

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

Jammu: 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 Civil 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](#)

6 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

Observer News Service

Srinagar: All India Congress Committee (AICC) General Secretary (Org) and Member of Parliament, K.C.Venugopal Tuesday said that all the like-minded people including former chief ministers of erstwhile J&K State are joining the Bharat Jodo Yatra in the Union Territory. "It is a happiest moment for us that Dr Farooq Abdullah, his son Omar Abdullah,

Mehbooba Mufti, Muhammad Yousuf Tarigami among others are joining the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir," Venugopal said while addressing a news conference here at Srinagar. He said that the people of J&K are eagerly waiting for the yatra, saying that the entire country is looking for J&K BJO yatra. He added that every Congress worker will be in the field to make the programme | [More on P10](#)

Azad To Rename His Party

Press Trust Of India

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

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 criticised 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 and Yogesh Pandita | [More on P10](#)

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

Before Due Date



*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



Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs

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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](#)

SHORT TAKES

PM Modi's Brother Hurt In Accident

Press Trust Of India

P 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

T 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 well in the Lasjan area. They were shifted to SMHS Hospital | [More on P10](#)

Tanker Falls Into Gorge, Driver Dead

A 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](#)

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

Press Trust Of India

The 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 desirable.

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-

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 flavours.

Some volatile organic compounds with flavour can

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 effects.

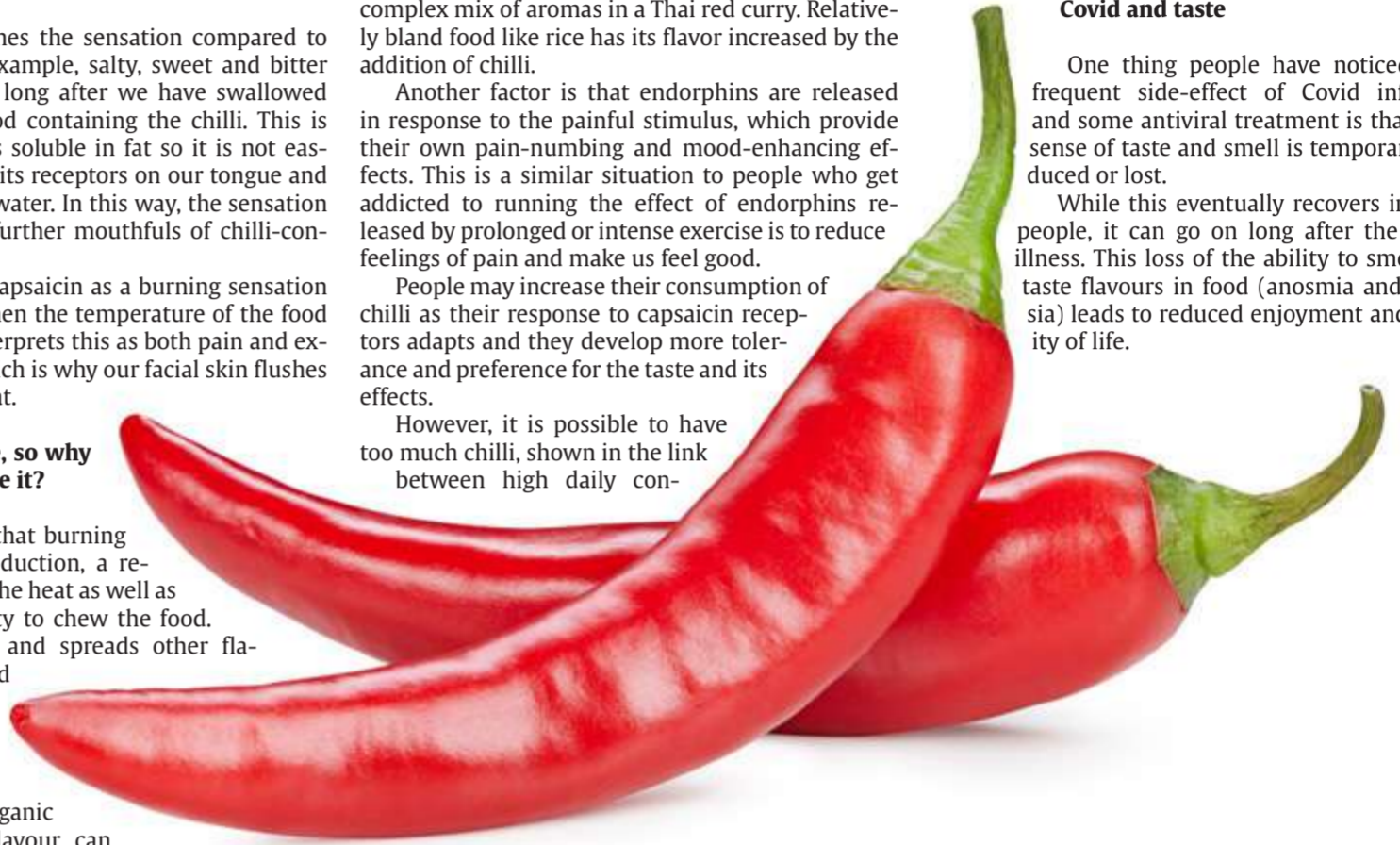
However, it is possible to have too much chilli, shown in the link between high daily con-

