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## **Political Slugfest Erupts Over Lal Singh's Participation In Rahul's Yatra**

### **Auqib Javeed**

A major controversy has erupted in Jammu and Kashmir over the speculated participation of former minister Lal Singh in Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra, with two major regional parties National Conference and Peoples Democratic Party taking pot-shots at their one time ally Congress.

National Conference vicepresident Omar Abdullah said the Congress should not allow former minister Chaudhary Lal Singh, who had supported the rapists in the Kathua rape-andmurder case, to participate in the Bharat Jodo Yatra, which is scheduled to enter Jammu and Kashmir on January 19. "The Congress will have to

look into it that some people might try to use the yatra to whitewash their past. We have not forgotten the role played by those leaders who tried to save the rapist. The way they hurt the sentiments of people is not hidden from anyone,"



Abdullah told reporters here. The former chief minister was responding to a question whether the Congress should

## Cong In Damage Control Mode After Deepika Exit

ammu and Kashmir Congress Wednesday said it stands by the family of Kathua rape case victim after its spokesperson Deepika Pushkar Nath resigned from the party over its decision to "allow" an ex-minister, **More on P6** 

allow the participation of leaders like Singh, who had come out in support of the rape accused while being a minister in

## Rahul May Curtail Distance On Foot In J&K: Jairam

ongress leader Rahul Gandhi may curtail the distance on foot during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir, party leader Jairam Ramesh said on Wednesday, stressing that there will be no compromise on security. He said they are having **More on P6** 

the PDP-BJP government. The political slugfest erupted a day after Deepika Singh Rajawat resigned from the post of party from the party, saying Lal Singh defended the rapists of the eight-year-old girl in Kathua's Rasana and divided the entire Jammu & Kashmir to protect the rapists in the year 2018. "In view of Ch.Lal Singh's

proposal of joining @bharatjodo & @INCJammuKashmir allowing the same, I am left with no other option but to resign from @INCIndia .Lal Singh was responsible in sabotaging the Kathua rape case in 2018 by brazenly defending rapists," Deepika More on P6

## Weather, Security Concerns Pivotal For J&K Polls: CEC



### Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir will be held keeping in mind various factors, including weather and security concerns, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar said on Wednesday.

Responding to a reporter's question here on the possible timing of polls in the Union Territory, Kumar said, "We are conscious that in any place which is due for elections, it is our duty that we get the government in place as mandated." He noted that the delimitation process in Jammu and Kashmir has been completed and so is the special summary revision or revision of electoral roll. The CEC said returning officers and additional electoral registration officers have also been appointed in the rearranged and new constituencies.

"We are aware that once the process is complete, they (polls) must be held. And taking the weather, taking the security concerns and all other factors... other elections at that time.... (into consideration, we will take a decision)," he said.

The final electoral roll of Jammu and Kashmir was published on November 25 last year, paving the way for the Assembly polls, the first since the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution were abrogated in 2019 and the erstwhile state was bifurcated into Union territories. The revision of the electoral roll was carried out after a gap of nearly three years. It was last carried out with reference to January 1, 2019 as the qualifying date. The electoral roll **More on P6** 



The musical band of Border Security Force (BSF) organised a musical show on the banks of Dal Lake on Wednesday and performed renditions of the patriotic songs, days ahead of Republic Day. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## Cold Wave Intensifies In Kashmir

### **Press Trust Of India**

**Srinagar:** Cold wave conditions in Kashmir intensified as the minimum temperature plunged further below the freezing point across the valley owing to clear skies even as the Meteorological Department has forecast rains and snow from Thursday, officials said. Srinagar recorded a low of mi-

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 4.3 degrees Celsius on Tuesday night -- down from minus 2.7 degrees Celsius the night before, they said. The minimum temperature was 2 degree below normal.

Qazigund, the gateway to the Valley, registered a minimum of minus 7.4 degrees Celsius, 4.1 degrees below normal.

Kokernag in south Kashmir recorded a low of minus 6.2 degrees Celsius, while the minimum in Kupwara, a frontier district, settled at minus 6.2 degrees Celsius, nearly 8 degrees below normal, the officials said.

Pahalgam in Anantnag district, which also serves as a base camp for the annual Amarnath Yatra, registered a low of minus 11.7 degrees Celsius, almost same as previous night.

The minimum temperature at the famous ski-resort of Gulmarg in Baramulla district also stayed around the previous night's minus 11.5 degrees Celsius. The meteorological **More on P6** 

## Magisterial Probe Ordered Into Sidhra Encounter

### **Press Trust Of India**

**Jammu:** The Jammu and Kashmir government has ordered a magisterial probe into the encounter in Sidhra area here in December last year in which four militants were killed.

Assistant Commissioner, Jammu, Piyush Dhotra has been appointed as an enquiry officer to conduct the probe into the encounter which took place near police check-point at Sidhra on December 28, according to an order issued by the additional district magistrate.

"I have been directed to conduct a magisterial enquiry and submit the report to district magistrate, Jammu", Dhotra said in a notice on Wednesday. The probe has been ordered in accordance with the guidelines issued by the National Human Rights Commission.

"In order to gather facts of the matter and to conduct enquiry in a fair and transparent manner, anyone having any information can come to the office and record his or her statement from today till January 21", the officer said.

Four heavily-armed militants, travelling in a truck to Kashmir after infiltrating from Pakistan, were **More on P6** 

## Govt Spending Rs 2 Cr Daily On Treatment Of People: LG

Says 97% Of Population In J&K Has Insurance Cover

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir administration is spending Rs 2 crore everyday on the treatment of common people and 97% of the population in the Union Territory has insurance cover, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said Wednesday.

"SEHAT Golden cards have been provided to 80 lakh citizens, with 28,000 hospitals extending treatment facilities to them across the country. Today, dialysis facilities have been made available in all the districts. Geriatric and Pediatric wards have been established in all district hospitals," the LG said.



IN OUR JOURNEY TO ACHIEVE QUALITY & Accessible Healthcare, we have taken special care to make our health services effective, people-centered and equitable."

He made these remarks after handing over an ex-gratia cheque of Rs 10 lakhs to NoKs of each deceased National Health Mission (NHM) employee More on P6

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Govt Accelerates Anti-Encroachment Drive In J&K

Over 300 Kanal Land Retrieved On Wednesday, Eviction Notices Served To People; Warned Of Strict Action

### Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday intensified the ongoing anti-encroachment drive to free state land, even as public notices were issued to violators in other districts of the Valley to remove illegal constructions within seven days.

According to officials, over 300 kanal of state land was retrieved during anti-encroachment drives in the three districts of Kupwara, Baramulla and Shopian on Wednesday. Besides it, an anti-encroachment drive was also carried out in Budgam. The major chunk of land

measuring 276 kanal was retrieved from encroachers in the Drugmulla area of Kupwara district, officials said. The drive, they

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said, was launched by a team of Revenue department officials headed by Tehsildar Drugmulla, Dr. Ajaz Ahmad in presence of SHO Drugmulla and media.

"This big patch of 276 kanals of land was encroached by just 03 families, who reportedly sold the land, as 05 marla plots", Ahmad said, adding that the detailed report with survey numbers are being prepared and the expenditure for removing the encroachment will be realized as arrears of land revenue from the encroachers, for which necessary instructions have already been given by the authorities.

Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, Dr Doifode Sagar Dattatray said that anti-encroachment drives will continue in all the parts of **More on P6** 

## Heart Attacks Kill Doctor, Engineer

ssociate professor and Head of Department, Orthopaedics, Government Medical College (GMC) Rajouri, Dr. Shalinder Sharma died from a massive heart attack. officials said on Wednesday. Quoting Dr Mehmood Choudhary, Superintendent GMC Rajouri, news agency GNS reported that Dr Sharma had a massive heart attack at his residence and he was brought to GMC during predawn. However, he said, despite best efforts by a team of doctors, Dr Sharma could not be revived and passed away.

Meanwhile, an assistant executive engineer of the Power Development Department (PDD) also died of a heart attack. **More on P6** 

## BSF Seizes Drone Dropped Arms

he Border Security Force (BSF) has seized a cache of weapons and ammunition dropped by a Pakistani drone around eight kilometres inside the Indian territory from the international border in Puniab. a senior official said on Wednesday. BSF troops heard the humming sound of the drone coming from Pakistan in the Uncha Takala frontier village area of Gurdaspur district around 11:50 pm on Tuesday, the official said. "The drone could have been at a height of 300-400 metres, although it was not visible because of dense fog in the area. "As the jawans heard the sound of the drone, they More on P6

## Suspected IED Seized In Rajouri

suspected improvised explosive device (IED), planted in a tiffin box, was seized in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Wednesday, a senior police official said. Senior Superintendent of Police, Rajouri, Mohammad Aslam said the object was found from an open field in the town's Kheora locality in the afternoon. The area was immediately cordoned

off. Bomb disposal squads and sniffer dogs were pressed into service and the material was seized, the officer said, adding that further investigation is on. Officials said security forces have launched a search operation in the town and checking has also been intensified following the More on P6

## Rustler Arrested In Awantipora: Police

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Dolice on Wednesday claimed to have arrested a rustler in South Kashmir's Awantipora and recovered stolen cattle from him within 24hours. The arrest was made on the basis of a complaint received by police station Pampore on Tuesday from Mohammad Altaf Bhat resident of Patalbagh Pampore stating that during intervening night of 16/17 January, some unknown burglar stolee his two cows from cowshed. a police spokesperson said. Accordingly, he said, a case vide FIR No. 09/2023 under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Pampore and investigation was initiated.

"During the course More on P6

## IAF Commences Kargil Courier Services

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he Indian Air Force on Wednesday commenced a key air courier service that serves the people of Kargil and ferried more than 30 people to and fro Srinagar, officials said. The civilian population of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh face challenges in the winters due to closure of road from Srinagar to Kargil due to snowfall. "As many as 35 passengers were lifted today. Sixteen passengers were airlifted from Srinagar to Kargil and 15 passengers from Kargil to Srinagar in the Indian Air Force AN-32 aircraft", an official said. Four passengers, including a patient,

were also lifted in Mi-17 and Pawan Hans helicopters from Kargil to Srinagar, they said. During these difficult times, IAF More on P6

## 2 Drug Peddlers Held In South Kashmir

Police on Wednesday claimed to have arrested two drug peddlers in South Kashmir's Kulgam & Anantnag districts and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

"A Police party of Police Station Qaimoh at a checkpoint established at Naibasti, Qaimoh intercepted a suspicious person identified as Bilal Ahmad Mantoo son of Bashir Ahmad Mantoo resident of Buchroo. During checking, officers were able to recover 130 grams of Brown Sugar and Digital Weighing Machine from his possession. He was arrested and shifted to police station," a police spokesman said. Meanwhile, Police Station Mattan received a specific information through More on P6



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## **Managing Negative Emotions Could Be Key To Slowing Pathological Ageing: Study**

### **Press Trust Of India**

cientists have discovered details about link between impact of negative emotions on the brain of the elderly and pathological ageing, which may help prevent or delay neurodegeneration, according to a study.

Neuroscientists at the University of Geneva (UNIGE), Switzerland, observed the activation of the brains of young and older adults when confronted with the psychological suffering of others.

Negative emotions, anxiety and depression are thought to promote the onset of neurodegenerative diseases and dementia. But what is their impact on the brain and can their deleterious effects be limited? According to the study, the neuronal connections of the older adults show significant emotional inertia: negative emotions modify them excessively and over a long period of time, particularly in the posterior cingulate cortex and the amygdala, two brain regions strongly involved in the management of emotions and autobiographical memory. These results indicate that

a better management of these emotions could help limit neurodegeneration. The findings appear in the journal Nature Aging. For the past 20 years, neu-

roscientists have been looking at how the brain reacts to emotions. "We are beginning to understand what happens at the moment of perception of an emotional stimulus," explains Dr Olga Klimecki, last author of this study.

