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## Seasons First Snowfall Cuts Off Kashmir From Outside World Highways Blocked, All Flights Cancelled; Dry Weather Predicted For Next 4 Days

#### **Auqib Javeed**

▼ashmir Valley on Friday was cut-off from the rest of the world due to heavy snowfall leading to the closure of strategic Srinagar- Jammu highway, besides grounding all the flights at the Srinagar International Airport.

While the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir experienced moderate to heavy

snowfall, many areas in the plains including Srinagar received light to moderate snowfall, officials said.

The fresh snowfall started early in the morning and continued till the last reports came in, they said.

The officials said the famous ski-resort of Gulmarg recorded about eight inches of snowfall, followed by 14 inches in Pahalgam and about 2.5-3 feet in



#### Avalanche Warning **Issued In 10 Districts**

ammu and Kashmir State Disaster Management Authority on Friday issued avalanche warning in several districts of Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of heavy snowfall since morning. According to a | More on P6

Sonamarg (in the last 24 hours). Many other areas in the higher reaches experienced very heavy snowfall, they added. The plains in Jammu were

lashed by rain. The inclement weather resulted in the closure of the Srinagar-Jammu national highway -- the only all-weather road connecting the Valley with

the rest of the country, the officials said. More on P6

## **'Impenetrable' Security Grid Across Jammu In 3 Months: HM**

Says NIA, Police To Jointly Probe Rajouri Attack; Vows Severe Punishment To Culprits

#### **Observer News Service**

New Delhi: Amid a sudden spurt in militant activities in the winter capital, the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah said on Friday that all security agencies are fighting a decisive battle against terrorism and within three months the security grid in every area of Jammu would be made impenetrable by further strengthening it.

Shah made these remarks while addressing a news conference after chairing a high-level review meeting in Jammu on the overall security situation in the Union Territory. The Home Minister was on a day-long visit to the winter capital to meet the families of the six civilians killed in twin attacks in Rajouri earlier this month. J&K Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, Union Home



WITH FULL EMPATHY, THE AFFECTED FAMILIES **WOULD BE GIVEN BENEFITS** through various schemes of the government, along with this all possible help will be provided by the LG with relief measures under his authority."

Secretary, Chief Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir. Financial Commissioner (ACS) Home, DGP, Jammu and Kashmir, Commander,

Northern Command, Army and Intelligence, and other senior officers of BSF and CRPF among others attended the meeting.

"My desire was to share the grief of victims' families of the Rajouri terror attacks, but I could not go there due to bad weather, More on P6

#### **VDG Opens Fire** After Noticina **Suspects** In Rajouri

village defence guard (VDG) opened fire after allegedly noticing a suspicious movement A in a village in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district Thursday night, sources said. Village defence guards (VDGs) have been activated and given weapons in the Jammu region, especially in border district of Rajouri, after twin terror attacks in Dhangri village that left seven people dead. A VDG, Yashpal, fired a few rounds in the air from his gun after two suspicious persons came to his house in Androla village at around 8.30 pm, the sources said. More on F

## **Tricolor In Every Street Of** Kashmir After 2019: Thakur

#### **Observer News Service**

New Delhi: Describing the Modi government's policies on terrorism as decisive, the Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Anurag Thakur said on Friday that since the abrogation of Article-370, tricolor is hoisted in every street of Kashmir.

Thakur, who is also Union Minister for Youth and Sports, made these remarks in the "Youth Dialogue, India @ 2047 Program" organized at Agartala, Tripura on Friday, an official spokesperson said.

The Union Minister said that in the last eight years, the government took clear action by adopting a decisive policy against terrorism. He said that separatism has also been defeated.

There has been a reduction of 89% in insurgency in the North East. Today AFSPA has been withdrawn from most



of the areas. Record peace agreements have been made," Thakur said.

"Similarly, Article 370 was abolished in Jammu and Kashmir where at one time terrorists did not allow the tricolor to be hoisted. Today the tricolor is hoisted in every street of Kashmir. The dream of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat is coming true now," he added.

Giving information about the Youth-20 being organized **More on P6** 

#### LG, Ex- CMs **Condole Sharad Yadav's Demise**

#### Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and other leaders of the Union Territory on Friday paid tributes to late socialist leader Sharad Yadav, saying he did not compromise with his values of secularism and diversity and always stood with the weakest.

The 75-year-old Yadav died on Thursday at a private hospital in Gurugram. He is survived by his wife, daughter and son.

The veteran socialist leader had been suffering from kidneyrelated issues for a long time and regularly underwent dialysis.

The LG said he was deeply saddened at the demise of Yadav.

"His long public career is an inspiring example of selfless service to the people. Condolences to his family and admirers. Om Shanti", Sinha tweeted.

In a tweet, PDP presi-dent Mehbooba Mufti said, "Saddened by the sudden demise of Sharad Yadav ji. He belonged to a generation of politicians who fought tooth & nail for the idea of India & didn't compromise on his values of secularism & diversity. Condolences to the family especially his wife Rekha ji & daughter Subhashini."

National Conference leaders Omar Abdullah and his father, Farooq Abdullah also condoled Yadav's death.

"I join my father & my colleagues in sending our condolences to the family of Sh #SharadYadav ji. More on P6



## **Double Whammy For Kulgam Family House Goes Up In Flames Hours After Man's Death**

#### Agencies

Kulgam: Back to back tragedies struck a family in south Kashmir's Kulgam district after an elderly man died on Friday morning while his house went up in flames hours later. Tehsildar Damhal Hanjipora,

Rouf Ahmad Lone said that an elderly man (house owner) died early morning on Friday after a few hours his house caught fire.

The deceased has been identified as Mohammad Ashraf Khatana son of Ali Mohd Khatan, a resident of Gujjar Basti Avil Manzgam.

Rouf said immediate relief was given to the family and he

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himself visited the spot along with other officials.

"As per SDRF norms we will forward the case within the shortest period of time so that family get compensation", he said.

He said locals played an important role in the dousing of flames and controlling fire, he said.

Asked about the cause of the fire, he said it happened probably due to a short circuit.

Meanwhile, Kulgam police in a tweet said: "Kulgam police received an information that fire broken out in the residential house at Manzgam, it was tough to reach there due to snowfall, SHO Manzgam under the close supervision of More on P6

#### **Electric Shocks Killed 35 People In** Last Two Years



#### Agencies

Srinagar: At least 35 people including ten civilians have lost their lives due to electrocution in the Valley in the last two years, an official document reveals.

"A total of 18 persons including four regular employees, five civilians and nine Permanent Daily Labourer (PDL), Temporary Daily Labourer (TDL), Casual Labourers and Daily Rated Workers have lost their lives in 2021 across Kashmir due to electrocution." the document revealed. It said that three More on P6

#### - Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

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6 Men Charged In **Drone Dropping Case** 

he National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a chargesheet against six accused persons in a case related to drone recovery and other ammunition in Kathua district. According a statement, NIA filed the chargesheet in NIA Special Court, Jammu in case pertaining to interception of drone (Hexacopter), recovery of drone (Hexacopter) and rounds of UBGL and Magnetic Bombs from near Dhalli area under of Kathua. The statement reads the case was initially registered as FIR No. 114/2022 dated 29.05.2022 at PS Raibagh, Kathua and re-registered by NIA on 30.07.2022. "Investigations revealed that on directions of accused, More on P6

#### **Child Injured In Accidental Fire Dies**

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minor boy, who was injured in accidental firing in Surankote area of Poonch district on Thursday, died at the Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu on Friday. Nine-year-old Afran Ahmed was playing near forest area of Sangla in Surankote tehsil when he was hit by an accidental fire from the rifle of a hunter Mohmmad Sharief on Thursday. He was removed to the GMC Jammu from GMC Rajouri for advanced treatment of gunshot injuries. However he succumbed to the grievous wounds. SHO Surankote Rajveer Singh confirmed the death of the minor. He said police have already registered a case More on P6

#### **Train Derails On Budgam Section**

train on the Baramulla-Banihal section derailed from ABanihal section der ander A area of central Kashmir's Budgam district on Friday, however, no casualties were reported in the incident.

Reports said the derailment took place at Mazhama after the train left the railway station Friday morning. He said all the passengers were safe, while railway officials reached the spot.

The official said the derailment was accidental and further details were being ascertained. He further said that the train services between Budgam and Baramulla stretch have been stopped and efforts are on to restore them.ess.



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## KASHMIR OBSERVER $^{\odot}$ Srinagar |Saturday | 14-01-2023

## **Novel Spray That Could Prevent Covid-19 Infection Developed**

#### Press Trust Of India

esearchers have created new molecules that can be sprayed into the nose to block the SARS-CoV-2 virus from entering the lungs and causing infection.

The COVID-19 virus enters the body through the lungs when people breathe, resulting in illness.

Engineers at the Johns Hopkins University in the US have now created thin, thread-like strands of molecules called supramolecular filaments capable of blocking the virus in its tracks

"The idea is that the filaments will work like a sponge to absorb the COVID-19 virus and other viruses before they have the chance to bind to cells in our airways," said Honggang Cui, an associate professor at Johns Hopkins Whiting School of Engineering.

"Even if the therapeutic can block the virus for an hour or two, that can be helpful when people must be in a public setting," said Cui, who led the research published in the journal Matter.

The key to this approach is the way that the filaments carry a receptor called angiotensin converting enzyme-2, or ACE2 which are also found in cells in the nasal lining, the lung surface, and small intestine.

They have many biological roles, such as regulating blood pressure and inflammation. The novel coronavirus enters our bodies pri-

looked

marily through interactions with this receptor. The spike protein of the virus clicks into this receptor, much like a key going into a lock,

allowing it to enter the cell and replicate. Once the virus is locked into the cell, it prevents the cell from executing its normal functions, leading to and exacerbating infections.

It is known to researchers that adding extra ACE2 into airways can block virus entry, essentially preventing the virus from binding with ACE2 in the lungs. However, since ACE2 has biological functions, simply delivering more ACE2 to the body may have unforeseeable complications.

The team's newly developed filament, called fACE2, serves as a decoy binding site for the virus, with each filament offering several

receptors for the COVID-19 spike protein to attach to, and silences ACE2's biological functions to avoid potential side effects.

"Our plan is that this would be administered as a nasal or oral spray, allowing it to be suspended in the lungs or settle on the surface of airways and lungs. When a person breathes in the COVID-19 virus, the virus will be fooled into binding to the decoy receptor and not the ACE2 receptors on cells," Cui said.

Since the filaments attract SARS-CoV-2's characteristic spike protein, it should work equally well on any current or future variants, the researchers said.

They tested its design in mouse models and found their filament was not only present in

डॉ. रमेश मित्तल

निदेशक, पीजीडीएम-ए बी एम

the rodents' lungs up to 24 hours later, but also elicited no inflammation or obvious damage to the lungs' structures.

This, the researchers said, suggests that fACE2 may be retained in the lungs for a period of time, and is safe. They noted that the molecules also may have the potential to treat people with active COVID-19 infections by thwarting replication of newly acquired viruses.

"We think that fACE2 could also be used on other respiratory viruses that use the ACE2 receptor to infiltrate cells. The filament design is versatile and can be modified to carry various therapeutic proteins that target different receptors," adds Hongpeng Jia, assistant professor at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

## Why Happy Rather Than Sad **Music Soothes Newborns**

#### Press Trust Of India

usic is the language of emotions, arousing and regulating our feelings. For example, research has shown that college students listen to music 37 per cent of the time, and it fills them with happiness, elation or nostalgia during 64 per cent of these sessions.