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 quality of life.



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/CDK/319/671-73 dated: 21/05/2022 & Final call issued vide No: SC/CDK/319/5986-94 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 Division Kashmir
J&K Sports Council

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Department Mechanical Irrigation Division Anantnag, H/Q Awantipora.

CORRIGENDIUM

SUBJECT: PROVIDING AND INSTALLATION OF HORIZONTAL PUMPING UNITS 6 CUSEC CAPACITY STANDBY UNIT WITH ALLIED ELECTRO MECHANICAL WORKS AT KHUDDORA PHASE II LIFT IRRIGATION SCHEME
REFERANCE: E NIT NO 49 OF 2022-23 DATED: 06.12.2022

Please read

Providing supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 1250 Amp capacity main L.T. panel. The control panel comprise of following details and specifications:
SPECIFICATIONS:
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 the 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 is specification. The feeders shall be derived as under:

1. INCOMING FEEDER:-
The incoming feeder consists of:-
a).04 No's air insulated aluminum Bus Bars of adequate strength and capacity rated at 1000 Amps phase and 100 Amp neutral having a fault with standing capacity not less than 53 MVA at 500 volts.
b).01 TPN Air Circuit Breaker, manually operated draw out type 1250 Amp capacity having no fault capacity of not less than 53 MVA at 500 volts provided with over load protection relay system.
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.
f).01 No. 3 way OFF/ON selector switch for Ammeter.
g).01 No. 0-500 volt, 96mm square dial flush pattern industrial type, volt meter with selector switch of Rishab make.
The incoming feeder also serve as the outgoing feeder for the one No. pumping unit at site for which the air insulated bus bars of adequate strength / capacity including other electrical accessories, volt meter, ammeter, has been installed inside the panel for the outgoing circuit
2. ONE AUXILIARY FEEDER:-
a).03 No's air insulated Bus Bars rated at 200 Amp capacity.
b).01 No. MCCB, 200 Amp, capacity of L&T make with thermal release setting range of 0-200 Amp having an integral magnetic thermal release for over load protection and shall also be provided with under load release to work on 220 volts.
c).03 No's 220 volts neon type phase indication lamps
d).01 No. 200 Amp capacity 96mm square dial flush pattern industrial type of L&T make ammeter.
e). 03 No's 200/5A-10 volt suitable current transformer coils.
f).01 No. 3 way OFF/ON ammeter selector switch.

Instead of

Providing supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 1000 Amp capacity main L.T. panel. The control panel comprise of following details and specifications:
SPECIFICATIONS:
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 the 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 is specification. The feeders shall be derived as under:

1. INCOMING FEEDER:-
The incoming feeder consists of:-
a).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 TPN 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 No'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.
e).03 No's 1000/5A-10 volt suitable current transformer coils.
f).01 No. 3 way OFF/ON selector switch for Ammeter.
g).01 No. 0-500 volt, 96mm square dial flush pattern industrial type, volt meter with selector switch of Rishab make.
The incoming feeder also serve as the outgoing feeder for the one No. pumping unit at site for which the air insulated bus bars of adequate strength / capacity including other electrical accessories, volt meter, ammeter, has been installed inside the panel for the outgoing circuit
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c).03 No's 220 volts neon type phase indication lamps
d).01 No. 200 Amp capacity 96mm square dial flush pattern industrial type of L&T make ammeter.
e). 03 No's 200/5A-10 volt suitable current transformer coils.
f).01 No. 3 way OFF/ON ammeter selector switch.

