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Lithium Discovery In Reasi Could Be A Game-Changer For J&K: Official

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The discovery of lithium reserves of around 5.9 million tonnes in Jammu and Kashmir can prove to be a game changer for the Union Territory and could revolutionize country's self-sufficiency in Electric Vehicle (EV) batteries, a senior officer said Friday.

"Historically, it is for the first time that these reserves have been discovered within India. Till now, we used to import lithium for batteries, mobiles and electric vehicles. It is a

revolutionary thing and it will help in making the country Atma Nirbhar," Amit Sharma, Secretary Geology & Mining J&K, told Kashmir Observer on Friday.

Lithium is a rare mineral and a key component in rechargeable batteries that power numerous gadgets like smartphones and laptops, as well as electric cars.

On Thursday, Secretary, Ministry of Mines Vivek Bharadwaj informed parliament that for the first time, lithium reserves have been discovered in India and that



too in Jammu and Kashmir.

discovered in the Salal-The Lithium deposits were Haimana area of Reasi district.

At present, Chile in South America has the world's largest known lithium reserves at 9.2 million tonnes, followed by Australia (5.7 million tonnes), Argentina (2.2 million tonnes), and China (1.5 million tonnes).

'The quantity of lithium that has been found is "quite large" and it will make things much easier. It is a revolutionary step and it will help generate employment at the local level." Sharma said.

However, he added that the process of mineral extraction is time consuming but the good

thing is that it has kick started. "I have been handed over the report of the G3 by the Union Secretary and the process has been initiated," the Secretary

Pertinently, in 2021, much smaller deposits of the mineral were found in the southern state of Karnataka.

Geology & Mining said.

Earlier, the GOI had said that it was looking to improve its supply of rare metals needed to boost new technologies and was looking for sources in India and abroad

India has been More on P6

HIGHWAY HORROR

Over 1000 Vehicles Stranded On Banihal Highway

Srinagar: The strategic Srinagar-Jammu highway remained closed for the second consecutive day Friday due to shooting stones and mudslides in the mountainous Ramban district of Iammu and Kashmir, leaving over a thousand vehicles stranded on both sides.

According to officials, the incessant rains triggered mudslides and shooting stones at Cafeteria Morh, Mehar and Panthyal since Thursday night blocking the vital road link connecting Kashmir Valley with the outside world.

The fresh shooting stones badly damaged an iron tunnel setup at this point to facilitate traffic in the Panthiyal area, officials said.

'The highway is still blocked. The MeT department has already predicted heavy rainfall for tomorrow (Saturday). People are advised not to travel on the highway without confirmation from TCUs (Traffic control



units)," a traffic department official said.

Due to heavy rainfall, mudat Cafeteria-Mehar, Ramban and shooting stones at Panthyal and other locations, he said, approximately 1000 vehicles, both HMVs and LMVs, are stranded on the strategic road.

"Tomorrow on 11-02-20232, if weather permits, only stranded

vehicles will be allowed to move to their destinations, subject to traffic worthy road conditions,' he added.

Meanwhile, Mughal road, which connects Shopian in Kashmir with Poonch district of Jammu division, as well as Srinagar-Leh highway are already closed for traffic for this

Af-Pak Dust Turns Snow Yellow

he weatherman on Friday issued clarification regarding "yellowish snowfall" in parts of north Kashmir, saying that the phenomenon occurred due to dust carried out by winds from central parts of Pakistan and Southern Afghanistan. In a statement, the Meteorological department, Kashmir said "Analysis of 2nd Generation Weather Satellite (Meteosat-9) of **EUMETSAT** (European **Operational Satellite** Agency) confirms that yesterday's Yellowish/ dusty snowfall over some parts of North Kashmir was dust carried out by winds from central parts of Pakistan & Southern Afghanistan which started

around More on P6

Avalanche Hits Gurez, 2 Women Rescued

wo women were rescued after a snow avalanche hit Manzgund area of Gurez in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Friday. Reports said that two women identified as Tabassum Bano and Shahnaza Begum were collecting drinking water from a nearby tap when they came under a medium avalanche in Mazgund area of Tulail this morning. They said that soon after the incident a rescue operation was launched by locals and after strenuous efforts both the women were rescued alive. However, no damage has been reported in the incident so far, they added. An official said the general public is again advised to remain cautious and not to venture out in slopes, hilly areas, or avalanche-prone areas till the weather improves.

Haj Forms Available On Official Website From Today

Agencies

Srinagar: Haj 2023 forms will be available online free of cost from today onwards on the official website of Haj Committee of India (HCoI).

"Haj forms have been made available on the official website of HcOI: https://hajcommittee.gov.in/haf23," Member, Er Aijaz Hussain said. He said the forms are absolutely free of cost as already announced by the HCoI under its Haj policy 2023.

Er Aijaz said all the steps will be taken to provide as much as possible relief to the pilgrims performing Haj 2023. He said that under the Haj policy 2023, 25 Haj Embankment points will be set up across country to facilitate the pilgrims by all means. This year, as per the bilateral More on P6

Govt Shifts 15 Officers In Major Reshuffle Vijay Kumar Bidhuri Is New Div Com Kashmir

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday ordered transfer and posting of 15 officers, seven of them IAS, in the interest of administration with immediate effect.

According to an order, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, IAS (AGMUT:2005) Commissioner/ Secretary to the Government, Revenue Department, holding additional charge of Principal Resident Commissioner, J&K Government, New Delhi, has been transferred and posted as Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir.

The order states Dheeraj Gupta, IAS (AGMUT: 1993), Principal Secretary to the Housing Government, Urban Development Department, holding additional



charge of smart Cities and proposed new Jammu/Srinagar Metropolitan Regional Development, has been transferred and posted as Principal Secretary to the Government, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment.

Rajesh Prasad, IAS (AGMUT: 1995), **More on P6**

Pole Formally **Appointed CÉO**

overnment on Friday formally appointed Pandurang Kondbarao Pole (IAS, AGMUT: 2004), as Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu and Kashmir.

"In pursuance of notification No. 154/08K/2022-P.Admn. dated 31.01.2023, issued by the Election Commission of India, Pandurang Kondbarao Pole, IAS (AGMUT:2004), is appointed as Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu and Kashmir," reads a government order adding, "Pandurang Kondbarao Pole, IAS shall also be Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Election Department."

The order comes More on P6

Situation In J&K Has Vastly Changed In 3 Years: Thakur



Press Trust Of India

Gulmarg: Claiming that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir has vastly changed over the last three years, the Union Minister Anurag Thakur on Friday said that sports are flourishing at the place where stone pelting was common. The Union Minister also

will give fillip to the country's image and economy.

world stage.

Fifty-five cities will host 200 meetings of the world's 20 most powerful countries. This is the growing power of

said India's G-20 presi-

dency reflects the coun-

try's growing power on the

"The G-20 presidency

New Dimension Added To J&K's Sports Sector: LG

igutenant Governor Manoi Sinha said on Friday that the efforts of his administration in developing world-class sports infrastructure and facilities in every nook & corner of UT, vibrant sports culture & sports budget at par with bigger states have added a new dimension to Jammu and Kashmir's Sports sector. Addressing a gathering |FULL STORY ON PAGE 8

WE HAD THE HIGHEST MEDAL TALLY at the Summer Olympics and paralympics. P V Sindhu won back to back Olympic medals in badminton, which is no mean feat.'

Mata Vaishno Devi University Closed After Students Clash

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: At least two students were injured in a group clash at the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University in Katra, prompting the authorities to suspend classes at the varsity for two consecutive days.

Clashes erupted after an argument between local and non-local students during a football match turned ugly on Wednesday night, an official from the University told Kashmir Observer. He said the clashes were reported on Thursday as well, after which the university administration suspended classes for Friday

and Saturday.

"The university will open on Monday. However in order to avoid any further clashes, the university has decided to close for two days," said the

He further said an inquiry has been ordered by the authorities which will investigate the incident.

"Strict action will be taken against the erring students. The police have been informed as well" he added.

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) spokesperson, Mohit Bhan blamed the students from Bihar for the violence. In a video he More on P6

Date Sheets For Class 10-12 Exams Out

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Board of State Education announced date sheets for conduct of annual/regular examinations for classes 10th, 11th and 12th.

The Board authorities issued three separate notifications.

The exams for Class 10 are scheduled to begin from March 03, 2023 (with different Vocational Subjects) and will end on April 05, 2023 (Social Sciences').

Similarly, the exams for Class 11 are scheduled to begin from March 06, 2023 – for Faculty of Science, Arts and Home Science and will end with papers for Faculty of Science, Arts and Home Science on April 19, 2023.

For Class 12, the exams will be starting on March 03, 2023 – for Faculty of Science, Arts and Commerce – and will end with papers for Faculty of Science and Arts and Home Science on April 02, 2023.

J&K To Give Rs 2.5L Incentive For Every Inter-Caste Marriage

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu & Kashmir Government has unveiled a scheme to give Rs 2.5 lakh to every inter-caste marriage involving a Dalit.

According to an order, the UT administration has come up with a scheme to incentivize intercaste marriage involving a Dalit.

The scheme has been unveiled after the Administrative Council gave a go-ahead for the same. The Centre had also un-

veiled a similar scheme in 2017. The scheme has been framed for implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1995 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of

Atrocities), Act 1989. To avail benefits of the scheme, one of the spouses in the inter-marriage caste should belong to schedule caste community as mentioned under Scheduled Caste List (out of 13 Castes) specified Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 C.O.19 for Jammu and Kashmir and the other is a non-scheduled caste Hindu.

As per guidelines of the scheme, the marriage should be valid as per the law and duly registered under the Hindu Marriage Act-1955 and a registration certificate to this effect issued by the competent authority must be furnished by the beneficiaries.

The order states that the age criteria of marriage should be as per prescribed law.

The case for assistance shall only be valid if submitted strictly within six months from the date of marriage, as indicated on the marriage registration certificate produced at the time of submission of application.

"The couples who have already received incentive from the Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment or any other State/UT shall not be eligible for incentive under this scheme," the guidelines state.

The guidelines further state that the total amount of incentive will be released to the eligible couple in a single installment through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode to the joint account of the couple in any government/ More on P6

Scooty Rider Crushed To Death

scooty-rider was killed after being allegedly hit by a vehicle of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) near Humhama in central Kashmir Budgam district on Saturday.

A police official told a local news agency GNS that the 55-year-old rider identified as Nazir Ahmad Bhat son of Mohammad Ramzan Bhat of Samerbugh Budgam was seriously injured after being hit by the vehicle at around More on P6

17 Injured After Bus Overturns

total 17 persons suffered injuries when a passenger bus turned turtle and skidded off the road in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on Friday, officials said. The accident took place at the Gallawan-Panchari area of the district. The bus was on its way to Khorgali from Udhampur, they

All those injured have been shifted to a hospital.

Swamp Deer Caught In Jammu

swamp deer seen roaming in a village on the outskirts of a village on the outcome.

the city was tranquillised and caught on Thursday, officials said. A 'barasingha' (swamp deer) was seen roaming in Chak Jawhar Singh village in Bishnah tehsil. Local residents informed wildlife officials, who rushed to the area, they said.

They tranquilised and caught the deer before shifting it to a wildlife sanctuary, the officials added.

Train Crushes Man To Death

septuagenarian man was crushed under a moving train in Central Kashmir's Budgam district



official said that the train mowed down the elderly man between

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Mazhom and Budgam section. He said the man died on the spot.

Teacher Held For Misbehavior

government school teacher was arrested by police for allegedly misbehaving with a girl student in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said. The Zonal Education Officer (ZEO), Poonch has suspended the teacher and a departmental probe was ordered against him, they said. Station House Officer (SHO) of Gursai Police station Farooq Ahmed said the teacher has been arrested following the allegations.

18 Grenades Destroyed In Poonch

s many as eighteen hand grenades recovered from multiple places across Poonch district, were destroyed in a controlled manner here on Friday, officials said. They said that the grenades were recovered in different cases including at Behri Rakh forest area near Chhotey Shah Badshah. "Twelve (grenades) recovered under FIR number 217/2020, two under FIR number 298/2022 and four under

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL **EDUCATION NEW.CAMPUS BEMINA, SRINAGAR**

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class-10th)under Roll No: 17189 Session Year-Annual Oct-Nov 1987 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education Due to the error committed by the concerned School/parent, my Name: Nusrat Nisa has been recorded with the Board while as actual Name is Nusrat ul Nisa.