Children might have even greater exposure to music than adults do. Survey data shows that 54 per cent of teachers in South Korea use background music in schools. We also



know music is played as often as 6.5 times per hour to help children's learning in US classrooms

But how early do children develop a real appreciation for and understanding of music? Our recent study, published in Psychological Studies, suggests newborns may be rather musical, finding happy music soothing in particular.

This could be seen as mately, culture plays a major role in when and how we understand music – it's something we learn. Preschoolers, for example, are often unable to pair pictures of happy or sad faces with happy or sad music. Such ability usually develops later in childhood. It has long been unclear whether newborns and young children feel emotions in music. But we know that newborns respond to

aspects of music, such as Our team its beat, structure as well as at how music affected healthy newborns, who consonance and dissonance. Young infants also love "motherese", a very musical, melodic and slow type of speech that adults often adopt when talking to babies. Even those babies who can Two hear but were born to deaf parents (who don't speak to

tion to such speech or maternal-style singing. Some research suggests even foetuses seem to respond to music. One study has shown that when pregnant women at the 28th week of gestation listen to their favourite songs,

their foetuses' heartbeats

increase, even though the

mothers show no change

er, have failed to find any

such reaction in foetuses.

Music is often trialled to

help prematurely born ba-

bies in neonatal intensive

care units. But of the ten

most rigorous studies with

newborns in intensive

are units

Other studies, howev-

in their heart rates.

were carried to term. First. we wanted to select a music piece that was really happy, and another that was really sad. experimenters collected and listened to hundreds of lullabies them in this way) pay attenand children's songs and selected 25 of these that sounded happy or sad.

Only six of these were sung in English (Simple Simon, Humpty Dumpty, Hey Diddle Diddle, Little Miss Muffet, Ding Dong Bell, Little Bo Beep) while the others were in various other languages. A total of 16 adult par-

ticipants helped to rate the 25 songs for their emotional content. A French lullaby entitled Fais Dodo (by Alexandra Montano and Ruth Cunningham) was found to be the saddest, while a German song, Das singende Känguru (by Volker Rosin), was ranked the happiest.

We played these two songs in random order along with a silent control period - to 32 babies in a first experiment. We also analysed how 20 behaviours, such as crying, yawning, sucking, sleeping and limb movements changed millisecond by millisecond during the music pieces and the silence, respectively.

In a second experiment, we recorded the heart rates of 66 newborn

**SAD DEMISE** 



We announce with profound grief the sad and sudden demise of Mohammad Sidiq Bhat (Misger) of Malaratta, Srinagar on Friday morning. He was a noble soul. The congregational Fateha Khawani shall be held on 15th of January 2023 Sunday at 11:00 AM at our ancestors graveyard Malik sahab Gojwara (near Sane Kids school) All are requested to pray for the eternal peace of the departed soul

> BEREAVED Merajudin Bhat (Brother) Adil Umer (Nephew) Mohamed Shafi Bhat Sameer Ahmed Zargar Zahoor Ahmed (Sons In Law). 9018066670 | 9149658545 | 95417 27939 SS

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General public at large that I, Zubair Ahmed Sheikh has lost the original security entry pass of B B Cantt Batwara Srinagar with Following details Name :- ZUBAIR AHMED SHEIKH S/O FAROOQ AHMAD SHEIKH Add L/P Court Road Amira Kadal Srinagar Card No:- 8C6C3D43 sponsoring Unit: HQ 31SA where in I am working as a bank employee. In this regard a police complaint will also be lodged after the publication of this notice for re-issuance purpose. Any person(s) found the card and any person(s) claiming any rights, interest having any objection may write/contact with the address given within 2 days and no claim will be entertained thereafter.

Name:-ZUBAIR AHMED SHEIKH Address:- Court Road Amira Kadal Srinagar Contact:-+9178899 88755

#### Dr. Ramesh Mittal **Director. PGDM-ABM**

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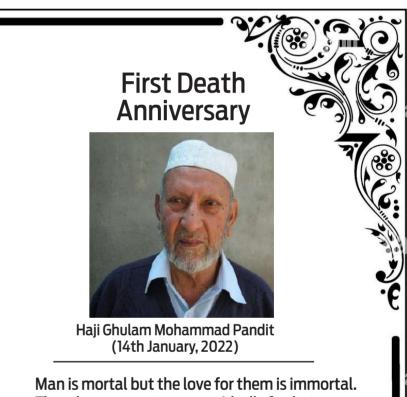
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alf found any behavioural response listening to these two to music, such as reduced songs or silence. crying, stress or pain. And Perhaps the most only half of the studies striking results was that found any effect on heart babies started to down-

rates or blood pressure. That said, very few shift to sleep during happy music, but not to sad mustudies have looked at sic or when there was no how healthy, full-term music. Also, they showed newborns react to music. a decrease in their heart And no studies have exrates during happy music amined how they respond but not during sad muto emotions in music. sic or silent periods, suggesting they were getting

calmer.

Happy is calming

University of Kashmir (NAAC Accredited Grade (A+) **RESULT NOTIFICATION** 

### Doctor Of Philosophy

Mohd Younish Bhat S/o Gh Hassan Bhat bearing University Registration No: 14332-BC-2003 who pursued Ph.D programme on wholetime basis in the discipline of Kashmiri (CCAS, School of Social Sciences and submitted thesis titled "Hamd and Na'at in 19th Century Kashmri Marsiya: A Study" under the joint supervision of Dr. Afaq Aziz Ex-Associate Professor and Dr Abid Gulzar, Assistant Professor, Centre of Central Asian Studies. University of Kashmir, Srinagar is declared qualified for the award of Ph.D Degree on 27th of December, 2022

Deputy Controller of Examination Secrecy-I Controller of examinations

**Errors & Omissions Excepted** NO: F(Ph.D-CCAS)KU/23 DATED: 10-01-2023

Subject:- Grant of Registration of the proposed Travel unit under the name & style "M/s See you Again Tour and Travel " Situated at Hanji-Gund Chadoora..

#### **Public Notice**

Whereas, I Mr./Ms Ravice Rashid S/o Mr. Ab Rashid Bhat R/o Hanji-Gund Chadoora, District Budgam, Kashmir intends to apply in the department of Tourism for Registration of my proposed Travel Unit under the name and style "M/s See You Again Tour and Travel" situated at Hanji-Gund Chadoora, District Budgam, Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, I will submit State Subject/Domicile Certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan Card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years), Character Certificate (Police Department), Bank Statement (Minimum Balance 10000), Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by Sub-Register, Printing Material (Letter Head/ Visiting Card), Photograph of the Unit (Indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size Photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before my case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/Bank/Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration (e-mail Id:- ddtreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspapers of the Valley. No objections beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained. RMKO

Though you are not present with all of us but your memory is stored in our mind. Rest Peacefully In Heaven.

May Almighty Allah grant you highest place in Jannat. Aameen.



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## **Govt Sanctions Advance Drawl Of Funds For GMC**

#### **Observer News Service**

Srinagar: J&K government on Friday accorded sanction for advance drawl of over Rs 62 lakh in favour of Principal GMC Srinagar for procurement of lab items.

"Sanction is hereby accorded to the advance drawl of funds amounting to Rs. 62.50 lakhs (Rupees Sixty Two Lakh and Fifty Thousand) only in favour of Principal Government Medical College, Srinagar, out of the available funds under Capex Budget below classification 17-4210-01-800-0011-0305-Medical College Srinagar, Detailed Head 115-Works, for further placement of these funds at the disposal of MD, J&K Medical Supplies Corporation Ltd, on account of procurement of lab items under the Scheme "Establishment of Skill Lab at GMC, Srinagar as per MCI norms" during 2022-23," reads an order issued by Secretary

Health and Medical Education, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer

The advance drawl as per order shall be subject to the conditions that these funds shall be placed with the Managing Director, J&K Medical Supplies Corporation Limited during 2022-23 for procurement of lab items, the Chief Accounts Officer, Government Medical College, Srinagar shall vouchsafe the availability of funds for the purpose, The funds shall be utilized for the specific purpose without any diversion, all codal formalities / Procedures / standing orders shall be observed before making the purchases, The funds shall not be parked in the bank account unnecessarily and red Accounts of the advance drawl shall be furnished to the concerned quarters and Accountant General, J&K within the stipulated time.



#### A boy uses a shovel to remove snow from the rooftop of his house during a snowfall in outskirts of city. KO Photo Abid Bhat

## **Kashmir's 'Food Street' Stares At closure As Footfall Dips**

#### Outlet owners term relocation of bus terminals main cause for decline in business

#### Agencies

**DC Chairs Establishment** 

Srinagar: A meeting of the SDA Establishment Committee was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad here today at Conference Hall of DC Office Complex for settlement of death in Harness cases for compassionate appointment rules notified under SRO-43 in respect of next of kin of the deceased employees of Srinagar Development Authority (SDA),.

**Observer News Service** 

Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Athar Amir Khan and Vice Chairman SDA, Haris Ahmad Handoo were present in the meeting.

While Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Syed

Agencies

**Committee Meeting Of SDA** Shabir Ahmad, DDMO, Srinagar, Imtiyaz Amin Naik, Sadr-e-Muhasib, Altaf Ahmad, Administrative Officer, SDA, Basharat Ahmad and other concerned were invited members.

At the outset, a total of 09 pending cases were placed before the Committee and considered under the compassionate appointment rules notified vide SRO-43 and each case was discussed threadbare.

While deliberating upon the cases placed before the Committee, Establishment all laid down guidelines and eligible criteria with regard to the element of compassion, whether existing in each case, was assessed and 04 cases were recommended for compassionate appointment under SRO-43.

Srinagar: Established in the

is almost coming to end with more than 30 percent shopkeepers shutting down their outlets.

at the Food Street said that they are witnessing drastic decline in their sales after the government shifted nearby bus yards to Srinagar outskirts.

one of the owners Yasir Dharma said that the street was known for its clean, hygienic, and cheap food but that they are not hopeful that the food street would not survive in coming years because of decline in consumers.

about 18-19 food shops of which around 12 are functional now while many shop owners have closed down their outlets. This situation developed with the shifting of nearby mini bus, bus and sumo terminals from

the area," he said. Dharma said that their elders at Food Street had highlighted the concern with those who were then at the helm of affairs about shifting of bus yards but no attention was given to their pleas.

Once an owner of an outlet, Khursheed Ahmad Mir now works as an employee at his neighbour's shop at the Street after business declined

a variety of dishes, veg as well The food street comprises about 18-19 food shops of which around 12 are functional now while many shop owners have closed down their outlets. This situation developed with the shifting of nearby mini

Nisar Ahmad, one of the food shop owners, recalled that the food street used to be jam packed but now they are competing with each other in inviting customers to their shops. He said they are struggling

and if the situation continues like this, they would not be able to sustain more.

With decline in sales, the outlet owners clean and carry out maintenance of the street from their own pockets despite paying rent to Srinagar Municipal Corporation. The shop keepers said none visited them for carrying out repairs after the devastating deluge in 2014.

The decline in footfall of people has also led to curtailment in food menus. Earlier,

bus, bus and sumo terminals from the area

non-veg, were served at the street at a cheap rate. A plate of vegetables with rice is served at Rs 50 and non-veg at Rs 150 Onwards depending on the mutton dishes one eats. The affordable menu with a variety of dishes including Kashmir wazwan would invite both locals as well tourists-(KNO)



#### **This Day In History**

1641 - United East Indian Company conquers city of Malacca, 7,000 killed

1761 - Third Battle of Panipat: In one of the largest battles of the century, the mostly Muslim Afghani Durrani Empire defeats the mostly Hindu Maratha Empire in Northern India. An estimated 60,000-70,000 were killed in the fighting and about 40,000 Maratha prisoners massacred afterwards.

