and logs he'd dragged home while skating across the pond. Fuel provided him warmth, cooked food and company. "You can always see a face in the fire," Thoreau wrote.

In winter he welcomed rare humans, such as fellow writer Louisa May Alcott's father, Bronson. But mostly he encountered foxes, squirrels, chickadees, jays and a barred owl that he described as the "winged brother of the cat." Thoreau delights in the sound of the ice booming in a thaw and describes moonlit rescues of hikers he escorted back to the edge of civilization.

The five chilly chapters of "Walden" comprise a winter sampler for those who haven't read this mighty book — and for those returning to it.

#### 2. Robert Frost, "The Poetry of Robert Frost"

No poet sang of winter like poet laureate and New Englander Robert Frost. In his great "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy



Evening" he pays homage to winter's solitude:

"Between the woods and frozen lake/ The darkest evening of the year."

"The Poetry of Robert Frost" weighs in at more than 600 pages. "You Come Too," a beautifully curated edition of poems for the young, is less than 100.

Both books contain popular midwinter favorites. Even their titles suggest the poet's strong connection to winter: "Looking for a Sunset Bird in Winter"; "A Hillside Thaw" ("Ten million silver lizards out of snow!"); "Good-by and Keep Cold"; "A Patch of Old Snow."

In "Birches," Frost writes of branches that turn raindrops into ice crystals melted by sunlight.

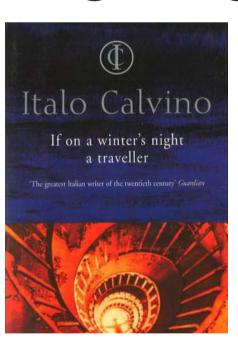
Shattering and avalanching on the snowcrust –

Such heaps of broken glass to sweep away You'd think the inner dome of heaven has fallen.

Frost's poems are easily memorized and lovely to read aloud over any blustering gales.

#### 3. Dylan Thomas, "A Child's Christmas in Wales" (1952)

As Frost wrote for all ages, so did Dylan Thomas in "A Child's Christmas in Wales"



– available in its original Tiffany blue New Directions paperback edition, decorated exquisitely with illustrations by Ellen Raskin – a winter's poem made to be sung. We can even hear the poet chanting it aloud on his 1952 recording.

One need not be Welsh to love Thomas' seaside childhood. One need not even celebrate Christmas.

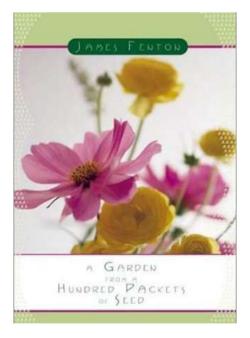
"One Christmas was so much like another," the poem opens, "that I can never remember whether it snowed/for six days and six nights when I was 12/or whether it snowed for 12 days and/12 nights when I was six."

#### 4. Italo Calvino, "If on a Winter's Night a Traveler" (1979)

Italo Calvino bundles magic, metafiction, philosophy, danger and love into "If on a Winter's Night a Traveler." It's Calvino's most mystifying work, challenging readers' assumptions about reading and storytelling.

Not exactly a novel, it comprises the first chapter of 10 invented novels by 10 imaginary authors. Is it still winter? a reader may

wonder. Was it ever winter?
As Calvino admits, "The only truth I can write is that of the instant I am living."



#### 5. James Fenton, "A Garden from a Hundred Packets of Seeds" (2002)

Some gardeners spend all winter dream-

ing. Others spend it busily planning.

"A Garden from a Hundred Packets of
Seeds" proposes a radically old-fashioned
approach – to grow a garden simply sprung
from seed. Author James Fenton explains,

"[S]imple-mindedness was a part of what
I was after: buy a packet of nasturtium
seeds and plant them, grow some very tall
sunflowers – this is what gardening should
be all about."

A garden doesn't need expensive starter plants or even a plan. The great question in life, as well as with gardens, is: What do I want to grow?

Winter unearths simplicity – the stark black-and-white vista it presents, the bareboned landscape. It encourages readers to follow suit by ridding themselves of the extraneous and making room for life. As the celebrated saying goes, "If you choose not to find joy in the snow, you will have less joy in your life but the same amount

Besides, as December ends, we turn the corner toward light.

By arrangements with The Conversation

## Delhi Colder Than Dharamshala, Nainital; Fog **Blots Out Sun In Parts Of Northwest India**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: Parts of the national capital reeled under a cold wave on Tuesday as its minimum temperature fell below that of hill stations Dharamshala and Nainital.

With a high windchill factor -a measure of the rate of heat loss from skin that is exposed to the air -- in play, cold day conditions prevailed in some parts of the city such as Palam and Jafarpur.

A cold day is when the minimum temperature is less than or equal to 10 degrees Celsius below normal and the maximum temperature is at least 4.5 degrees below normal. A severe cold day is when the maximum is 6.5 degrees or more below normal.

The Safdarjung observatory, Delhi's primary weather station, logged a minimum temperature of 5.6 degrees Celsius -- a notch below normal. The maximum temperature settled at 17.2 degrees Celsius, three notches below normal.

In comparison, the minimum temperature in Dehradun was recorded at 7 degrees Celsius, Dharamshala at 6.2 degrees Celsius, and Nainital at 7.2 degrees Celsius.

Meteorologists attributed the sharp drop in day temperatures to frigid north westerly winds barrelling through the plains and reduced sunshine due to foggy weather.