Furthermore, in the Class 11th and 12th my Father's name was recorded as Sirai ud Din while as My Father's actual name is Siraj ud Din Mir

Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Deputy Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained. This is published for the information of general public.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to correct my name in my previous passport bearing No. L1922913 from Tahir Qayum Bhat to Tahir Qayoom Bhat as per my Aadhaar Card. Now I am apply for re-issuance of my passport. Anybody having any objection may contact Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a week at the most. After the expiry of the stipulated time no ojectin will be entertained.

Tahir Qayoom Bhat S/o Abdul Qayoom Bhat ikm R/o Zero Bridge Raj Bagh Srinagar.

Present:- Ms Tabasum

Applicant

Registrar Births & Deaths SMC, Srinagar. (Non-Applicant)

applicant for registration of Birth of Faizan Hafiz in the records of SMC Srinagar. Objection, if any, be submitted in writing before the undersigned within seven days from the date of this Publication. The details of Name:- Faizan Hafiz

Father's Name:-Hafizullah Bhat Mother's name: Shahzada DOB: 29-08-2011

R/o: Dar Mohalla Zainakote Srinagar Place Of Birth:-At Home

Judge Small Causes, Srinagar

(Draft NIT under Single Cover System)

Applicable for works costing below Rs. 200.00 Lacs) Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Executive Engineer R&B Division Qazigund

NIT No.131/2022-23/RnB/Qzd/e-tendering/11330-45 Dated:09-02-2023
For and on behalf of theLt. Governor, Union Territory of J&Ke-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD,

ı	Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works.							
l	S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost	Cost of T/	Earnest Money	Time of	Class of	Major Head of
l			(Rs. In Lacs)	Doc.(In Rs.)	(In Rs.)	completion	Contractor	Account
l	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Construction of Slaughter House near Govt.Middle School Devsar.	161.94	2600	323880	500 Days	AAY Class	FC Grants

Project Sanctioning Authority: Urban Local Bodies (President M.C Devsar)
Position of AAA = Order No.MC/Dvr/14 of 2021 Dated:30-07-2021 issued under endorsement

No.MC/DVR/2021-22/1711-15 Dated: 30-07-2021

Position of Technical Sanction = Accorded by Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Department Kmr vide order No. CE(R&B)

K/TS/907 of 2022-23 Dated: 13-01-2023

S. No.	Particulars	Dated		
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice.		09-02-2023	
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From	11-02-2023	(11:00 AM)
		То	27-02-2023	(04:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From	11-02-2023	(11:00 AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	То	27-02-2023	(04:00 PM)
6	Date and time of opening of bid (online)		28-02-2023	(11.00 AM)
		In the office of Superintending Engineer PWD RnB Circle Anantnag/ Kulgam		

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions

of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Demand Draft/ Treasury Challan / Receipt credited to MH 0059-Rev:Misc: and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR / FDR pledged to Superintending Engineer PWD RnB Circle Anantnag/ Kulgam(tender receiving authority).—Refer Govt: order No: O.M. Earnest Monty (2% of the Advertised cost) from all the bidders in the shape of CDR/FDR at the time of tendering and 3% performance security of the allotted

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Superintending Engineer PWD RnB Circle Anantnag/Wilgam(tender receiving authority).

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

Bidders are advised to download bid submission.

into acquaint bid submission process.

6.6. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including Treasury Challan/receipt, GST clearance in soft copies with the technical bid. However

before allotting the work or issuing the supply order the original documents/CDR should be obtained and kept on record..
6.7The earnest money in favour of unsuccessful/ Non-responsive bidders shall be released only after ensuring submission of Treasury Challan/Receipt Note: In case of CRF and any other specified project, the relevant guidelines / standard bidding document shall be followed.

7.1. All bidders shall upload the following information and documents with their bids: -

Copies of original documents defining constitution/legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business.

Scanned Copy of GSTIN Registration and latest clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B i.e. latest clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B of the preceding Month/ Pre-

For the NIT issued in February, 2023, the bidder has to upload the latest Clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B of the previous Quarter i.e. Oct-December 2022-23/previous Month i.e. January, 2023

However: The Digitally issued Registration Cards of J&K Public Works Department shall be verified at https://jkpwdons.jk.gov.in hence forth. Registration Card Verification from the competent authority by whom Registration Card is issued.

All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form) No. 11330-45

Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Qazigund

Office Of The Executive Engineer **Generation Division Power House Ganderbal**

DIPK-17269/22 Dated:10-02-2023

Email: xeneganderbal@gmail.com Tel/fax - 01942-416234

e-NIT No. GDG/13 of 2022-23 Dated: 09/02/2023 F-NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of Managing Director JKPDC, online e-bids in double cover system are invited (Cover-I-Techno-Commercial Bid and Cover-II-Price Bid) from authorised firms/ contractors/Self Help Groups registered with J&K government or any organization owned by PSUs/ State Government/ Central Government having sufficient related experience for under taking the following titled work at Generation Division Ganderbal.

S.	. No	Scope Of Work	Quantity	Cost Of Tender	Estimated cost (Rs)	EMD @ 2% (Rs)	Time Completion
L		•		Document	. ,		·
1.		Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 33KV	As per scope	Rs 1000/-	5.18 lacs	10400/-	Within 60 days from
L		CT's & PT's at 33Ky Switch yard of power house Ganderbal.					date of LOA

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of terms and conditions of contract

اما	and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the Departmental website jatenders, gov.in or www.jaspac.nic.in as per schedule or dates given below.				
1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	09-02-2023			
2.	Period of downloading of bidding document	11-02-2023 to 21-02-2023			
3.	Bid submission Start Date	11-02-2023 1400 hrs			
4.	Bid submission End Date	21-02-2023 upto 1600 hrs			
5.	Deadline for receiving Hard Copies (Proof of Cost of tender document and EMD)	21-02-2023 upto 1600 hrs			
6.	Date and time of opening of Bid (online)	22-02-2023 or any other convenient date.			
7.	Venue for submitting the hard copy of Technical and Commercial bid	Office of the Executive Engineer, Generation Division, Ganderbal,			
ΙL		Kashmir.			
l					

Position of AAA Accorded **Technical Sanction** Sanctioned Available

1. The entire process of bidding shall be online. The bidding document consisting of BOQ (Bill of Quantities), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the government website jktenders.gov.in or www.jkspdc.nic.in. The bidder has to submit the bids (complete in all respects) online on the said website. The subsequent opening as well as comparison of bids (on the opening date/time) shall be online on the said website The following documents are to be uploaded along with the bid; otherwise the bid shall be liable for rejection:

i) Details of Contractor along with working phone no. and e-mail id on the letter head of contractor

ii) Cost of Tender Document in the shape of Bank slip/demand draft in favour of the Chief Pay & Accounts Officer Kangan with the detail as:

Account No. 0071010200005002 IFSC code: JAKAOKANGAN

Bank: J&K bank Ltd Kangan

iii) Earnest Money Deposit in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Chief Pay & Accounts Officer Kangan.

iv) Copy of Valid Registration Certificate. v) Copy of valid GST Registration Certificate.

vi) Copy of PAN Card.

vii) Experience/Relevant Work Orders' and Completion Certificates copies

viii) Income tax Certificate for last three years

ix) Information regarding the current litigation (if any) in which the bidder is involved; parties concerned and disputed amount on registerd affidavit/stamp paper of Rs

The bidders need to submit the proof/cost of e-bid document as stated above table through Bank slip/Demand Draft pledged to the Chief Pay Accounts

Account No. 0071010200005002 IFSC code: JAKAOKANGAN Bank: J&K bank Ltd Kangan The Bank slip/Demand Draft must be uploaded along with the e-Bids but the

original Bank slip/demand draft should reach the office of Executive Engineer, Generation Division, Ganderbal up to the cutoff date.

4. All the e-bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD @ Rs. 10400/- in the form of CDR/FDR/BG only, pledged to the Chief Pay Accounts Officer Kangan payable at Kangan. Hard Copy of original instrument of EMD shall be submitted to the office of the Executive Engineer, Generation Division, Ganderbal up to the cutoff date.

The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-

Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b. Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit. c. Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract

6. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids

7. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened on same website in the Office of Superintending Engineer Generation Circle-II Bernina Srinagar Kashmir 8. No price bid will be accepted in physical form. 9. The bidders are advised to visit the site for assessment and go through the contents of the SBD before quoting the rates

10. Modification in scope of work and extension of period of download of tender specification, closing opening date if required will be notified through corrigendum.

No:-GDG/T/165-74

DIPK-NB-6402/22 Dated:-10-02-2023 **Executive Engineer Generation Division Ganderbal**

IN THE COURT OF JMIC, JUDGE SMALL CAUSES, SRINAGAR

Hafizullah Bhat v/s

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from the

the Person are as under:-

Sex:-Male

Sd/-

In the Court of Additional Munisiff Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Srinagar

Present: Shafeeg Ahmad Malik

Bilal Ahmad Bakhoo V/s Fatima Beigh

Notice Through Publication to: 1. UT through Commissioner Secretary Civil Sec. Sgr. 2. Block Development Officer Srinagar Lasjan

3. Tehsildar Natipora Chanpora

Whereas, above titled suit has been filed against you in this court and you have been conveyed as defendant no: 02-, ,03-04, The next date of hearing is fixed on 02-02-2023

Whereas., Summons were issued for your appearance in this court .but you avoided to acknowledge the summon, as a result the summon got returned as untraced. This way you did not appear before the Court to answer the suit and it appears that your attendance may not be procured through the issuance of ordinary summons. You are as such summoned through this Publication and directed to appear before this Court personally or through counsel on 22-02-2023 failing to which appropriate orders will be penned against you. In case tin date fixed in declared as holiday the matter shall be taken up on next follow day.

Given under my Hand and Seal of this court Additional Munisiff

Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Srinagar

The Jammu And Kashmir State **Board Of School Education**

SUB-OFFICE BANDIPORA The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice

is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 12th session Annual 2012 issued by the board of School Education under Below mentioned particulars Ishtivag Mushtag

Parentage Mushtaq Ahmad Mir Roll No: 401404 Year / Session 2012 Annual

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the some before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary **Board Of School Education** Sub Office Bandipora

از نیابت چوکر مضمون: درخواست منجانب سمير ه عبداللّه دختر مجمه عبداللّه دُّار ساكنه موضوع چوكر نسبت Unemployment سرٹفیکیٹ بحق خود اشتهار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام

معامله مندرجه عنوان الصدر کے نسبت سائلہ کے کاغذات زیر بحث دفتر مذامیں زىركاروائى ہے۔ بيان ريورٹ پٹوارى حلقه ونمبر دارسائل مذكوره دھ مذاميں رابائش پذیر ہےاور سمجھی ترک سکونت اختیار نہیں کی ہے۔ نیز سائلہ مذکورہ تا حال کسی بھی سرکاری یا غیرسرکاری محکمہ میں کامنہیں کررہی ہے۔ قبل اس کے کیسائلہ کی درخواست پر مذید کاروائی کی جائے۔ اول ہرخاص وعوام کو بذریعہاشتہار مطلع کیاجا تاہے کہا گراس بارے میں سیشخص یااشخاص کوکوئی عذريااعتراض ہوتوایک ہفتہ کےاندر دفتری اوقات میں اسالتاً یاو کالتاً بے عذریا اعتراض پیش کریں۔ بعد گذرنے عباد کوئی بھی عذر قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا تح برالصدر

مضمون: درخواست منجانب شائسة رشيد دختر عبدالرشيد دار ساكنة موضوع چوکر نسبت Unemployment سرٹفیکیٹ بخق خود اشتهار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر کے نسبت سائلہ کے کاغذات زیر بحث دفتر بذا میں زیرکا روائی ہے۔ بیان رپورٹ پٹواری حلقہ ونمبر دارسائل مذکورہ دھ مذامیں رابائش پذیر ہےاور مجھی ترک سکونت اختیار نہیں کی ہے۔ نیز سائلہ مذکورہ تا حال کسی بھی سرکاری یاغیرسرکاری محکمہ میں کامنہیں کررہی ہے۔ قبل اس کے کہسائلہ کی درخواست پر مذید کاروائی کی جائے۔اول ہرخاص وعوام کو بذریعہاشتہار مطلع کیاجا تاہے کہا گرانس بارے میں سیشخص یااشخاص کوکوئی عذريااعتراض موتوايك مفته كےاندردفتري اوقات ميں اسالتاً ياوكالتاً اپنے عذريا اعتراض پیش کریں۔بعد گذرنے عیاد کوئی بھی عذر قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا تحریرالصدر نائب تحصيلدار

Public Notice

This is to inform General Public that I have lost my Army Canteen Card Bearing No; G-A03072144628500W00 and LA03072144628500W00 somewhere. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Canteen Authorities within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Aamir Ahmad Dar S/o Farooq Ahmad Dar