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. Irr. Div., Anantnag
H.Q. Awantipora

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER KPDCL DIVISION GANDEBAL

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

-sd-
Executive Engineer
ED-5th Ganderbal

از نیابت پاپہاں
عنوان: درخواست منجانب داؤد احمد شیر گوری ولد غلام حسن شیر گوری ساکنہ
پاپہاں تحصیل پٹن، بمراڈا جرائی OBC سرٹیفکیٹ
اشتہار بمراڈا گاہی ہر خاص و عام
معاملہ عنوان الصدر ساءل کے نسبت درخواست بغرض OBC سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی
ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے رپورٹ پٹواری کے مطابق سائل واقعی پاپہاں پٹن
میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور سائل نے سوشل کاسٹ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر نمبر
TP/m/2021-22/58 مورخہ 16-08-2021 تحصیل پٹن سے
حاصل کی ہے۔ اب سائل OBC بزمہ شیر گوری حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے
اس حوالے سے گزشتہ شخص یا اشخاص کو مزکورہ سرٹیفکیٹ اجرا کرنے میں کوئی عذریا
اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض دفتر مزادہ میں پیش کریں۔ معیاد
گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
نائب تحصیلدار fko

ASF ENTERPRISES
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Munir Manzil Regal Chowk Srinagar [J&K],
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Government order Suppliers.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
KPDCL DIVISION GANDEBAL**
Phone/Fax no: 0194-2416236 E-mail: edgbl123@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

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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

-sd-
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 and police.

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

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 socio-economic 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 upgradations 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, paper-less, 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 end-to-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-

du 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 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 of 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 Medicine 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

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 Khatidarwaza.

During the drive, one concrete 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.

TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
PDD: 0194-2450213
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
CAPD: 18001807011
SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

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RAILWAYS
SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
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BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
BIJBERA: 01932-228243
PAMPORE: 01933-294132
PATTAN: 01954-293507
QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

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

HIJRI CALENDAR 04 Jumad al-Sani 1444	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	6:06
ZUHR	12:32	
ASR	3:51	
Magrib	5:33	
ISHA	6:58	

This Day In History

- 1308 - The reign of Emperor Hanazono, Emperor of Japan, begins
- 1612 - First observation of Neptune - Galileo observes and records a "fixed star" without realizing it is a planet
- 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 killed
- 1832 - John C. Calhoun becomes 1st VP to resign (differences with President Jackson)
- 1877 - John Stevens, applies for a patent for his flour rolling mill.
- 1904 - 1st daily wireless weather forecasts published (London).
- 1908 - Earthquake strikes Messina, Italy, killing nearly 80,000.
- 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

SSRINAGAR- 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 personnel 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 wasp 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)

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KASHMIR OBSERVER

Wednesday | 28-12-2022

Pandits' Dilemma

Kashmiri 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.

Sinha's opinion was echoed by Ghulam Nabi Azad, the leader of Democratic Azad Party, who sought posting of Pandit employees to 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 OPINION

Why Family ID?

Fadheelah Riyaz

Jammu 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.

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. Uttar 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-Abdollahian 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 readiness to continue dialogue with Iran.

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 Houthis 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-

ed the fifth round of Saudi-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

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.

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 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

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-

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.asadmirza.in



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Be Sensitive Towards Those Who Died By Suicide

KASHMIR 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 lens of mental health teachings to our society?

We 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
Taniasa@rediffmail



SINCERITY

Soul and Spirit of a Relationship

Iffat Nazir

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. 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

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

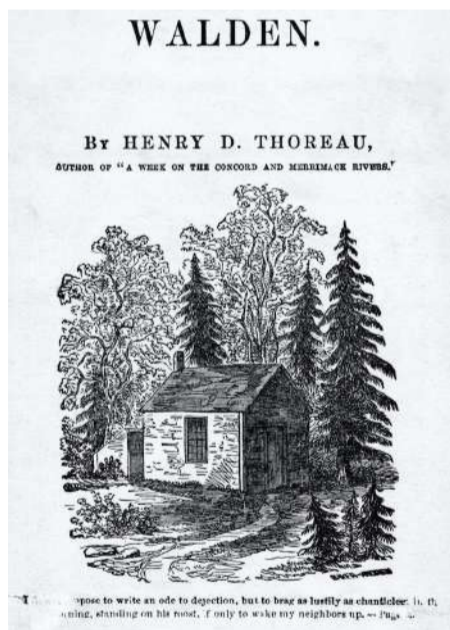
false nature will save a person only in the short term, and will hurt him/her in the long run. It is better to behave in a harsh manner, rather than to arouse false hopes with unlimited interpretations. In today's world, sincerity is very costly. It is extremely rare to find a truly honest person with 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