Mahesh Palawat, vice president (meteorology and climate change), Skymet Weather, said a western disturbance led to a

**Buffalo:** Storm-battered Buffalo

braced Tuesday for fresh snow

while still striving to recover

from an epic blizzard that killed

at least 34 people, stranded others in cars for days and shut-

The National Weather Service

predicted that as much as 2 inch-

es (2.5 to 5 centimeters) of snow

could fall Tuesday in Erie County,

which includes Buffalo, the

second-largest city in New York,

massive storm that dropped over

4 feet of snow in some places

While that's nothing like the

with about 275,000 residents.

tered the city's airport.

**AGENCEIS** 



fresh spell of snowfall in the mountains on December 25-26 and cold northwesterly winds are now sweeping through the plains after its retreat.

He said the wind chill factor was also high.

Palawat said coldwave conditions in northwest India would abate from Wednesday under the influence of a fresh western disturbance. However, the relief is likely to be short lived.

India as a dense to very dense fog prevailed in some parts of the National Capital Region, Haryana, Punjab, west Uttar

Pradesh, and north Rajasthan. In the national capital, visibility fell to just 50 metres and movement. An intense cold wave gripped entire Himachal Pradesh as minimum temperatures dropped to below freezing point at most places.

The minimum temperatures dipped 10-12 degrees below freezing point in high altitude tribal areas, mountain passes, and other higher ranges, while several other places reeled under lower reaches of sub-zero temperature.

Keylong in tribal Lahaul valley recorded minus 7.9 degrees, followed by Kusumseri minus 5.0 degrees, Kalpa minus 3.6 degrees, Manali minus 0.6 degrees, and Bhuntar minus 0.4 degrees.

Solan and Shimla recorded a minimum of 2.3 and 4.5 degrees Celsius, in that order. The cold wave conditions are likely to continue, according to the

weather department.

The local MeT office has predicted light rainfall at isolated places in lower, mid, and higher hills on Thursday and rains at isolated places and in mid-hills and rains or snow at isolated places in higher hills on Friday.

Fog shrouded many parts of Punjab and Haryana where intense cold weather conditions continued on Tuesday.

In Haryana, Narnaul shivered at 1 degree Celsius, four degrees below normal, according to a report of the Met centre here. In Puniab, Bathinda experienced cold weather conditions at 1.4 degrees Celsius. Amritsar recorded a low of 5 degrees Celsius while Ludhiana's minimum was 6.6 degrees Celsius.

Severe cold conditions

prevailed in Rajasthan as well. However, the regional weather office has predicted the possibility of a slight increase in the minimum and the maximum temperatures from Wednesday.

Coldwave conditions also crippled Kashmir as the mercury fell by a couple of degrees across the Valley to push the minimum temperature further below freezing point, officials said.

The minimum temperature on Monday night fell further down by 1-2 degrees compared to the previous night.
The intense cold led to water

supply lines freezing in several areas. The interiors of Dal Lake and several other water bodies in the Valley also froze, the officials said.

The minimum temperature in Srinagar settled at minus 4.8 degrees Celsius -- down from minus 3.5 degrees Celsius on Sunday night.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), 'very dense' fog is when visibility is between 0 and 50 metres, 51 and 200 metres is 'dense', 201 and 500 'moderate', and 501 and 1,000 'shallow'.

In the plains, the IMD declares a cold wave if the minimum temperature dips to four degrees Celsius or when the minimum temperature is 10 degrees Celsius or below and is 4.5 notches below normal.

A 'severe' cold wave is when the minimum temperature dips to two degrees Celsius or the departure from normal is more than 6.4 degrees Celsius.

#### Khurshid Likens Rahul To Lord Ram, **BJP Says Cong Puts Devotion To Family Above Devotion To God, Nation**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Delhi: Moradabad/New Senior Congress Salman Khurshid has likened Rahul Gandhi to Lord Ram and described him as "superhuman" and a "yogi doing tapasya" as he lauded the former party chief for his Bharat Jodo Yatra, evoking sharp criticism from the BJP.

Slamming the opposition party leaders for their show of "sycophancy", the BJP said comparing a person out on bail in a corruption case, a reference to the National Herald probe, to a God worshipped by so many people not only hurts the feelings of Hindus but also the entire society.

The Congress leader, however, remained unfazed and defended his remarks. "No one can replace God but everyone can try to walk the path shown by him. Why should anyone object if I say someone is following that path," he said on Tuesday. Khurshid later told PTI, "I

am willing to say whatever they believe I have said. Have I said that Rahul Gandhi is like Ram? Have I said it? I am willing to say it."

While BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia targeted the Congress at a press conference following Khurshid's remarks, another party spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla, in a swipe at Congress leaders, said they put "parivaar ki bhakti" (devotion to family) above "bhagwaan and rashtra ki bhakti" (devotion to God and nation).

The Congress must apologise for hurting Hindu sentiments, Poonawalla said.

Khurshid, a former Cabinet likened minister. also Congress workers to Lord Ram's brother Bharat.

Talking to reporters in Moradabad on Monday, Khurshid, who is the state coordinator of the yatra, said, "Rahul Gandhi is superhuman. While we are freezing in the cold and wearing jackets, he is going out in T-shirt (for the Bharat Jodo Yatra). He is like a yogi, he has called himself so, doing his 'tapasya' (penance) with focus."

Drawing a parallel with Lord Ram and his brother Bharat, Khurshid said, "Lord Ram's 'khadau' (wooden slipper) goes very far. Sometimes when Ram ji is not able to reach, Bharat takes his 'khadau' and goes to places. Like that, we have carried the 'khadau' in Uttar Pradesh.

"Now that 'khadau' has reached Uttar Pradesh. Ram ji will also come, this is our belief."

He was responding to a question about the Gandhiled yatra not passing through Uttar Pradesh till now.