1784 - US Revolutionary War ends with the US Congress of the Confederation ratifying the Treaty of Paris

1814 - King of Denmark cedes Norway to King of Sweden by treaty of Kiel

1914 - The Gandhi-Smuts Agreement is reached between Gen. J.C. Smuts and Mahatma Gandhi, regarding voluntary registration, poll tax, recognition of Indian marriages and other matters

1929 - Afghan King Amanullah forced to resign

1943 - World War II: Japan begins Operation Ke, withdrawal of its troops from Guadalcanal

1943 - World War II: Casablanca Conference begins between Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt 1944 - Soviet army begins offensive at Oranienbaum/ Wolchow

1950 - US recalls all consular officials from China

1956 - Jordan government refuses to join Pact of Baghdad

1969 - 25 members of US aircraft carrier Enterprise die during maneuvers

1969 - Soyuz 4 launched; rendezvous with Soyuz 5 two days later

1974 - World Football League founded

Soura Srinagar: An ATM guard was found dead at a booth in Soura

He was rushed to SKIMS Soura where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

**ATM Guard Found Dead In Soura** found unconscious inside the ATM booth of a Bank in

1960s, the journey of Kashmir's Food Street known as 'Bati Gali' in Srinagar's Lal Chowk

Several owners of the outlet

Food Street president and

The food street comprises

identified as Mohammad Muzaffar Kakroo son of Abdul Kahliq Kakroo, a resident of Amdakadal Lalbazar, was

 $\Delta s$  ner reports the guar

area of Srinagar on Friday.

Meanwhile, police have registered a case in this regard and investigations are set into motion to find out the cause of the death. (CNS)

62 जाउत 2023 INDIA	NORTHERN RAILWAY	75
	E-AUCTION NOTICE	Azadi <sub>Ka</sub> <sup>Amrit</sup> Mahotsav

The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction for various lots over Firozpur Division as per detail given below:-

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Auction Start date & time		30.01.23, 11:00 hours
A)	Name of Work	Commercial Advertisement Rights through Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Plastic Bottle Crushing/ Shredding/Baling Machine at Railway Station.
	Lot No.	Name of Stations
1	MSS-FZR-PTK-BCrush-3-22-1	Pathankot
2	MSS-FZR-FZR-BCrush-6-22-1	Firozpur Cantt.
3	MSS-FZR-PGW-BCrush-4-22-1	Phagwara
4	MSS-FZR-JRC-BCrush-5-22-1	Jalandhar Cantt.
5	MSS-FZR-PTKC-BCrush-2-22-1	Pathankot Cantt.
6	MSS-FZR-UHP-BCrush-1-22-1	Udhampur
Auction Catalog No.		EAFZR-MA23-1
Auction Start date & time		30.01.23, 10:30 hours
B)	Name of Work	Allotment of Commercial Publicity rights through Vinyl Wrapping on exterior of coaches of Trains.
	Lot No./Rake Link	Trains in Rake link
1	ADVT-EFF-109222-22-1	14612/14611
2	ADVT-EFF-84053-22-1	14650/14650/14674/14673
3	ADVT-EFF-95027-22-1	12408/12407
4	ADVT-EFF-110591-22-1	12422/12421/14616/14615
5	ADVT-EFF-132173-22-1	12492/12491/12470/12469/14606/ 14605
6	ADVT-EFF-132340-22-1	12472/12471/12474/12473/12476/ 12475/12478/12477
7	ADVT-EFF-88368-22-1	14610/14609
8	ADVT-EFF-110792-22-1	14632/14631
9	ADVT-EFF-98513-22-1	14646/14645/14662/14661
10	ADVT-E FF-90417-22-1	12414/12413
11	ADVT-EF F-91669-22-1	22462/22461
12	ADVT-EF F-110778-22-1	14602/14601/14614/14613/14630/ 14629
13	ADVT-EFF-90978-22-1	14624/14623
14	ADVT-EFF- 133298-22- 1	14634/14633/54612/54613/54615/ 54616/54621/54622/54625/54626
For	other details please visit Railway	website www.irpes.gov.in
	. ,	IERS WITH A SMILE

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- 1975 USSR breaks trade agreement with US
- 1990 Un Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar says he has lost all hope for peace in Gulf
- 1994 Russian manned space craft TM-17, lands
- 1998 Researchers in Dallas, Texas present findings about an enzyme that slows aging and cell death (apoptosis)
- 2000 A United Nations tribunal sentences five Bosnian Croats to up to 25 years for the 1993 killing of over 100 Muslims in a Bosnian village.
- 2005- Landing of the Huygens probe on Saturn's moon Titan

### From KO Archives

## Only PM Can Represent Us: Farooq

#### **Observer News Service**

AMMU- Chief Minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah today questioned the usefulness of Hurriyat delegation to Paki¬stan in sorting out problems in Kashmir and said only direct talks between prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Pakistan chief executive General Pervez Musharraf would he purposeful for bringing peace in the region.

'Kashmir is part of India and only the prime minister can represent us in any dia-logue', Dr. Abdullah said after inaugurating a B. Ed college in private sector at Tarore, 22 kilometers from here this morning. He however, added that no authority, even the prime minister, can never af-ford to think of parting with an inch of Kashmir, 'which was, is and will remain proud part of the nation'.

The chief minister said that after failing to annex Kashmir in favour wars, Islamabad has switched over to proxy war for the past about 12 years. He said the foreigners are attacking se-curity pickets and targeting nationalist forces. Everyday National Conference workers, village defence committee members and SPQs are killed. They are also after those who have laid their arms after real $\neg$ ising the futility of gun, Dr. Abdullah said.

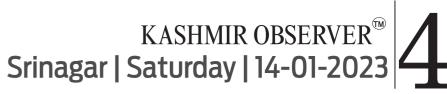
"Pakistanis out to eliminate those carrying tricolour in Kashmir thereby snapping the relationship the people of the valley have tied with rest of the nation, but we are determined to give them a befitting fight 'Even if Farooq is killed, Kash¬mir will never go to Pakistan', he declared.

According to NAFA, the chief minister said APHC lacked mass support. "It has only militant support. If that support is withdrawn, it will collapse. Why are they eager to go to Pakistan? They are already in touch with Pak through its mission in India. In fact, the APHC is the creation of Pakistan, he said.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 14 January, 2001)

## *Think* Opinion, Analysis, Essays

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## **Money and Media**

hen popular Indian television journalist Ravish Kumar announced his resignation from New Delhi Television Ltd (NDTV) — the country's oldest private broadcaster — at the end of November, it was a grim reminder of the vanishing independent news media landscape in the world's largest democracy.

It was no ordinary departure. Kumar had been a popular voice on NDTV for a quarter of a century and is known for his fearless, hardhitting reporting and willingness to take on those in power. Of late he has criticised other news outlets for taking a stance explicitly in favour of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government and for stoking communal discord between Hindus and Muslims.

Yet Kumar felt compelled to quit after the world's third-richest man, Gautam Adani, became the majority shareholder of NDTV. Adani is considered close to Modi, who used the tycoon's aircraft for campaigning ahead of the 2014 national election. Since 2014, when Modi came to power, Adani's wealth has jumped from \$7bn to \$110bn.

Adani has insisted that NDTV under his ownership will retain its independence to call out the government when it has "done something wrong". But the worries about his takeover of one of the few Indian TV channels seen as brave enough to challenge the Modi government reflect broader fears centred on a question that journalism around the world has been grappling with: what happens when the ownership of platforms meant to protect free speech is concentrated in the hands of a few elite businesspeople? Or as Kumar said: "How can a

Or as Kumar said: "How can a channel, bought by a corporat[ion] whose success is seen to be linked to contracts granted by the government, now criticise the government? It was clear to me I had to quit."

#### A global problem

To be sure, this isn't a problem unique to India.

Corporate monopolisation of media has increasingly been under scrutiny in the United States. In 2017, Bernie Sanders wrote of how Comcast, News Corp, Disney, Viacom, Time Warner and CBS — just six companies — owned 90 percent of the media in the country. Forbes wrote in 2016 that 15 billionaires owned all major national newspapers, including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post.

In the United Kingdom, the Media Reform Coalition has described dia monopolisation. In Germany, for instance, no single company can control "more than 30 percent of all TV audiences".

But the landscape varies across Europe: In Italy, the holding company Fininvest, which is controlled by the family of former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, owns all three of the country's main TV channels as well as the nation's largest publishcentrated corporate control of media since "the largest cable service providers [were] already owned by broadcasting companies".

In January 2012, Reliance headed by Mukesh Ambani, the world's eighth-richest man — invested in the heavily debt-ridden Network18 media group. The result was the creation of India's largest media conglomerate which inPanda, who is the BJP's national vice president and spokesperson. News Live, one of the most popular TV channels in India's northeast, is owned by Riniki Bhuyan Sarma, wife of the BJP chief minister of the northeastern state of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma.

'Godi media'



**Corporate monopolisation of media** has increasingly been under scrutiny in the United States. In 2017, Bernie Sanders wrote of how Comcast, News Corp, Disney, Viacom, Time Warner and CBS – just six companies – owned 90 percent of the media in the country

er for newspapers and books.

#### Canary in the Indian media mine

India's economic boom since the 1990s has spawned a fast-growing media industry, with a market size expected to grow from \$21.5bn in 2021 to \$54bn in 2026. This has resulted in a news media landscape that now boasts more than 100,000 newspapers and 380 news channels. Add the rapid growth of internet and social media usage, and a wide variety of news platforms ought to be available to the Indian consumer.

But like in the West. Indian media too is increasingly owned by a select few corporations. The first warning bells were sounded a decade ago when Reliance Industries - India's largest company in terms of revenue entered the media sector. In 2011, the Indian parliament passed the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Bill that made "digitisation of cable television across the country mandatory in three years". But as Arvind Rajagopal, professor of media studies at New York University pointed out at the time, the bill also effectively paved the way for concluded a bouquet of general news and business channels in English. Hindi and several regional languages. Journalists and analysts raised concerns over how this would impact the media coverage of a company, Reliance, whose decisions influence the nation's economy. In 2014 Reliance took complete control of Network18 in a hostile takeover. Rajdeep Sardesai, the editorin-chief of the company's flagship channel CNN-IBN, resigned. In his farewell email, he wrote: "Editorial independence and integrity have been articles of faith in 26 years in journalism and maybe I am too old now to change!"

Today, the ties between big business, politics and Indian media extend beyond any one company. Zee Media Corporation, another influential TV network, is part of the conglomerate Essel Group, which is led by Subhash Chandra, a former member of the upper house of the Indian parliament. His candidature was supported by Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Ravish Kumar coined a term that captures this unholy mix of news, money and politics: Godi media. "Godi" means lap. Godi media refers to the lapdog nature of the many pro-establishment mouthpieces that the Modi years have birthed. And looking at how the mainstream Indian media has celebrated events like the BJP-led demolitions of the homes of Muslim activists or criticised farmer protests in 2021, it's hard to get away from a sense that Kumar is spot on. Meanwhile, amid a spate of at-

Meanwhile, amid a spate of attacks on journalists and government critics, India is slipping in the World Press Freedom Index, where it is now ranked 150 among 180 nations.

It's important to cling to the hope that the tide will turn. Yes, good journalism needs money. But it also needs freedom. If media monopolisation cuts out critical voices like Kumar's, it can never be healthy for Indian democracy.