R/o Watrina Bandipora Army No: 9124726K

از نیابت پلہالن

عنوان: _ ليگل هيرسر تفيكيك تحق وارثان جائز

اشتهار هرخاص وعام معامله مندرجه عنوان الصدر میں چھٹی آمدہ ازمحکمہ ایس۔ ڈی۔ یم۔ پٹن زیرنمر SDMP/DEP-38-23 مور ني2022-15 بغرض ليگل بير برافکاييث موضول

ہے عیاں ہے سائل پٹن ہامرے کا سکونت دار ہے سائل کا والدمو نے 2022-11-26 کوفوت و چکا ہےموتا فی کےوارثان بذیل ہے۔ سمانة شابينييم 47سال گھريلو کام زوجه متوفی

ہوئی ہے جو کہ زیر کا روائی ہے اس بارئے میں راقم نے پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی ہے جس

مصباح تثم 26سال زرتعليم وختر متوفى 21سال زرتعلیم پسرمتوفی سراالحق س کےعلاوہ اورکوئی افراد کنیمہ نہیں ہے۔ سڑفلیکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر سے کہا گرکٹی شخص کو كوئى عزرياا عتراض بوتوه وبعدمشتهرا خبارسات دن كاندرا ندرآ يناعذر ياعتراض ودالت هذاكو

> ازعدالت سب جج ميونپل مجسٹريٺ سرينگر بااجلاس مهرين مشاق

دفتری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میعاد کوئی عذریا عتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

fko

رجىٹرار بڑھس اینڈ ڈیٹھس الیں۔ایم _سی سرینگر (سیول)

Sara Bano

رخواست بغرج اندراج تاريخ پيدائش اوفات ام: Abdul Razaq Mir

معامله مندجه عنوان الصدر ميس سائل سائله نے عدالت منداميں ايك درخواست بشمول حلفي بغرض Abdul Razaq Mir S/o Abdul Star Mir اندارج تاریخ (وفات R/o Gosu Hazratbal Srinagar) مورخه وصورخه پیش کی ہے۔لہذا عوام الناس کو

بذر بعداشتها مطلع کیاجا تا ہے کنسبت درخواست کوئی عذریااعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں اینے عذرات اشعاعت اشتہار کے اندر دس یوم عدالت میں آ کرپیش کرے۔ بعد گزر نے معیاد کوئی عذریا اعتراض قابلِ قبول نبیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آیندہ عدالت ہذامیں 2023-02-28 کومقررہے۔

ازعدالت سب جج ميونپل مجسٹريث سرينگر بااجلاس مهرين مشتاق

رجىٹرارېرتھس اينڈ ڈيتھس الیں۔ایم۔سیسرینگر(سیول

Ali Mohammad Wani

رخواست بغرج اندراج تاریخ پیدائش /وفات Abdul Khaliq Wani :

ناریخُوفات / : 1993-20-20 عامله مندجة عنوان الصدريين سائل سائله نے عدالت مذامين ايک درخواست بشمول حلفی لبغرض اندارج تاریخ /وفات Abdul Khalig Wani S/o Ghulam Qadir Wani /وفات

R/o Choncha Fakir Krishibal مورخه 31-01-2023 پیش کی ہے لبذاعوام الناس کو R/o Sagh Srinagar بذریعها شتہار مطلع کیاجا تا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست کوئی عذریا اعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں اپنے مذرات اشعاعت اشتہار کے اندردس یوم عدالت میں آ کر پیش کرے۔ بعد گزر نے معیا دکوئی عذریا عتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آیندہ عدالت بنرامیں 2023-17-02 کومقررہے۔

ازعدالت سب جج ميونيل مجسٹريث سرينگر بااجلاس مهرين مشاق

مائل *اسا*ئلہ رخواست بغرج اندراج تاريخ پيدائش اوفات Abdul Ahad Aga : 27-10-2016 :

عامله مندجة عنوان الصدرمين سائل سائله نے عدالت بنرامين ايک درخواست بشمول حلفی بغرض Abdul Ahad Aga S/o Habibullah Aga اندارج تاریخ /وفات R/o Tanki Sarai M.R Gunj مورخه 202-2023 پیش کی ہے ۔ لہذاعوام الناس کو یذر بعداشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست کوئی عذر ہااعتر اض ہونے کی صورت میں اپنے

مذرات اشعاعت اشتہار کے اندر دس یوم عدالت میں آ کر پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معیاد کوئی عذریا عتراض قابلِ قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آیندہ عدالت ہذامیں 202-02-20- کومقررہے۔

سب جج میونیل مجسٹریٹ سرینگر

ازعدالت سب جج ميونپل مجسٹريٺ سرينگر بااجلاس مهرين مشاق

رجيٹرار برخفس اينڈ ڈیتھسر الیں۔ایم _سی سرینگر (سیول ٔ

از نیابت چوکر

Khazir Mohammad پیام Hazari

درخواست بغرج اندراج تاريخ پيدائش اوفات ام: Mohammad Younis تاريخ / يبدائش: 1984-02-03

معامله مندجة عنوان الصدرمين سائل سائله نے عدالت مذامين ايک درخواست بشمول حلفی لبغرض ندارج تاریخ پیدائش/وفات Mohammad Younis S/o Khazir Mohammad Hazari Umar Colony - A Gousia Colony مورخه 31-01-2023 پیش کی ہے۔ لہذاعوام الناس کو Lalbazar Srinagar بذريعها شتهار مطلع كياجا تاہے كنسبت درخواست كوئى عذريااعتراض ہونے كى صورت ميں اينے مذرات اشعاعت اشتہار کےاندر دس یوم عدالت میں آ کر پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معیا دکوئی عذریا عتراض قابلِ قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آیندہ عدالت مذامیں ۔ 2023-17-02 کومقررہے۔

ىب جج مەنسال مجسٹریٹ سرینگا

DISCLAIMER: KASHMIR OBSERVER MAKES EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THATTHE INFORMATION CARRIED IN DISPLAY/CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS, APPEARING IN THE NEWSPAPER IS CORRECT. HOWEVER THE NEWSPAPER TAKES NO RESPONSIBILITY NOR DOES IT NECESSARILY ENDORSETHE CONTENTS OF THESE ADVERTS. THE READERS ARE THEREFORE REQUESTED TO VERIFY THE CONTENTS BEFORE ACTING THEREUPON. MANAGEMENT



Apni Party Holds 'Dharna' In Srinagar **Against Eviction Drive**

MAJID NABI

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP) on Friday held sit-in protest in Srinagar against the government's ongoing eviction drive to 'reclaim' state land from the encroachers.

Carrying placards in their hands which read "stop bulldozing and stop demolishing houses of poor"; dozens of AP activists assembled at Srinagar's Press Enclave and later sat on a dharna to protest governments proposed plan to render poor masses homeless in the UT.

Similar demonstrations were also held in north Kashmir's Bandipora district and Gole Market in Gandhi Nagar Jammu by Apni Party activists.

It is pertinent to mention that Altaf Bukahri led Apni Party had announced sit-in protests at all district headquarters in J&K to seek immediate end to what was alleged 'persecution' of poor masses in the valley in the name of anti-encroachment

leaders asked the administration to continue its drive against influential having allegedly encroached huge tracts of state land in Jammu and Kashmir. They however sought immediate end to the demolition drive against the poor who might have erected residential structure on Kahcharai or

"We are not against reclamation of illegally occupied state land from bigwigs; we in fact support the government in its endeavor to retrieve the same for public good, however, we will not let poor to be bulldozed at any cost. We urge the Lieutenant Governor to adopt your assurances on the ground that poor masses will not be touched," a protesting AP leader told media at Press Enclave.

He also appealed to the LG to impress upon the officials to avoid targeting poor masses during the drive.

In Bandipora district in north Kashmir, sit-in protest was led by the party senior leader and former minister, Usman Majeed. Dozens of AP activists participated in dharna against the government.

"How could we remain silent on government's action against the poor, if the drive is meant to spare influential and target poor masses only, than we are sorry, we will not allow this to happen come what may," said Usman Majeed while addressing the protesters in Bandipora.

Apni Party provincial president Jammu, Manjeet Singh asked the government to halt the ongoing demolition drive without any delay to avoid confrontation. He said the administrations pick and choose policy might trigger protests across J&K.

Vehicles Sans Valid Passes Not Allowed To Enter HC

KO News Service

SRINAGAR: Citing security reasons, authorities on Friday banned entry of vehicles inside the Srinagar wing of Jammu and Kashmir High Court, without a valid parking pass

Registrar Judicial in an order said the security in charge High Court will also ensure parking of the vehicles in the designated parking slots in the premi-

"In the interest of security of High Court and in order to regulate the entry of vehicles into the court premises, Srinagar, in charge security High Court, Srinagar, is hereby directed not to allow any vehicle to enter into the premises without holding a valid parking pass although valid 31.12.2022/authorized letter issued by the competent authority," reads the order.

He further directed to ensure parking of the vehicles in the designated parking slots in the Premises

The order stated in case ing the order is found; it will amount to disobedience and shall be dealt sternly.



A vendor sells warm clothes on a bicycle in Srinagar on Friday - Photo/Abid Bhat-KO

Commercial Building Sealed At Chattabal Likely To Be 'Unsealed'

Owners claim will be 'upheld' if proves genuine, Says Commissioner SMC

MAJID NABI

SRINAGAR: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Athar Amir Khan Friday said that a commercial build ing, which was sealed at Rampora Chattabal, last week will be 'unsealed', provided the claims made by the owner of the said building proved 'genuine'.

The civic body head said the claims of the owner will be 'upheld', if the building raised on the land measuring one kanal would have been sold to him through proper auction. He said the revenue department will be accordingly informed, if due process has been followed in the matter.

'Obviously the claims made by the owner of the building will be upheld if everything is in order, and action in this regard will be initiated as per rules. Factual position will be intimated to the revenue Department accordingly," Commissioner SMC said.

Development came six days after the Revenue Department retrieved land measuring on kanal under Khasra No. 437 Min and sealed a commercial building raised on the said land at Rampora Chattabal.

Owner of the building, while contesting the claims that the land measuring one kanal which was retrieved at Rampora Chattabal was state property, asked the government to verify facts before taking such 'weird' actions.

He said the land was allotted to him by the SMC in the year 2007 against cash payment of rupees forty two lakh and fifty thousand 42, 50, 000. He said the Sub-Divisional Magistrate has shot a letter to the SMC to know whether it had really allotted the land to the owner or not.

This is strange, how could a senior official make such claims, has he ever gone through the official records. We have submitted a 150 page High Court judgment way back in 2018 and I hope the building will be unsealed soon," he added.

The operational part of the HC judgment reads "The fact of filing a suit for perpetual injection is admitted and it is further avert that out of the aforesaid land, the corporation has sold one kanal of land against the payment of Rs 42, 50,000 during an open auction in the year 2004"

TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686 PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883 PDD: 0194-2450213

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488,2452222,2452155 CAPD: 18001807011

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259 ANANTNAG: 01932-228243 BARAMULLA: 0194-102029

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

HIGHWAY STATUS



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



PRAYERS FAJR 5:55 12:45 **ZUHR ASR** 4:33 Magrib 6:13 ISHA 7:34

This Day In History

1922 - US intervention army leaves Honduras 1943 - US General Eisenhower selected to command the allied armies

in Europe; British General Montgomery not best pleased. 1944 - German troops reconquer Aprilia, Italy

1945 - Yalta agreement signed by FDR, Churchill & Stalin

1946 - World War II: Operation Deadlight ends after scuttling 116 of 156 captured U-boats. 1953 - USSR breaks diplomatic relations with Israel 1956 - British diplomats Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean deny

working as spies for Soviet Russia after reappearing in the Soviet Union after going missing 5 years earlie 1964 - Greek & Turks begin fighting in Limassol, Cyprus

1964 - Taiwan drops diplomatic relations with France

1968 - Israeli-Jordan border fight 1970 - Japan becomes 4th nation to put a satellite (Osumi) in orbit.