"However, what happens afterwards remains a mystery. How does the brain switch from one emotion to another? How does it return to its initial state? Does emotional variability change with age? What are the consequences for the brain of mismanagement of emotions?", said Klimecki. Previous studies in psychol-

ogy have shown that an ability to change emotions quickly is beneficial for mental health. Conversely, people who are

unable to regulate their emotions and remain in the same emotional state for a long time are at higher risks of depression.

emotional content, in order to observe their brain activity using functional MRI. First, the team compared a group of 27 people over 65

years of age with a group of 29 people aged around 25 years. The same experiment was then repeated with 127 older adults, the study said. "Older people generally

shows an increase in its connections with the amygdala, which processes important emotional stimuli.

"These connections are stronger in subjects with high anxiety scores, with rumination, or with negative thoughts," said Lugo.

However, older people tend to regulate their emotions bet-

"Is it poor emotional regulation and anxiety that in-creases the risk of dementia or the other way around? We still don't know," said Lugo.

"Our hypothesis is that more anxious people would have no or less capacity for emotional distancing.

"The mechanism of emotional inertia in the context of ageing would then be ex-plained by the fact that the brain of these people remains 'frozen' in a negative state by relating the suffering of others to their own emotional memories," said Lugo.

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The mechanism of emotional inertia in the context of ageing would then be explained by the fact that the brain of these people remains 'frozen' in a negative state by relating the suffering of others to their own emotional memories

## **Green Hydrogen Mission** to help India meet net-zero targets: Experts



**Press Trust Of India** 

The National Green Hydrogen Mission is a "significant step" towards achieving the country's net-zero targets and and will help in reducing input costs of clean energy source, besides generating lakhs of job oppor-tunities in the renewable energy sector, experts say. The Union Cabinet on Janu-

ary 4 approved the National Green Hydrogen Mission, which aims to make India a global manufacturing hub and a clean

source of energy. The objective of the Mission is also development of a production capacity of at least 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonnes) per annum with an associated renewable energy capacity addition of about 125 GW in the country by 2030.

"I expect that the emphasis on demand creation, incentives and partnerships will kick-start the green hydrogen industry in the country and enable Indian companies to be on a level footing with

the global energy suppliers. "The industry is ready to support India's clean energy transition," Sumant Sinha, Chairman and CEO, ReNew Power. Sinha, who is also the president of industry body Assocham, termed the launch of the mission

"a significant step" towards helping India achieve net-zero targets. Ishver Dholakiya, MD of

Goldi Solar said the program will facilitate production, utilisation, and export, along with generation of lakhs of job opportunities in the renewable energy sector.

The incentives will help bring down the cost of input materials like electrolysers, which will help local players to become competitive at the global level, he said.

Girishkumar Kadam, Senior Vice President & Co-Group Head - Corporate Ratings, ICRA Ltd said the round-the-clock procurement of renewable energy at competitive rates remains extremely critical for an improvement in the utilisation of electrolysers.

The timely implementation of the proposed PLI scheme to incentivize/promote the domestic manufacturing of electrolysers will be critical, he said.

Abhay Kumar Singh, ex-CMD of state-owned NHPC, said the cost of per kg hydrogen comes to around USD 3 at present. With the government's ambitious mission it will be less than half

in the times to come. "In April 2022, when I was CMD NHPC, the company had signed an agreement with the Himachal government to develop a pilot green hydrogen mobility project including hydrogen production," he said.

The mission will give a boost to investment sentiments of more and more interest players, Singh said.

"Our aim was to determine what cerebral trace remains after the viewing of emotional scenes, in order to evaluate the brain's reaction, and, above all,

'We focused on the older adults, in order to identify possible differences between normal and pathological ageing," says Patrik Vuilleumier, who co-directed this study.

According to the study, the scientists showed volunteers short television clips showing people in a state of emotional suffering - during a natural disaster or distress situation for example - as well as videos with neutral show a different pattern of brain activity and connectivity from younger people," said Sebastian Baez Lugo, a researcher in Patrik Vuilleumi-

er's laboratory and the first author of this work. "This is particularly noticeable in the level of activation of the default mode network, a brain network that is highly activated in resting state. Its activity is frequently disrupted by depression or anxiety, sug-

gesting that it is involved in the regulation of emotions. "In the older adults, part of this network, the posterior cingulate cortex, which processes autobiographical memory.

FREE

ter than younger people, and focus more easily on positive details, even during a negative event, the study said.

But changes in connectivity between the posterior cingulate cortex and the amygdala could indicate a deviation from the normal ageing phenom-enon, accentuated in people who show more anxiety, rumination and negative emotions, the study said.

The posterior cingulate cortex is one of the regions most affected by dementia, suggesting that the presence of these symptoms could increase the risk of neurodegenerative disease, the study said.



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its recovery mechanisms.

## **Climate Change: Study**

**Diversity Within Species** 

**Helps Resist Effects Of** 

### Press Trust Of India

cientists have found that North American bird communities containing functionally diverse species have changed less under climate change during the past 50 years than functionally simple communities.

În a recent scientific study from University of Helsinki covering nearly all North American bird species, researchers studied community composition changes and community diversity over half a century.

Bird communities with higher species richness and a larger variety of functional properties changed less radically in their community composition following climate change, the study said.

"For example, if a community contained birds of prey, insectivores, and seed-eaters rather than birds from just one feeding guild, it was better safeguarded against the negative impacts of climate change," highlighted Emma-Liina Marjakangas, the leading researcher of the study.

Climate change has undisputable global effects on ecosystems and ecological community compositions, but why certain communities are better able to resist the effects of climate change than others remains unclear.

Community-level diversity works as a buffer against negative climate change impacts, especially during winter, i.e the season that has shown strongest climatic warming across the Northern Hemisphere.

On the other hand, biodiversity played a smaller role during the breeding season.

Earlier studies have shown that bird communities change faster during winter than summer, which explains this pattern.

Habitat and available food determine a species' flexibility for changing its breeding and wintering areas, the study said.

"For example, grassland species have shifted their distributions northwards slower than forest passerines, such as the American robin, or habitat generalists, such as the mourning dove," explained senior curator Aleksi Lehikoinen, University of Ĥelsinki.

Functionally diverse bird communities help maintain ecosystems via plant seed dispersal, pest insect control and even pollination of flowering plants, the study said.

Climate change reshuffles the composition of these important bird communities and therefore threatens their ability to provide ecosystem services, the study said.

"Our results strengthen the understanding that biodiversity safeguards ecosystem functioning and that the biodiversity and climate crises need to be mitigated simultaneously to avoid multiplicative effects," said Marjakangas.

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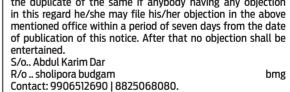
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## KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>™</sup> | **€** Srinagar | Thursday | 19-01-2023

## **Programme On Technological Interventions** For Trout production Held

allied

### **Observer News Service**

Srinagar: An orientation cum training programme on technological intervention for fish seed and trout production in the UT of J&K was today held at Lal Mandi Srinagar.The program was attended by the officers of



sion mode for the successful implementation of the Holistic document. He said this is a dream project and everyone must contribute to realize the big dream socio-economic of prosperity of the farming community of the region. The persons for today training Dr. Farooq Ahmad Bhat Dean faculty of

projects approved under the

holistic development of agriculture and allied sector. He

highlighted the importance

of collective efforts by all the

tor Agriculture asked the

participants to work on mis-

departments. Direc-

fisheries department, Agriculture department and other allied departments. After inaugurated the training programme Director Agriculture Kashmir Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal said that to achieve the targets under the ambitious document of Holistic Development and allied sectors. The implementing officers should go through every detail of all the

and biochemistry SKUAST-K, Dr. Irfan Ahmad Khan Head Division of FGB also expressed their views regarding the programme. Joint Director Agriculture (Ext) Mohammad Sveed Peer. Joint Director Fisheries Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Wani, Floriculture Development Officer Agriculture Department Kashmir Manohar Lal Sharma were also present in the programme

judged by renowned art-

ists, Ustaad Shabir Ahmed

Saznawaz, Munir Ahmad Mir

dents, Cultural Officer Kash-

mir Burhan Hussain said,

"we discovered potential tal-

ent in singing from amongst

our students and are very op-

timistic that these students

Appreciating the group and solo performers, the Cul-

tural Officer said that the suc-

cess of the show could be well

judged by the smile on the

faces of young performers.

will bring glory to the nation

Encouraging the stu-

## **DIPR Organizes Patriotic Singing Competition**

and pride.

in future'

and Aijaz Sahir.

### **Observer News Service**

Srinagar: As part of Republic Day, 2023 celebrations, the Cultural Unit Kashmir of Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR) organised an Patriotic Song Singing Competition "Ae Watan Tere Liye" at DIPR's Pandit Bhajan Sopori Auditorium Srinagar.

The aim of the programme was to demonstrate love for the country, enthuse the spirit of patriotism and highlight the history and promote ideals

Students from different Government as well as private schools and colleges of Srinagar including Amar Singh College Srinagar, Government Girls Higher Secondary School Kothibagh, JK Police Public School Bemina, Institute of Music & Fine Arts (KU), Green Valley Educational Institute, Government College for Women Nawakadal and Government Degree College Kangan participated in the competition. The young student participants were enthusiastic and eager to showcase their talent. Their songs invoked a strong sense of patriotism in each one who witnessed. The auditorium was resplendent with a feeling of belonging



## **Shops Within 2 Weeks** Agencies

Srinagar: In order to keep a check on the price of mutton and end irregularities, authorities have sealed over 117 mutton shops for the past two weeks in Kashmir capital Srinagar.

People associated with the mutton trade are up in arms against the Directorate of Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution.

Authorities have fixed the price of meat at Rs 535 per

kg in 2021, however, Assistant Director Enforcement, Mushtaq Ahmed Wani said that complaints were being received that the butchers were selling meat at Rs 600 to Rs 650. He said the action to seal the shops has become inevitable given the fact that butchers continue to rob the consumers.

He appealed to people to inform the Department and identify the butchers who sell meat at exorbitant rates.

The senior leader of the

## **Patients Complain Golden Card Not Being Entertained At SKIMS**

### Agencies

Srinagar: Several patients on Wednesday complained that authorities at Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura are not being entertained, resulting in mental trauma to patients and their attendants. The patients alleged that there is no mechanism and format available with SKIMS authorities to ease out the inconvenience faced by visitors.

Notably GoI in recent past empanelled all government and few private hospitals in J&K under Ayushman Bharat Sehat Scheme (Golden Card) under which patients are supposed to get free medical treatment. The scheme is however, as per patients not being entertained

said that the government should take a realistic view of the situation emerging due to the clash between the butchers and authorities. "There is inflation. Every product witnessed a hike and meat is not an exception,' he said adding that there should be consensus on the rate. Meanwhile, Kashmir Eco-

Wholesale Mutton Dealers As-

sociation, Mehrajudin Ganai

nomic Alliance is mulling to have a meeting with authorities to end the deadlock. [KNT]

dures, but money is withdrawn

from the insurance company as

a full package", a patient on the

conditions of anonymity alleged

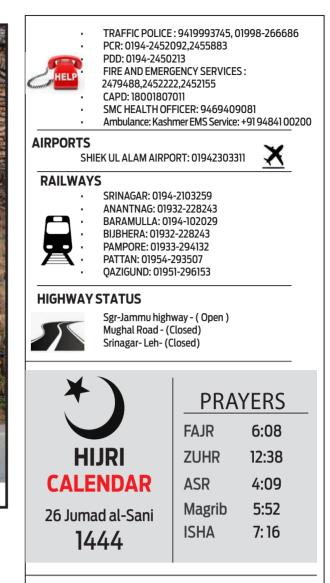
SKIMS, Dr Parvaiz Koul, said

the Golden Card scheme is

like insurance which has its

When contacted. Director

SKIMS authorities.