Somdeep Sen



Some countries have regulatory measures in place to curb media monopolisation. In Germany, for instance, no single company can control "more than 30 percent of all TV audiences". But the landscape varies across Europe: In Italy, the holding company Fininvest, which is controlled by the family of former **Prime Minister Silvio** Berlusconi, owns all three of the country's main TV channels as well as the nation's largest publisher for newspapers and books

> "concentrated ownership" in the sector as a "significant problem for any modern democracy". In 2015, 71 percent of the UK national newspaper market was dominated by three companies – News UK, Daily Mail Group and Reach. By 2019, their market share had grown to 83 percent, and by 2021, to 90 percent.

Some countries have regulatory measures in place to curb me-

In an essay written in 2013 titled

Royal Bodies, author and historian

Hilary Mantel considers this very

question in the context of Britain as

a modern nation that persists in its

relentless obsession with the archaic

nature of its monarchy. She weaves

together a history of women as they

have existed in the structures of

confined royal positions, from Ma-

rie Antoinette and Queen Elizabeth

to Diana and Kate Middleton. She

speaks of them with varying mea-

sures of sympathy, pity, curiosity,

and a sharp condemnation. They are

bodies, she claims. Bodies that glide

and smile, bodies that exist less for

what they are and more for what they

signify. These bodies are brides and

mothers, queens and consorts. They

exist to preserve or provide, depend-

ing on the role their birth accords

them. And people stare at these bod-

ies and their actions, unabashedly. It

is almost taken as a right. It's nothing

A 2019 report by Reporters Without Borders found many other similar examples. Odisha TV is owned by the family of Baijayant Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Al Jazeera

n many aspects, spectacle is a key part of human existence. We all enjoy a good show, whether or not it is at someone else's expense. Tragedy unimaginable in one's own life is a source of entertainment and release if it is happening at a distance from us. People have collectively found catharsis in watching films such as Titanic, a fictional re-telling of the very real and unbelievably horrific incident that took hundreds of lives. There are countless other examples such as this, of books and TV shows and songs that allow people to experience emotions they might not be willing to bring to the surface in their own contexts while allowing them to distance themselves from what they are feeling. In a way, all art is capable of this and of bringing people together through a shared appreciation or evaluation of it. However, it is not just fictional narratives that inspire such collective assessment and attachment. What happens when the same phenomenon is applied to actual people and their lives? When an individual or a group becomes the vessel for collective release - of anger, joy, or mourning – what happens to them and to the people invested in them?

## **The Spectacle of Bodies**

#### Muskan Chaudhary

I want to look and not forget, to remember with unerring clarity the grief that I have felt over the fate of bodies like mine. I want to live everyday with the certain knowledge of the fact that everywhere there are people who read and write over the bodies of women with their own ideas and beliefs personal, writes Hilary Mantel, It is the monarchy I'm staring at. When these bodies are alive, people consume and critique each action as if it was served up to them on a platter. When they die, the attachment that they had accrued while living grows into a fervour that then allows people to mourn. Not the individual who has departed, no. That is just symbolic. It allows people to mourn that which they haven't even acknowledged.

Grief is part and parcel of the modern condition. Everywhere one turns, there is something to be grieved. We are just bad at releasing it. Who has the time or the energy to sit and grieve when there is a life to be lived, when reality and a need to survive tugs us away from our individual sadness. But the death of a body that was symbolic to the nation can become a catalyst that draws that grief out into the open, that blurs the boundaries of acceptable and unacceptable in favour

of a fervour of feelings released. The death of young Diana Spencer was one such catalyst. It took the private grief of her family and turned it into a public spectacle. Even today, her children still suffer from the consequences of it. 'History makes fools of us, makes puppets of us, often enough' says Hilary Mantel at the end of her piece as she asks her readers to change the narrative by turning away from the spectacle. But as someone who lives in a nation where the bodies of women are constantly symbolised, used, and discarded as spectacles - I want to look. I want to look and not forget, to remember with unerring clarity the grief that I have felt over the fate of bodies like mine. I want to live everyday with the certain knowledge of the fact that everywhere there are people who read and write over the bodies of women with their own ideas and beliefs. And remember too, that we have always fought to write our own selves into existence.

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

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# Navigating the Path to Studying Abroad - Part II

#### **Muhammad Tahir**

#### **HOW TO WRITE A STATEMENT OF** PURPOSE

Now let us talk about Statement of Purpose (SOP), also called Personal Statement or Letter of Motivation. It is one of the most important documents in your whole application package. It is perhaps the first thing that admission committee members grab when they assess your application, and it is crucial that SOP is attractive enough to hook them. Remember admission committee typically gets hundreds of SOPs of prospective students and each SOP has just 10 seconds to create an impression. So, write your SOP with utmost care and diligence.

Different universities have different word limits for an SOP but in most cases it shall be an under 1500word document. Sometimes there is variation within the same institution. For example, Harvard University's Graduate School of Education asks: "It should be typed, doublespaced, and no more than 1,500 words" and the same university's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences says: "Unless otherwise noted, your statement should not exceed 1,000 words." So, it is better to doublecheck, always visit the website of the department where you are applying for requirement check-list. Sticking to word limit is very important because not adhering to the guidelines can make your application ineligible. The University of Oxford is categori-cal about this: "If your statement of purpose or research proposal significantly exceeds the permitted length stated on the relevant course page, it will be removed from your application and your application will be considered incomplete and is unlikely to be assessed by the academic department."

#### **STRUCTURE OF THE SOP**

Divide your SOP into 4 or 5 paragraphs with first paragraph being more personal, where you mention what prompted you to pursue a particular course or program. You can say, for example, that you attended a seminar somewhere or a particular professor taught you a course or an event ignited your interest in the subject. Let me give examples of attention grabbing first paragraphs:

"During my undergrad studies, I got a chance to demonstrate my

heat-trapping model at National Science Exhibition ... '

"In 2008, I was pursuing Masters in Political Science at University of Kashmir. In International Law class, our professor once said, 'Peace processes are ploys to further entrench the occupations"

"As a teenager I was sent to study in North Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, because political turmoil in Kashmir was claiming many lives. I enrolled for B.A in English literature...

An account of personal experience in the opening sentence must connect logically with your proposed research. Example 1 above suits a person who is applying for MSc or PhD in Physics. It demonstrates consistency of interest in the subject. Example 2 gives indication that the applicant's interest stems from a particular International Law class which she attended in Kashmir University, and is logically connected to her proposal if it would be a critical appraisal of a peace process. Similarly, example 3 can be used to pitch a research proposal on literature of exile. You can work it many ways. But do not make up. Just be creative. Write your story in your own unique voice. In terms of a framework, I can suggest the following:

- My context: which experiences have generated my interest in this field of study?
- My aims and objectives: what are my career goals, what knowledge and skills I

pire to reach in your career. Write about your relevant experiences. any internships and volunteer work you have done which complements your academic profile. In brief and crisp lines show your progression over the years, highlighting your achievements, such as high grades, gold medal, award/s, etc. Mention any course, conference, publication related to your proposed research project. Also, you can tell them what

from one field to another took place and how you are prepared enough or possess requisite skills to pursue the program. It is always better if your master's thesis or your work experience (or something you have done previously) and the proposed research for PhD are similar, because it is a good way to show the consistency of your academic interest.

To write why you have chosen the school or department you are applying to go through the department's

UNDERSTAND THE DOCUMENT BY READING SOPS OF SUCCESSFUL **CANDIDATES.** You can imitate them, but don't copy verbatim. Learn how to draft the whole thing and weave together different elements of your CV to create an interesting story

expect to gain through enrolment in this program? Rationale for choosing this institution: why this specific course or program? Why studying at this university or department, and this master's program, is crucial in helping me achieve my career goals?

In short: tell your story in terms of who you are, what academic and professional experiences you have obtained so far, and where you asyour background and unique life experiences.

In case your academic progress has suffered (for example, receiving lower grade in some course/s) due to some event, like natural calamity, political turmoil etc., do mention it. If you have done your previous study in one field (for example, BSc Botany, MSc Environmental Studies) and you are applying for MA or PhD in another field (say International Relations or Journalism), you should tell your reader why and how this transition

website and read about it carefully. Scan through the courses it offers, its publications, your proposed supervisor's profile and research interests. Write down what specific qualities this department has in terms of resources and staff. What kind of students they wish to enrol in the course and what they expect them to leave with after they have finished the program?

Process this whole information and write in bullet points your key observations. After you have done this research, write something along these lines: 'I chose this department because it has strong expertise on [your chosen field] and, particularly, [your proposed supervisor] has done a considerable work on [your proposed research theme] and can provide me better guidance." You can then highlight the proposed supervisor's achievements, by saying, for example: "Professor Suzanne is an experienced mentor who has brought 12 students to successful PhD completion, including on [mention research areas]. She has mentored students from different backgrounds and her mentees have found employment in various organisations, such as [mention if available]. Her knowledge of [mention the areas of study] and her quantitative approach or comparative method [mention what applies in your case] make her an ideal mentor for my proposed project. She has received [mention the funding body] funding for her project [mention the project], and she has also been a visiting professor at [mention the name of the universities]. Her extensive network, include [mention the organisations or entities]. These contacts will be very helpful to my career development and are available only in very few places in [mention the country where you are applying].

In this part of SOP, you will ad-

dress why this department is the right place for you to study and why this professor is the right person to work with. Overall, you should be able to convince the admission committee why you are the most suitable candidate out of hundreds of other applicants. Portray yourself as a capable candidate who has real passion in the chosen subject, has shown consistency and can undertake a rigorous academic program or research.

#### LANGUAGE AND FORMAT OF THE SOP

Don't try to impress by inserting complex sentence structures and difficult vocabulary. Write in simple English with sentences of reasonable length. Revise your draft many times for a coherent and persuasive narrative. Send it to the people who can provide an informed feedback. Incorporate useful suggestions, leave out what might seem like a tangential comment. Once you have a polished draft, go to the mirror and read it to yourself as you read a story to an audience. If you can find a friend who can listen, read it out to him or her. Ask for their feedback on language of the document, whether it tells a good story or not. Revise further based on this feedback. Repeat this process till you are satisfied.

Understand the document by reading SOPs of successful candidates. You can imitate them, but don't copy verbatim. Learn how to draft the whole thing and weave together different elements of your CV to create an interesting story. Preferably use Times New Roman, font size 12, and 1.5-line space. In no way should the document exceed to more than two pages. Always remain within the word limit. Here are some useful resources to write a persuasive SOP:

https://study.soas.ac.uk/personalstatement-ten-tips/.

https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/ yuhuawang/files/writing\_statement\_of\_purpose\_for\_graduate\_ school\_application\_2021\_yuhua\_ wang\_0.pdf

#### (to be continued...)

Muhammad Tahir is an Irish Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow at Dublin City University, Ireland



you can bring to the class based on

## The Thrill of Conspiracy Theories

#### **Daniel Jolley Anthony Lantian**

rom vaccine uptake to violent extremism, conspiracy beliefs are linked to distrust in major institutions or powerful figures.

Research developed in the last decade shows how conspiracy beliefs can be linked to people's lack of control in their lives, feeling threatened or even workplace bullying.

Conspiracy theories are defined by psychologists as "explanations for important events that involve secret plots by powerful and malevolent groups" without any basis in fact. Followers point a finger at groups they think of as powerful, from scientists and doctors to minority groups such as Jewish people, and blame them for events or societal change.

Conspiracies, where powerful figures secretly plot to undermine something or someone, do exist. The Watergate scandal involved a break in at the US Democratic National Committee headquarters by burglars connected to President Richard Nixon's reelection campaign.