1971 - US, UK, USSR, others sign Seabed Treaty outlawing nuclear 1973 - 1st one-day international for Pakistan & NZ

1974 - Titan-Centaur rocket test launch fails. 1974 - Henry Kissinger unveils Nixon Administration's seven-point

"Project Independence" plan to make the U.S. energy independent 1974 - Libva nationalizes three US oil companies that had not agreed to 51 percent nationalization in September

1975 - Margaret Thatcher defeats Edward Heath for leadership of the **British Conservative Party**

1978 - China lifts a ban on Aristotle, Shakespeare, & Dickens 1979 - Iran's premier Bakhtiar resigns, Ayatollah Khomeini seizes

. 1984 - 10th space shuttle mission (41-B)-Challenger 4-returns to

1985 - King Hussein of Jordan & PLO leader Arafat sign accord

1990 - Nelson Mandela released after 27 years imprisonment in

1991 - UNPO, Unrepresented Nations & People Org forms in Hague

1994 - Space shuttle STS-60 (Discovery 18), lands

2008 - In East Timor, assassination attempts were made on Xanana Gusmao and Jose Ramos-Horta. Both failed

2011 - Egyptian Revolution culminates in the resignation of Hosni Mubarak and the transfer of power to the Supreme Military Council

after 18 days of protests. 2012 - Israeli Air Force conducts four air strikes in Gaza Strip 2013 - 18 coal miners are killed in an explosion in the Komi region,

2013 - Pope Benedict XVI announces his resignation from February

28, the first pope to resign since 1415

2014 - 11 people are killed after a grenade was tossed into a movie

theatre in Peshawar, Pakistan

From KO Archives

India, Pakistan May Conduct Nuclear Tests: US

▼ASHINGTON US intel¬ligence chiefs have warned that they could not rule out new nuclear tests by India and Pakistan and pointed to an "unacceptably high" risk of war between the two countries. George Tenet, director of the CIA, said in pre-pared testi-

mony to the sen-ate intelligence committee that an escalation of the race for nuclear superior-ity on the subcontinent could not be ruled out "We still believe there is a good prospect of another round of nuclear tests," said Tenet. "I must report that relations between India and Pakistan remain volatile, making the risk of war between the two nuclear-armed adversaries unacceptably nigh." Tenet said.

MILITARY BALANCE FAVOURS INDIA The military balance in South Asia favours India against

Pakistan in most areas of conventional de-fence preparedness, mak¬ing Islamabad rely on nu¬clear weapons for deter¬rence, Γenet told the Senate Committee. He said the "military balance in which India enjoys advantag-

es over Pakistan in most areas of conventional defence preparedness re¬mains the same. This in¬cludes a decisive advantage in fighter aircraft, almost twice as many men under arms, and a nuch larger economy to support defence expenditures. Pakistan relies heavily on its nuclear weapons for deter-

ence. Their deep-seated rivalry, frequent ar¬tillery exchanges in Kash¬mir, and short flight times for nuclear-capable ballistic missiles and aircraft, all contribute to an unstable nuclear

Tenet said that Kash¬mir is at the centre of the dispute beween India and Pakistan. Nuclear deter¬rence and the likelihood that a conventional war would bog down both sides argue against a decision to go to war. "But both sides seem quite willing to take risks over Kashmir in particular, and this along with their deep animosity and distrust - could lead to decisions that escalate tensions."

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 11 February, 2001)

Fake faith Healer Held In Brein For Duping Woman KO News Service pretending as faith healer namely Mushtaq Ah-

Police on Friday claimed to have arrested one

fraudster pretending to be faith healer in Brein Nishat area on the outskirts of Srinagar on Friday. Srinagar Police in tweet said, "One fraudster

mad Shah son Sonaullah Shah of Patti Sail Beerwah arrested for duping a lady in Brein, Nishat."

"Fraudulently looted Money worth Rs 75,000 recovered on his confession. FIR already regis-

tered in Nishat PS", it said.

Special Prayers For Turkey, Syria Held At Jamia Masjid Srinagar

KO News Service

SRINAGAR: Special prayers were held at Central Jamia Masjid Sringgar, for those who lost their lives in the devastating earthquake that hit Turkey and

Syria earlier this week, leaving over 22,000 dead. Special prayers at Jamia Masjid Srinagar were led by Imam Hai Moulana Ahmad Saeed Naqshbandi, who on behalf of the people of Kashmir, expressed

sympathy and solidar-

ity with the people of Turkey and Syria and prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls and speedy recovery to those injured, a statement reads.

On the occasion, the people who had come from various parts of the valley prayed for peace to those who lost their lives during earth-

More than 22,000 people are dead after

a 7.8 magnitude earth-

quake rocked south-

Turkey and

eastern

northwestern Syria early Monday, according to officials

pre-dawn quake was centered in the town of Pazarcik in Turkev's southeastern Kahramanmaras province and was followed by several powerful aftershocks. Thousands of buildings were toppled on both sides of the border, and the death toll was expected to rise as rescue workers searched for survivors in the massive piles of

Zindagi': Helpline Gives Hope To People In Duress

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amid rise in suicide cases in Kashmir, 'Zindagi' helpline in Kashmir is proving a boon for people having suicidal thoughts as such people are being counseled through phone.

The Institute Mental Health and Neu-Kashmir rosciences along with SRO Kashmir issued the first suicide prevention helpline named 'Zindagi' last year, proving beneficial for hundreds of people.

The helpline number 18002701008 functional every day from 6 pm to 11 pm is playing an important role in curbing the number of suicide cases.

Dr Zoya, a clinical psychologist who is part of this initiative, said the helpline receives around five to six calls every day. Initially, the number of distress calls was higher but now it is primarily people who have suicidal

rubble.

thoughts who call. She said that suicide is an act of killing oneself intentionally when the pain becomes unbearable. "They don't want to die but they just want to kill the pain. This pain can be caused due to many factors. The most common factors to invoke thoughts of suicide are public humiliation, financial stress, emotional disturbances caused due to family, work pressures, failures and constant domestic abuse," Dr Zoya said.

M/s Dar Sheikh Ul Alam Traders Panzinara, Srinagar stands formally registered with this office under No.01/003/09280/PMT/MSME dated. 18-03-2019 for the line of activity "Mini Cold Storage /Cold Chamber" as proprietorship concern of Nusrat Aslam Dar D/o Mohammad Aslam Dar R/o Waniyar Safkadal Srinagar. In this connection it is to submit that the promoter of the unit has approached this office for change of location of the unit from Panzinara Srinagar to Saria Dangerpora Sonawari District Bandipora

Government of Jammu and Kashmi

Office Of The General Manager,

District Industries Centre. Srinagar

Phone No. 0194-2427478

Public Notice

Any person having any objection, for change of location from District Srinagar to District Bandipora, shall contact to General Manager DIC Srinagar within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice.

> General Manager District Industries Centre Srinagar

> > **Executive Engineer, IUST**



INVITATION FOR QUOTATION

Quotation No: IUST/EW/QPFS/23/01 Dated: 09-02-2023

For and on behalf of Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, J&K UT, Quotations are invited from eligible, experienced and reputed firms for execution of the work viz "Dismantling, removing, shifting Pre-Fabricated Structured Huts and Reassembling/reusing the same at campus I, II and Synthetic Athletic Track at Awantipora". The documents can be downloaded from the IUST website(www.iust.ac.in) and sent to the undersigned not later than 4:00 p.m. on 24th of February, 2023 along with the covering letter addressed to "Executive Engineer-IUST, Awantipora -192122. The cover letter shall be superscribed as "Quotations for dismantling, removing , shifting Pre-Fabricated Structured Huts and reusing/erecting the same at campus I, II and Synthetic Athletic Track at Awantipora" No: IUST/EW/23/460

Dated: 09-02-2023 DIPK-NB-6404/22 dated: 10-02-2023

DIPK-17284/22 dated: 10-2-2023

Contemplating Preaching

Mushtaq Hurra

rom sectarian abhorrence to our falling ethical standards, we are passing through an ugly turmoil of social, religious and moral disintegration. We are confronted with numerous drastic issues which if not resolved at the earliest, will bear terrible consequences in near future. Number of drug abusers and addicts in our valley is assuming dangerous proportions with every passing day, sale of liquor is substantially increasing in our markets, vulgarity is consuming the legacy of our cherished values and morals, corruption of different kinds is barely considered illegitimate, wasting productive time on social networking sites and internet browsing has become the norm of our young people, books including the holy Quran are lying dust-ridden in our shelves and racks, smartphone screens displaying profanities continue to be the chief source of our amusement, yet our clerics and orators squabble on holy pulpits to desecrate them badly. Either they are complacent or indiscernible about the growing iniquitous practices prevalent in our society. These ostensible contractors of Islam have stooped so low that our ancestors might be abashed in their graves because their successors have begun to sell their prized ideals on cheaper prices. Social reformation should have been one of the core priorities of our clerics, but they continue to hoodwink masses to grind their

The holy rostrums should have been used to eradicate social evils like dowry, indecency, defrauding, fornication, late marriages, corruption and the growing disobedience of Allah SWT and his descended heavenly laws but our Molvis have other ideas. These seats should have been the sources of our emancipation and liberation but oblivious preachers have yoked our necks in new slaveries

Alas! The nominal rectors and preachers only incite factional hatred among ummah. They perpetually spit venom through their sermons and speeches from holy minbars. They take pride in issuing decrees against their ideological rivals. They hardly miss any opportunity to lower the guard of this beleaguered community. They should have balmed the bruises of ummah but they are hellbent at spreading abomination and a sense of ill-will against their own brethren. I pity their blind followers and fans who endorse their nefarious designs either consciously or unconsciously. Indulging in disgustingly awful debates has become the chief motive of these so-called ambassadors of Islam. Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and His companions/sahabah never tried to discredit their own people though they might have had some differences with them.

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

The holy rostrums should have been used to eradicate social evils like dowry, indecency, defrauding, fornication, late marriages, corruption and the growing disobedience of Allah SWT and his descended heavenly laws but our Molvis have other ideas. These seats should have been the sources of our emancipation and liberation but oblivious preachers have yoked our necks in new slaveries

What is the Future of Gig Economy in India?



Nripendra Abhishek Nrip

opportunity for women in this. The requirement of working fixed hours per day deters women from taking up formal sector jobs. The gig economy provides women with workplace jobs that offer flexibility in terms of working hours

he Internet is a very powerful business platform. Many people are able to generate good income through networks, in today's digital world the definition of employment and nature of work is also changing rapidly. A new global economy is fast emerging, which is being named as the 'Gig Economy'. The Gig Economy is a free market system in which temporary work opportunities generally exist and various organizations hire freelance workers for shortterm engagements. withLet's contract.

By 2024, the gig sector is expected to account for about 4 per cent of India's total workforce, according to a report released this month by financial services platform StrideOne. It is expected to provide employment to around 23.5 million workers by 2024 – a three-fold increase from just 8 million – or 1.5 per cent of the workforce – in 2020-21.

This type of work has grown in popularity in recent years because it is more productive for personnel. It provides flexibility and freedom and can be a cost-effective solution for businesses. Gig workers are the ubiquitous new workforce. They are the people who get us the food we ordered online, take us from home to the office or wherever are, and usually provide many services that go unnoticed.

There are two fundamental factors behind the growth of the gig economy in India. Firstly, the technological development in the country has contributed to its growth. Technological changes have made it much easier to contract and make it possible for freelancers to find work. Another factor is that due to the stringent labor laws in India, many companies prefer to have a contract labor force. Many changes have been made in India both in factors like digitization of the economy and reforms on the labor front.

The Indian government needs to pay more attention to the development of gig economy. Because currently, the Indian economy is facing unemployment due to lack of inclusive growth. The creation of jobs in the gig economy will boost

employment in the Indian economy. In addition, Indians are facing the problem of unemployment stemming from agriculture. Gig economy will be able to provide gainful employment to such rural youth. This is also likely to improve competition. Short term depending on the volume of work, hiring freelance workers helps companies rationalize their work force and reduce costs. This improves the competition and skills of the companies.

Not only this, it will also give freedom to the workers which can prove to be beneficial for them. The gig economy gives workers the freedom to work at their convenience, with no fixed hours. They can switch jobs as per their interest areas. When labor companiesIf they live in bondage with them, they do not go anywhere else much. There is an opportunity for women in this. The requirement of working fixed hours per day deters women from taking up formal sector jobs. The gig economy provides women with workplace jobs that offer flexibility in terms of working hours.

Concerns also exist about the lack of job security and benefits for gig economy workers. It is estimated that the gig economy will further expand in India in the future and hence itIt should be supported by government rules and policies to protect the rights of workers and ensure fair treatment towards them. Many gig workers in India are not covered by labor codes and do not have access to benefits such as health insurance and retirement plans.

A survey by Catalyst Fund and KarmaLife found that 88 percent of gig economy workers ran out of money before the end of the month. Most of them attributed this to rising household and fuel expenses.R ordained. 90 per cent of the workers surveyed also said that they would like to take a personal loan to meet their family expenses, but cannot do so due to the nature of their job. The survey also pointed out that around 40 per cent of gig Economy workers had no insurance, and only 24 per cent of them had employer-provided insurance

cover. The remaining 36 per cent workers bought insurance by paying the premium themselves.