## This Day In History

- 379 Theodosius installed as co-emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire
- 1419 French city of Rouen surrenders to Henry V in Hundred Years War
- 1493 France cedes Roussillon & Cerdagne to Spain by treaty of Barcelona
- 1511 Italian city Mirandola surrenders to the French - Democratic revolution in Amsterdam ends 1795 oligarchy
- 1806 United Kingdom re-occupies the Cape of Good Hope following victory in the Battle of Blaauwberg over French vassal, the Batavian Republic. Establishes British rule in South Africa.
- 1808 Louis Napoleon signs 1st Dutch aviation law
- 1812 Peninsular War: After a ten day siege, Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington, orders British soldiers of the Light and third divisions to storm **Ciudad Rodrigo**
- 1883 The first electric lighting system employing overhead wires, built by Thomas Edison, begins service at Roselle. New Jersev.
- 1885 Battle of Abu Klea, Sudan, between the British Desert Column and Mahdist forces: 76 British and 1,100 Mahdists killed
- 1899 Anglo-Egyptian Sudan forms
- 1903 - 1st regular transatlantic radio broadcast between US & England
- 1922 Geological survey says US oil supply would be depleted in 20 years
- 1927 British government decides to send troops to China

# The competition was

While conducting the proceedings, AE&CO Cultural Unit Syed Shakeel Shan said that music is beneficial for children as it not only develops their aesthetic sense, but is also the key to creativity. It is one of the most beloved human experiences and plays an important role in the education of a child by providing him/her an opportunity of self-expression.

It is important to mention here that felicitation to the winners of the whole series will be held in the upcoming mega event "Jashn e Jamhoor" following the main Republic Day Celebration.

## **Canine Terror Looms** Large In City

### **Observer News Service**

Srinagar- Amid rise in stray dog population city dwellers say they face a tough time due to the dog menace.

A delegation from different areas of Srinagar city said that the dog population has increased tremendously in the areas including Habba kadal, Fathe kadal, Baba demb, khanyar, jamalatta and Rahbab Sahab areas.

The locals alleged that Srinagar Municipal Corporation has failed to put an end to the menace. "This is a major problem for all of us. Stray dogs bite people, chase them when they go to prayers early in the morning, and scare away children," said a local.

Mohammad Younus, a local resident of Khanyar Gousia hospital, said that not only locals but also attendants are facing the problems from the

last couple of months.

"Due to the presence of dustbins and garbage outside the hospital, there is always a risk of becoming the target of the dogs. The dog fear has become a problem for everyone in the area," he said.

Another resident, Imran Ahmad from Habba kadal area said children are unable to go outside alone as they easily become prey of stray dogs.

She said due to absence of waste management has led to the growing population of dogs in the area. "Even sweepers do not clean the roads, lanes regularly and heaps of garbage have become a source of food for the dogs," Imran added.

Earlier, Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Athar Amir said the only permitted way to get rid of the stray dog menace is the implementation of the dog sterilization programme.

at many government and private hospitals in Valley, giving tough time to patients and their attendants.

'We are unnecessarily being forced to pay for different proce-

own format. "There are many procedures which can be covered under GC and many are excluded. Only covered procedures can be entertained", Dr. Koul said. (KNS)

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- 1938 General Motors begins mass production of diesel engines
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- 1942 Japanese forces invade Burma
- 1943 1st Warsaw Ghetto Uprising begins
- 1957 USSR performs atmospheric nuclear test 1960 - Eisenhower & Premier Kishi sign US-Japanese
- Security pact 1966 - Indira Gandhi elected India's 4th Prime Minister.
- 1977 World's largest crowd gathering the Hindu Kumbh Mela in India attracts a then record 15 million people.
- 1981 US & Iran sign agreement to release 52 American hostages

## From KO Archives

## Police Detect 150 Fake Finance Companies In J&K

### Rajinder Singh

ammu: The crime branch of Jammu and Kashmir police has detected 150 finance companies operat¬ing in the state allegedly without any registration from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). These have de¬frauded gullible depositors to the tune of Rs 80 crore. Cases have been registered against 40 such allegedly fake companies, mostly in Jammu involving over 200 accused.

Disclosing this to Kash¬mir Observer, the inspector general of police, crime and railways, Masood Chaudhary, said over 99 per cent or the companies were fake and had defrauded people mostly from rural areas in the name of higher interest on their deposits. Most of these operators are be-lieved to have gone abroad along with their families while some of them have declared themselves bankrupt and closed down their companies.

Chaudhary said the cases were registered on receipt of complaints from the affected people. A spe¬cial team of sen¬ior police offi-cials, headed by the deputy inspector gen-eral (DIG) of police, crime and railways, Prem Kumar, has been constituted to investigate the cases. He said some of the accused have been apprehended while some more were likely to be arrested shortly.

In the absence of more stringent laws, Chaudhary said, police were finding it difficult to intervene in the matter. It can take action only after a formal com¬plaint is received. Some of the accused had defrauded the depositors to the tune of Rs 10 crore to Rs 15 crore. He said some special teams had been rushed to places like Mumbai and other major cities across the country to apprehend the culprits.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 19 January, 2001)

## *Think* Opinion, Analysis, Essays

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## **KASHMIR OBSERVER**

Thursday | 19-01-2023

## Rising Cancer Cases

n the last six years, the Sher-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Soura has recorded over 27,000 cancer patients. Overall, around 51,000 cancer cases have been registered in J&K over the past four years. And according to the official statistics released by the Union Health Ministry, a total of 35,623 people in J&K died of cancer between 2018 and 2022. These figures paint a grim picture. And the situation looks set to get even worse from hereon if no ameliorative measures are taken.

In Kashmir, for that matter, the cancer has grown disproportionately over the last decade. In fact, the data over the last decade shows a rising graph of the cancer cases. Around 3,075 cancer cases were reported in 2011, 3,288 in 2012, 3,157 in 2013, 3,940 in 2014 and 4,257 in 2015. The figures since have only grown bigger. In 2021 alone, Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences alone registered over 5000 new cases of cancer with breast cancer showing a conspicuous spike.

This calls for more pro-active handling of the situation from the UT government. In addition to generous allocation of resources for the treatment, there is an urgent need to investigate the reasons for the sudden increase in the number of cancers in the UT. People need to know as to what has changed in Kashmir that has led to the spread of cancer. It is a pity that our major healthcare institutions have been unable to put into public domain credible research about the causes for the growing incidence of cancer in the region. Such studies will be immensely helpful as they will persuade people to take due precautions to reduce their vulnerability to the disease. The public awareness that the doctors have talked about will flow from this.

In recent years, food contamination and adulteration have emerged as major issues in Kashmir. Hazardous agents have been found to have been used even in the food products of some major corporate houses. Sadly, J&K government has so far done little about the growing food adulteration in the UT, which has now been proven to be one of the factors leading to the rise in cases of cancer in the Valley. The rise in the incidence of the deadly disease is, therefore, a wake-up call. The government has to get cracking on the unscrupulous traders and expose the use of chemicals and dyes in food. And at least, to start with, there has to be a campaign to create more awareness of the ways in which our food is adulterated.

# What Does Islam Say About Masculinity?

hi

Amir Suhail Wani

## 

## It is also very unfortunate that being

affectionate is deemed frivolous by our men folk here in Kashmir. For us to engage in any funfair with our spouse seems too compromising for our position as a man and it seems to violate our self identity. We ignore the fact that Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was affectionate with his wives and even engaged in halal fun games with them. He made them feel close to him by devoting his time and attention to them

his wife, and I am best among you in my dealings with my wives" This is but one out of hundreds of prophetic sayings which exhort believers to be compassionate, kind and loving to their wives in particular and women folk in general. But how have we, as followers of this Prophet of mercy (PBUH) and one of the greatest protagonists of women's rights in history, responded to his call pertaining to familial and marital affairs? Have we, in the spirit of prophetic teachings embraced the prophetic call of liberation and honour? Or are we too like the Arabs of the Prophet's era, wedded to our outdated social customs, oppressive cultural ideals and degenerating practices of era of ignorance?

HE Prophet of Islam

(PBUH) is reported to

have said, "Best among

you is one who is best to

Our society, as a matter of misfortune, does represent a dismal picture to this end. If not all, most of our men have equated masculinity with prerogative to oppress women, be unkind to them and indulge in an orgy of marital violence which is not only discouraged but abhorred and condemned by Islam as a symptom of barbarism and inhumanity. More tragic is the fact that these acts are committed under the rubric of Islam and many of our brethren live under the false consciousness that Islam vindicates these actions. Nothing else can be farther from reality and illustrations from the life of Prophet (PBUH) will amply demonstrate the kind of sublime treatment that Islam commands

to be meted out to women. Islam restored to women, her dignity, rights and a place that legitimately belonged to her. A full appreciation of these facts can't be gauged without taking into account the social and familial structure of Arabian society of the Prophetic era. To begin with, the gores of this era, particularly pertaining to women, saw women as springheads of shame and disgrace, humility and burden, infamy and dishonour. No wonder that most, if not all Arabs, were involved in heinous crimes like female infanticide. Barring few elite families, scant in number, female infanticide was a spectre throughout Arabia. The Quran vividly testifies this social malady when it says, "and when the female infant buried alive is asked, for what sin she was killed" (Quran- 81:8-9). What conception of women's dignity could be had in a society like this and what could have been the limits of liberty and prestige conferred upon women in such a society which saw women as womb of all woes. It truly fell to the Prophet

(PBUH) to mend and amend this anathema single handedly and to raise women to the pedestal which Arab society had never known before.

While Prophet (PBUH) left innumerable instances, examples, guidelines and holy sayings in effect to correct the position of women in Arabian society, but the role he played as a husband, creating an example of own and setting pristine standards for familial life is something we can learn from even in an era of ours.

Are we not the pseudo champions of women's liberation, irked and deeply distressed on seeing women outscoring us in any facet of life? Aren't men, who are seemthrough culture and society.

But let's look back to our prophet (PBUH) and reflect on his conduct with women.

It is reported in the books of Ahadith that Prophet (PBUH) Prophet Muhammad (SAW) always supported his wives and helped them in household chores. He did his own work and participated in house chores as well. This is something which most of us, if not all, find contrary to our dignity, our definition of manhood and our perception of masculinity.

It is also very unfortunate that being affectionate is deemed frivolous by our men folk here in Kashmir. For us to engage in any funfair with our spouse



ingly advocates of Women's liberation, unnerved at the first sign of challenge to our cultural masculine privilege? Are we not the ones who think of tenderness and affection as a feminine trait which is a threat to our masculinity? How then can we claim that ours is a norm of masculinity taught by the Prophet (pbuh)?

In a world like ours, masculinity has been predominantly equated with muscle power, robustness and aggression to subjugate women.

This is a complete digression from the spirit of the Prophetic model of masculinity which guided men to treat women justly and see them as equal beings. On the other side of the spectrum, in today's world, contemporary modes of women liberation reduce women to the foul play of objectification and submit her to the claws of exploitation under the rubric of liberation. In such a scheme of things, it is only fair for Muslim men to return to the true spirit of prophetic masculinity which is free from prejudices that we have learnt over the years

seems too compromising for our position as a man and it seems to violate our self identity. We ignore the fact that Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was affectionate with his wives and even engaged in halal fun games with them. He made them feel close to him by devoting his time and attention to them.

When God describes the Prophet (PBUH) as paragon of moral perfection and emulation, it includes in its embrace, the role of the Prophet (PBUH) as a husband. The records of his familial life can help us tackle and solve familial and social issues of our own. We need to let go of our outmoded and asymmetric social and cultural mores and follow Prophet(PBUH)'s

### OTHER OPINON

## State Of Concern

fter a marked deterioration during 2020-21, state government finances have been on the mend. In 2020-21, the consolidated fiscal deficit of states had risen to 4.1 per cent of GDP — the highest level since 2004-05. But by the end of next year, state governments had managed to bring down their deficits to 2.8 per cent of GDP. This year, they have pegged their consolidated fiscal deficit at 3.4 per cent of GDP, lower than the level of 4 per cent laid by the Centre as per the RBI's report on state budgets. However, considering the deviations in the past between budget expectations and actual trends, the deficit for this year may well end up being lower than what was originally planned for.