The burglars were caught wiretapping phones. Nixon tried to cover up the crimes but journalists uncovered his role in the conspiracy. But the difference here is that there is evidence to back up what happened.

However, conspiracists insist their theories are true even when there is no evidence that holds up to scrutiny. Still, conspiracy theories can be persuasive. Millions of British people believe in at least one. It's a worldwide phenomenon.

#### **PSYCHOLOGY OF CONSPIRACY THEORIES**

Studies in the early 2010s showed how non-pathological factors, such as uncertainty, are linked to why people turn to conspiracy beliefs. In 2017 psychologist Karen Douglas and colleagues argued the wide ap-



peal of conspiracy theories is their promise to satisfy psychological needs. These include desire for certainty, control and meaning, and to maintain a positive image of yourself and the groups you identify with.

Feelings of anxiety and threat increase during a crisis, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. People want to make sense of turbulent societies. But conspiracy theories do not satisfy the psychological needs that make us reach for them. A 2021

study found conspiracy beliefs don't

lessen anxiety or uncertainty. If anything, there is some evidence people's sense of existential threat and anxiety increases when they engage with conspiracy theories.

A less well understood factor is collective discrimination, where a



But researchers are getting closer to finding out why conspiracy theories are adopted by a group of people. It can be linked to lack of trust in institutions or society. Work in 2002

another group.

group experiences being harmed by

The more negative acts a participant has suffered, the stronger their tendency to engage in conspiracy theorising.

showed discrimination experienced by African Americans was associated with their heightened beliefs that HIV is made by humans deliberately. This idea still circulates today.

Research in 2020 found discrimination experienced by gay men in the UK was connected to their conspiracy beliefs about HIV being human-made. Such research underscores the links between conspiracy beliefs and distrust in powerful figures found in minority communities.

In a study into how conspiracy beliefs develop, Greek participants who thought their country historically suffered more than other nations were more likely to be conspiracy theorists. Research with similar study designs have found the same results in French and Polish participants.

#### LINKED TO BULLYING

Our recent research was inspired by previous work linking conspiracy theorising and people's sense they are being victimised. We focused on workplace bullying. Unlike collective discrimination, bullying is personal, with a power imbalance between the bully and the victim.

Bullied victims report increased feelings of anxiety and paranoia. Being bullied seems to increase the risk of believing in a conspiracy theory.

We carried out two studies. The first study recruited 273 British participants online. We measured participants' past experiences of workplace bullying by asking them report whether they experienced a range of incidents, such a colleague withholding information which affects a co-workers' performance. The more negative acts a participant has suffered, the stronger their tendency to engage in conspiracy theorising.

Participants who experienced workplace bullying were more likely to report increased paranoia - to wonder what hidden reason another person may have for doing something nice for them.

In the second study, 206 British participants were asked to imagine they had joined a new work place in the last six months. Half were asked to imagine being bullied in the new workplace (for example being shouted at) or being welcomed. Those who were asked to imagine about being bullied reported an increased general belief in conspiracy theories.

#### TACKLING CONSPIRACY BELIEFS

Our work highlights how conspiracy beliefs can form in response to circumstances that could happen to anyone. When a hostile environment primes us to search for meaning, we may find a conspiracy explanation appealing.

Research has also started to find solutions to the problem. In 2018 one study found giving people a greater feeling of power reduced the intensity of conspiracy beliefs. Encouraging people to think analytically, which prompts deliberate processing of information, also helps curb the emergence of conspiracy beliefs. Developing these skills in adolescents and conspiracy believers is essential.

Challenging people's misconceptions about how popular conspiracies are could be effective. For example, one study found giving information to UK parents with anti-vaccine beliefs about other UK parents who did vaccinate their children reduced conspiracy beliefs.

We do not know what tools will work outside of the lab. Mentorship for bullying victims, which has been shown to help people feel more secure, could be a promising place to start. And considering the devastation conspiracy theories can wreak, we can't afford not to try.

By arrangements with The Conversation

## News

## **Fears Heighten As Satellite** Images Show Joshimath Sinking, Authorities Toil To Raze 'Unsafe' Hotel

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun: Concerns over land subsidence in Joshimath mounted on Friday as satellite images released by ISRO showed the Himalayan town sank 5.4 cm in 12 days while efforts to pull down an "unsafe" hotel that has developed cracks were in full swing.

Twenty-five more families were evacuated from subsidence-hit houses, taking the total number of such families to 185, according to the District Disaster Management Authority, Chamoli.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said the government's biggest priority is to provide quick relief to the affected people and evacuate them to safety.

He chaired a cabinet meeting during which a slew of decisions, including a six-month waiver of water and electricity bills and a one-year moratorium on recovery of bank loans, were taken to provide succour to the affected people.

The Indian Space Research Organisation released satellite images of Joshimath showing that it sank 5.4 cm between December 27, 2022 and January 8, 2023, triggered by a possible subsidence event on January 2.

The preliminary study by ISRO's National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) said the land subsidence was slow between April and November 2022, when Joshimath sank 8.9 cm.

The report said a subsidence zone resembling a generic landslide shape was identified tapered top and fanning out at the base. It noted that the crown of the subsidence was located near Joshimath-Auli road at a height of 2,180 metres.

Police personnel were deployed in large numbers around Malari Inn hotel, which has developed large cracks and is tilting precariously towards adjacent Mount View hotel, as

the demolition operation was underway.

The demolition is being carried out under the technical supervision of the Roorkee-based Building Research Central Institute, according to officials. Both Malari Inn and Mount View have been declared "unsafe". Mount View will be pulled down next.

Twenty-five more families were shifted to temporary relief camps, the District Disaster Management Authority said, adding that so far 185 families have been shifted to safe locations in the town.

The number of houses that have developed cracks stands at 760, out of which 147 have been marked unsafe, it said.

Chief Minister Dhami said here that his government is moving step by step to address the issues of subsidence-hit Joshimath in Chamoli district. "Our biggest priority now is

to provide quick relief to the affected people and to evacuate them to safety," he said.

"The affected families are being shifted to safer places. The demarcation of the affected buildings is going on continuously. Teams of geologists and experts are engaged in investigating the causes of land subsidence in the town," he added.

The Uttarakhand government decided to waive for six months electricity and water bills of subsidence-hit families and individuals and put on hold repayment of loans owed by them for a year.

It also decided to conduct a study on the carrying capacity of all towns located in the hills. The cabinet gave in-principle

approval to the construction of prefabricated houses for shortterm rehabilitation of the affected people of Joshimath at identified locations in Koti Pipalkoti, Gauchar, Farm, Gaukh Selang and Dhak vil-

lages after their survey.

# Tourists Throng Shimla After Light Snowfall; Hotel Occupancy Rises By 10-15 Percent



**Press Trust of India** 

Shimla: Tourists have started thronging to the queen of hills and the occupancy in hotels soared by 10-15 percent following light snowfall in Shimla and suburbs. However, the snowfall was fol-

lowed by rain and sleet and the happiness of tourists and residents lasted only for a few minutes. Several places in low hills

were lashed by intermittent rains ending the dry spell. The tourism industry is pinning hope that snow would

increase the tourist rush on weekends. The occupancy in hotels on Friday was about 50 percent as people from neighbour-ing Punjab and Haryana avoid

travelling on Lohri and the rush would pick up from Saturday, said M K Seth, the president of Tourism Industry Stakeholders Association.

Kothi in Kullu received 14 cm of snow followed by Khadrala and Shillaro 10 cm and 7.5 cm, Koksar 6 cm, Manali, Theog, Nichar, Bharmaur 5 cm while Kufri, Kalpa and Gondla received 4 cm each.

Jakhu hill in the capital town was covered under a thin layer of snow but intermittent rains washed the snow.

Light snowfall is being witnessed in isolated parts of Shimla, Kangra, Kullu, Chamba, Kinnaur and Lahaul and Spiti districts and as many as 194 roads including 177 in Lahaul and Spiti, 14 in Chamba, two in Kangra and one in Kullu districts are closed for vehicular traffic and 148 transformers are disrupted.

The local Meteorological station has predicted light rain and snow in isolated areas in mid and higher hills on January 14 and rains in low hills and dry weather in the region from January 14 to January 18.

It also cautioned of dense fog and cold wave in low hills from January 14 to 17.

Keylong in tribal Lahaul and Spiti was coldest at night recording a minimum temperature at minus 6.3 degree Celsius followed by Narkanda minus 2.8 degree degree Celsius, Kalpa minus 2.6 degree Celsius, Kufri minus 1.2 degree Celsius, Dalhousie minus 0.1 degree Celsius while the key tourist resorts of Manali Shimla shivered 0.4 degree Celsius and 1.4 degree Celsius respectively.

The maximum temperatures also dropped and Una with 21.8 degree Celsius was hottest

9596222551, PCR Ganderbal 01942416564,

during the day while the key tourist resorts of Dharamshala, Shimla, Manali, Kufri, Dalhousie and Narkanda recorded a maximum temperature of 18 degree Celsius, 9.8 degree Celsius, 4.2 degree Celsius, 3.0 degree Celsius, 2.6 degree Celsius and 0.9 degree Celsius respectively. The rain deficit in the month of January is 68 percent. The rains could reduce the loss by 10-15 percent, said officials of

the agriculture department. The prolonged dry spell in the state had resulted in 20-25 percent loss to wheat and vegetable crops in rainfed areas which constitute 75 percent of the total cultivable land in the state as Himachal received almost 100 percent deficit rains in December 2022.

Arrangements have been made in view of snow and the capital town has been divided into five sectors and nodal officers have been directed to hold meetings with concerned officers of various departments to chalk out a plan to handle the post-snowfall situation.

The Shimla police have advised the tourists to drive safely at slippery points and call 0177-2812344 or 112 in case of emergency.

## Hate Speeches Complete Menace, We Want Free And Balanced Press In India: SC

channels are found to be violat-

ing the programme code by in-

dulging in propagation of hate

speech, action can be taken

"We want free and balanced

The counsel representing the

News Broadcasters Association

claimed that thousands of

complaints have been received

in the past year and action tak-

"In a live programme, the key

to fairness of the programme is

held by the anchor. If the an-

chor is not fair, he would not

allow the counter view to come

by either muting the speaker or

by not asking the question to

the other side. This is an insig-

been taken against the anchor?

Media people must learn that they are occupying positions

of great strength and they have

an impact on society. They can-

not be part of the problem and

speak their mind whichever

way they want," the bench said.

taken against the news anchor

or their management, all will

Solicitor General KM Nataraj,

appearing for the Centre, that

freedom of speech and expres-

sion is a very important and

delicate thing and the govern-

ment has to take some action

without actually interfering

Nataraj said the Centre is aware of the problem and

is contemplating bringing

amendments in the Code of

Criminal Procedure (CrPC) to

deal with the problem of hate

Justice Nagarathna, who re-cently gave a dissenting verdict

The court told Additional

Justice Joseph said if action is

"How many times action has

nia of bias.

fall in line.

with it.

speeches.

against their management.

press in India," she said.

en against the channels.

#### **Press Trust of India**

KASHMIR OBSERVER

SRINAGAR | SATURDAY | 14.01.2023

New Delhi: Hate speeches are a "complete menace", the Supreme Court observed on Friday and rued the lack of regulatory control on TV news content, saying it wants "free and balanced press in India".

The top court said nowadays everything is driven by TRP (television rating point) and channels are competing with each other and creating a division in society. It wondered why can't a TV news anchor, if they become a part of the problem of propagating hate speech, be taken off air.

It said unlike for print media, there is no Press Council of India for news channels, and observed "We want free speech, but at what cost".