According to a research by Flourish Ventures, before the pandemic, Most gig economy workers earned above Rs 25,000, while after the pandemic, nine out of ten workers were earning less than Rs 15,000. There are many possible reasons for this high income fluctuation. Gig workers in India are often paid less than traditional workers and lack the same legal protections as them.

The gig economy is heavily dependent on technology and internet access, which again creates a barrier for those who do not have access to these resources. This further increases the inequality. Gig workers may lack the same social connections and support systems as traditional employees, as they often work independently and lack a physical workplace.

The government is considering providing affordable medical care at subsidized rates to employees working in the gig economy in Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) hospitals and dispensaries. This can provide relief to the companies associated with the gig economy as they have to pay for their employees.Social Security will not have to bear the cost. The Social Security Code Bill, 2019 was introduced by the government in the Lok Sabha in the last session of Parliament. The bill proposes to provide social security cover for the first time in India to employees working in the gig economy. The bill states that the government will introduce a scheme to bring gig workers under ESIC.

The Government of India should establish clear regulations and policies for the gig economy to ensure the safety of gig workers and companiesTo be held accountable. The government should invest in education and training programs to improve the skills of gig workers and increase their income-earning potential.

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Familiar Script

Anup Sinha

n hearing of the Adani exposé by Hindenburg Research, I was, frankly, not surprised. The Adani Group's meteoric rise was always too fast and furious to be true. There was something surreal about it. It was like a company's profits jumping suddenly by fourdigit percentage points, or a fund promising 200% returns on investments. Sometimes, in such cases, the business entity concerned is caught embarrassingly exposed, like a chit fund or a Ponzi scheme. Also, quite expectedly, as soon as the long list of allegations became public knowledge, two responses emerged as reactions. The first focused on it as an attack of an evil Western world on India out of sheer jealousy. Nothing could touch India, and the nation (equated with the Adani business empire) would continue to march on. The second response was that it was a case of crony capitalism and an example of the cosy connections between big business and the top political leadership. This self-seeking nexus would ruin India's reputation and hurt its economy. Markets would tumble and crash. If indeed such a thing occurs, the interesting point to note would be whether the government bails the businessman out by giving him a clean chit of health

If one leaves these extreme, rather predictable, responses aside, the first thing that comes to mind is this: how does one separate the wheat from the chaff? How to find the truth-claims on either side? The only way to get it straight is to examine the allegations and the rebuttals in detail. That is the only logical way. However, investigations take time. Moreover, in an overwhelming majority of cases, hardly any concrete, publicly available information emerges after years of probing. They become tales of conspiracy that abound in every society. What happened in Bofors? What happened in the Rafale deal? Or Pegasus?

So if one cannot be comfortable with the extreme responses, and one also cannot expect the truthclaims to be tested and revealed, what could one possibly do? One way would be to deconstruct the system out of which the episode emerged — the story of Gautam Adani's phenomenal growth, his close links with political leaders at the highest level, the way in which the financial assets and credit markets might have been duped and, finally, how regulators missed out or looked the other way.

The textbook model of a market claims that no single player, whether buyer or seller, can influence outcomes in terms of prices and quantities transacted. It also claims that the participants together could not have done any better than the outcome thrown up by an unfettered market. This is referred to as economic efficiency. Economists know that in reality no market actually works that well. The ability of sellers to influence prices and volumes is omnipresent. Indeed, there is no general theory of economic markets except the claim that prices and quantities emerge through an interaction of exchanging buyers and sellers. The core point is to maximise advantage, if possible even at the expense of others. Since manipulation is impossible in an ideally competitive market, there must be an autonomous correction mechanism that equates supply to demand. Hence, some commentators have referred to the Adani meltdown as a market correction. If it is, it is certainly not through an autonomous channel; it was triggered by an investigative

study of the firms.

The specific allegations against the Adani Group have been around the use of off-shore shell companies located in tax havens to transfer, through fraudulent accounting, money and stocks to these shell companies; using these resources to manipulate and drive up the Adani Group's share prices, and then using these inflated-value shares

as collaterals to obtain large loans from financial institutions. If the Adani Group did indulge in such practices, as alleged, then it did not do something spectacularly unusual. If Hindenburg, or any other research firm worth its salt, took up such investigative projects, a very large number of big, medium and small companies across the world would be seen to be doing exactly these, albeit in different doses and degrees.

The first line of checks against such practices getting out of control is the audit function in a listed entity. Clearly, in the Adani case, the auditors must have behaved opportunistically in furthering their own economic gains or have been astoundingly stupid. The memories of Arthur Andersen and Enron come to mind.

The second line of defence is institutional regulators. Market regulators often turn out to be myopic in their actions and in their ability to scrutinise disclosures. It may have been a similar case in this instance.

A third line of defence is whistleblowers. Why does not an accounts executive, who knows the kind of gaming going on, blow the whistle? The strength and the scale of the power of big business against a small whistleblower is not comparable. A whistleblower can be bought off, or even made to disappear in the blink of an eye.

The fourth line of defence comprises the moral scruples of the people in the business entity in charge of corporate governance. Manipulative executives often make sure that the board gets an incomplete view of the total picture. In other cases, the board might choose to shut its eyes in the hope that the near-term future would be rosier and things would be forgotten in the long run. This is where

corporate ethics comes into play. In the boardroom, there are regulatory or legal constraints. Violating them would be tantamount to an illegal action. Such decisions are unacceptable. There are other, more nuanced, situations where there are no clear laws, nor any clear right or wrong. This is where individual morality is usually rationalised by the claim that enhancing individual advantage is necessary for the greater good of society. If the captain of industry is taking the nation's economy forward, what is all the fuss about giving a little nudge to share valuations? The megalomania is real: that is why Mr Adani thinks an attack on his business is

an attack on India.

Finally, the one important reason for the attention Mr Adani has drawn, apart from the sheer size of his empire, is his wellknown, long-time proximity to the highest political leadership. However, this too is nothing new. Capitalism is essentially based on cronyism — without nudges from politicians, no tycoon could arrive or survive at the top. The State has always been the sales force of big business. There is a symbiotic relationship: business requires the support and blessings of the government, while politicians need financial contributions from business to win elections. Big business and big politics have always been very comfortable bedfellows.

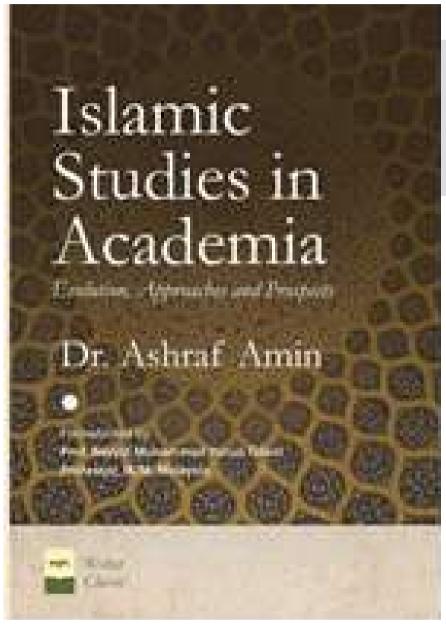
What we witness in the Adani story is a negative print of the raw cut of capitalism. When washed well and hung-dried, we get to see the positive print of modernity: India on the march in a global market. It is not a question of right or wrong: it is one of who has more power. I expect Mr Adani to win. Capitalism unchained is about keeping the cookie jar perpetually full. It is a familiar story, after all.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Telegraph India

BOOK REVIEW

Mapping 'Islamic Studies' Discipline: Evolution, Advancement and Approaches

READING TWO RECENT WORKS PUBLISHED FROM HYDERABAD AND KASHMIR



Title: Islamic Studies in Academia: Evolution, Approaches and Prospects

Author: Dr. Ashraf Amin

Publication Details: Kulgam,

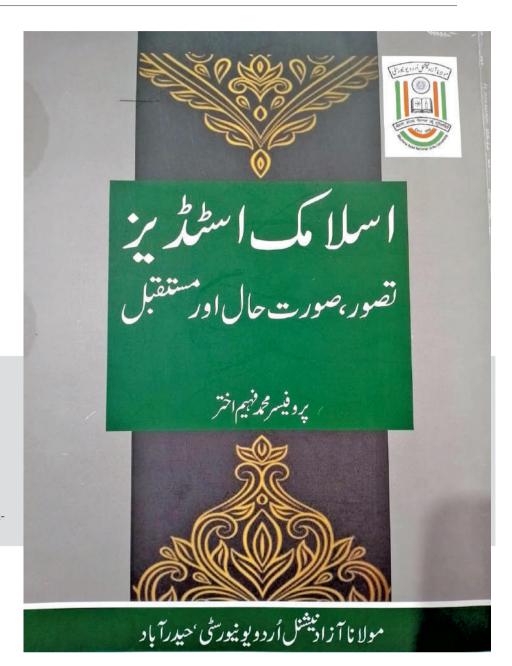
Kashmir: Wular Publishing House (WPH), January, 2023; Pages: xii+146; ISBN: 978-93-90666-28-7; Paperback; Price: 350/-

> Title: Islamic Studies: Concept, Present Scenario and Future

Editor: Prof. Mohd. Fahim Akhtar

Publication Details:

Hyderabad: Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), August 2022; Pages: 184; ISBN: 978-93-95203-58-6; Paperback; Price: 225/-



Dr Tauseef Ahmad Parray

Two recent works from MANUU and Kashmir narrate and describe the history of Islamic studies subject at GLocal level, concise but comprehensively"

Back in 1990, Prof. Syed Maqbool Ahmad (in an Urdu quarterly, 'Islam aur Asr-e Jadid', 22, 1: 5-18, pp. 6, 16) wrote: "Islamic Studies as a subject with the study of Islamic history, culture and civilization, is not a new discipline"; "its name is new", but the not the subject itself and the contents it covers, because "the discipline is as old as Orientalism itself." Orientalism, literally the study of the Orient/ East, is here taken specifically to mean the study of Islam and Muslims. This is the general conception of the discipline, which has passed through different stages/ phases before it got this specific name, as become evident from many works, including Mapping Islamic Studies: Genealogy, Continuity and Change (Azim Nanji, 1997), Approaches to Islam in Religious Studies (Richard Martin, 2001) and Bloomsbury Companion to Islamic Studies (Clinton Bennett, 2013), to name a few: Orientalism, Theology, Religious Studies, Areas Studies and Islamic Studies. The concept of Islamic Studies as a social science discipline "has a long journey in contemporary world, having different meanings and perspectives in Arab world and in Western world".

The history of Islamic Studies, both in the West and East, is centuries old. In the West, it has passed through different stages/ phases (beginning with Orientalism). In the East, including the Indian context, its history dates back, to speak from the academic/ teaching point of view, to the early decades of 20th century. Similarly, in J&K it was introduced from late 1980s

It will not be unfair to add here that the history of subject is both 'extensive and complex'. It has passed through different stages, and has transformed, especially in the past few decades, tremendously. Keeping in view the significance of the subject, its long history both in Western as well as in Eastern/ Arab world and considering the fact that it is subject of utmost importance in India too, so there have been many attempts to narrate and recount its journey. Though most of these attempts have been made by the Western scholars (like Nanji, Martin, Bennett and others) with a more focus on the evolution and development of this subject within the western perspective, there are few attempts by the Muslims of India too to recount the journey of this discipline, at global level in general and in the Indian context in particular. Two (2) such recent attempts are: Prof. Mohd. Fahim Akhtar's Islamic Studies: Concept,

Present Scenario and Future (published in August 2022) and Dr. Ashraf Amin's Islamic Studies in Academia: Evolution, Approaches and Prospects (published in January 2023): Former is a compilation of the selected papers presented in a two day national seminar organized by 'Department of Islamic Studies' (DoIS), MANUU and Henry Martin Institute, Hyderabad (HMI) on April 24-25, 2019, while as later attempts to nut Islamic Studies as a social science discipline] in the proper perspective by accounting and narrating its development in general and in Kashmir in particular, with the aim "at facilitating the understanding of Islamic Studies as a social science discipline and its current status in addition to its future prospects" (p.3).

The objective of the Seminar organized by DoIS, MANUU was "to elaborate and examine the achievements of Islamic Studies in recent past, and to chalk out the action plan for future." In this seminar, a total of thirty-two (32) papers (both in Urdu and English) were presented by senior and young faculty members and researches of the subject from Kashmir to Kolkata. Out of these, eighteen (18) papers have been compiled in Prof. Akhtar's Islamic Studies: Concept, Present Scenario and Future, which are preceded by 'Message', 'Preface' and 'Introductory Remarks', respectively by the VC. Director of Translation and Publication Division, and HoD, DoIS, MAN-UU, and ends with Seminar Report (by Dr. M. Irfan Ahmad) and 'Suggestions and Recommendations' (by the senior and young paper presenters).