The RBI report also highlights a compositional shift in the general government capital expenditure. In 2021-22, capital outlay by state governments stood at 2.7 per cent of GDP, as against 2.3 per cent by the Centre. For 2022-23, states total outlay is actually budgeted to rise to 2.9 per cent of GDP. In fact, as per the RBI report, adjusting for the defence outlays, states' share in general government capital spending averages around 70 per cent. Though, so far this year, capital expenditure by states has been rather sluggish, barely registering a rise in the first seven months of the year.

There are, however, several areas of concern. First, the state debt to GDP ratio remains uncomfortably high. It is budgeted at 29.5 per cent by the end of March 2023, considerably higher than the 20 per cent level recommended by the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) review committee. Second, guarantees provided by state governments have also seen a sharp surge, having risen from Rs 3.79 lakh crore in 2014 to Rs 7.4 lakh crore in 2021. As per the report, this has "implications for debt sustainability" The debt position of state discoms is yet to be resolved. And then there is the fiscal risk from some states opting to return to the old pension scheme. "The annual saving in fiscal resources that this move entails is short-lived," notes the report, adding that "by postponing the current expenses to the future, states risk the accumulation of unfunded pension liabilities in the coming years". State governments must urgently address these risks, shun profligate policies, and strengthen their fiscal position to create the policy space needed to deal with possible economic shocks that may arise in the future.

Indian Express

model whose success God has vouched for.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer The author is a Srinagar based columnist



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

## **Recycling of Waste Glass Needed**

ne of the ways of reducing the consumption of natural sand is to utilise wastes as an alternative material. Recycling of wastes could reduce the demand for virgin natural resources and help to dispose of them effectively. The volumes of wastes generated each year in the country is alarmingly increasing due to a rise in the pollution. When it comes to solid waste the world produces nearly 2.0 billion tonnes of municipal solid waste every year, which is expected to grow to 3.4 billion tonnes by 2050. The increasing price and diminishing reserves of construction sand encourage a need to develop its sustainable and cost-effective replacement, helping the transition towards a circular economy. Traditional construction sand can be replaced by waste glass. Waste glass is a derivative of natural sand and could potentially show similar geotechnical behaviour. Using crushed waste glass as an alternative to traditional sand would potentially

offer a double-duty benefit by helping to address the geo-environmental challenges of natural sand depletion and disposal of ever-increasing waste glass, together.

Natural aggregates are widely used in a range of applications. Presently, the construction industry is the biggest consumer of natural resources in the world. It is a common practice to crush and screen the rock formations to different specifications, producing aggregates suitable for different construction applications. The consumption of aggregates is expected to increase at a rate of 5% per annum in India. Major sources of natural construction aggregates include crushed stone, gravel, and sand. In the country alone, nearly 300 million tonnes of aggregates are extracted each year, which is expected to further increase in the coming years. A key concern for sustainable infrastructure construction is the continuous diminution of readilyavailable construction aggregates.

Environmentally, the extraction and logistics of aggregates release carbon footprint, which is harmful to the ecosystem. Consequently, nowadays, construction materials are increasingly being evaluated by their ecological footprint Natural sand is a widely used raw material and has become the second-most widely consumed natural resource on planet Earth, after freshwater . It is estimated that between 32 and 50 billion tonnes of sand and gravel are extracted globally each year, which is largely used in construction. As an example, the construction of a medium-sized house requires 200 tonnes of sand; a hospital needs 3000 tonnes of sand, and each kilometre of highway construction needs 30,000 tonnes of sand. Studies show that sand is currently being extracted at a rate far greater than its renewal. Indiscriminate mining of sand could endanger animal species and habitats, harm aquatic life and cause biodiversity loss. It could also cause beach erosion, making coastal

communities vulnerable to floods and causing loss to the eco-tourism industry. It is, therefore, necessary to find ways to reduce the demand for natural sand and to look for sustainable and low-carbon alternatives.In this regard, research has proven that the potential use of ever-increasing waste glass as a sustainable alternative to depleting natural and manufactured sand in geotechnical construction is feasible. The findings showed that the geotechnical behaviour of crushed waste glass is similar, or sometimes even superior, to traditional construction sands. Overall, the crushed waste glass could potentially serve as an alternative and smart geo-material, ultimately promoting the recycling of waste glass, reducing the burden on landfill and conserving natural resources, all helping the transition towards a circular economy.

Vijay Kumar HK

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## Think **Opinion Analysis Essays**



### **Chrystal Zhang**

Yeti Airlines ATR 72-500 aircraft crashed in Pokhara in central Nepal on January 15 2023, killing at least 68 passengers on board. The aircraft was en route from Nepal's capital Kathmandu to Pokhara, the country's second largest city, situated under the picturesque Annapurna mountain range.

While the picturesque landscape of the country appeals to tourists, it poses significant challenges to aviation operators, who need to embrace and navigate the challenging environment.

The air crash on Sunday was Nepal's worst aviation disaster since 1992. The country has been working to overcome its challenges in aviation.

### A CHALLENGING LANDSCAPE

Topography has gifted Nepal with picturesque landscapes, but posits unrivalled challenges to flight operations.

Nepal, situated between India and China, is home to eight of the world's 14 highest mountains, including Mount Everest or Sagarmatha. For flight operations, it's an almost unrivalled, harsh environment with sudden weather changes that can make for hazardous conditions.

Airports built in mountainous regions often need to have shorter runways that can only accommodate turboprop-powered regional aircraft, rather than large jet airliners that can access larger cities in Nepal. As a result, aviation carriers in Ne-



WITH AIR TRAVEL IN NEPAL BECOMING MORE ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE, AIRPORT INFRASTRUCTURE development has remained far behind compared to the growth of air traffic. This has resulted in increasing congestion at airports, fare competition between airlines, and decreased safety records

pal have a variety of aircraft on their fleets. These craft vary in condition, presenting potential safety hazards. The ATR 72 aircraft is one typical aircraft used by Nepali carriers. It is a turboprop-powered regional aircraft with a capacity between 44 and 78 passengers. These aircraft are manufactured by a joint venture of Airbus in France and Leonardo in Italy.

The aircraft involved in this crash had been in service for 15 years, a fairly typical age for an aircraft.

The final report on what happened to the tragic Yeti Airlines flight will take over a month to complete.

### **A GROWING AND FAST-CHANGING** INDUSTRY

Nepal has welcomed private investment into its aviation sector since 1992. Yeti Airlines is one of 20 domestic carriers. The airline, headquartered in Kathmandu, flies to ten domestic destinations using ATR 72-500 aircraft. In addition, 29 international airlines operate into Nepal's capital too.

With air travel in Nepal becoming more accessible and affordable, airport infrastructure development has remained far behind compared to the growth of air traffic. This has resulted in increasing congestion at airports, fare competition between airlines, and decreased safety records.

In fact, the country has recorded at least 350 casualties associated with aeroplanes or helicopters since 2000, which has raised questions about the effectiveness of its aviation safety regulations.

The aviation regulator in charge is the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal,

a government agency established in

### WORKING HARD TO IMPROVE

Nepal became a member of the UN's International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) in 1960. This membership obliges the country to abide by international conventions, ICAO's regulations, standards, and recommended practices in aviation safety.

While Nepal's aviation industry has made significant efforts to improve safety, unfortunately the safety record still doesn't match up with the requirements of other civil aviation authorities.

In particular, the European Union banned all Nepali airlines from operating in the bloc's airspace in 2013 after ICAO raised a red flag. That ban still hasn't been lifted, and Nepal remains on the EU Air Safety List.

Despite the tragic casualty record, Nepal has stepped up its efforts to improve aviation safety. The Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal has been focusing on improving safety in Nepali aviation - such as building improvements at airports, upgrading safety equipment, and fostering a positive safety culture by encouraging hazard reporting.

Nepal's considerable improvement in safety measures and compliance with international standards was recognised by ICAO in 2018. However, the country must continue work on its aviation reform to make its skies safe for everyone

By arrangements with The Conversation

# A Gem Is Not Polished Without Rubbing, Nor A Man Made Perfect Without Trials

### Abu Dharr

bjectivity and impartiality are hard to come by in the charged atmo-spherics that have littered the reading of Islamic history for about 1400 years. Emotional disturbances clutter the psychology of Muslims when they read or recall their Islamic history simply because they have "hero-worshiped" certain personalities in that generic history.

To be more specific, the historical Shi'i narrative, by and large, does not lend itself to a positive and non-suspicious understanding of Abu Bakr, 'Umar, and (perhaps) 'Uthman. On the other side of this narrative, the Sunni version of history does not, by and large, lend itself to a disapproving or critical assessment of the dynasties that were imposed upon the Muslims resulting from the civil wars of al-Jamal, Siffin, and Karbala'.

The inability of the Shi'i mindset to dispassionately identify the sincerity and honesty of Abu Bakr and 'Umar along with the Qur'anically vouched-for bloc of Muhajireen and Ansar coupled with the failure of the Sunni mindset to candidly identify the disingenuousness and deviousness of the oligarchies beginning with king Mu'awiyah and the royal Umayyads have crafted a huge gap through which divisive and discordant sectarianism from inside and troublesome and warmongering powers from outside have been eroding Islamic solidarity and mutual understanding for many centuries and consecutive generations.

The end result of this epoch of cumulative ignorance and silent schism is today's Sunni and Shi'i supremacist separatists who in their own diverse ways harbor a historical rationale adorned with a biased understanding of the Qur'an and more than a few "hadiths" that condemn the "other" Muslim to virtual and literal death in theory and in practice.

One of the most difficult issues to calmly and analytically deconstruct in this electrifying account of our history is the issue of 'ismat [faultlessness and/or excellence]. Please excuse this writer for what may ap-



pear to some as a departure from our concentration on the first chapters of Imamat/ Khilafat. This "departure" is necessary to clear the air on what does 'ismat really mean. And to do that we have no choice but to seek an answer in the Book of Allah about which there is no doubt and from which there is no escape.

Traditional and typical individuals who have received their understanding of Shi'ism (in most cases from "customary clergymen" or "orthodox 'ulama") understand 'ismat to mean faultless and flawless in the complete sense of the word. Those who identify as Sunnis understand the word 'ismat to mean sinless and virtuous with a margin for honest or inadvertent oversight or unpremeditated miscalculation possible. For readers' information, the literal word "ismat" itself is not a Qur'anic expression. There are other words in the Qur'an that are derivatives of or linked to the same family of words that the word 'ismat belongs to. Nine of them are verbs, and four are nouns. These words can be looked up in a concordance of the accurate Our'an.

Skipping over the linguistic and etymolog-

ical details of this word, the verbs and nouns belonging to the word 'ismat in the Qur'an hover around the following English words/ meanings: "take care of" – "guard from harm", give sanctuary, insulate, shield...

All Sunnis and all Shi'is proclaim and agree that all of Allah's Prophets and Messengers are ma'sums (i.e. have 'ismat) but with the above caveat: the different definitions of what the word 'ismat means. So let us review the Qur'anic sound and spotless information about Allah's Prophets and Messengers and discern whether they warrant the Sunni or Shi'i definition of the word 'ismat.