Asked about BJP's reaction to his remarks, Khurshid told reporters on Tuesday, "If I believe somebody is following the path shown by God, then what will I say if I have to praise him? How do you praise a person if he has attained such a height? Isn't this said that he is like God? No one can replace God but everyone can try to walk the path shown by him.

"Why should anyone object if I say someone is following that path and that people can again see the story they associate with God. If the BJP has never seen a good man, then it's their problem."

Speaking to PTI, Khurshid clarified that whatever he said was only in praise of Lord Ram and asked if he is not allowed to do so.

"I have said that in our mythology, religious beliefs, wherever Lord Ram did not go, his brother carried his Khadau," he said.

Similarly, "if the yatra doesn't come to parts of UP, we are here to carry the message," he said.

BJP spokespersons, however, alleged that the Congress, when in power, had questioned the existence of Lord Ram and accused its leaders of repeatedly riding roughshod over Hindu sentiments.

"Salman Khurshid in his attempt to clarify remains defiant about his outrageous analogy between Prabhu Ram & Rahul! Heights of Parivar Bhakti that you even put Bhagwan Bhakti & Desh Bhakti aside

"Will Salman ji ever make similar analogies for other faith? Can he?" Poonawalla tweeted

The yatra will enter Uttar Pradesh on January 3 through Loni in Ghaziabad. It will then pass through Baghpat and Shamli to enter Haryana.

#### The sun was blotted out in large swathes of northwest

affected road traffic and train

forecaster Bob Oravec.

More Snow In Store For Buffalo After Blizzard 'For The Ages' starting on Christmas Eve, "anv shoveling snow, others when additional snowfall that Buffalo may continue to have today is going to be impactful," said lead "The biggest impact is going to

> the previous snowfall." he said. The rest of the United States also was reeling from the ferocious winter storm, with at least an additional two dozen deaths reported in other parts of the

Washington state. In Buffalo, the dead were found in cars, homes and snowbanks. Some died while

country, and power outages in

communities from Maine to

be how it hinders the removal of

emergency crews could not respond in time to medical crises. County Executive Mark Poloncarz called the blizzard "the worst storm probably in our lifetime," even for an area known for heavy snow.

Mayor Byron Brown's office announced seven additional storm-related deaths Tuesday, bringing Buffalo's total to 27, along with at least seven suburban fatalities.

Trisha LoGrasso and her family were still huddled around a space heater in a makeshift hut in her Buffalo living room Monday. She was without heat because of a gas leak, the temperature inside the home was 42 degrees (5.5 C), and burst pipes left her with no running water.

"I've lived here my whole life, and this is the worst storm I've ever seen," the 48-year-old said.

President Joe Biden offered federal assistance Monday to hard-hit New York, while Gov. Kathy Hochul toured the aftermath in Buffalo her hometown and called the blizzard "one for the ages." Almost every fire truck in the city became stranded Saturday, she said.

Hochul, a Democrat, noted the storm came a little over a month after the region was storms, snowfall totals are not far off from the 95.4 inches (242 centimeters) the area normally sees in an entire winter season. The National Weather Service

inundated with another "histor-

ic" snowfall. Between the two

said the snow total at the Buffalo Niagara International Airport stood at 49.2 inches (1.25 meters) at 10 a.m. Monday. Officials say the airport will be shut through Wednesday morning. Some 2,872 domestic and

international U.S. flights were canceled Tuesday as of about 8 a.m. Eastern time, according to the tracking site FlightAware.

#### CONTD. FROM **FRONT PAGE**

commissioners, senior officials and directed for prompt redressal of grievances in a transparent and effective manner.

"Grievance disposal mechanism should be constantly upgraded with the help of technology to fulfill aspirations of people and to resolve issues within a time-frame. We have been realizing very satisfactory results and need to work with complete dedication to provide the necessary services to the citizens equitably with ease," Sinha said.

The LG, the spokesperson said, instructed all the Administration Secretaries and DCs to ensure that all the online services are functioning efficiently and benefits of the services reaching to the common man.

On the grievance of Yawer Mohi-ud-Din of Bandipora pertaining to the sanctioning of Education assistance in favour of his son, the LG, he said, directed the School and Higher Education departments to ensure that no eligible beneficiary is deprived of the benefits of education assistance.

Similarly, the spokesperson said, while addressing a grievance of Sofyan Ahmed from Doda concerning incomplete School Building at village Trankhal of Doda, the LG directed the concerned Deputy Commissioner to ensure remaining work is completed in a time-bound

On the grievance of Bashir Ahmad from Golad, Mendhar, Poonch regarding installation of Transformers, the DC Poonch was directed for immediate resolution of the issue.

"The government schemes and departments should be accountable for providing all the services needed by citizens without any interruption and hassles", the LG said.

#### **KP Employees**

is likely to be listed for hearing after the tri-

bunal resumes functioning on December 30. They have challenged sub-rule 4 of rule 4 of the Jammu and Kashmir Kashmiri Migrants (Special Drive) Recruitment Rules, 2009, which provides that "in case the appointee migrates from valley again for any reason whatsoever, he shall lose the job without any notice and shall stand terminated".

The application filed by the protesting employees read, "The targeted killings make it crystal clear that the respondents (JK administration) have failed to provide a secure environment to Kashmiri Pandit employees at their respective place of posting but the said rule is jeopardising the life and safety of the Kashmiri Pandit employees which is clearly violative of

the right to life provided under Article 21 of the Constitution of India and as such deserves to be set aside along with the related stipulations in the form/agreement."