Compiled by Prof. Akhtar (Head, DoIS, MANUU), Islamic Studies: Concept, Present Scenario and Future consists of eighteen (18) chapters and are divided thematically under three (3) parts: Part-I, "Islamic Studies: Concept and History" (chapters 1-4); Part-II, "Institutions of Islamic Studies in India and their Contribution" (chapters 5-10); and Part-III, "Islamic Studies: Curriculum, Contemporary Relevance and Future (Prospects)" (chapters 11-18).

The main theme of the chapters 1 and 3 in part-I and chapters 11-15 in part-III is the discipline of Islamic Studies at the global and national level, its genesis and development in East and West, transitions and transformations of the subject rom early stages to the current times as well as contemporary relevance, challenges, and future prospects of this discipline. Few chapters threw light on the journey of the subject from 'Orientalism to Islamic Studies (chapter 3), contemporary issues/ trends in research to be explored in Islamic studies (chapter 12) and Chapters 2, 4 (in part-I), 5-10 (pat-II) and 16-18 (part-III) discuss the teaching and research, curriculum and contribution of

various departments/ institutes of Islamic Studies, spread throughout India (like Jamia Milia Islamia, Aligarh Muslim University, Aliah University, MANUU, Osmania University, Lucknow University), contribution of Zakir Hussain Institute of Islamic Studies (JMI) and Islamic Studies through the Distance Education at MANUU as well as a general survey of the development of the subject in India, since 1920. Many chapters also provide comparative analysis and evaluation of the curriculum taught at various universities (chapter 17) as well as content analysis of selected courses like 'Islam in India' (chapter 16).

All in all, Islamic Studies: Concept, Present Scenario and Future is a valuable and significant contribution which will prove helpful to the students and researchers of Islamic studies not only to know genesis and genealogy of the subject at global level and in Indian context but also to know about the curriculum, teaching and research in this subject, while not overlooking its challenges and future prospects.

Dr. Ashraf Amin's Islamic Studies in Academia (published in January 2023 by a local publishing house) attempts to account and narrate the history of Islamic Studies, as a social science discipline, in general and in Kashmir in particular and tries to put it in the proper perspective y referring to the genesis and genealogy of this subject from Western and Islamic perspective by looking at its present scenario and taking into consideration the future prospects as well (pp. xii, 3). In the Introduction (pp.1-4), the author (presently working as an Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, Central University of Kashmir) presents the overall objective and purpose of this work in these words: the book attempts "to acquaint the readers to the discourse on Islam and Islamic Studies in the Western and Muslim scholarly circles. The work is not an exhaustive account of the historical journey of Islamic studies in Muslim and Western scholarship but ... [it does] not fail in offering a healthy overview of Islamic studies as an academic discipline in Western and Muslim academia till

Divided into eight (8) chapters (excusing Introduction and Conclusion), preceded by Acknowledgements, Preface (pp. x-xii) and Introduction (pp. 1-4) and a Foreword (pp. vii-ix) by Prof. Sayyid Muhammad Yunus Gilani (presently at *IIUM*, Malaysia) and ends with Conclusion (pp. 97-101), Bibliography (pp. 105-110) and Appendix (pp. 111-146).

In his 'Foreword', Prof. Gilani (who is a pioneering figure in establishing Islamic Studies at Shah-i-Hamdan Institute of Islamic Studies (SHIIS), *University of Kashmir* in particular and in J&K in

general, 'Teacher of the Teachers' in this field and has been aptly described by Dr Amin as "one of the unparalleled Islamic Studies scholars" [p. 113]) puts forth that "Islamic Studies is [an] all comprehensive and all-embracing discipline", which "aims at overall personality building of an individual on Islamic lines" for it is "a life-long process of study and development" (p. vii). He appreciates the efforts of Dr. Amin in these words: "the author discusses the fallacies of the Western scholarship in understanding Islam and Muslims; he has considerably deliberated upon the genesis of Islamic Studies within Islamic framework" and thus calls this book as a helpful reference guide in "understanding and comprehension of Islamic Studies as an academic discipline"

In its eight (8) chapters, the book throws light, albeit briefly, on the genesis ad genealogy, evolution and growth, methods and approaches, challenges and prospects of this discipline by discussing its 'Nature, Origin, Definitions', 'Western' and 'Islamic' contexts, Traditional and Modernist Approaches, place and position of Islamic studies as a social science subject, followed by three chapters on its place in Modern-day Academia, in Malaysian Seminaries and its history and growth in J&K. The main points, arguments and historical facts vis-à-vis the concept and growth of Islamic studies as a multi/inter/trans-disciplinary social science subject are summarized below:

- The field of Islamic Studies, which is often taken for-granted (resulting in misunderstanding it), emerged as a formal social science discipline in the West at the dawn of the modern era, but a lot has changed since then (p. xi);
- (p. xi);
 The emergence of the modern academic study of Islam in the West was primarily associated with the Oriental Studies or Orientalism, which later on witnessed two major developments: 'scientific study of the history of religion' (or as a part of Religious Studies) and studying Islam/ Muslims as a social science subject under the 'study of "other" cultures and peoples', revealing that its boundaries were constantly being revised (pp. 8, 9);
- The study of Islam and Muslims in the Western academy has a long and perplexed history (p. 19);
- Western studies of Islam progressed from viewing it in the 12th century as a Christian heresy or a false religion to more systematic and disciplined ap-

proaches in the late 16th and 17th centuries (p. 24);

- The contemporary approach of Western scholarship towards Orient, especially the Muslim Orient, would be labelled as 'New Orientalism' that views Islam and Muslims in terms of 'anti-modernity and anti-democracy' (p. 32);
- In Islamic framework, Islamic Studies is a faith-based study of Islamic religious sciences intended to preserve Islam through approximate interpretations for posterity (p. 37);
- There are two major trends in studying Islam, viz., 'imperial prejudices' and 'systematic view'; and since the second half of 20th century, later has become 'general trend' (p. 43);
- Pubic interest in Islam has increased dramatically in the first decade of 21st century, especially since the events of 9/11, which has powerfully affected the discipline of Islamic studies (pp. 74-75); and
- Inter-disciplinary and transregional centres for the study of Islam and Muslims in modern world have been identified as key locations for the development of new approaches to Is-

lamic studies (p.76). This is followed by a chapter on "Islamic Studies in Jammu and Kashmir" (pp. 92-96) in which the author narrates the history of Islamic Studies as "one of the prime subjects in humanities and social sciences" which has seen an "increasing interest" among the students for its "multi-disciplinary nature" (p. 92). It provides a brief profile of the departments of Islamic Studies in a chronological order with a focus on their academic achievements since their inception, viz., SHIIS, University of Kashmir (KU; 1988), DoIS, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST; 2006), Department of Religious Studies (DoRS), Central University of Kashmir (CUK; 2017) and DoIS, Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University. Rajouri (BGSBU; 2017). He describes these departments, respectively, as: SHIIS has "acted as pioneer in the progress and consolidation of Islamic studies in modern academia": DoIS. IUST has "made a unique name in academics" by generating a "great atmosphere of learning and research"; DoRS, CUK is the "first of its type where religious understanding, religious literacy and Islamic sciences meet for a joint academic stride" and is "fine blend" of trans/inter/multidisciplinary "approaches in religion and Islamic studies"; and DoIS, BGSBU, though youngest of all, has "outshined all

other departments of Islamic studies in organizing seminars, workshops, conferences despite limited resources" (pp. 92, 93, 94, 95). However, one finds it surprising to note that the author has referred to the journal, Revelation (which is still in its infancy) published by DoRS, CUK but has ignored the SHIIS, KU's annual journal Insight Islamicus-published since 2001 and indexed in London-based *Index* Islamicus. Also, surprising is the fact that in profiling these departments, he has focused on faculty members of SHIIS, KU while in others he has not mentioned the names of any faculty member and even date of establishment of the department is not mentioned in each case.

These chapters, most of them being brief, are followed by 'Conclusion' in which he tries to summarize overall history of the subject from Western and Muslim perspectives and concludes that "Islamic studies, as taught in the west, is a discipline that seeks to explain what the Islamic [read as Muslim] world has achieved in the past and what the future holds for it" (p. 102).

In the Appendix (pp. 111-146), he has provided an academic profile of a dozen faculty members of Islamic studies who have worked and/or working in the universities of *KU*, *IUST*, *CUK* and *RGSRU*

Though addressed, and written for the students and scholars of Islamic studies, the book has many shortcomings; some of them include: inconsistency in referencing style and in Bibliography; incomplete or no references for many quotations and statements (see e.g., pp. 8, 16, 41, 5-56, 59, 62, 67); indirect/ secondary references for easily available/ accessible books (see e.g., pp. 41, 50, 52); typo errors (pp. 97, 133); and no coverage or profiling of Islamic studies departments of India.

Keeping aside these shortcomings, Dr. Ashraf Amin's *Islamic Studies in Academia* is a valuable reference guide for the students and scholars of Islamic studies which will prove helpful to them in understanding and comprehension of Islamic Studies as an academic discipline.

All in all, both these works by Prof. Akhtar and Dr. Amin make a substantial contribution to the literature (in Urdu and English) on narrating and describing the history of the discipline of Islamic studies as a social science subject at the local, national and global levels. Both will prove helpful in knowing and understanding the genesis, genealogy, growth, approaches, challenges and prospects of Islamic Studies as an academic discipline.

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2020 Delhi riots: Court acquits 2 of charges of rioting, arson

New Delhi: A court here on Friday acquitted two people of all charges connected to the 2020 northeast Delhi riots, saying "presumption cannot take the place of evidence".

The court was hearing a case against accused Ranjeet Singh Rana and Ravi Singh who were accused of being part of a riotous mob that torched a car on February 24, 2020 and committed arson and vandalism in two salons or shops in the Karawal Nagar area the next day.

"I find that charges levelled against the accused persons in this case are not proved beyond doubt. Hence, accused persons... are acquitted of all the charges levelled against them in this case," additional sessions judge Pulastya Pramachala said.

The judge said that on the basis of the testimony of the person who was driving the car, it could be held that a riotous mob had torched it, but the prosecution evidence fell short of giving an exact account of the facts regarding the two other incidents.

...On close scrutiny of evidences, I find that prosecution could show involvement of mob only in respect of the incident of damage caused to the car of Prosecution Witness 1 (person driving the car) and it is basically on the basis of (his) unrebutted testimony... that factum of burning his car by an unlawful assembly is established," the judge said.

Also, the prosecution did not submit the requisite certificates under Section 65B of the Evidence Act for the two shops and without such certificate, digitally taken photographs were not admissible as evidence, the judge said.

This court had given direction, for all the cases of riots, to obtain such certificates from

the persons concerned...and these directions were even sent to higher officers of the police.... All prosecutors were also time and again reminded about such legal requirements, but as far as this case is concerned, no such steps were taken by the investigating officer (IO)," the judge said.

"I find that the prosecution has left it for making guesses and presumptions only to assume that there had been an unlawful assembly behind these two incidents," the judge added.

Regarding the identity of the accused persons as part of the riotous mob, the court said that two of the complainants turned hostile and denied having identified the accused persons

Another eyewitness, a head constable, could not vouch for involvement of the accused persons as he had not seen the incidents, the court said.

It said the police official stated that he saw both the accused present at some distance there and thus it was only the prosecution's presumption that both accused were involved in the incidents.

"However, presumption cannot take the place of evidence. Prosecution witness 1 was the best person to identify the accused persons, if they were involved in the attack upon his car and when (he) did not identify the accused persons, then presumptions of prosecution cannot be basis to hold that both accused were members of that mob," the court said.

"Thus, I find that prosecution could not prove that incidents at the salons...were caused by an unlawful assembly. Prosecution also could not prove that both the accused persons were involved in any of the three incidents probed in this case," the judge said.

J&K Bank Awarded For Promoting Digital Payments Such Recognition Will Drive Us To Achieve

Greater Excellence: Baldev Prakash



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Achieving another feat in digital payment domain, J&K Bank bagged an award for its outstanding performance in promoting digital payments during FY 2021-22.

The Bank has achieved 2nd highest percentage of digital payment transactions in Small and Micro Category of private sector banks.

MD & CEO Baldev Prakash received the felicitations from Union Minister of Information Electronics & Technology, Railways, and Communications, Ashwini Vaishnaw "Digital Payments Utsav" celebrated by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY, GoI) at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

Bank's Chief Digital Officer Naveed Zargar was also present on the occasion. While expressing his gratitude, Baldev Prakash attributed the reception of award to the persistent efforts of Bank's Staff.