[Eventually] both of them [Adam and his wife] ate from it [the off-limits tree of eternity], and henceforth they became conscious of their private parts and they began to attach pieced-together leaves from the verdant Garden to their bodies [to conceal their nudity] - and [thus] did Adam disobey his Sustainer and fall into grave error. (Taha, 121)

For those of us (Sunnis and Shi'is) who count Adam as Allah's first Prophet, how do we apply the word 'ismat to him in this situation? Was he faultless, was he perfect, was he impeccable as some if not most Shi'is would ascertain? Or did he, in a moment of human weakness, succumb to his instinct without the premeditated intention of defying Allah (swt) and thus made an acquitable mistake that does not disqualify him from the meaning of the word 'ismat - as the Sunnis would understand it. The following sequential ayat helps us with the answer:

Thereafter, his [Adam's] Sustainer selected him by offering him forgiveness, and then guided him [from then onward]... (Taha:122)

From Prophet Adam we go to Prophet Yunus to see if he miscalculated his position of seeming vulnerability as he stood between what appeared to be an overwhelming society of his and a "slow-to-respond" Sustainer:

And [then came] Dhu al-Nun [Prophet Yunus] who took off in a state of rage [against the iniquities of his own people], not realizing We will take him to task; subsequently [after realizing what he had done] he called out from within layers of darkness [out of despair], "There is no deity/authority except You. Exalted are You. Indeed, I have done wrong [to myself]." So, We responded to him and rescued him from the gloom [and hopelessness he was in]: and it is in such a manner that We rescue those committed [to Our power and authority].

(Al-Anbiya': 87-88)

A prophet, as per these ayat, confessed that he did wrong. How does that square with the above definitions of 'ismat?

Let us now take a closer look at an ayat that is speaking to us about one of the five Prophets [who went beyond the call of duty]; i.e. Prophet Nuh. The context of the following ayat is the deluge that inundated Nuh's society into oblivion. As Nuh is in his ark, and the waters pouring down from the sky and bursting out of the earth were dangerously rising, Nuh calls out to his son saying: "come aboard and don't be with the deniers of Allah's power and authority." His son answers: "but I will find a safe place atop a mountain..." The waves were overwhelming and Nuh's own son drowned. Now the ayat:

And Nuh called out to his Sustainer, and said, "O my Sustainer! Verily, my son is of my family; and, verily, Your promise always comes true, and You are the most just of judges!" [Allah] answered, "O Nuh! Behold, he was not of your family, for, verily, his was an act cruelly unbecoming. And you shall not ask of Me anything whereof you cannot have any knowledge: thus, behold, do I caution you lest you become one of those who are ignorant [of what is right in circumstances like this]." (Hud: 45-46)

Before we go to the next ayat, let us pause for a moment and reflect on the fatherly feeling of Nuh towards his own son. He had just drowned and the fatherly passion that sought to extend a physical family relationship (father-to-son) into Allah's care and therefore Prophet Nuh pleaded for his own son. He knew that his son was not submissive to Allah's power and authority saying that he (my son) belongs to my family – he belongs to me (Your Prophet).

Then Nuh "catches himself" and realizes the parting line between a biological family relationship and a theo-ideological relationship. It took Allah's words in ayat 46 above to "bring Prophet Nuh to his senses", as it were. Then Nuh says:

Said [Nuh], "O my Sustainer! Certainly, I seek refuge with You from [ever again] asking of You anything whereof I cannot have any knowledge! For, unless You grant me forgiveness, and bestow Your mercy upon me I shall be among those who are lost!" (Hud: 47)

There are many more examples in the clarifying Qur'an pertaining to Prophets Musa and Muhammad (pbuh) that shed light on what the word 'ismat represents. May Allah (swt) unlock our minds from the "religion of tradition" and set free our hearts from the "tribalism of knowledge".

Say, "O my Sustainer! Build up my knowl-edge." (Ta-Ha:114)

The article was originally published by Crescent Intwrnational

# News

## Sanjeev Verma Chairs Workshop Regarding Preparation Of Climate Resilient City Action Plan

Emphasizes Behavioural Change Towards Climate Change Mitigation

### **Observer News Service**

**JAMMU:** The Department of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing organized a stakeholder workshop for preparation of Climate Resilient City Action Plan for Jammu and Srinagar cities under the chairmanship of Commissioner Secretary Forest, Ecology and Environment, Sanjeev Verma here today.

During the workshop, discussion was held with the stakeholder departments to assess the existing status of service delivery and validated data sets to be collected for GHG emissions inventory of the city to generate a carbon inventory of the city. Besides, the financial and policy level implications of the plan were deliberated upon. The impact of different mitigation and adaptation interventions were also discussed with the stakeholders.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner Secretary said that the impact of climate change is gravely affecting the population so this is the high time to work in the direction of climate adaptation and mitigation. He spoke about various schemes initiated by the Prime Minister like Panchamrit and Mission Life. He added that the mitigation of climate change is a global phenomenon but the solutions are local which can be brought into action by behavioural



change in our daily routines. He emphasised that 'Climate Resilient City Action Plan' or 'CRCAP' for Srinagar and Jammu cities is a movement towards planning at local level. The plan will evolve with time but needs decentralized planning and mainstreaming of funds from all allied departments. Commissioner Secretary also

commissioner Secretary also emphasised that prominence should be given to carbon neutral panchayat to make it workable and profound at panchayat level quoting the example of Palli Panchayat.

PCCF (HoFF,) J&K Forest Department, Dr. Mohit Gera, stated that considerable increase in the green house gas emissions during the last fifty years has created alarming situation in relation to the

impact of climate change. He added that J&K is blessed with healthy forest and biodiversity associated with it for balancing and offsetting the greenhouse gas emissions. In terms of vulnerability, J&K ranks higher than rest of the country due to high elevation and fragmentation as large number of villages are dependent on the natural resources. He informed that forest depart-

ment in collaboration with local municipalities have taken a number of initiatives like Biodiversity Registers and Local Biodiversity Strategy Action plans and these can be incorporated in CRPCP's as a resilience measure. S. Rakesh Kumar, Director

DEE&RS, while speaking on the occasion, stated that cities have high risk and vulnerabilities due to concentration of people in cities

and rapid rate of urbanization. The CRCAP will lay foundation to plan for the vulnerabilities so that the cities are resilient enough to face a natural hazard and bounce back into action again.

Various experts from TARU Leading Edge and Vasudha Foundation presented the vision for Climate Resilient City Action plan.

The event was attended by Chairperson PCC, Director Social Forestry, Chief Wildlife Warden, Director Soil and Water Conservation Department, Director, Forest Protection Force, and officers from JalShakti (PHE, IFC, RTIC), UEED, R&B, JMC, JDA, Health, Disaster Management, PDD, PDC, AH, Smart City, Tourism, Agriculture, RD&PR, IIT Jammu, Jammu University, CUJ, Town Planning, Smart City etc. Flying Activities Banned In Areas Near Pm Modi's Mumbai Event Venue On Jan 19, Traffic Diversions In Place

### Agenceis

Mumbai: Flying activities will not be allowed under the limits of police stations at Bandra Kurla Complex and nearby areas in Mumbai on Thursday when Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate and lay foundation stones for several projects, police said.

In view of the prime minister's visit, a few roads in the area will be closed for vehicles, while traffic will be diverted on some other routes, the traffic police said.

The prime minister is scheduled to attend a function to be held on the MMRDA grounds in the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC), an upscale commercial hub. He is set to inaugurate and lay foundation stones for a string of projects worth more than Rs 38,000 crore during his visit. He will dedicate to the nation the Mumbai Metro Rail Lines 2A and 7.

Flying activities including the use of drones, paragliders, and remote-controlled micro-light aircraft will not be allowed from noon till midnight under the jurisdictions of four police stations, namely BKC, Andheri, Meghwadi, and Jogeshwari on Thursday, the Mumbai Police said in an order on Wednesday.

Terrorist or anti-social elements may attack using the drone, paragliders, remote control micro-light aircraft, etc. hence such flying activities are banned for the day. There is every likelihood of the breach of peace and disturbance of public tranquillity and also there is a grave danger to human life, health, safety and injury to public property on that account, the order said.

Security has been beefed up as a large number of VIPs are expected to attend the BKC for the PM's event, a Mumbai police official said.

A few roads have been closed to traffic. On other roads, traffic will be diverted ahead of the prime minister's visit.

"The city traffic police have made elaborate arrangements in view of PM Modi's visit as traffic has been diverted on some routes, while some roads are shut temporarily," an official said. An order issued by the traffic police said, "A large number of people from Mumbai and other cities in Maharashtra are expected to attend PM Modi's programme on Thursday. Therefore, between 12.00 and 21.00 hours, entry of heavy vehicles on all roads in the area, including the Western Express Highway, shall be banned. However, ambulances, school buses and other buses have been exempted from this restriction."

There shall be no entry to vehicles coming from the Western Express Highway (WEH), Dharavi and Bandra-Worli Sea Link via BKC family court towards Kurla and also no entry to vehicles coming from Saint Dnyaneshwar Road towards Kurla. There shall be no entry to vehicles coming from the Government Colony,

Kanakiya Palace and Valmiki Nagar through BKC premises towards Chunabhatti and Kurla, it said.

There shall be no entry to vehicles coming from Surve Junction and Razzak Junction through BKC premises towards Western Express Highway, Dharavi and Worli Sea Link, it added.

There shall be 'No Parking' on any road in BKC premises.

Vehicles from WEH, Bandra-Worli Sea Link going via BKC premises towards Kurla shall take a road to MMRDA junction and proceed via Dharavi T Junction towards Kurla and Eastern Express Highway, the traffic police said.

The traffic police have put in place alternative route arrangements.

Vehicles proceeding from Saint Dnyaneshwar Nagar through BKC premises Income Tax junction shall proceed along Guru Nanak Hospital-Jagat Mandir Junction-Kala Vidya Nagar Junction and through Dharavi T junction towards Kurla. Vehicles going to Kurla from Kherwadi area via BKC Premises shall take a U-turn from Valimiki Nagar and proceed via Government Colony-Kala Nagar Junction-Dharavi T junction towards Kurla.

"Vehicles proceeding through Eastern Express Highway from Chunabhatti through BKC connector shall proceed through NSE Junction-Income Tax junction-family court junction and then through MMRDA junction to their desired destination," an official added.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

## **Political Slugfest**

tweeted Tuesday evening.

Singh, along with other minister Chander Prakash Ganga were forced to resigned from their respective cabinet ministries after their controversial remarks in Kathua minor rapeand-murder case, days before BJP pulled out of the coalition government with PDP in June 2018.

Both the leaders were allegedly supporting the rape accused and were demanding the CBI inquiry.

In 2018, an eight-year-old nomadic Muslim girl in Rasana village of Kathua was kidnapped and raped in captivity after having been kept sedated for four days before she was bludgeoned to death.

"Whatever happened in Kathua is shameful and everyone knows who did what. I think it's the internal politics of Congress and they should see what suits them. They will ultimately decide who joins and who not. The people also know who defended Kathua rapalso a minister in the previous PDP-BJP government which collapsed in June, 2018, after the national party pulled out of the alliance.

Several months before the fall of the government, Singh resigned from BJP and floated DSSP following an uproar over his participation in a rally in support of the accused in the rape and murder of the eight-year-old girl in Kathua in January 2018.

However, he defended his participation in the rally stating that he was there to "defuse the situation".

## **Rahul May Curtail**

discussions with authorities in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Rahul Gandhi would undertake padyatra in Jammu and Kashmir but there would be no compromise with security. We are having a consultation with the state authorities regarding the security and maybe the distance on foot could be curtailed," Ramesh, who is Congress general secretary in-charge communications, said. He was addressing a press conference here on the sidelines of the Bharat Jodo Yatra which entered Himachal Pradesh on Wednesday morning. a possibility of widespread moderate snow in plains of Kashmir (with rains in Jammu) and moderate to heavy snow over middle and higher reaches.

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-daylong 'Chillai Khurd' and a 10-day-long 'Chillai Bachha' following it.

## **Magisterial Probe**

killed in the "chance encounter" with security forces here.

Seven AK assault rifles, one M4 rifle, three pistols and a large quantity of ammunition were also seized from their possession.