They have also demanded the quashing of sub-rule 6 of rule 6 the Jammu and Kashmir Kashmiri Migrants (Special Drive) Recruitment Rules, 2009, which provides that "the appointee under these rules shall have to work within Kashmir and shall not be eligible for transfer outside the valley under any circumstances.'

The applicants have called for the passing of directions to stop the administration from taking any adverse action against migrant employees who are not able to join their duties owing to the threat to their lives and well-being.

Around 3,000 Kashmiri Pandit employees have been sitting in protest over the killing of Rahul Bhat, who was gunned down by terrorists inside the tehsil office in Chadoora town in Budgam district of central Kashmir on May 12 this year. LG Sinha's recent remark that reserved cat-

egory (Dogra) employees cannot be transferred to Jammu and those (KP employees) sitting at home will not get salaries drew sharp reactions from the political parties of the Union territory. All major parties in Jammu and Kashmir,

including the BJP, came out openly in support of Kashmiri Pandit and Dogra employees and backed their demands for "relocation" from Kashmir in view of targeted killings by militants and a transfer policy.

Union Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office Jitendra Singh had on Saturday said, "My personal opinion is that nothing can be more valuable than a human life...If there is a threat even to one life, it is better to save that life even if it means closing down a dozen offices."

#### **Cold Wave**

temperature in the ski-resort town of Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district was minus 5.9 degrees Celsius

In the frontier Kupwara district, the minimum temperature settled at minus 4.8 degrees Celsius while Qazigund, the gateway town to the Valley, recorded 3.6 degrees Celsius, the officials said. Kokernag recorded a low of minus 2.9 degrees Celsius.

Although there was brief snowfall in Pahalgam and adjoining areas in south Kashmir, the Valley is going through a dry spell with no major precipitation forecast till the end of December.

Kashmir is currently in the grip of 'Chillai-Kalan' -- the 40-day harshest winter period when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably, leading to the freezing of water bodies as well as water supply lines in several parts of the Valley.

The chances of snowfall are the most frequent and maximum during this period. Most areas, especially in the higher reaches, receive heavy snowfall.

'Chillai-Kalan' begins on December 21 and ends on January 30. The cold wave continues even after that with a 20-day-long 'Chillai-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day-long 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold) following it.

#### Abdullah's, Mehbooba

a grand success.

'This yatra is national Padyatra, our leader Rahul Gandhi has already announced that come what may, he will go entire route of the country including J&K," he said, adding that today a meeting was held in Srinagar to review the preparations for the yatra while the party leaders also met the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha yesterday. "It was a good meeting with LG Manoj Sinha. He offered all sort of cooperation for this yatra," he said.

"I am very happy to say that Dr Farooq, Omar Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti, (Yusuf) Tarigami among others are ready to join the yatra, which is the happiest moment for us. All like-minded people are joining the yatra and every day the

impact of the yatra is increasing," he added. Pertinently, K.C.Venugopal MP and J&K Incharge Rajani Patil MP held detailed discussions on the upcoming Bharat Jodo Yatra with Party leaders here in Srinagar today. AICC General Secretary (Org) also received feedback with regard to ongoing preparations and arrangements being made for the successful con-

K.C.Venugopal had a brief discussion about the mobilization while terming the Yatra a socio-political initiative to protect the idea of India. He declared that people from different political parties believing in the core ideology of INC will join this Yatra, as that, the Yatra was hope for all Indians.

#### **Azad To Rename**

"political party" under relevant provisions of the Representation of the People Act.

"...if anyone has an objection to the registration of 'Democratic Progressive Azad Party', they may send their objections, with reasons thereof to the Secretary (political party)" of the EC within 30 days of the publication of the

The notice was put on the EC website on

Tuesday.

Once a party applies for registration, the political party division of EC scrutinises the documents and asks it to publish a notice in newspapers for people to know and file objections,

If there are objections with merit, the party office-bearers are asked to respond. Otherwise, the EC calls them for a personal hearing before granting registration to the party.

In September, the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister had floated the Democratic Azad Party after quitting the Congress. Later, he had decided to rename the party.

The political veteran is facing disquiet in his party after he had expelled several senior leaders recently.

#### **J&K Achieves**

each and every service provided to the citizens in digital mode for ease of living and eradication of corruption.

"He told them to usher the UT into an environment where its citizens would carry offices in their pockets and avail any services without having to physically visit any of the office," the spokesperson said.

Mehta, he said, maintained that the contactless administration not only ensures transparency and accountability but swiftness also. He said that the CS observed that the technology happens to be panacea for all the evils and J&K envisages to utilize the IT/ITes for optimum empowerment of its population as per the vision of LG administration.

In the meeting, the spokesperson said, it was given out that the number of online services provided by Planning Department shot to 411 in addition to 33 services integrated on the Rapid Assessment System (RAS).

"Moreover 195 services had already been integrated with the feedback system out of these 411 online services. It was said that some 103 more services are going to be made RAS complaint shortly," he added.

It is pertinent to mention here that the synchronization with auto-appeal for the services of few departments has generated encouraging results with 99% applications disposal within the stipulated time frame as per the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA). The system not only ensures timely delivery of services but penalizes those officers/officials found failing in doing so

The UT administration, the spokesperson said, is soon going to integrate all its online services with the auto-appeal so that all the services are provided to its citizens as per the

timelines specified in PSGA for these services for the benefit of one and all.

#### PM Modi's

shifted to JSS Hospital for treatment. As per the police, the injuries are said to be "minor" in nature.