A bench of Justices KM Joseph and BV Nagarathna, which was hearing a batch of petitions seeking a curb on hate speech incidents across the country and action against the culprits, said, "Hate speech has become a complete menace. It has to stop."

Expressing concern over me-dia trial, the bench pointed to the recent incident of a man allegedly urinating on an Air India flight, saying, "He was called names. Media people should understand he is still under trial and he should not be denigrated. Everyone has dignity."

Justice Joseph said TV channels are competing with each other as news coverage is TRP-driven.

"They sensationalise everything and create divisions in society because of the visual element. Unlike the newspaper, the visual medium can influence you much more and unfortunately, the audience is not mature enough to see these kind of content," he said.

counter view.

on speeches made by public He said many a time during functionaries where she dealt live debates the anchors bewith the issue of hate speech said, "Ultimately, it all comes came part of the problem as they either mute the voice of the person sitting in a panel or don't allow them to present a

down to the content of the speech. Freedom of speech and expression comes with great responsibility."

#### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### **Seasons First Snowfall**

The highway was closed for traffic due to landslides in the Mehar area of Ramban district and slippery conditions of the road for most part of the day, they said.

The officials said road clearance was completed in the evening, but only stranded veBaramulla district was recorded at minus 0.6 degrees Celsius, up from minus 5.5 degrees Celsius, the officials said. The MeT Office had said that fairly wide-

spread light rain in the plains of Kashmir and Jammu divisions and light to moderate snow over the higher reaches is expected on Friday. Deputy Director, Meteorological department Mukhtar Ahmad, told Kashmir Observer that

01942416478, 9906668731, PCR Awantipora 0193247369, 7051404001, PCR Shopian 9596768831, 01933-261891, 9596768831, PCR Anantnag 01932-222870, 01932-222100, 9596777669, PCR Handwara 01955262295, 9906767076, PCR Sopore 01954-222312, 01954-225333, 9596773024, PCR Baramulla 01952234410 01952237830 9596767768

The Home Minister said that following the policy of zero tolerance against terrorism under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, all security agencies are fighting a decisive battle against terrorism.

He said that the government led by PM Modi stands firmly with the families of the victims and is determined to help them. "With full empathy, the affe

#### **Electric Shocks**

animals were also electrocuted in separate incidents in 2021, adding that eight persons including two regular employees, two civilians and four PDL/TDL/CL/DRW.

The official document further added that a total of 29 fatal and non-fatal electrical accidents have occurred across Kashmir in 2021. It

## Justice Nagarathna said if TV

hicles were allowed to ply.

However, slippery conditions prevail with intermittent shooting stones and mudslides along the route, the officials said, advising commuters to travel with caution.

The weather conditions also affected air traffic at the Srinagar airport.

Air traffic to and fro Kashmir was suspended and flights for the rest of the day cancelled due to snowfall, officials said here.

Flight operations had taken place in the morning, but had to be suspended due to continuous snowfall and low visibility, the officials said

They said the passengers of the cancelled flights would be accommodated by the respective airlines in the next available flight "at no extra cost".

Director Srinagar International Airport, Kuldeep Singh told Kashmir Observer that 35 flights were cancelled due to poor visibility. He said if the weather permits, all the flights will take off on Saturday.

When asked that flights don't stop despite heavy snowfall in Europe but are suspended in Kashmir after few inches of snowfall he said ' flights are suspended in every part of world when there is low visibility" he said adding that "Our Airport does have all the facilities"

Moreover, the inclement weather conditions also affected the electricity at some places including South and central Kashmir areas.

"There are some outages but during the ongoing snowfall, there has been no major outage anywhere. We have already pressed our men and machinerv into the services and the electricity at these places are being restored in a short span of time," Chief Engineer, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), Javed Yousuf Dar told a local news agency KNO.

Meanwhile, the wet weather pushed the night temperature up at most places in the Valley.

The mercury settled above the freezing point in Srinagar and Qazigund.

Srinagar recorded a low of 1 degree Celsius on Thursday night, up from minus 0.2 degrees the night before, the officials said.

Qazigund, the gateway to the Valley, registered a minimum temperature of 0.2 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag in south Kashmir recorded a low of minus 0.2 degrees, they said.

The minimum in Kupwara, a frontier district, settled above the freezing point at a low of minus 0.7 degrees.

Pahalgam in Anantnag district, which also serves as a base camp for the annual Amarnath Yatra, registered a low of minus 2.4 degrees Celsius.

The minimum temperature in Gulmarg in

weather is likely to improve from Saturday.

"The weather would remain mainly dry from January 14 till January 18" he said.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of 'Chillai Kalan', the 40-day harshest weather period when the chances of snowfall are maximum and most frequent.

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.

Meanwhile, in view of the bad weather, Police have established Emergency Helpdesk Control Rooms for the people in order to facilitate them in case of any untoward incident or distress. For any emergency or exigency, general public can also dial 112, a police spokesperson said.

For Bandipora district, the helpline numbers include PCR Bandipora 01957225278, 9596767430, ASP Bandipora 9596767453, DYSP HQRS Bandipora 9596767440, SDPO Gurez 7006795292, SHO PS Gurez 7006250037, SHO PS Tulail 7780922131, DO Police Post Izmarg 9419991882, SHO PS Bandipora 9596767411, SHO PS Pethkote 9596767415, SHO PS Aragam 9596767421, DO Police Post Aloosa 9596767416, DO Police Post Sumlar 9596767413, DO Police Post Ajas 9596767452, SHO PS Hajin 9596767431 & SHO PS Sumbal 9596767441.

For district Budgam, the helpline numbers include PCR Budgam 01951-255207, 01951-255042, 8082567612, SHO Budgam 9419000538, SHO Magam 9906449794, SHO Khansahib 9596000212, SHO Chadoora 7006411196, SHO Charar-e-Sharief 9797279660, SHO Khag 9419905840, SHO Breewah 7006252476, DO Humhama 6005599737, DO Soibugh 9906000474, DO Narbal 9797626526, DO Waterihail 9419007052, DO Pakerpora 9797985415, Out-Post Hardipanzo 9596203940, DO Mouchwa 9797290222.

For district Kulgam, the helpline numbers include Police Control Kulgam (PCR) 01931260486, 7889786112, ASP Kulgam 9906605555, DySP Hqrs Kulgam 7051510654, SDPO DH Pora 7051510676, SHO PS Kulgam 7051510661, SHO PS Yaripora 7051510662, SHO PS DH Pora 7051510663, SHO PS Devsar 7051510664, SHO PS Qazigund 7051510665, SHO PS Qaimoh 7051510667, SHO PS Manzgam 7051510671, SHO PS Behibagh 7051510669, SHO PS Kund 7051510670, IC PP Frisal 7051510668, IC PP JT 7051510680, IC PP Mirbazar 7051510679

PCR Srinagar 0194-2477567, 9596222550,

PCR Kupwara 01955-252451, 9596152621, 7051404938, PCR Pulwama 01933-241280, 01933-241986, 8491942867, 9070123536 and PCR Kashmir: 0194-2506506, 0194-2506507

Police also said that citizens can also avail any kind of assistance by dialing 112 (With PTI inputs)

#### LG, Ex- CMs

He was a great socialist leader with a strong connect with the people. His absence will be felt. May his soul rest in peace," Omar tweeted.

Former Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, who has floated the Democratic Azad Party, said Yadav will be missed by all.

"Heartfelt condolences on the passing away of former Union Minister Sharad Yadav Ji. Sharad Ji was a towering leader who always stood with the poorest & the weakest. My tribute to the last of the great socialist leaders of India. He will be missed by all of us," Azad tweeted.

#### **Tricolor In Every**

under the G20, the Sports and Youth Affairs Minister said that only youth can fulfil Swami Vivekananda's dream of making India a Vishwaguru in the 21st century.

"One Narendra is fulfilling the dreams of another Narendra (Swami Vivekananda). Under the leadership of Modi ji, India is on the path of becoming a Vishwaguru and the presidency of the G20 is a reflection of this. The G20 is a platform from which India can project its glorious history and its art-culture and literature," he said.

Describing the youth as the architect of future India, Thakur said, "Our youth have to decide what India of the future will be like. Climate change affects our farmers and everyone else . What is to be done to do with the melting glaciers and climate change is all up to our vouth".

At the end of the program, the Union Minister called upon all the youth to become change agents.

"Always remember, 'Ballot is more powerful than bullet'. Let's take the country forward together. Always move forward in life, never despair. Let's work together as a team". he added.

#### 'Impenetrable' Security

I spoke to all the families over the phone and tried to join their grief". Shah said, adding that the courage of all those victim families is an example for the whole country.

"It is a big thing to maintain the morale of fighting hard even after such a big incident," he said.

would be given benefits through various schemes of the government, along with this all possible help will be provided by the LG with relief measures under his authority, Shah said.

He said that a detailed meeting was held with security agencies in Jammu on all aspects of security, discussions were also held on creating a very secure grid in the coming days.

"All the security agencies of the country are fully prepared and their morale is high with confidence to prevent such incidents," he added.

The Home Minister said that NIA and Jammu Police will jointly investigate the terrorist incidents that took place in these two days and this investigation will be done keeping together all the incidents that happened in the last one and a half years.

"The people responsible for these terrorist attacks will be brought to book at the earliest and will be dealt with severe punishment," he said.

The Home Minister said that support and information systems of terrorist groups were also discussed in detail during the meeting and all the agencies have assured to create a complete 360-degree security mechanism.

"Compared to the time when menace of terrorism started in Jammu and Kashmir, there have been the least number of incidents and deaths in recent times. Within three months the security grid in every area of Jammu would be made impenetrable by further strengthening it," Shah said.

He assured the people that security agencies will be ready to protect Jammu regardless of intention of the terrorist organizations,

Asked about strengthening the Village Defence Committees (VDCs) in Rajouri in the wake of recent attack, he said: "The decision to strengthen VDCs was taken in August last year. This needs not to be linked with the Raiouri incident."

About a query on minority killings, he said: "Security forces are giving a befitting reply to every plan of terror. J&K LG has taken a series of steps to protect the minority members as he has the powers to do so. If we go by the figures, minority killings are far less compared to previous years." (With agency inputs)

#### **Double Whammy**

SSP Kulgam led all its efforts to recused the families & Control fire".

#### VDG Opens

They suspects escaped taking the advantage of darkness, they added. (PTI)

added that ten cases have been recommended and ex-gratia relief has been sanctioned for six cases so far.

It further added that 17 persons have also lost their lives due to electrocution in 2022 across the Valley. The document further stated that the deceased include five civilians ten PDL/TDL/CL/DRW and two regular employees.

Of total 25 electric accidents in the year 2022, a total of eight persons have received injuries, which include two regular employees, five PDL/TDL/CL/DRW and one civilian. The document revealed that seven cases have been recommended for ex-gratia relief so far.

According to the document, a total of 19 PDL/TDL/CL/DRW have lost their lives in the last two years while nine such employees have suffered injuries in electric accidents in the Valley. (KNO)

#### 6 Men Charged

Sajjad Gul, the Pakistani handler, the accused used to collect, receive and transport the weapons, dropped over drones, to the militants active in Kashmir valley for commission of terror activities in Jammu and Kashmir," it reads.

It reads the accused were chargesheeted under u/s 120B, 121A & 122 of IPC, sections 16, 17, 18, 18B, 20, 23, 38, 39 & 40 of UA (P) Act, 1967, sections 25(1)(a) & 25(1AA) of the Arms Act and sections 4 & 5 of the Explosive Substances Act are as follows:

As per the statement, accusers include Faisal Muneer, Habib, Mian Sohail, Muni Mohd (deceased), Rashid and Sajjad Gul.