## Govt Spending

here at the Raj Bhawan on Wednesday. The LG expressed his deepest gratitude to the families and healthcare workers of National Health Mission for their dedication and commitment to serve the people. Paying homage to the deceased employees of NHM, Sinha said that financial aid cannot compensate for their selfless service and sacrifice; however, it is the government's duty and responsibility to ensure their family members live a life of respect and dignity. "The spirit of selfless service, sacrifice and compassion with which our health workers, doctors, para-medics have served the people during Covid pandemic and vaccination drive is truly inspirational," he said. Speaking on the reforms introduced to strengthen the healthcare system, the LG said that under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, J&K's health sector has gone through a sea change ensuring high-quality affordable, accessible healthcare for all. "Continuous efforts are being made to remove the regional imbalance which existed earlier in the field of health care. I&K is performing better than the national average on several parameters. The health indicators exemplify our efforts to ensure well being of the common citizens," he said.

### Lakh each.

Senior officers and officials of National Health Mission and family members of deceased employees were present on the occasion.

### **Govt Accelerates**

the district to retrieve the entire State and Kahcharai land.

He also warned of action under CrPC in matters of encroachment on State or kahcharie lands.

In a similar drive carried out in neighbouring Baramulla district, 35 kanal of prime land was retrieved at Batpora area in Rafiabad, officials said.

Acting upon the instructions of DC, a joint team of Revenue, and Police departments launched the drive to remove all encroachments on Kahcharai land which can be used for community purposes in the area.

"2145 Kanals of State and Kahacharai land has been retrieved across the district after a massive anti-encroachment drive was launched in all tehsils of the district," the officials said. Further, they said, the District Administration has given strict directions to speed up the drive against the land encroachments across the district.

## **Heart Attacks**

AEE Mohammad Ayoub of Bon Dailgam area of Anantnag died when he was on his way to attend to his duty in Yaripora, reports said. Ayoub was posted as AEE at sub-division Yaripora in Kulgam district.a

## **BSF Seizes Drone**

immediately fired around 17 rounds towards the direction of the unmanned aerial vehicle," he said.

Then they heard something being dropped to the ground, the BSF official added.

A search of the area, which is an agricultural field, led to the recovery of a packet containing four China-made pistols, eight magazines and 47 rounds of 9 mm, he said.

"Our troops are alert and they once again were able to foil the nefarious designs of smugglers," the official added.

## Suspected IED

seizure of the IED-like object. Police and other security forces are on high alert in the district following two terror strikes earlier this month that left seven people dead and 14 injured. While five people were killed in terrorist firing in Dhangri village on January 1, two children lost their lives in an IED blast the next day outside the house of one of the firing victims.

ists." PDP Spokesman Najmu Saqib said.

However, senior Congress leader and coordinator of Bharat Jodo Yatra, Ghulam Ahmad Mir slammed Omar and asked him to question his father Farooq Abdullah before pointing fingers at Congress.

"I want to remind Omar Sahib that who invited like minded people in Jammu in 2022 for an all party-meet over proposed inclusion of non-local voters. Wasn't Lal Sing invited?" Mir said.

He further said that Congress hasn't invited anyone from any part of the country to join the Yatra.

"Whosoever joined, did it by their will and wish," Mir added

J&K Congress president Vikar Rasool Wani told Kashmir Observer that they haven't taken a final call on Lal Singh's inclusion in the Yatra.

"Let me tell you we haven't taken any call on this as of now. Lal Singh wished to join the yatra but we are yet to discuss his participation," Wani added. (With PTI inputs)

## **Cong In Damage**

who had allegedly defended the accused, to join the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

Nath, a lawyer by profession, had said on Tuesday that she is leaving the Congress on "ideological grounds" as former minister Lal Singh, who is also the chairman of Dogra Swabhiman Sangathan Party (DSSP), was responsible in sabotaging the 2018 Kathua rape case by "brazenly defending" rapists of the eight-year-old nomadic girl.

"She (Deepika) announced her decision to resign from the party on Twitter. The high command has taken note and will decide on it.

"However, the stand of our party on the rape and murder case is crystal clear as we stand with the family of the victim and have always favoured a fair probe to bring the culprits to book," J&K Pradesh Congress Committee chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma told PTI.

He said the party has not extended an invitation to Singh to join the yatra.

"He has expressed his willingness to be part of the yatra which was launched by Rahul Gandhi to unite the country against hatred and divisive politics.

"We have welcomed everyone who accepted the ideology of Gandhi...Singh was a member of the BJP at that time and was sent by his party along with then ministerial colleague Chander Prakash Ganga to Kathua. Both of them submitted their resignations from the council of ministers and Ganga is still with BJP," Sharma said.

Singh, a two-time MP and three time MLA, switched from Congress to BJP in 2014 and was

AICC J-K in-charge Rajni Patil has said the Yatra will enter Lakhanpur (in Jammu and Kashmir) from Punjab Thursday evening.

Jammu and Kashmir DGP Dilbag Singh had on Tuesday said adequate security will be provided to the march when it reaches the Union territory.

To a question on whether the Yatra will be allowed on foot, he had replied that it will be regulated in such a manner that people do not face any inconvenience. He also asserted that the Yatra will be "guided from the security point of view as well wherever it is needed".

"These things will be regulated because there is traffic and other things. A huge yatra can cause inconvenience to people as roads can get blocked. This is a Yatra and is taken both on foot as well as using vehicles.

"Our endeavour will be to take forward the march with vehicles wherever there is a single road, and in the rest of the places, the participants may be advised to walk on foot where the roads allow," Singh said.

The march, which started from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu on September 7, will conclude with Gandhi hoisting the national flag in Srinagar. It has so far covered Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab.

## Weather, Security

could not be updated after the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370. Subsequently, the constituencies were redrawn following a delimitation exercise.

After the delimitation exercise, the number of Assembly seats in the Union Territory has gone up from 83 to 90, excluding the seats allocated to Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (PcK).

## **Cold Wave Intensifies**

office said the weather will remain mainly dry across J-K till January 18. There will be a further decrease in the night temperature till that time. It said, a few western disturbances are likely to affect J-K from January 19 to 25.

The weather will remain cloudy from January 19-21 with chances of light rain or snow over isolated to scattered places mainly over higher reaches.

However, it said a much higher intensity precipitation will occur from the night of January 22 to the forenoon of January 24 and there is "In our journey to achieve Quality & Accessible Healthcare, we have taken special care to make our health services effective, people-centered and equitable," he added.

The LG further said that improved health infrastructure, expansive network of health & wellness centres, substantial increase in MBBS seats, universal health coverage, ambulance services, mobile clinics, besides decentralization of medical facilities have ensured expansion of health services in remote & far-flung areas.

"Several reforms were undertaken to implement the system of 'Any Treatment, Anywhere, Anytime'. The 'e-SAHAJ' initiative entails online appointments from doctors, and digitization of patient's medical records. As many as 575 health facilities are covered under this initiative," the LG said.

"J&K administration is spending Rs 2 crore everyday on the treatment of common people and 97% of our population has insurance cover," he added.

Bhupinder Kumar, Administrative Secretary, Health and Medical Education informed that J&K Contributory Corpus Funds was started by J&K Government under the directions of the LG. "The NHM employees are provided financial

assistance on account of disability or death," he added.

A total of 34 families of deceased NHM employees were provided an ex-gratia of Rs 10

In Shopian district, 14 kanals of state land was retrieved from encroachers by a team led Tehsildar Keegam , officials said

"Land measuring 12 Kanals situated at Village Daramdoor recorded as State Land and land measuring 2 Kanals recorded as Kahcharie situated at Diaroo have been retrieved from encroachers," they said.

The authorities also issued notices in other districts of the Valley, directing the encroachers to vacate the state land within seven days or face action.

Political parties like the National Conference, PDP, Peoples Conference and others have criticised the move, saying the occupants are generally poor people who constructed their dwellings on these state land.

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) also held a protest against the drive in Srinagar on Wednesday.

Former Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah said on Wednesday that retrieving land provided to people under the Roshni scheme will be a big betrayal to them.

"The Roshni scheme brought by the then state government (in 2001) was passed by the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council. After that it was approved by the Governor. No court rejected this scheme. It will be a fraud with the people of Jammu and Kashmir that the land rights vested under Roshni will be taken back because it was the poor farmers of Jammu which benefited the most from this scheme as they converted the lease land into freehold land," he said.

"The government should review this decision," Abdullah said, adding if retrieval of state land from illegal occupation does not cause problems for common masses, he had no problem with it.

Under the Roshni scheme, occupants of state land were vested with proprietary rights against a nominal fees paid to the government. While occupants in Jammu got rights for over 28,000 hectares, such area in Kashmir was much less at just 1500 hectares.

The NC leader said these drives were actually an attempt to divert attention of the people from the real issues.

"I feel all this is being done to harass the people because they have not been able to improve the situation which is evident from Rajouri attacks and arming of VDCs," he added.

## **Rustler Arrested**

of investigation, officers following leads acted swiftly and were able to recover stolen cattle at Allochibagh Samboora Pampore Crossing in a load carrier bearing registration number JK01AN-8891," the spokesperson said/

He said that the accused identified as Zahoor Ahmad Dar of Fruit Mandi Parimpora Srinagar was also arrested. Besides, vehicle used in the commission of crime have also been seized.

"Stolen cattle will be handed over to their rightful owners after completion of legal formalities," he added.

## **IAF Commences**

provides airlift to the locals from Srinagar to Kargil and from Kargil to Jammu-Srinagar, they said.

IAF also assists by evacuating patients using helicopters from remote locations, they said.

"This year courier services from Kargil to Srinagar and Jammu will commence from January 18 and will continue throughout the road closure period.

"The courier services will operate between Srinagar and Kargil on every Monday and Wednesday and between Kargil and Jammu on every Tuesday and Thursday," official said.

A coordination meeting was held recently between representatives of IAF and civil authorities to work out the modalities and details of the courier services.

## 2 Drug Peddlers

reliable sources that one person namely Gh Mohi ud din Wani son of Ali Mohammad Wani resident of Naibasti Hutmurrah Mattan has indulged in drug peddling and has hoarded contraband substance in his residential house.

On receipt of this information, a Police party of PS Mattan along with concerned Executive Magistrate raided the said location. During search, 500 grams of Charas Powder was recovered from the said house. He was arrested and shifted to police station, police said.

Accordingly, police said that cases under relevant sections of law were registered at respective police stations and investigations have been initiated.

# STATE

## **R-Day Arrangements Finalized In Handwara**

### **Observer News Service**

KUPWARA: The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara, Nazir Ahmad Mir on Wednesday convened a meeting of all concerned officers, here to finalize the arrangements for smooth and hassle free celebration of Republic Day 2023.

The meeting held threadbare discussion and the officers gave details of their preparations with regard to smooth celebration of the National event.

The meeting was informed that the function will start with Shanai vadan at 8:05 Am, while the National Flag will be hoisted at 10:00 AM.

The meeting was further informed that the main function of Republic Day will be held at District Police Lines (DPL) Kulangam Handwara, where National Flag will be hoisted and the VIP will take salute on the March past comprising the contingents of Para-Military Forces, JKP, JKAP, CRPF, IRP, FPP, Home Guards, NCC cadets and school children.

The ADC asked all officers to work with coordination and ensure proper arrangements on ground for smooth conduct of the event.

It was given out in the meeting that uninterrupted power and water supply shall be kept available at the venue for which concerned officers were given directions on the spot. Likewise,

**Observer News Service** 

BMO Chogal was directed to keep Ambulance available at the venue. Dy Medical Superintendent Handwara was asked to ensure first aid, doctors and 500 hundred masks available at the venue.

EO MC Handwara was asked to maintain proper sanitation and cleanliness at the event. The Information department was asked to ensure proper coverage of the event besides installation of the Public Address system. Police department was asked to keep alternate PAS available at the venue.