He said, "It is a moment of great satisfaction for all of us as we see our extra-efforts to realise the vision of Digital India not only fructifying but getting acknowledged and awarded at the prestigious platforms of the country. I congratulate every member of J&K Bank Family for this wonderful

accomplishment." "And I am sure, such recognition will drive us to achieve greater excellence not only in promoting digital payments but other aspects like digital lending as well", he added.

He further said, "To encourage digital banking in our operational geographies we have embarked on digital transformation journey. The digital mission of the Bank is to improve the customer experience by providing them digital banking services that are convenient, easy, affordable, quick and secure.

"With the proactive measures taken to encourage digital payments, the Bank had successfully surpassed the Digital Payment Transaction target allocated by MeitY for the financial year 2021-22.Pertinently, J&K Bank has bagged 'Utkarsh Puraskar - 2020-21' last year also for being one of the top two achievers in digital payment transactions under the category of Small and Micro banks.

SC Refers Issue Of Excommunication In Dawoodi Bohra Community To **Nine-Judge Bench**

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday referred the issue of the practice of excommunication in the Dawoodi Bohra community to a larger nine-judge bench which is seized of various aspects including the scope and extent of judicial review with regard to a religious practice.

The nine-judge bench is slated to consider seven issues which were framed in February 2020 in the matter pertaining to review of the apex court's 2018 judgement allowing women and girls of all ages to enter Kerala's Sabarimala temple.

A five-judge constitution bench headed by Justice S K Kaul, which dealt with the issue concerning the practice of excommunication in the Dawoodi Bohra community, said the plea deserves to be tagged with the review petition filed in the Sabarimala temple matter.

The bench, also comprising justices Sanjiv Khanna, A S Oka, Vikram Nath and J K Maheshwari, directed the apex court registry to seek appropriate directions in this behalf from the Chief Justice.

It said a 1962 verdict delivered by a five-judge con-stitution bench in the Sardar Taher Saifuddin Syedna Saheb vs The State of Bombay case which had ruled that the Bombay Prevention of Excommunication Act, 1949 violated Article 26 (b) (freedom to manage religious affairs) of the Constitution, requires reconsideration.

"We have held that decision of the constitution bench (of 1962) requires reconsideration. We have recorded two grounds on which it requires reconsideration," the bench said while pronouncing the order.

On October 11 last year, the bench had reserved its order on whether to refer the plea on the issue to a larger bench for adjudication.

It was considering if the Shiite Muslim community of a little over 10 lakh people spread across several countries has the right to excommunicate its dissenting members.

While pronouncing the order on Friday, the bench said one of the issues is regarding balancing the rights under Article 26 (b) with that of Article 21 (protection of life and personal liberty) of the Constitution.

It said issue involved in the matter is substantially covered by two of the questions which were framed for consideration by a nine-judge bench.

"Whether the rights of a religious denomination under Article 26 of the Constitution of India are subject to other provisions of Part III of the . Constitution of India apart from public order, morality and health?" reads one of the issues framed in February 2020 for consideration by a nine-judge

"What is the scope and extent of the word 'morality' under Articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution of India and whether it is meant to include Constitutional morality?" reads another issue framed in 2020 for consideration by the larger bench.

A nine-judge bench in 2020 had made clear it was not hearing pleas seeking review of the 2018 judgement and would rather deal with larger issues, including the extent to which courts can intervene in "particular religious practices".

It had said it would only deal with the issues referred to it by a five-judge bench in the matter.

Before that, in September 2018, the apex court in a 4:1 majority verdict lifted the ban that prevented women and girls between the age of 10 and 50 years from entering the famous Ayyappa shrine in Sabarimala and held that the centuries old Hindu religious practice was illegal and unconstitutional.

CONTD. FROM FRONT **PAGE**

Lithium Discovery

dependent on Australia and Argentina for lithium imports. However, the experts say the trend of importing lithium is all set to change.

Moreover, experts say, mineral extraction is a time consuming process.

"After the mineral is mined, it is roasted using fossil fuels, searing the landscape and leaving behind scars. The extraction process also requires a lot of water and releases large amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.'

Mining experts further say that the ery could aid India's push to increase the number of private electric cars by 30% by 2030, as part of efforts to cut carbon emissions to tackle global warming.

Pertinently, the demand for rare metals, including lithium, has increased as countries look to adopt greener solutions to slow down climate change.

J&K To Give

nationalized bank in the form of fixed deposit (FD) with a lock-in period of three years.

"At the time of maturity of the fixed deposit i.e. after completion of 3 years the couple has to submit a joint undertaking to the bank regarding the successful sustenance of marriage clearly depicting that no marital dispute or legal proceedings are going on between the couple after which the bank will provide them the option of withdrawing the amount or continuing the fixed deposit under an intimation to the sanctioning authority. In case the beneficiary couple fails to produce the joint undertaking regarding the same it will be the responsibility of the Bank concerned to return and remit the total amount along with interest to Government account under intimation to sanctioning authority," the order further states—(KNO)

Af-Pak Dust

7 PM IST and travelled Northeast wards and reached North Kashmir around 02:00 hours

Notably, the social media was abuzz with such vellowish-snow pictures in some parts of North and south Kashmir leaving the people puzzled. Deputy Director MeT, Mukhtar Ahmad told

Kashmir Observer that the yellowing dust came from the two countries and was noticed by people because it was snowing. "Had it been raining, people wouldn't have

even noticed it. This phenomenon used to happen earlier as well. There's nothing to worry about," Ahmad added. He further said the dust usually forms in the

month of March and April but it happened in February as well. Meanwhile, parts of the Valley including

Gulmarg received fresh snowfall while rains lashed plains in the last 24 hours. The weather has improved and is likely to

stay mainly dry for next 24 hours even though there are chances of scattered rains and snow at isolated places, a meteorological department official said, as per news agency GNS

He said Srinagar received 0.8mm of rain during the 24 hours till 0830 hours today.

Qazigund 27.6mm, Kokernag 22.2mm while Pahalgam had 7.4cms of snow, Kupwara 32cm(over 1-ft) and Gulmarg 33 cms(over 1.1-ft). Rains also lashed Jammu region with Jammu city receiving 1.1mm, Banihal 49.1mm, Batote 27.3mm, Katra 3.1mm, Bhaderwah 31.4mm during the time, he said.

Meanwhile, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 0.7°C against 0.4°C on the previous night. Today's minimum temperature, he said, was above normal by 0.5°C for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 1.8°C vainst minus 0.8°C on the previous night and it was 2.0°C above normal for the gateway town of Kashmir.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of minus 0.3°C against minus 2.4°C on the previous night and it was 4.7°C above normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Kokernag recorded a low of minus 0.6°C, the same as on the previous night and it was 2.1°C above normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 4.0°C against minus 4.2°C on the previous night and it was 2.2°C above normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at minus 0.5°C against 2.3°C on the previous night and it was 0.7°C above normal for the north Kashmir area.

Jammu recorded a low of 12.8°C against 9.9°C on the previous night. It was 2.7°C above normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal, he said, recorded a low of 2.0°C (above normal by 0.8°C), Batote 2.2°C (below normal by 0.4°C), Katra 10.6°C (2.5°C above normal) and Bhadarwah 2.1°C (1.9°C above

Ladakh's Leh and Kargil recorded a low of minus 8.0°C and minus 9.2°C respectively, the official said.

Situation In J&K

Thakur said, addressing the inaugural function of the 3rd edition of Khelo India Winter Games here, 55 km from Srinagar. More than 1,500 players from 29 states and

Union territories of the country will take part in the five-day event, the sports minister said. Thakur said sports not only was a unifying platform but also reflected the soft power of

the country. "Sports is a soft power. When a player wins an international medal, it unites the country. Gold medal by Neeraj Chopra ended India's 121-year wait for athletics gold at the

Olympics. This sparked celebrations across the country," he said. Thakur said that last year was big for Indian sports as athletes from various fields excelled in their respective games at international

"We had the highest medal tally at the Summer Olympics and paralympics. PV Sindhu won back to back Olympic medals in badminton, which is no mean feat," he added.

Earlier, the minister e-inaugurated 40 Khelo India sports centres which have come up in Jammu and Kashmir.

"It is a moment of pride that what other

states could not do JK has done. All districts of JK have an indoor stadium and playgrounds have come up across the UT," he said.

Thakur said Prime Minister Narendra Modi

wants big sports centres to come up so that sportspersons of the country can excel. "A sports university is coming up in Manipur and a centre of excellence in winter sports will

soon come up in Gulmarg," he said. The minister said the situation has vastly

changed in Jammu and Kashmir in the past three years. "Places where stone nelting was common we now have sports flourishing and see bud-

ding players. If you see lights on at night, you will find Kashmiri youths practising their sports. That's how much the situation has changed in Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

Thakur promised all support to players from Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the

"We will continue our support to you. You need facilities, coaches or funds, we will provide it," he said.

Referring to the record-breaking tourist arrivals in Jammu and Kashmir last year, the minister said the stakeholders in the sector will have to be innovative to increase the footfall of

"Snow cricket can be one innovation that can improve tourism in Kashmir," he said.

Haj Forms Available

agreement between Government of India and Saudi Government, over 1,75000 pilgrims will perform the holy pilgrimage of Haj 2023. Pertinently, HCoI has already abolished the VIP quouta under which 5 to 10 persons were allowed to perform the pilgrimage. This year, there is no such quouta. Er Aijaz reiterated that this year, pilgrims above 70 years of age will be given priority.

He said HCoI is taking every step to make Haj 2023 cheaper with all possible best facilities available for the pilgrims visiting both holy cities of Makah and Madina-(KNO)

Govt Shifts 15

Principal Secretary to the Government, Power Development Department, shall hold the post of Principal Secretary to the Government, Housing and Urban Development Department, in addition to his own duties, till further orders," reads the order.

Sanjeev Verma, IAS (AGMUT:2001), Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, has been transferred and posted as Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department.

"Sarmad Hafeez, IAS (AGMUT:2009), Secretary to the Government, Tourism Department, holding additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Youth Services and Sports Department, has been transferred and posted as Secretary to the Government, Youth Services and Sports Department, on full time

However, in another order, Hafeez was given the charge of the post of Administrative Secretary, Tourism Department, in addition to his own duties.

As per the order, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, IAS (AGMUT:2012), Special Secretary to the Government, Finance Department, holding additional charge of CEO, ERA & Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Culture Department, relieving Zubair Ahmad, JKAS, of the additional charge of the post.

"He shall hold the charge of the post of Chief Executive Officer, Economic Reconstruction Agency, in addition to his own duties, till further orders." Dr Pivush Singla It added

(AGMUT:2012), Administrative Secretary, General Administration Department, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Revenue Department. "Rakesh Minhas, IAS (AGMUT: 2016), awaiting orders of adjustment in the General

Administration Department, has been posted as Managing Director, SIDCO. He shall also hold the charge of the post of Managing Director, SICOP, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.' It further reads Raman Kumar Kesar, JKAS,

Managing Director, SIDCO, holding additional charge of Managing Director, SICOP, has been transferred and posted Secretary in the Power Development Department.

"Deepika Kumari Sharma, JKAS, Chief Operating Officer, Himayat, holding additional charge of Executive Director, Mubarak Mandi Heritage Society, has been transferred and posted as Secretary in the Jal Shakti Department. She shall also hold the charge of the post of Executive Director, Mubarak Mandi Heritage Society, in addition to her own duties, till further orders. Dr. Ghulam Nabi Itoo, JKAS, Special Secretary

to the Government, Jal Shakti Department, has been transferred and posted as Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission, the order read. "Shabir Hussain Bhat, JKAS, Special Secretary

to the Government, General Administration Department, has been transferred and posted as Director, Rural Development, Kashmir. Imam Din, JKAS, Director, Rural Development, Kashmir, has been transferred and posted as Managing Director, J&K Horticulture, Produce, Marketing and Processing Corporation.'

It further added that Rajneesh Gupta, JKAS, Additional Secretary to the Government, Jal Shakti Department, has been transferred and posted as Chief Operating Officer, Himayat.

"Shafat Sultan, Managing Director, J&K orticulture, Produce, Marketing and Horticulture, Produce, Processing Corporation, has been transferred and shall await further orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department for further posting. Amit Vermani, JKAS, Member, J&K Services Selection Board, has been transferred and posted as Additional Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department," it reads.

Pole Formally

ten days after ECI designated Pandurang Kondbarao Pole (IAS), Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, as Chief Electoral Officer J&K.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by subsection (1) of section 13A of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (43 of 1950), the Election Commission of India in consultation with the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir hereby designates Pandurang Kondbarao Pole, IAS (AGMUT:2004) as the Chief Electoral Officer for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir with effect from the date he takes over charge and until further orders in place of Hirdesh Kumar, IAS," reads an order by ECI issued on December 31.