It reads further investigations in the case was in progress.

#### Child Injured

(FIR No. 10/2023) under relevant sections of law and further investigations are underway.

#### Avalanche Warning

communication, avalanche with high danger level is likely to occur above 2000 metres of Bandipora and Kupwara districts in the next 24 hours.

"Avalanche with medium danger level is likely to occur above 2000 metres over Baramulla and Ganderbal districts and avalanche with low danger level is likely to occur above 2000 metres over Anantnag, Doda, Kishtwar, Kulgam, Poonch and Ramban districts in the next 24 hours," the communication reads.

It also advised people living in these areas to take precautions and avoid venturing in the avalanche prone areas.

## STATE

### **Forest Dept Asks Implementing Agencies To Expedite Utilization Of Funds Under Key Scheme**

#### Agencies

SRINAGAR: J&K's Forest department has directed its different agencies to expedite the utilization of funds under the compensatory afforestation fund scheme after the Finance Department advised it to approach it for further release of funds after spending the already released amount in full.

In a communique, the office of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) has written to different agencies involved in implementation of the compensatory afforestation fund scheme to expedite utilization of already released amount in full. "It is requested to advise all the implementing agen-cies under your administrative control to expedite utilization of released funds in full, "reads the letter written by Sarvesh Rai, additional principal chief conservator of forests and chief executive officer, CAMPA

The move comes after the Finance department's observations over the Forest department's request for releasing of remaining funds under the scheme

In its observations, the Finance department has advised the Forest department to approach it after utilization of already released funds in full.

The compensatory afforestation funds are used for the treatment of catchment areas, forest management, wildlife protection and managing human-wildlife conflicts.

The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act was enacted in 2016 to manage the monies received from the user agencies towards compensatory afforestation, additional compensatory afforestation, penal compensatory afforestation, net present value and all other amounts recovered from such agencies under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980–(KNO)



A GROUP OF GIRLS ENJOYING SNOWFALL in the hilly area of Fakeer Gujri in the outskirts of Srinagar on Friday. KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

## **Search Continues To Track Down Militants Involved In Rajouri Attacks**

#### **Press Trust Of India**

RAJOURI: Security forces are vet to make a breakthrough in tracking down those involved in the twin terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district as a massive cordon and search operation contin-ues for over 10 days. Over 60 people have been

questioned by the police in connection with the terror attacks that left seven people dead and 14 others injured in Dhangri village in Rajouri, sources said.

To track down attackers, security forces are conducting a massive operation in Rajouri district with the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Army leading the efforts and the central armed paramilitary forces (CAPFs) assisting them operations, they said.

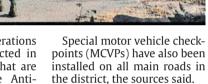
The main areas where the operations are being conduct are in Kandi, Budhal, Kalakote, Dharamsal, the official sources said.

They said some operations have also been conducted in villages in Nowshera that are located ahead of the Anti-Infiltration Obstacle System (AIOS)

The troops have also conducted operations in some villages under the Darhal police station limits, located just at foothills of the snow-covered Pir Panjal mountain ranges, the sources said.

**No Accurate Figure About Drug** 

**Addicts In Kashmir, Say Doctors** 



Senior Superintendent of Police, Rajouri, Mohammad Aslam said intensive cordon and search operations are going on across Rajouri to trace the attackers.

He said questioning of suspects is going on and police have got vital leads.

## DC Anantnag Takes Stock Of **Snow Clearance Measures**

#### **Observer News Service**

**ANANTNAG:** Following the first Snowfall in the district and accumulation of almost 1ft in some areas, Snow cutters were deployed across the length and breadth of the district to ensure all roads were operational and no major disruptions in services were witnessed.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr Basharat Oavoom conducted an extensive tour of various areas. He visited Govt Hospital Janglat Mandi and Sub District Hospital Bijbehara and interacted with the staff and patients. He directed the hospital officials to ensure round the clock availability of medical personnel

cal Engineering Division. It was informed that Snow clearance operations are underway in all parts of the district with special focus on calls for emergency assistance.

The officials informed the DC that P1 roads and access roads to medical facilities are being cleared on priority.

Dr Basharat said that men and machinery have been deployed and Snow clearance operations are underway. He said that due to continuous Snowfall, roads are slippery and people should exercise caution when travelling. He said that he is personally monitoring essential services and there have been no reports of major disruptions and power outages due to faults being ad-



Dr Basharat also visited the KPDCL workshop at Bijbehara. He directed the officials to ensure that any outages in transformers must be restored without any delays. He said that electric outages must be minimised and the department should ensure time bound replacement of transformers, wherever required.

dressed swiftly by response teams on the job.

He said people can reach the District Administration on the control numbers circulated for assistance. All control rooms are functioning and calls for help are being addressed. He said every effort is on to ensure minimum disruption to people. The DC was accompanied by

He also visited the Snow ADC Anantnag among other Control Room of the Mechaniofficials

## **DC Bandipora Reviews Power Scenario**

Ensure Timely Completion Of Augmentation Works For Smooth Power Supply: Dr. Owais



**Observer News Service** 

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed on Friday convened a meeting to review the current power scenario in the district.

meeting discussed The threadbare overall power sce- all areas across the district. He nario in the district and upgra- also directed for ensuring comdation works in power sector for augmentation of power scenario. It also discussed various mitigation efforts carried out in the affected areas. It was given out that Panzigam receiving station has been upgraded by installing a 6.3 MVA transformer which stabilizes Ajar and adjoining areas besides a separate feeder has been created for Kaloosa to sta-

for repairing the transformers and asked the PDD to take prompt measures to ensure the timebound redressal of the genuine concerns regarding power supply. The DC directed the concerned to ensure timely completion of augmentation works for smooth power supply to plete adherence to the p

## **Rendering People Landless** Is Unfortunate: Azad

#### **Observer News Service**

JAMMU: Urging Jammu and Kashmir government to "spare the poor" people in harsh winters, the Democratic Azad Party Chairman, & Former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on Friday said that retrieving land from poor and landless people is unfortunate.

Azad has taken serious note of the Govt. order vacating the State land allotted under the Roshni act and Kahcharai land by the end of current month. He said he had provided the land under Roshni Scheme as Chief Minister to poor, needy and landless for building houses and cultivation but now the prevailing regime is snatching it back that too in harsh weather conditions.

"Those who in my govern-ment were provided land to

### **Stock Position Of Essentials Reviewed At Ganderbal**

#### **Observer News Service**

**GANDERBAL:** A meeting was convened on Friday under the Mehrai-ud-Din

respective circle levels in collaboration with Revenue authorities and LPG associates to find out the households of the Chairmanship of Additional District who are without LPG Deputy Commissioner (ADC) connections, if any, so that the LPG be made available to such households as the Government of J&K is contemplating to declare the UT of Jammu and Kashmir as "Kerosene free" i.e no PDS Kerosene allocation by 31st of March-2023 owing to optimum penetration of LPG and almost complete electrification of all the villages of J&K. Furthermore, they were directed to initiate an appropriate exercise/drive at their respective circle levels in collaboration with Revenue authorities and Kerosene oil associates to find out the requirement of Kerosene oil for illumination and cooking only, if any, by the households of the District. The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner, Revenue Ganderbal, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Kangan, Assistant Director FCS&CA Ganderbal, Tehsil Supply Officers of FCS&CA and representatives of various Gas Agencies operating in the District.

build houses or cultivate to sustain their livelihood are rendered houseless or landless in the present dispensation. This practice should end and government should be more humane in dealing with such

Azad said that the people of Jammu Kashmir are the first beneficiaries of its resources. He said his party will continue to fight against all anti people decisions.

"Be it jobs or lands, the people of Jammu and Kashmir have first rights over it. The government must understand it and spare the poor and landless people," he said.

issues," he said.

He said his party's agenda is to secure the lands and jobs for local people in Jammu and Kashmir and he will ensure no one is bereft of his or her rights, if voted to power.

Shah in the V.C Room of Mini-Secretariat Ganderbal to review the stock position of essentials in the District.

At the outset, threadbare discussion was held on stock position of essential Commodities. LPG connections and kerosene oil requirement.

The ADC directed Assistant Director FCS&CA to make adequate stocks of all essential commodities available in the District so that routine hassle free supply to the consumers is ensured.

He also passed several instructions to the concerned for ensuring all households have LPG connections and appropriate exercise shall be carried at Tehsil level to find out the requirements of Kerosene oil for illumination and cooking purposes only by the households in the district.

Tehsil Supply Officers of FCS&CA Department were directed to initiate an appropriate exercise/drive at their

#### Agencies

SRINAGAR: There is no accurate figure about drug abusers in Kashmir as doctors say that those visiting drug de addiction centres is very less compared to the actual addicts.

A recent report by the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre in AIIMS revealed that over six lakh people in Jammu and Kashmir are addicted to drugs.

But several doctors working in drug de-addiction and Addiction treatment facilities, told a local news agency KNO that though the number of drug abusers visiting for treatment has increased but their number is 'tip of iceberg'. Dr Adil Farooq, Medical Officer at ATF Shopian said that

about 360 drug abusers have visited the facility in the last one year and among them around 200 have been follow-

ing their treatment but the rest are visiting occasionally or some have abandoned it.

About 98 percent of them are addicted to heroin with 50 percent detected with Hepatitis B and C. he said.

Dr Adil said that Shopian is one of the districts where rate of drug addiction and drug peddling is quite high but only 300-400 addicts visited for treatment last year.

According to him, 90 percent drug abusers never visited for treatment due to social stigma and lack of

family support. The doctor said that a person addicted to heroin shells out Rs 2500-5000 for buying the drug.

Similarly, another doctor from department of Psychiatry GMC Anantnag said that many drug addicts never visit drug de addiction facilities.

He said that the majority of people involved in drug addiction fall in the 15-30 age group and the main reasons behind it is peer pressure, easy availability of drugs etc.

A doctor from GMC Srinagar said that easy availability of drugs is one of prime reasons for the rise in the number of drug addicts.

The doctors said that lack of proper parenting, lack of care is found to be causes for drug addiction. They said a drug addict should be treated as a patient and not a criminal and they deserve love and care of their families and community.

bilize the supply in town. The meeting was informed that 43 transformers are in buffer stock for Bandipora Division and 38 transformers are in buffer for Sumbal sub division.

Dr. Owais stressed on the officers to minimise the pendency

curtailment schedule and no unnecessary power cuts. While reviewing the Amnesty scheme, the DC asked the concerned Officer to make extensive awareness regarding

the amnesty scheme and urged public to avail benefits of amnesty scheme and pay pending electricity dues.

The meeting was attended by Nodal Officer Coordination Mohd Ashraf Hakak, ADC Bandipora Waseem Raja, Joint Director Planning Imtiyaz Ahmad, Ex. Engineer PDD Bandipora, Ex. Engineer PDD Sumbal, Ex. Engineer project wing and other concerned.

### **DC Kupwara Inspects Delivery Of Public Services** In Handwara

#### **Observer News Service**

KUPWARA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatray on Friday held an extensive tour of Handwara sub-division to inspect the delivery of public services and monitor ongoing Snow clearance operation.

The DC visited District Hospital Handwara and inspected various sections of the hospital including Emergency ward, Operation Theatre, OPD, IPD, X-Ray, Paediatrics etc. He also checked the attendance of doctors and medical staff and directed them to work with added zeal for proper treatment of the patients.

The DC interacted with the patients and enquired about the healthcare services who expressed their satisfaction over the facilities.