Other arrangements were also reviewed which included refreshment, reception of chief guest, transport, fire and emergency services, cultural programmes, deployment of Magistrates, distribution of invitation cards, selection of officers/ officials for recognition of their extraordinary services. The ADC asked concerned officers to ensure proper exhibition of schemes through Tableaus to showcase developmental activities of their respective departments and government schemes. He said all efforts shall be made to make the National Function more at-

tractive and informative The ADC directed the concerned Officers for maintaining proper protocol in seating arrangements. He also asked officers to ensure their presence including staff in the Republic Day functions and ensure Flag hoisting in their respective offices.

how come they are claiming that



A BAKER CARRYING A BASKET of freshly made bread on his shoulders, passes through a wooden bridge in the interiors of Dal Lake. KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

## **Admin Working For All Sections Of The Society: LG**

### **Observer News Service**

JAMMU: Padma Shri Dr SP Varma, President Gandhi Global Family, J&K called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan here on Wednesday, an official spokesperson said.

Ramesh Arora, former Legislator also met Lt Governor and hailed the UT Administration for taking necessary steps for the welfare of Minority Community employees working in Kashmir. He also put forth issues related to industrial de-

from Kokernag headed by Ms



Inglabi of International Gujjar Mahasabha also met Lt Governor and put forth demands related to promotion of Gojri language, installation of handpumps in border areas, ratiorandum of demands to the Lt nalization of staff at Degree Colleges and other such matters. Governor pertaining to road &

The Lt Governor, while interacting with the visiting representatives, said that the J&K administration is committed to working for all the sections of the society.

The Lt Governor assured the deputations that all their genuine concerns would be looked into meticulously for early redressal.

## J&K Govt Lifts Ban On Intra, Inter **District Movement Of Bovines**

person submitted a memo-

bridge infrastructure, besides

other developmental issues of

Mohd. Amin Shah, BJP District

President, Ganderbal projected

important infrastructure de-

velopment issues in the district

pertaining to widening of Be-

hama chowk road, children hos-

Meanwhile, Dr Manoj Gupta,

Kokernag area.

Import Of Elite Dairy Animals From Outside J&K Also Allowed

**JAMMU:** Following declaration of Jammu and Kashmir as "Free Area" for LSD, the Agriculture Production Department has inter district movement of bo-

ing states. Around 72728 cattle contracted LSD in J&K since July 2022, out of which, 3015 animals died due to the disease.

The UT government acted swiftly towards tackling the lifted ban on intra district and disease and initiated various monitoring of the disease. measures to control the dis-

dairy animal has not contracted the Lumpy Skin Disease Infection during recent outbreak. Besides, samples shall be collected from 5% of the imported animals at Lakhanpur for close

## **Rahul Should Apologise To J&K People Before Yatra Enters UT: BJP**

### **Press Trust Of India**

JAMMU: Before his Bharat Jodo Yatra enters Jammu and Kashmir, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi should apologise to the nation, especially the people of the Union territory, for the "sins committed by his family and party" in the region over the last 70 years, the BJP said on Wednesday.

BJP's J-K unit chief Ravinder Raina alleged that the Congress has been sympathetic to parties who supported terrorism and asserted that it was Prime Minister Narendra Modi who has "truly united the country", while the opposition party has done otherwise.

"Gandhi family and Congress have made historic blunders related to Jammu and Kashmir and are directly responsible for the eruption of terrorism which has consumed thousands of lives.

"Before entering J-K, Gandhi should apologise to the nation, especially people of J-K, over the mistakes and sins of the party which it committed over the past 70 years," Raina told reporters here.

He referred to the nowscrapped special status under Article 370, the permit system, the exile of the last Dogra ruler Maharaja Hari Singh and the "denying of rights" to various communities including refugees from West Pakistani and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), Valmikis, Gorkhas and Paharis.

"The atrocities committed by the Gandhi-led Congress family cannot be forgotten. There is a

long list of how they humiliated and jailed the nationalists who campaigned against its wrong policies," he alleged.

He said Gandhi should also answer why the nation was divided in 1947.

"Major parts of Kashmir and Ladakh are under illegal occupation of Pakistan, while Aksai Chin is under illegal occupation of China. He should tell the peo-

ple who are responsible for this." "They have stabbed 'Bharat Mata' in the back. They were sympathetic to the parties who supported terrorism and arrested the nationalist among Sikhs, Muslims and Hindus who tried to unfurl the national flag in Lal Chowk (Srinagar) during their rule." the BJP leader alleged.

However, he said Prime Minister Narendra Modi provided justice to all sections of society including women who were also being deprived of their rights.

The BJP also facilitated and strengthened grassroots level democracy in J-K by holding panchayat elections and empowered institutions by implementing necessary amendments.

"Modi has truly united the country, while Congress has done otherwise," he claimed.

The Bharat Jodo Yatra, which started from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu on September 7, will conclude in Srinagar by January 30, with Gandhi hoisting the national flag.

AICC J-K in-charge Rajni Patil had on Tuesday said the Yatra will enter Lakhanpur in Jammu and Kashmir from Punjab Thursday evening.

## **Kashmir Solution** Within Constitutional Framework: Mehbooba

**Press Trust Of India** 

Dubai-based Al Arabiya TV. SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday said the solution to the Kashmir problem is within the framework of the Constitution but the starting point for any reconciliation will have to be the restoration of the special status and

"There is no way other than

reconciliation in Jammu and

Kashmir but the starting point

(Sharif) has said, but we in the PDP believe that the solution to this issue is within the Constitution of the country. It is the Constitution that had given a special status

on Kashmir in an interview with

"I do not know what he

to Jammu and Kashmir." the former Union minister said. She said her party

wants that the relations between India and Pakistan improve. "We want the relations beween the two countries improve and that more routes across the border are opened ... And there should be free movement and trade as well," the People's Democratic Party (PDP)

### those who have joined were the office bearers of DAP of District JAMMU: Democratic Azad Party (DAP) on Wednesday acand Block level office bearers. cused Congress of making false He said the only leader who propaganda that hundreds of had a constituency Dr Manohar leaders of the Azad-led party Lal Sharma rejoined DAP, the have re-joined Congress. other few who went back to

**Cong Facing Leadership** 

**Crisis In J&K: DAP** 

The DAP General Secretary Congress have no constituency. R. S. Chib said that the propa-"These so called leaders can't ganda is unleashed due to the even fight the DDC elections frustration in Congress party which faces acute leadership crises not only at National level but in Jammu Kashmir also. He Chib said said that only few people have

any political leader who is unacceptable to people and is not

'Even if you check the list of Congress party they released it "We are building a team of has very few names who have leaders who are connected at left DAP and joined Congress. ground and people repose faith on them. We have successfully But they are making a propaganda intending to demoralise cultivated the crop and it has started bearing fruits and that We have not released any list of is why Congress is feeling frus**Observer News Service** 

Varma, he said, discussed with the Lt Governor various issues pertaining to development of the UT. He also highlighted the need for encouraging the youth to follow the

path of peace shown by Mahatma Gandhi.

velopment. A delegation of PRI members

Praveena Akhtar, BDC Chair-

pital and hydropower project.

since they have no existence on ground. They even lost recent DDC election also assembly," He said DAP will not accept

connected at grassroots.

# RAJ BHAWAN JAMMU

office bearers on District level, so trated," he added

rejoined Congress after quit-

ting from DAP.

## **Ration Lists Made Available** For Public In Pulwama

### **Observer News Service**

PULWAMA: Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department Pulwama issues a Public Notice seeking objections from general Public of District Pulwama regarding inclusion of ineligible Households in NFSA (AAY/PHH).

On the directions of District Development Commissioner (DDC) Pulwama, Baseer-Ul-Haq Choudhary, FCS&CA Department Pulwama issued a public notice for the information of general Public seeking objections regarding inclusion of ineligible/non-deserving households in NFSA (AAY/

PHH) within a period of 21 days. The Department of FCS&CA has made Ration lists available at all sale outlets of the District and the same can also be fetched from the Departmental online website at https://rcms.jk.gov.in/ Show\_Reports.aspx?RID=105.

The objections can be submitted at the Office of the AD FCS&CA Pulwama, near SSP Office or at different Tehsil Supply Offices of the district.

The department has published numbers phone (9906499872, 8899363543) of the officials for any other query regarding the subject and for hassle free process.

vines in J&K along with import of elite healthy dairy animals from outside the UT.

An official order issued in this regard stated that all the provisions related to "Free Area" contained in PCICDA, Act 2009, shall be strictly adhered to while importing the dairy animals from outside the UT. Pertinently, the government of J&K yesterday declared whole of the UT of J&K as "Free Area" for Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) vide Notification S.O 36 dated 16.01.2023 as per the provisions of Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act 2009 as no case of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in bovines has been reported in UT of J&K for last two months and also more than 90% affected animals have recovered from the disease. It has been reported that

the disease is under control in the UT and also in neighbourease which included vaccination of 20.5 lakh cattle and ban on import of dairy animals from outside the UT.

Any individual, bovine dealer or beneficiary of any scheme who intends to import the dairy animals from neighbouring states should necessarily carry a valid Certificate indicating date of vaccination; vaccine type used; brand name; dose; route of vaccination: specie/ breed of animal; age; lactation number; status of animal (Milking or Pregnant); INAPH tag number, name of previous owner along with parentage and mobile number from a qualified Veterinarian of Animal Husbandry Department of respective state serving in the sourced area along with official seal, signature and mobile number/email address of the Veterinarian. The concerned Veterinarian of sourced area

Transport of Animals (Amendment) Rules 2009 issued vide SO 2465 (E) dated 22 Sep 2009 and all the standing instructions/ guidelines issued by I&K Government for import of dairy animals into the UT shall be strictly followed.

The order also said

Chief Animal Husbandry Officers of the districts declared as Free Area for Lumpy Skin Disease have been directed to closely monitor the situation and the decision on lifting the ban on import of dairy animals can be reviewed depending on the evolving situation.

Pertinently, the ingress of LSD into UT of I&K has impacted the implementation of Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS) during 2022-23. Lifting of ban will provide relief to dairy farmers of J&K as well as intended beneficiaries of IDDS and Breed Multiplication Scheme of Rashtriya Gokul Mission.

for it will be the restor whatever has been snatched from the (erstwhile) state," Mufti told reporters here.

statehood to Jammu

and Kashmir.

She was responding to a question about Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's statement chief said.

## **DC Shopian Chairs District Telecom Committee Meeting**

**Observer News Service** 

SHOPIAN: A meeting of District Level Telecom Committee was held on Wednesday here under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya to discuss the issues regarding Mobile network problems in village Doompora. Threadbare discussions were

held to resolve the grievance regarding the installation of mobile towers in the village. The issues of stakeholder departments were also

discussed in the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC directed for a submission of a report on non-functioning of Jio/BSNL services in the said village, while directing concerned telecom operators to facilitate the people of the area with network facilities of Jio/BSNL within the shortest possible time.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Yar Ali Khan: DIO. Tehsildar Keegam. Dv.SP. representatives of Telecom Companies and senior officers of the concerned departments were present in the meeting.

## **FCIK Demands Extension In OTS With Modifications**

should also certify that the

### **Observer News Service**

**SRINAGAR:** The Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) has demanded grant of extension in the OTS-2022 scheme launched by J&K Bank, enhancement in time period for repayment and making it applicable to all MSME loans irrespective of their limit.

The demand was raised in a detailed meeting between representatives of concerned entrepreneurs and FCIK team held on Tuesday in the office premises of the apex industrial body, according to an FCIK statement sent to Kashmir Observer.

"The members said that it was heartening to acknowledge that for the first time a uniform and non-discriminatory scheme was launched by J&K Bank to settle NPA accounts. However, it was unfortunate that the concerned enterprises could not take advantage of the scheme for many reasons including their inability to arrange resources within prescribed time limit", the state-

The members demanded that enterprises whose accounts had been declared NPAs should not be treated as wilful defaulters as they were "victims of the circumstances beyond their control".