The incident happened near Kadakola around 1.30 PM when their car, on the way to Bandipur, is said to have hit the road divider. Mysuru Superintendent of Police Seema

Latkar has visited the spot and the hospital, sources said. A doctor at the hospital said, "all were stable with minor injuries when they came, they were immediately attended and are out of danger without any major bleeding. X-rays and CT scans have been done...only the child has suffered a small fracture on left leg tibia, but it is not major and is being treated." Member of Parliament from Mysuru-Kodagu constituency Pratap Simha, who visited the hospital too. said the family that was on a private visit had sustained "minor" injuries, and the child has suffered a minor fracture, and is undergo-

Speaking to reporters he said, "Prahlad Modi has suffered a minor scratch on his face nothing other than that, there is nothing to worry, he is fine and talking. His son too has suffered minor injuries and is doing fine. His daughterin-law has suffered a minor cut on her eyebrow on one side, she is being treated. All are fine and conscious. The grandchild's bone below the left knee is fractured, but is stable." Prahlad Modi's other daughter was in another car and she is fine, Simha said, "for observation, they will be in the Hospital today. With the grace of goddess Chamundeshwari all are doing fine." According to Simha, the incident might have occurred as the driver is said to have felt a bit drowsy for a while.

A case has been registered in Mysuru South police station.

#### 2 Labourers

where doctors declared them dead. The victims have been identified as 45 years

old Zakir Ahmed of Poonch and 38-years old Talib Ahmed, a resident of Gool Gulabgarh

#### **Tanker Falls**

Mohammad, a resident of Hariparigam Tral. "A rescue operation was soon after launched at the site by J&K Police, Civil QRT Ramban, SDRF and Army at the site", the officials said.

## **Not Shocked, Says** Mehbooba On Pragya's 'Knives' Remarks



**Press Trust Of India** 

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday said she was "not shocked" at BJP MP Pragya Thakur's remark made at an event in Karnataka exhorting Hindus to keep at least kitchen knives "sharp" to respond to any attack.

Speaking at the Hindu Jagarana Vedike's South Region annual convention at Shivamogga in Karnataka on Sunday, the BJP MP from Bhopal told her audience to give a befitting reply to anyone who "infiltrates our house".

"Keep weapons in your homes, if nothing else, at least knives used to cut vegetables, sharp...Don't know what situation will arise when....Everyone has the right to self protection. If someone infiltrates our house and attacks us, giving a befitting reply is our right," she

Mehbooba Mufti said she was "not shocked that a BJP MP openly calls for genocide of muslims & exhorts her followers to sharpen their knives".

"In Kashmir, merely stating the obvious & truth invites UAPA but GOI will conveniently ignore her statements since this appeals to their mass base, Mehbooba said in a tweet.

## **Mock Drill For Covid Preparedness Conducted** Across J&K

**Observer News Service** 

JAMMU: Keeping pace with other parts of the country, healthcare institutions of Jammu and Kashmir Tuesday conducted mock drill regarding Covid preparedness to assess the key facilities and logistics requisite to deal with any emerging situation due to the pandemic.

Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department, Bhupinder Kumar, monitored and supervised the conduct of Mock Drill exercises conducted across the UT to check the functionality in respect of key facilities and logistics for CO-VID management in healthcare

After reviewing the status of activities carried out at different healthcare institutions and assessing the data uploaded on the national portal, Secretary expressed satisfaction over successful completion of mock drills carried out by the healthcare institutions and their preparedness for the COVID.

The exercise included checking of Oxygen General Plants installed at different locations, availability of machinery and equipments, availability of drugs, diagnostics and other COVID logistics. All the healthcare institutions were found to be in the state of preparedness to tackle any upsurge of COVID cases in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Head of the Departments and Chief Medical Officers of the all the districts were issued instructions to ensure that the equipments which were found non-functional should be got repaired immediately and all unavailable logistics are arranged and kept in sufficient stock.

## **Azad Joins Christmas Celebrations In Udhampur**



**Observer News Service** 

**JAMMU:** Democratic Azad Party Chief Ghulam Nabi Azad on Wednesday joined the Christian community to celebrate the Christmas in Udhampur. On the occasion, Mr Azad said that India's strength lies in its true diversity and it is reflected in colourful festivals across the country throughout the year. "In our country we celebrate festivals from all religions since we are diverse in nature. We respect all religions and our constitution gives freedom to all human beings to practice the religion of his or her choice," he said.

Azad said that extremism is the real danger to our secularism and we all citizens of country must hold together the secular values. He said no one should encourage extremism since India is a home to all religions.

"We all pray in our own ways but our secular values have kept us united as nation." he said.

On the occasion special prayers were arranged by the community led by Bishop Satoash Thomas, Bishop Ashish Matto, Bishop Sadiua and chairman Rajan Sabharwal.

People from all walks of life joined the function and prayed for the humanity in general and country in particular.

#### **Minor Dies As Vehicle Skids** Off The Road

**SRINAGAR:** A minor lost his life while two other family members were injured in a road accident in Zawoora area of Shopian district on Tuesday.

An official told the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that a vehicle skidded off the road and fell down into a deep gorge in Zawoora.

He said in the incident one child died on the spot, while two others were injured and they have been shifted to district hospital Shopian.

He identified the boy as Janu Shakeel son of Shakeel Ahmed of Shopian while the injured were identified as Gulshana Bano wife of Ab Rashid and Nusrat Jan

wife Riyaz Ahmed. Meanwhile, Police have taken cognizance of the incident.