Earlier, the DC paid a surprise visit to Health Centre Hatmullah and PHC Nagri and inspected the functioning of these centres.

ADC Handwara, Nazir Ahmad Mir and other concerned offi-

cers accompanied the DC. The DC also paid surprise visits to PHE and PDD Offices in Handwara and checked the attendance of officials. He took stock of feeders, power supply and repairing of transformers and directed the concerned to ensure smooth power supply to both metered and non-metered areas as per the schedule. The DC also took stock of ongoing Snow clearance measures in different areas of the Handwara sub division. He visited upper areas of Rajwar and Nowgam and heard various public deputations during the visit.

Doifode Sagar said that the aim of his visit was to check the delivery of various public services including healthcare, power, water supply and Snow clearance in Handwara sub division. He expressed satisfaction and said various services are functioning properly for which he has taken review of.

#### **CRPF Man** on Leave **Killed In Road** Accident

#### Agencies

SRINAGAR: A Central Reserve Police Force trooper of 53 Battalion was killed in a road accident in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, officials said.

They said that a car driven by one Mushtaq Ahmad Wani (40)skidded off the road, resulting in critical injuries to him.

"He was rushed to a nearby hospital, where the doctors declared him dead on arrival", they said. The deceased, they said, was a CRPF trooper, who was currently on leave.

## **Director RDD Tours Baramulla, Reviews Developmental Works**

tus of different works spear-

headed by RDD Baramulla

under District CAPEX besides

presenting a detailed sketch

about the implementation of

various centrally sponsored

schemes including ADP, CD &

Panchayat and other related

Plan (GPDP) formulation, final-

ization of Panchayat Awards

among other matters and em-

phasized to achieve saturation

#### Observer News Service

**BARAMULLA:** In order to take an appraisal of physical and financial progress of various developmental works being executed by the Rural Development Department (RDD), Director RDD Kashmir, Khalid Majeed on Friday conducted an extensive tour of Baramulla district.

schemes. During the visit, the Director During the meeting, the Dichaired a meeting at Dak Bunrector discussed comprehengalow and took an appraisal of sively the financial progress various development works unthat needs to be achieved in dertaken in different sponsored the current financial year. He also took a detailed review of schemes and programmes. At the outset, Assistant Gram Panchayat Development

Commissioner Development Baramulla Gulzar Ahmad Khan presented the brief socio-economic profile of the district through Power Point in all the underlined indicators Presentation. He briefed the and parameters. chair about the current sta-

Reiterating upon all the concerned authorities to achieve the principle of fiscal prudence through productive utilisation of all available resources, the Director stressed to adopt coordinated and integrated approach with all the relevant stakeholders and strive to realise the ambition of inclusiveness.

He also directed to follow all the envisaged fiscal guidelines and codal formalities in letter and spirit and refrain from any kind of financial deviation.

Furthermore, the Director stressed on the concerned officers/officials to take all possible measures to accelerate the pace of the ongoing works for their time-bound comple-

tion and directed for regular monitoring of works through field Inspections. He added that any kind of laxity would not be tolerated besides directing to maintain the quality specifications and the standard of work.

Khalid further directed to keep a close liaison and coordination with all the stakeholders so that a new system of implementation of developmental activities is ensured in a hassle free manner and people can realize the actual and intended benefits of work. He added to adopt a collaborative mechanism and sensitise all the stakeholders who can subsequently play their part in the developmental journey of rural areas.

## SPORTS

## J&K Lose To Punjab In **Ranji Trophy**



as soon as possible, the Punjab

batters pounded J&K bowlers

all over the park to reach the

target in just 24.5 overs, los-

ing 6 wickets in the process.

Abhishek Sharma 83 (47) and

skipper Mandeep Singh 45\*

(39) top scored to help Punjab

showcased yet another brilliant display with the ball as he took

J&K leg spinner Abid Mushtaq

wickets in Punjab's second

The domestic test match saw

only 44 overs of cricket over the

first two days due to bad weather.

innings to give the cricketing

powerhouse a minor scare. But captain Manodeep ensured the

team crossed the finish line.

secure the win.

Scores:

J&K: 212 & 260

Punjab: 268 & 210/6

4

#### **Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: The J&K men's cricket team lost to Punjab by 4 wickets in the ongoing Senior National Championship, the 73rd Edition Ranji Trophy, on Friday.

J&K's batting performances in the tournament continued to disappoint as the team lost 5 batters for barely 22 runs on the last day of the four-day test at Punjab Cricket Association Stadium in Mohali. Riding on Musaf Aijaz's valiant 89 (122), J&K managed to make 260 runs in their second innings, posting a target of 205 for Punjab to chase down. Wicketkeeper Fazil Rashid 46 (65) and Vivrant Sharma 26 (46) were the next two top scorers for J&K.

Determined to win the match

## **'Human Rights Are Not Politics': CA Chief On Australia's Withdrawal From Afghanistan Series**

- ► ACB call decision 'unfair' and 'pathetic'
- ▶ Rashid Khan wants politics out of cricket
- ▶ Naveen-ul-Haq refuses to play in BBL



#### Agencies

MELBOURNE: Cricket Australia chief executive Nick Hockley defended the decision to withdraw its men's team from a one-day international series against Afghanistan over women's rights after criticism from the Afghanistan Cricket Board

Australia opted out of the three-match series, scheduled for March in the United Arab Emirates, citing further restrictions by the Taliban on women's and girls' education and

in a furious response, while spinner Rashid Khan said he was considering his future in Australia's Big Bash league (BBL) and wrote on Twitter:

"Cricket! The only hope for the country. Keep politics out of it." Taliban-led Afghanistan's administration last month imposed a ban on women attendng universities. Girls have been banned from high school since March. They have also been excluded from parks and gyms.

"Basic human rights is not politics," Hockley said on Friday. "It is clearly a very challenging and sad situation. We did

not take this decision lightly and consulted widely including with our government. "We were hopeful of playing

the series and have been in regular dialogue with the Afghanistan Cricket Board, however announcements by the Taliban in late November and late December led to our decision to withdraw from these games." Rashid, who plays for the Ad-

elaide Strikers, has previously voiced support for women in Afghanistan since the Taliban seized control. His international team mate Naveen-ul-Haq said he will not play in the BBL "until they stop these childish decisions".

"We acknowledge and applaud Rashid Khan's and other Afghanistan cricketers' comments at the time condemning the Taliban's decision to ban women from universities,'

"Rashid will always be welcome in the BBL.

"We remain committed to supporting growing the game for women and men around the world and hope that improved conditions for women and girls in Afghanistan means that we can resume bilateral cricket in the not too distant future.'



## **Barça Set Up Super Cup Final Against Madrid In Riyadh**

Agencies

RIYADH: Marc-André ter Stegen saved two penalties and Pedri converted the deciding spot kick as Barcelona defeated Real Betis 4-2 in a shootout to set up a Spanish Super Cup final against rival Real Madrid this weekend in Saudi Arabia.

Madrid defeated Valencia on penalties in the other semifinal on Wednesday, when Thibaut Courtois made the decisive save. The decisive match will be on Sunday at the King Fahd Stadium in Rivadh.

Barcelona converted all four of its penalties in the shootout and Ter Stegen stopped the efforts by Juanmi and Willian Carvalho to give the Catalan club the victory. The teams drew 1-1 in regula- Cup trophy since 2018. (AP)

tion after Robert Lewandowski scored for Barcelona in the first half and Nabil Fekir equalized for Betis near the end. The score was 2-2 after extra time as Ansu Fati gave Barcelona an early lead and Loren Morón equalized again for Betis.

In the shootout, Fati, Lewandowski and Franck Kessie also scored for Barcelona. Morón and Willian José converted for Betis. It will be the first time Span-

ish powerhouses Barcelona and Madrid meet in the Super Cup final since the competition was revamped and taken to Saudi Arabia in 2020. Madrid will try to equal Barcelona with 13 Spanish Super Cup trophies, the most among all clubs. Barcelona will be trying to win its first Super

ber one's visa ban was waived in

### Djokovic 'Emotional' After Warm Welcome At Melbourne Park

**MELBOURNE:** Novak Djokovic said he felt "emotional" following a warm reception from fans upon his return to Melbourne Park for a practice match against Nick Kyrgios on Friday.

November, opening up a path for Djokovic to target a 10th Australian Open crown and giving him a chance to equal Rafa Nadal's mark of 22 Grand Slam titles. "I'm very happy, thank you so much," Djokovic said before the match, to

"I feel a bit emotional right now, to be honest. I was really looking forward to coming back to this court, so thank you all, guys, for coming out tonight for a great cause."

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#### Agencies

**PULWAMA:** Work on a sports ground situated in Urwan area of Pulwama district has been left incomplete, angering local sportsmen.

Athletes from several villages in the area said that they expectadministration visited ed that the government will priground and assured that work oritize upgrading facilities at the will start soon but nothing on sports ground so that they can get engaged in sports activities.

Irshad Ahmad a local said development of playing facilities is vital in the face of rising drug addiction in the Valley.

He said that around 10 lakh can continue training. (KNO)

ground, he said. They urged the authorities to develop this ground at the earliest so that the local youth can invest their free time in sports and the professional sportsmen

rupees were spent on the ground

by the government in 2020 but

Since then, funds were re-

Many a time officials of the

the

leased but they relapsed after no

they were insufficient to com-

plete all the works.

works were taken up.

## **India Beat Spain 2-0 In**

(ACB) and their players.

employment opportunities. The ACB described the decision as "unfair" and "pathetic"

Hockley added.

Agencies



cinated against COVID-19 and

received a three-year travel ban

However, the former world num-

for the country.



**Hockey World Cup Opener** 

#### **Press Trust of India**

ROURKELA: Hosts India defeated Spain 2-0 in their opening session besides earning as many match of the FIH men's hockey World Cup here on Friday.

Vice-captain Amit Rohidas (12th) and Hardik Singh (26th) cured three penalty corners but scored for India in the second Pool D match.

a rebound following a penaltycorner situation, Hardik sound-

wasted all. India will next play England, While Rohidas scored from who had thrashed Wales 5-0 in another Pool D match earlier in the day.

India were by far the better

side as they dominated the pos-

as five penalty corners, out of

which Rohidas converted one. Spain, on the other hand, se-

#### **Odisha Woman Cricketer Found Dead In Forest Near Cuttack**

#### **Press Trust of India**

**BHUBANESWAR:** Rajashree Swain, a woman cricketer of Odisha, was found dead in a dense forest near Cuttack city on Friday, police said. She was missing since January 11.

The body was found hanging from a tree in Gurudijhatia forest in Athagarh area, Cuttack Deputy Commissioner of Police Pinak Mishra said.

Her coach had filed a missing complaint with Mangalabag police station in Cuttack on Thursday. A case of unnatural death will be registered with Gurudijhatia police station. he said.

Police were yet to ascertain the cause of her death. Her family, however, alleged that she was murdered "as the body bore injury marks and her eyes were damaged".

Her scooter was found abandoned near the forest and her mobile phone was switched off. Police said the matter will be

probed from all angles. Her family members said around 25 women cricketers, including Swain, were part of a training camp organised by the Odisha Cricket Association (OCA) in Bajrakabati area for an upcoming national-level cricket tournament scheduled to be held in Puducherry. All of them were staying in a hotel in the locality. The Odisha state women's cricket team was announced on January 10, but Swain couldn't

make it to the final list. The next day, the players went to a cricket field in Tangi area for practice but Rajashree informed her coach that she was going to Puri to meet her father, police said. authentic Kashmiri herbs and spices

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