"Frequent business interruptions were mainly responsible for mess in MSMEs' asset quality as it overburdened the enterprises with idle establishment cost which drastically affected their viability and caused stress to their accounts ultimately leading these to NPAs", the statement added.

It further said that "in the endeavour of saving stressful accounts from slipping into NPAs, the bank in majority of cases had resorted to ever-greening for their own interest of curtailing growing NPAs, which further overburdened the enterprises"

"The principal balances in NPA accounts actually include substantial amount of bank interest accounted for through this mode of ever-greening" informed the members, according to the statement

The members also complained about the alleged harassment drive launched by the bank against defaulter MSMEs tarnishing their image and maligning

FCIK Mohammad Ashraf Mir assured the members to take up their issue with both the bank and the government for a meaningful resolution. He said that the time constraint in the scheme was com-

### THE MEMBERS DEMANDED THAT ENTERPRISES WHOSE ACCOUNTS HAD BEEN DECLARED NPAS SHOULD NOT **BE TREATED AS WILFUL DEFAULTERS AS THEY WERE**

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their credibility in the society without having any regard to their genuine business failures. Apart from the unconducive situation, the members counted a number of reasons responsible for failure of their businesses.

Acknowledging the views of the members, immediate past President of ing in the way of its implementation as the enterprises find it almost impossible to generate 50% of the debt within a period of 2 months. He said it was difficult rather impossible to find buyers and realize money for the property of concerned enterprises even though one decided to generate funds through that route.

Mir said that the OTS scheme launched by the bank should have been part of a larger rehabilitation programme of the government to revive sick industrial units in the UT. The government has to explore several methods of resource generation for the enterprises enabling them to pay off their debt to I&K Bank under their OTS scheme which may also include creation of a Special Asset Reconstruction Company. Mir also regretted that many accounts of MSMEs in the bank had been declared NPA because their payments on account of supplies and job works were not made in time and withheld by government departments. Mir said that if agreed by the bank,

FCIK would volunteer itself to act as intermediary between defaulting manufacturing units and the bank in order to pay every penny of debt back to the bank provided that the bank cooperated with the apex organisation. FCIK will be formally writing to the bank about providing list of defaulting manufacturers

in order to come up with solution after consultation with them.

FCIK pleaded the bank authorities not to close the OTS scheme but keep it open till the time some meaningful resolution came out after joint deliberations with the government. He also demanded to apply the scheme to all MSME loans in the UT of J&K and Ladakh beyond 10 Crores as there seemed to be no rationale in keeping the scheme out of bounds for them. The repayment schedule was also too short and needed to be discussed with bank authorities, he said.

Speaking on the occasion, former President FCIK Zahoor Ahmad Bhat reminded the government that it was imperative upon it to come up with a robust rehabilitation scheme for revival of sick industrial units at the earliest. He said that revival of sick industry would not only put the locked industrial assets of hundreds of crores to use but also would pave way for generation of large employment opportunities for unemployed.

# **SPORTS**

## 'Genius Football School League' **Enters Quarterfinal Stage**



### **Observer News Service**

**SRINAGAR:** Genius Football School League 2022-2023 entered its quarterfinal stage on Wednesday, with three matches played ar Synthetic Turf TRC.

The tournament is organised by Genius Career Consultancy in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council and Jammu & Kashmir Football Association and assisted with District Football Association (DFA) Srinagar.

The chief guest on the occasion was B.A.Malik, President DFA Srinagar. The first match was played

between Kashmir Harvard and careers.

SP School in which SP School emerged as winner. In the 2nd match, IPHS played DPS in which IPHS emerged as the winner. The third match was played between Biscoe and SSM and it was Biscoe who won the match.

President DFA Srinagar appreciated the efforts of Genius Career Consultancy for organising such a wonderful tournament and also applauded the talent of young football players. He assured that those players who will show remarkable performance in this tournament will be given an opportunity to participate in various national events which will boost their

## **1st ODI: India Defeat New Zealand By 12 Runs**



**Press Trust of India** 

HYDERABAD: Shubman Gill settled the debate for the opener's slot with a coming of age double hundred before India survived Michael Bracewell's blitzkrieg to pull off a nervy 12run win over New Zealand in the first ODI of the three-match series here on Wednesday.

Gill oozed class in his special 208 off 149 balls and batted through the innings to power India to 349 for eight. Skipper Rohit Sharma's 34 off 38 was the second best score of the innings, highlighting that it was very much a one-man show.

Chasing a big target, New dred in ODI history. By doing Zealand were down and out so, he broke the record of Ishan

at 131 for six before Michael Kishan, who was controver-Bracewell (140 off 78) came up sially dropped for the Sri Lanka ODIs after smashing a double with up a stunning century to bring his team back in the game ton in Bangladesh last month.

Gill, who was touted as the He shared 162 off 102 balls next big thing in Indian cricket with fellow left-hander Mitchell ever since he displayed his talent Santer (57 off 45), New Zealand's in the 2018 U-19 World Cup, hamhighest seventh wicket stand in mered 19 fours and nine sixes, six of them coming after his 150. The double century was also his sec-Playing in front of his home crowd, pacer Mohammed Siraj ond successive three digit score. (4/46) produced a match-win-The second ODI of the series will be ning effort to stop New Zealand, who ended at 337. played in Raipur on Saturday. **Brief Scores:** 

India: 349 for 8 in 50 overs (Shubman Gill 208; Daryl After India opted to bat, the 23-year-old Gill owned the stage and became the youngest Mitchell 2/30). New Zealand: 337; 49.2 overs batter to score a double hun-

(Michael Bracewell 140; Mohammed Siraj 4/46)

Who Could Buy Manchester **United & How Much Is It Worth?** 

### Reuters

im Ratcliffe's company INEOS formally entered the bidding process to buy Manchester United on Tuesday, months after the club owners, the Glazer family, said they were considering selling the club as they explore "strategic alternatives". If the Glazers decided to follow through with a sale of the Premier League club, here are some of the possible buyers:

### JIM RATCLIFFE

United in 2021. Paris St Germain are owned by Qatar Sports Investments (QSI) and rumours have swirled that investors from another Gulf country may be keen on buying United.

Bloomberg News reported this week that United, Tottenham Hotspur or Liverpool were being targeted by QSI for a potential

INEOS formally entered the bid-

ding process. Ratcliffe failed

last year in an attempt to buy

London club Chelsea, ultimately bought by an investment group

led by American Todd Boehly

Ratcliffe's name was widely

mentioned among United fans

as someone many would wel-

come, although there are fears

he might be priced out with

some analyst estimates putting

the club's worth at more than

United's local rivals Manches-

ter City are bankrolled by the

Abu Dhabi United Group, while

Saudi Arabia's Public Invest-

ment Fund completed a 300 mil-

MIDDLE EASTERN INVESTORS

and Clearlake Capital.

\$4.5 billion.

acquisition. Spurs, however, said: "there is no truth in reports that a meeting took place regarding the sale of equity in the club". Saudia Arabia sports minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki Al-British billionaire Ratcliffe, Faisal confirmed to Sky Sports

a long-standing fan of the his country's intention of taking 20-times English champions, over United. The Times news-



declared his interest in August paper, which first reported Ratbut said two months later he cliffe's INEOS entering the bidwas told by the Glazers the Preding, said that interest from the mier League side was not for sale United States and Asia is also when he contacted the family. expected. On Tuesday, his company

### **RED KNIGHTS**

In 2010, the Red Knights, a group involving former English Football League chair Keith Harris, then Goldman Sachs chief economist Jim O'Neill, and British investor Paul Marshall put a plan to buy the club on hold due to "speculation in the media of

inflated valuation aspirations." O'Neill and Marshall wrote to United co-chairman Joel Glazer in 2021 seeking immediate corporate governance reforms, after the club's ill-fated plan last year to be part of a European Super League was met with widespread criticism. The Manchester Evening News reported in November O'Neill may consider pursuing a takeover but only if the Glazers lower their current lion pound buyout of Newcastle "unrealistic" demands.

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## J&K 241/3 On Day 2 Of Ranji **Match Against Tripura**



### **Observer News Service**

**SRINAGAR:** J&K senior men's team reached 241/3 at the end of Day 2 on Wednesday of the four day Ranji Trophy match against Tripura.

The match is being played at Hostel Ground JKCA in Jammu.

Opening batter Abhinav Puri led the charge for J&K as he played a patient innings of 121 (316) to guide his team to a massive total with 7 wickets in hand. The match against Tripura is Puri's only second test for J&K after making his Ian Chauhan, Umar Nazir.

debut in 2015-16. Captain Shubham Khajuria 53 (129) and IPL's latest recruit, Vivrant Sharma 55 (122), also played well to guide J&K to a strong position at the end

of Day 2. Ian Chauhan 4 (50) and Abdul Samad 0 (1) were on the crease at stumps.

J&K Playing XI: Shubham Khajuria (c), Fazil Rashid (wk) Vivrant Sharma, Abhinav Puri, Abdul

Samad, Abid Mushtaq, Musaif Ajaz, Rohit Sharma, Auqib Nabi,

'WFI President Has Sexually **Exploited Women Wrestlers,'** Alleges Medallist Vinesh Phogat

ODIs. to test India's nerves.

## Agencies

• outh African batting great Hashim Amla announced Dhis retirement from cricket on Wednesday after helping Surrey to the English county championship last year. The 39-yearold had already retired from international cricket in 2019.

Amla scored 18,672 runs for the Proteas across the three formats from 2004-2019 and is



South Africa's second highest Test run scorer of all time behind Jacques Kallis. His 311 not out against England at The Oval in July 2012 is still the highest Test score by a South African

"I have great memories of the Oval ground and to finally leave it as a player fills me with immense gratitude for what has been," he told the Surrey website (www.kiaoval.com).

## Hashim Amla Announces Retirement At 39

from nowhere.



### **Press Trust of India**

NEW DELHI: In a startling revelation, a crying Vinesh Phogat on Wednesday alleged that Wresting Federation of India (WFI) President and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh has been sexually exploiting women wrestlers for many years and sought the intervention of Prime Minister and Home Minister for his removal.

Vinesh, a world championship claimed that several coaches at the national camp in Lucknow have also exploited women wrestlers, adding that there are a few women at the camp who approach wresters at the behest of the WFI President.

The 28-year-old though clarified that she herself has not faced such exploitation but claimed that she had received death threats at the behest of WFI President from officials close to him because she dared to draw Prime Minister Narendra Modi's attention to several issues plaguing Indian wrestling when she met him after the Tokyo Games.

"I know at least 10-12 women wrestlers who have told me about the sexual exploitation they faced at the hands of (the) WFI President. They told me joined the protest. their stories. I can't take their names now but I can definitely reveal the names if we get to meet the Prime Minister and

media after staging a four-hour dharna at Jantar Mantar. Sitting beside Vinesh, Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Bajrang Punia said the federation is being run in an arbitrary manner and they will not compete in any

international competition unless the WFI President is removed. In an unprecedented move. the country's top wrestlers, gathered to protest against the "dic-

tatorship" of the WFI President. Rio Olympics medallist Sakshi medallist and Olympian, also Malik, world championship medallist Sarita Mor, Sangeeta Phogat, Satyawart Malik, Jitender Kinha and CWG medallist Sumit Malik were among 30 wrestlers who assembled at Jantar Mantar on Wednesday.

"Our fight is not against the government or the Sports Authority of India (SAI). This is against WFI. 'Yeh ab aar paar ki ladai hai' (It's a fight to the finish). We will continue this protest until WFI President is removed," Bajrang Punia told PTI. "We will not compete in any international competition until WFI President is removed. This is a fight to save Indian wrestling," Punia later said while addressing the media.

Bajrang's support staff, including his coach Sujeet Mann and physio Anand Dubey also

'The dictatorship will not be tolerated," said another wrestler. Singh has been at the helm since 2011. He was elected Presithe Home Minister of the coun- dent of WFI for the third contry," Vinesh said addressing the secutive time in February 2019.

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