#### **Govt Picks Dr** Angamuthu As **Member UTLAC**

**SRINAGAR:** Government on Tuesday ordered that Dr. M. Angamuthu (IAS), Chairman, APEDA, New Delhi shall also be the Member of the Union Territory Level Apex Committee for recommending a suitable policy regime for promotion of export oriented agricultural commodities from the Jammu & Kashmir

Apart from the terms of reference mentioned in government order on August 30 this year, the government, according to order, also set additional goals and targets for next 5 years for the Union Territory Level Apex Committee. They include increase agricultural exports from 190 Crores to 3000 Crores from J&K; diversify export base and increase high value and value added agricultural exports; promote "Brand JK" for its uniqueness and quality and promote novel Ethnic, Traditional, Organic and Non-Traditional agricultural products as well as enable and empower Farmers for Export

opportunities. (GNS)



A NOMAD CARRIES A SHEEP on his shoulders through the busy commercial hub of Lal Chowk on Tuesday.

## **Section 144 In Pattan Areas For 2 Days From Today**

'No Permission Granted To Programme By Shia Association At Kanterbugh To Prevent Imminent Danger To Life, Property'

**Observer News Service** 

**SRINAGAR:** The administration in North Kashmir's Baramulla district on Tuesday imposed restrictions under Section 144 in Pattan area in view of a religious gathering called by Jammu and Kashmir Shia As-

The prohibitory orders under Section 144, banning gathering of four or more people, was issued by the District Magistrate Baramulla on Tuesday to prevent any imminent danger to life and property.

"It has been reported that the venue of the programme, Imambarah Kanterbugh Gund Khawaja Qasim in Singhpora has always remained a bone of contention between the two rival groups and there is every apprehension that law and order situation may arise if the permission is granted in favour of one of the groups to conduct the schedule program," reads the order issued by DM.

It adds that the Superintendent of Police, Baramulla, while citing circumstances and assessment of ground situation, has recommended not to grant permission for the said programme.

"Now, in order to maintain the peace and tranquility and to prevent imminent danger to life and property, there shall remain section 144 CrPC enforced in the areas including Gund Khawaja Qasim and Kanterbugh of Tehsil Singhpora in Pattan," the order reads.

It added that no assembly or congregation (s) of four or more persons shall be allowed, no procession shall be allowed in the villages, no person, other than a member of Armed Forces/Police/Magistrate a public servant duly authorized or on duty, shall carry firearms or an article capable of being used as a weapon of offence and no person (s) shall use loudspeaker (s) or any amplifying sound for making a speech or any announcement for any other purpose whether a moving vehicles (s)or otherwise except with prior permission of competent authority.

The restrictions shall remain in force from 7:00 PM on 27-12-2022 to 7:00 AM on 29-12-2022, the order added

## **Tarigami Calls For United Struggle For Restoration Of Democratic Rights In J&K**

**Press Trust Of India** 

JAMMU: Senior CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami on Tuesday said all non-BJP parties should Election Commission to hold assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir early.

"One more year is drawing to close but the assembly elections are nowhere in sight and the people of Jammu and Kashmir are being deprived of a popular government which is their elementary constitutional right," Tarigami, who is also convener and spokesperson of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), told PTI here.



He expressed surprise over the "studied silence" of the Election Commission on the polls. He regretted that the opposition parties have forgotten the people of this part of the country who are "facing an unabated onslaught" on their rights since the abrogation of

Article 370 and division of the

erstwhile state into two Union

territories in August 2019.

were completed but there is still uncertainty over the timing of the assembly elec-There are reports about preponement of panchayat elections which cannot be a substitute to the Legislative Assembly," he said and asked what happened to the promise of restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir? He said the BJP government

"The delimitation process

and revision of electoral rolls

is not confident of the people's mandate and is using delaying tactics and thrusting changes without the consent of the people in various laws through the lieutenant governor-led administration.

## CBC's 3 Day Multimedia **Exhibition Inaugurated** In Udhampur

**Observer News Service** 

RAMNAGAR: District Development Council, Chairman Udhampur, Lal Chand Tuesday inaugurated a 3 day 'Multimedia Exhibition' on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav & Centrally Sponsored Schemes organized by the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Regional Office, Jammu, in Ramnagar.

The multimedia exhibition mounted at Town Hall, Ramnagar is part of various outreach activities being organized by CBC, Jammu in UTs of J&K and Ladakh.

The 3-day long exhibition showcases the freedom struggle of India through a series of photo exhibits as well as audiovisual media. Apart from this, special section in the exhibition has been dedicated to 8 Years of Seva, Sushasan, Garib Kalyan wherein the achievements of the government across various sectors in the last 8 years including in Jammu & Kashmir, have been highlighted. Separate corner for Azadi Quest-recently launched online educational video games and Swaraj - a 75 episodic mega serial portraying stories of unsung heroes of India's freedom struggle is also part of the exhibition display.

The aim of the multimedia exhibition is to generate awareness among the masses regarding the various initiatives & welfare programmes of Government of India. It is an effort to familiarize people with the objectives and vision behind Amrit

be a part of the campaign.
In his address DDC Chairman, Udhampur appreciated the efforts of the CBC, Jammu in organizing the multimedia exhibition and urged people to visit the exhibition. He also exhorted youth especially students to visit the dedicated corners for Azadi Quest and Swaraj and download the video game for an insight into the freedom struggle of India.

Lal also emphasized that all voters have the responsibility to attend the Gram Saba and formulate the plans for the development at Panchayat level.

Joint Director, CBC, Jammu, Ghulam Abass while welcoming the guests gave a detailed overview of the functioning, structure and working of CBC, in the twin UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. He also briefed the audience about various outreach activities that will be organized during the event.

Abass said that these programmes are being organized so that people get benefits of various public welfare schemes of the government.

Expert lectures from the representatives of Agriculture, Horticulture, Sheep Husbandry, SBI and Handloom on the implementation of the Central Sponsored Schemes of concerned departments were conducted during the inaugural day.