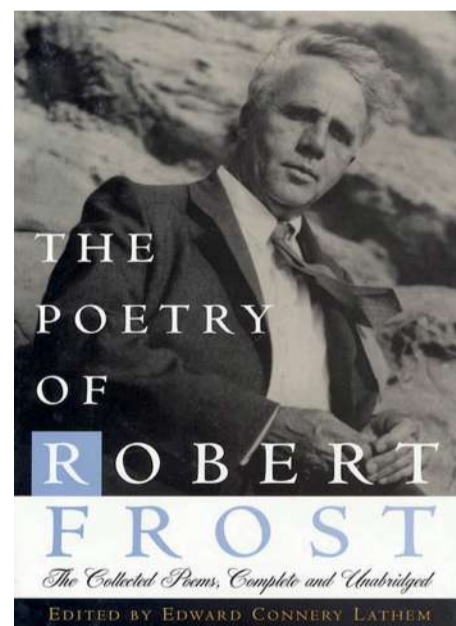
in an age where people are pursuing self-interests at the expense of others. Believe me the world could end with hurting people and there are already a lot of people who are suffering from deep wounds inflicted by those close to them. Let's bring true sincerity in all our relations to make yourself and 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. Iffat Nazir is a BA 6th Semester Student at Govt. Degree College Sogam (Lolab), Kupreara with an interest in Oratory and Poetry. Feedback at ifatnazir627@gmail.com

5 Wintry Books To Read During Long Nights

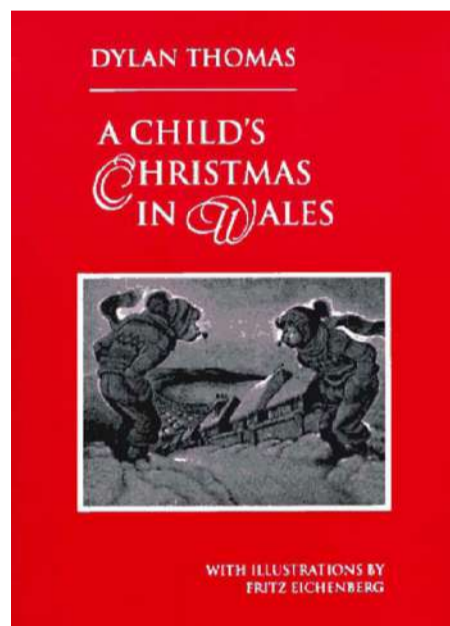


Liz Rosenberg

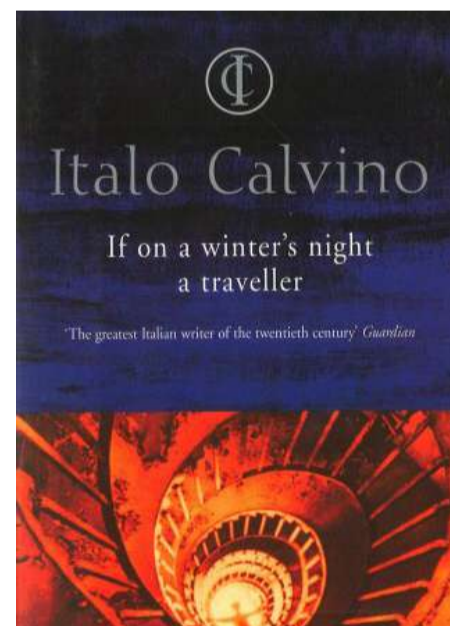
Winter solstice brings the shortest day and longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. It's a great night to spend reading. I've taught English and creative writing in snowy Binghamton, New York, for more than 40 years – reading, writing, reviewing and judging books all the while – so it's 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-