Dr. Udhey Bhanu, Principal Govt. Degree College Ramnagar delivered address on the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. He lauded the role of the CBC in generating awareness regarding welfare schemes and programmes Mahotsav and how people can of the government of India.

## **DC Kulgam Reviews R-Day Celebration Arrangements**



**Observer News Service** 

KULGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat on Tuesday reviewed the arrangements for the celebrations of Republic Day function 2023 during a schoolchildren. meeting of officers held here at the mini-secretariat, here.

The DC on the occasion instructed the officers to put in place elaborate arrangements for smooth conduct of this National function.

The meeting held threadbare discussions on arrangements to be put in place at the venue including security, seating, car parking, transportation and illumination of buildings, refreshments besides accommo-

dation for the participants. It was decided that the main function will be held at District Police Lines where the National Flag will be unfurled by the chief guest followed by the parade comprising contingents of JKP, CRPF, NCC, police band, women contingent, NCC and The DC issued strict instruc-

tions to all concerned departments to make advance arrangements for smooth conduct of Republic Day celebration.

The concerned departments were asked to make heating arrangements keeping in view the prevailing cold weather conditions, for trouble-free rehearsals and final day celebration.

The DC directed the concerned officers and agencies to maintain close coordination while making arrangements for the national function.

## Skilling Of Youth Key To Deal With Unemployment: Chief Secy

Asks Youth To Come Forward To Seek Skills For Self Employment To Earn Their Livelihood

**Observer News Service** 

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta Tuesday remarked that the skilling of youth in relevant trades is the key to tide over the problem of unemployment in the UT. Mehta was speaking in a

and means of skilling and capacity building of youth with the stakeholders. The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department (SDD); Commissioner Secretary, RDD;

meeting to discuss the ways

Director IIM, Jammu; Deputy Commissioners; MD, NRLM; Director, SDD; representatives from Banks and other concerned officers. On the occasion, Dr Mehta

impressed upon the officers to map skill gap in districts as per employment potential and expected areas of investment. He asked them to impart skills to every youth as par aptitude and willingness. He called for imparting skills that are relevant in the market and help the person in gainful employment.

The Chief Secretary issued instructions for making a robust mechanism to skill those youth identified during the recently held



outreach programmes of 'Back to Village' and 'My Town My Pride'. He stressed on providing right skills to these youth identified from Panchayats and Local Bodies so that they happen to be an inspiration for others. He reiterated that investments worth around Rs 60000 crores are coming to UT in next few years under Single Window System and it would open doors for thousands of youth to gain employment.

Dr Mehta further maintained that the LG administration has evolved a multi-pronged strategy to provide employment to the youth of J&K. He stressed on the need to skill every youngster in the UT so that gainful self employment avenues become a reality and youth become successful entrepreneurs with guidance and support from the

government. He also elucidated that it is also the endeavour of the government to upskill youth in high value skills so that they are able to seize employment in any part of the globe.

He urged the educated youth to come forward for gaining rightful skills in the best of the skill institutes for earning their livelihood in a respectable manner. He observed that J&K has dozens of skill institutes including those of National repute like IIT, IIM, NIT and more than half a dozen Universities. He told them to utilize this opportunity for making themselves worthy enough to earn jobs of their choice. He made out that for the people with the right skill sets, there is no dearth of opportunities and their earnings.

The Principal Secretary, SDD.

Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon gave a detailed presentation on the strategy formulated by his department for skilling of youth. He threw light on various aspects and avenues where skilling of youth could fetch them better returns. He also set out the investment trends to be witnessed in the next 5 years and the scope of employment in different sectors in both the divisions of J&K.

Dr Samoon also gave insights about the trainings to be started by the department to upskill the youth identified in the recently concluded Back to Village-4 programme. He asked the Deputy Commissioners to facilitate these youth to get skilled in different trades in the trainings to be started in the first week of January next year.

It was divulged that hundreds of MoUs have been signed till date for establishing industrial units in the UT. It was given out that more than 3.37 lakh skilled and semi-skilled workers are estimated to be required in J&K in the sectors of Trade, Tourism & Hospitality, Education & Health, Real estate/Infrastructure, Manufacturing, Food processing, Construction and ITes in the future.

It was further revealed that more than 85000 students are targeted by different government departments and skill imparting agencies in the first phase. It includes training of around 11696 students by SDD, 11371 by RDD, 10840 by IT Department, 6834 by Mission Youth, 5544 by Handloom, 5539 by Social Welfare, 4811 by Higher Education, 4284 by Health, 4226 by Tourism, 4073 by KVIB, 3012 by EDI, 2920 by Agriculture, 2177 by Home, 2115 by Transport, 2039 by Handicrafts, 1846 by Tribal Affairs, 1040 by FCS&CA, 869 by SKUAST, and 584 by I&C Departments.

It was said that the SDD will act as the central agency for maintaining MIS, act as link between departments and agencies like NIESEBUD, and SSCs for syllabus, study material, identification of certified trainers, identification of infrastructure, registration of students on the portal, assessment, certification and post certification assistance. Further SDD will allocate a pool of experts within the Department who will assist the government to achieve the vision & mission of imparting quality training to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir

## **J&K Score 191 Against** Vidarbha In Ranji Trophy

**Observer News Service** 

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu & Kash- (54) were the top scorers for J&K, mir cricket team scored a paltry as they limped to 191 in 60 overs. 191 against Vidarbha in the ongoing Ranji Trophy on Tuesday at VCA Stadium in Nagpur. Vidarbha were 58/2 at stumps.

J&K's first innings total was reflective of their dismal former in the competition, as they came into the game on the back of two suc- Abid Mushtaq took 1 wicket each. cessive defeats. After winning the toss and deciding to bat first, J&K lost opening batter and captain Shubham Khajuria on the very come of the match.

first ball of the match. Musaf Aijaz 41 (95) and Suryansh Raina 30 Vidarbha's Yash Thakur

claimed 4 wickets, while Nachiket Bhute and Aditya Sarwate took 3 wickets each. In reply, Vidarbha had lost both its openers

by the end of Day 1's play. Pacer Umar Nazir and spinner J&K are still in the game, and today's early morning spell

could well determine the out-

## 4 Bandipora Players Selected For National Sqay C'ship



**Observer News Service** 

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed on Tuesday interacted with the players selected for National Sqay Championship.

held at Indoor Stadium Bhagwati Nagar Jammu from 30th December 2022 to 2nd January 2023.

While interacting with the players, Dr. Owais extended best wishes to them and said District Administration is committed to develop Four players have been selected sports infrastructure in the district for Junior and Senior National Sqay and support the youth who come championship scheduled to be forward to show their talent.

### **SANTOSH TROPHY: Ladakh Lose 2-3 To Karnataka**

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: Ladakh senior men's football team put in another spirited display in the ongoing 76th Santosh Trophy as the first timers lost 2-3 against Karnataka on Tuesday. The match was played at Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi.

Mohmad Ilyas gave Ladakh a dream start by scoring the December 29.

opener in the 9th minute. However, Karnataka equalised in

the 27th minute and then took the lead in the 54th minute, before adding another in the 80th minute of the match to go 3-1 up. Stanzin Gilik pegged one back for the Ladakh side in the dying mo-

ments of the match, but there wasn't enough time on the clock. Ladakh next play Gujarat on

## **New Zealand Reach 165-0** In Reply To Pakistan's 438



KARACHI: New Zealand's open- held by John F Reid. ing pair of left-handed batters responded with a solid 165-0 in tack in the absence of injured the first cricket test on Tuesday after Agha Salman had scored his first Test century and led Pakistan to 438.

Latham batted confidently to 41-0 by tea before adding 124 against the challenging spin of more runs in the final session. Abrar Ahmed on a dry wicket to remain unbeaten on 82 and 78, second day. New Zealand trails

test runs in 19 innings, taking the national record previously

Pakistan's weakened pace at-Shaheen Afridi, Haris Rauf and Naseem Shah, didn't offer a challenge to Conway and Latham with the new ball as Devon Conway and Tom both batters took New Zealand

## **Government Gives Official Recognition To Esports**

**Press Trust of India** 

**NEW DELHI:** The Government of India on Tuesday gave Esports a major boost by integrating it with mainline sports disciplines in the country.

The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, in exercise of the powers "conferred by clause (3) of article 77 of the Constitution" amended the rules governing Esports and asked the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the Sports Ministry to include "e-Sports as part of multi-sports events".

There had been a growing demand for Esports to be included in the curriculum of multi-discipline events after it was included in the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games as a demonstration sport, meaning medcounted in the official overall medals tally.

notification, issued on Decem- next year.



ber 23, that IT Ministry will be the nodal agency for online gaming-related matters and the sports ministry will have to include it in its curriculum, it has come as shot in the arm for Esports enthusiasts.

The International Olympic Association (IOC) too is going als won in the sport were not big on popularising e-Sport with Singapore being confirmed to host the inaugural But following the President's Olympic Esports Week in June

This marks the next big step in supporting the development and integration of virtual sports with the Olympic movement and engaging further with competitive gamers.

The Indian DOTA 2 team had clinched bronze at the first Commonwealth Esports Championship held in Birmingham in August defeating New Zealand.

The sport will make its debut at the Asian Games to be held in Hangzhou, China next year.

## **Iranian Chess Player Competes** Without Hijab At Int'l Tournament



**Press Trust of India** 

part in an international tournament without a hijab, according to media reports, the latest of several Iranian sportswomen to appear at competitions without one since antigovernment protests began.

Iran has been swept by demoncal leadership since mid-September Iran's strict dress codes.

when 22-year-old Iranian Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini died in the n Iranian chess player has taken custody of morality police who detained her for "inappropriate attire".

Iranian news outlets Khabarvarzeshi and Etemad, in reports on Monday, said Sara Khadem had competed at the FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships in Almaty, Kazakhstan, without the strations against the country's cleri- hijab, a headscarf mandatory under

## **David Warner Scores** A Double Ton In 100th Test

his critics and heatwave conditions with a spectacular return to form, scoring a memorable (200 retired hurt) shared an en-200 in his 100th test. Leading tertaining third-wicket partnerthe three-match series one-nil, ship of 239 runs, as Australia

position, two of the home side's pace bowlers, Mitchell Starc **MELBOURNE:** Facing pressure and first-innings hero Cameron to retain his place in Austra- Green, are nursing finger injulia's team, David Warner defied ries ahead of South Africa's second innings.

Steve Smith (85) and Warner



Australia had resumed at Mel- took control of the match in stibourne Cricket Ground on Tues- fling conditions. Smith's exit at day at 45-1 in sunny conditions 314-3 was followed by Warner's in reply to South Africa's lacklustre first-innings total of 189.

By stumps, Australia was 386-3, an overall lead of 197, with Alex Carey not out on nine and Travis Head unbeaten on 48. While Australia is in a strong

dramatic departure 15 runs later, retired hurt due to cramp, with the crowd of 42,614 on their feet.

England's Joe Root is the only other player in test history to score a double century in his





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