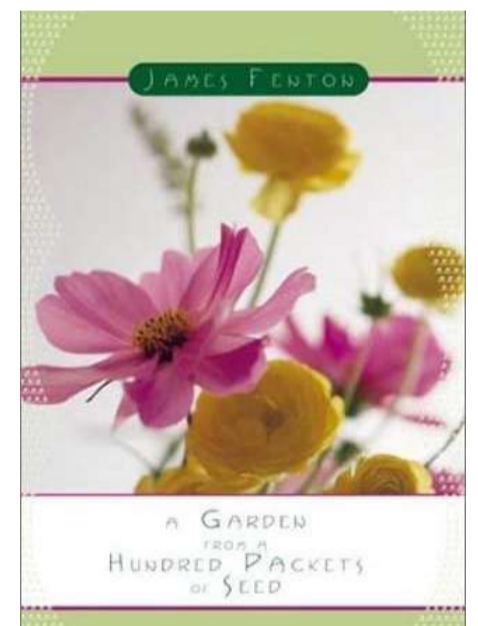
ports doing, but we can read about him doing it while staying warm. Thoreau noticed frozen bubbles, stacked "like a string of beads" or "silvery coins poured from a bag." He catalogs – how he loves cataloging! – the colors of the pond, from "transparent" to dark green to "opaque and whitish or gray." 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" (1952)** 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 snow-crust – 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 dreaming. 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 bare-boned 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 of snow." Besides, as December ends, we turn the corner toward light. By arrangements with The Conversation

J&K Score 191 Against Vidarbha In Ranji Trophy

Observer News Service

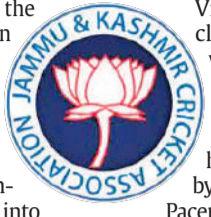
SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir cricket team scored a paltry 191 against Vidarbha in the ongoing Ranji Trophy on Tuesday at VCA Stadium in Nagpur. Vidarbha were 58/2 at stumps.

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 successive defeats. After winning the toss and deciding to bat first, J&K lost opening batter and captain Shubham Khajuria on the very

first ball of the match. Musaf Ijaz 41 (95) and Suryansh Raina 30 (54) were the top scorers for J&K, as they limped to 191 in 60 overs.

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 Abid Mushtaq took 1 wicket each. J&K are still in the game, and today's early morning spell could well determine the outcome of the match.



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.

Four players have been selected for Junior and Senior National Sqay championship scheduled to be

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 sports infrastructure in the district and support the youth who come 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.

Mohammad Ilyas gave Ladakh a dream start by scoring the

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 moments of the match, but there wasn't enough time on the clock.

Ladakh next play Gujarat on December 29.



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



Agencies

KARACHI: New Zealand's opening pair of left-handed batters responded with a solid 165-0 in the first cricket test on Tuesday after Agha Salman had scored his first Test century and led Pakistan to 438.

Devon Conway and Tom Latham batted confidently against the challenging spin of Abrar Ahmed on a dry wicket to remain unbeaten on 82 and 78, respectively, at stumps on the second day. New Zealand trails by 273 in its first test tour to Pakistan since 2002.

Conway also completed 1,000

test runs in 19 innings, taking the national record previously held by John F Reid.

Pakistan's weakened pace attack in the absence of injured Shaheen Afridi, Haris Rauf and Naseem Shah, didn't offer a challenge to Conway and Latham with the new ball as both batters took New Zealand to 41-0 by tea before adding 124 more runs in the final session.

Earlier, the 29-year-old ill Salman batted resolutely in the company of tailenders to score 103 with 17 fours. He was the last batter to be dismissed when Pakistan was bowled out an hour after lunch. (AP)

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 medals won in the sport were not counted in the official overall medals tally.

But following the President's notification, issued on December 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 big on popularising e-Sport with Singapore being confirmed to host the inaugural Olympic Esports Week in June next year.



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.

when 22-year-old Iranian Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini died in the 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 hijab, a headscarf mandatory under Iran's strict dress codes.

Iranian Chess Player Competes Without Hijab At Int'l Tournament



Press Trust of India

An Iranian chess player has taken 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 anti-government protests began.

Iran has been swept by demonstrations against the country's clerical leadership since mid-September

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

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David Warner Scores A Double Ton In 100th Test

Press Trust of India

MELBOURNE: Facing pressure to retain his place in Australia's team, David Warner defied his critics and heatwave conditions with a spectacular return to form, scoring a memorable 200 in his 100th test. Leading the three-match series one-nil,

position, two of the home side's pace bowlers, Mitchell Starc and first-innings hero Cameron Green, are nursing finger injuries ahead of South Africa's second innings.

Steve Smith (85) and Warner (200 retired hurt) shared an entertaining third-wicket partnership of 239 runs, as Australia



Australia had resumed at Melbourne Cricket Ground on Tuesday at 45-1 in sunny conditions 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

took control of the match in stifling conditions. Smith's exit at 314-3 was followed by Warner's 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 100th test.

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