With his appointment, Pole will cease to hold charge of all or any charges of work under the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, which was holding before the assumption of that he should be designated Secretary to the Government in charge of Election Department in the State Secretariat.

The government has already transferred and posted Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, IAS (AGMUT:2005), Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Revenue Department, holding additional charge of Principal Resident Commissioner, J&K Government, New Delhi, as Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir.

Mata Vaishno

posted on Twitter, Bhan said that the city of temples was fast turning into "Gang Land Of

"The lawlessness by the "Outsiders" has entered our institutions in Jammu. Students from Bihar studying in SMVDU Jammu are threatening and beating the local students of Jammu. Once City of Temples is fast turning into "Gang Land Of Bihar" & now the universities are being shut," Bhan posted on his Twitter handle. However, Superintendent of Police (SP),

Katra, Amit Bhasin told Kashmir Observer that the situation at the campus was under control. No FIR has been lodged against any student. It was a minor issue which has been resolved. Everything is normal now," he added.

Scooty Rider

10:30 a.m. He, however, said that the man was declared as brought dead by the doctors at the hospital. The police, he said, have registered a case in this regard. SSB spokesman could not be contacted for the comment.

Teacher Held

"The staff members of the school had gone to attend a funeral. Only the accused teacher was left in the school," he said.

A case has been registered the accused under section 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty) of the Indian Penal Code and Section 8/10 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act at police station Gursai, Ahmed said.

18 Grenades

FIR number 82/2018."

The recovered grenades, they said, were destroyed by a police party under the supervision of SDPO Mendhar Sheezan Bhat and SHO Mendhar Niaz Choudhary, alongside SOG Mendhar, in presence of Tehsildar Mendhar Gaurav Sharma.

"All in all it was a clean operation and there was no injury to anyone or damage to any property", they further said. (GNS)

Imposing Hindi In J&K Assault On National Integration: Tarigami

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami on Friday said imposing the Hindi language in Jammu and Kashmir will amount to an assault on national integration and further deepen the divide in the Union Territory.

The imposition of Hindi is an arbitrary decision of the BJP government that has a singular purpose, to deepen the divide in a multilingual, multi-ethnic society of Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

"The direction of Jammu and Kashmir State Council of Educational Research and Training (JKSCERT) to teach the Hindi language of classes Ist to 10th in all schools amounts to deepening the divide further," Tarigami said in a statement.

He said such recommendations are negating the legacy of the freedom struggle and



the constitutional promises of nourishing unity and diversity.

"Favouring Hindi at the cost of other languages amounts to an attack on national integration," he added.

Tarigami said the educational system and administrative institutions have accepted Urdu "which is a modern Indian language, as a link language since Maharaji Hari Singh declared it as the official link language in 1920".

"The Urdu language, without being the regional language, is intelligible to 100 per cent of our population," he said.

Three Of Family Injured In Fire Incident

Agencie

SRINAGAR: Three members of a family were injuries after their house caught fire last night in Poonch district, officials said on Friday.

Quoting officials, news agency GNS reported that yesterday around 10:30 p.m., house of Mohammad Akram son of Sadar Din resident of Arai Village caught fire. Subsequently there was also a cylinder blast which amplified the fire. Three members of the family sustained

burnt injured and were shifted to district hospital Poonch for further treatment. They have been identified as Imer Din, his wife Zaytoon Akhter and Saleema Akhter wife of Mohammad Akram

Soon after the incident a joint team of Police, army and firefighters reached the spot and the fire was brought under control, they said.

Meanwhile, a police officer said that investigation has been initiated to ascertain the cause of the fire

Ganderbal Boy Enters 'India Book Of Records' For Tech Innovation

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Eighteen-year-old boy from central Kashmir's Ganderbal district has brought laurels to the Union Territory by entering the 'India Book of Records' for tech innovation.

Aquib Ahmad Shah of Safapora has made the 'seat belt ignition' for cars that will ensure the safety of the people, particularly the drivers, thereby minimising the loss of precious human lives due to accidents.

Aquib, a 12th-class student of Government Higher Secondary School, is the first youth of Kashmir whose name has entered the 'India Book of Records' in the 'Innovation and Technology' category.

"Since childhood, I used to open up toys and other electronic devices at home, for which my parents used to scold me. However, this habit yielded positive results after the Manak Awards competition by the Department of Science and Tech-

nology, Government of India, was announced where I won the Inspire Award for four consecutive years," Aquib said.

Recently, Aquib applied for the innovation conclave at IIT Kanpur, where his idea was selected. He attended the recently-held 'Innovation Hunt' held at Sri Pratap College and also sent an innovative idea for review to the University of Kashmir's Incubation Centre.

Meanwhile, SSP Ganderbal Nikhil Borkar who was accompanied by DySP Hqrs Gh Hassan felicitated the Aquib at DPO Ganderbal.

Aquib "is an inspiration for his fellow students in the area," the SSP said.

He said police appreciated and felicitated the young boy with an aim to promote the local talent and encourage the positive and constructive ac-

tivities of youth in the area.

The SSP appreciated the young innovator and assured full support for his future endeavours—(KNO)



POLICEMEN PUSH THEIR VEHICLE on a slippery road in Tangmarg town of North Kashmir on Friday.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

J&K PSC Now Functions With Only 1 Member & Chairman

ammu & Kashmij

Agencies

SRINAGAR: With former IPS officer Afhad-ul-Mujtaba completing his term as a member of the Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission on Friday, the key recruitment body of the Union Territory is now left with only one member.

Mujtaba, an illustrious IPS officer, who was appointed as a member of the constitutional body on June 24, 2020, completed his term today, leaving the constitutional body with only one member now.

According to reports, the PSC is now left only with chairman Satish Chandra (former IAS officer) and member Zubair Ahmed Raza (former judge).

As per the Constitution of India, a member of the State Public Service Commission shall hold the office for a term of six years or till the age of 62 years, whichever is earlier.

Before scrapping of the Article 370, the appointment and retirement of PSC members in



J&K was governed by the Constitution of Jammu & Kashmir, which allowed members of the prestigious body to hold office for a term of five years or till the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

The Public Service Commission was made functional by J&K UT's administration with appointment of its chairman and eight other members in 2020. Sharma, who completed his term, was replaced by Satish Chandra in 2022.

All other members excluding Zubair Ahmad Raza who

were appointed in 2020 by the J&K administration have completed their innings.

Those appointed in 2020 included Afhad-ul-Mujtaba, Syed Iqbal Aga, Subash Gupta, Prof. Des Raj, Sameer Bharati, Prof. Showkat Ahmad Zargar, Dr. Farooq Ahmad Lone and Zubair Ahmad Raza.

It is pertinent to mention that the J&K government in May 2022 had appointed a committee headed by Chief Secretary for making suitable recommendations for selection of chairman and members of Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission.

The CS-led panel consisted of Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Agriculture Production Department, Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Home Department, Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Finance Department and Principal Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department—(KNO)

Release Salary, Ensure Security To KP Employees: Azad

Observer News Service

JAMMU: A delegation of Kashmiri migrant Pandit employees called on Democratic Progressive Azad Party Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad and apprised him of their long pending issues and difficulties they go through ever since targeted killings took place in Kashmir last year.

The delegation of employees who are on protest for several months told Azad that they demand their adjustments in the move offices until the proper accommodation is provided.

They, however, also showed some disappointment for halting their salaries by the govern-



ment and urged their salaries must be released on the occasion of Shivratri. They said the government has put their salaries on hold and forced them to re-join duties without caring for their security and life.

Hundreds of these employ-

ees last year ran back to Jammu following the targeted killings in Kashmir by militants. The employees delegation urged Azad to take their issues with LG Manoj Sinha administration and urge him to revoke the bond policy of migrant employees and ensure their transfer to safer places.

They also said that they want bond policy from these migrant employees removed and all those sick and women employees immediately transferred to Jammu province. Azad assured the delegation that all of their genuine issues will be taken up with the concerned authorities and sought for immediate redressal.

Govt Takes Action For Better Land, Soil Management With Launch Of Pioneering Project

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir government has approved an ambitious project envisaging creation a comprehensive soil and land resource information system.

The project, titled 'J&K Soil and Land Resource Information (JKSLRI)' system, has been designed to help in decision-making for sustainable use of soil and land resources in the region, which is being considered as ecologically fragile. With its goal of providing a scientific base for crop diversification and soil suitability, the JKSLRI project is set to revolutionize the way we approach land use and soil management in the region.

"The problem of unscientific land conversions and poor soil health management practices has been causing a decline in soil health, leading to poor outputs and even enterprise failure. There is also lack of knowledge and poor extension on soil health management, which is leading to loss of soil biodiversity due to intense cultivation and soil pollution.", said Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department.

He further said that the JKSLRI project has been designed to provide the most comprehensive and up-to-date information on soil and land resources, making it an essential tool for decision-making when it comes to sustainable use of soil and land resources.

The prestigious project, which will initially be started in four districts of J&K, has several objectives including creation of a robust land use policy on agriculture and urbanization, crop-land suitability based on land evaluation, capacity building of farmers and other stakeholders on soil health management besides establishment of one static and 25 mini soil testing laboratories in each selected dis-

trict. The project has been designed to have a major impact on the region including creation of an authentic soil and land resource repository with two soil museums one each at Jammu and Srinagar. The project shall also provide support for efficient use of fertilizers and micro-nutrients, which is important for organic production systems.

These objectives will help lay the foundation for a robust land use policy on agriculture and urbanization, ensuring that the region remains sustainable and ecologically sound for generations to come.

"Developing J&K Soil and Land Resource Information (JKSLRI) system for Planning and Soil Health Management" is one among the 29 projects, which were approved by the Jammu and Kashmir administration after being recommended by the UT Level Apex Committee for holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors in UT of J&K.

being headed by Dr Mangala Rai, Former DG ICAR and has other luminaries in the field of Agriculture, Planning, Statistics and Administration like Ashok Dalwai, CEO NRAA, Dr. P. K Joshi, Secretary, NAAS, Dr. Prabhat Kumar, Horticulture Commissioner MOA and FW, Dr. H S Gupta, Former Director, IARI, Atal Dulloo, ACS, APD besides Vice Chancellors of twin Agriculture Universities of the UT.

The prestigious committee is

The project will be executed in several phases, starting with intensive soil survey, soil sampling and analysis followed by ground truthing and data analysis. It will also include collection of soil monoliths and analysis of soil, water and plant samples. These interventions will result in generation of data at panchayat level, intensive soil mapping, creation of a web-based soil information system and land evaluation for crop suitability and alternate land use.

The JKSLRI project is expected to have a significant impact on the region by providing the most comprehensive and upto-date information on soil and land resources. It will create an authentic soil and land resource repository and make information accessible to all The policy document on agriculture and urbanization will ensure a sustainable ecosystem for generations to come, while the efficient use of fertilizers and micro-nutrients will lay the foundation for organic production.

This project is not only crucial for food security and achieving Sustainable Development Goals but also a testament to the government's commitment towards deploying cutting edge and future-ready technologies in the agriculture sector. The project will have far-reaching benefits for farmers, researchers, natural resource managers and other stakeholders in the region

DC Anantnag Reviews Progress Of Health Infra Works

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Anantnag, Dr Basharat Qayoom Friday held a joint review of Health, R&B and JKPCC regarding the implementation of various health infrastructure projects under execution in the district.

The works reviewed are being taken up under PMJVK, District CAPEX. Construction at Government Medical College Anantnag was also discussed. Principal GMC Anantnag, Dr Tariq Qureshi highlighted pending civil works including hospital store, lift, roof of administrative

area and the administration is committed to ensuring ease of access to healthcare for every resident. He said that under execution health infrastructure projects are important for ensuring that adequate healthcare facilities are available in close radius for the people.

Dr Basharat called on the departments to maintain close coordination so that all under execution works are completed in the present fiscal and people can benefit from these.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, JD Planning, Principal GMC - A, SE R&B, Executive Engineer R&B among others.



blocks among others.

DGM, JKPCC apprised the participants that 85% of the works stand completed and the remaining works will be completed by end of March 2023. He said DPRs for additional components including landscaping have already been framed and work shall be taken up.

R&B and JKPCC was directed to ensure seamless connectivity in college campus in coordination.

Speaking on the occasion, DC said that health is a priority

Later, ADDC Anantnag Bashir Ahmad Wani also reviewed the implementation of works under the PRI plan.

Reviewing the implementation of works being executed by JK Housing Board and R&B under PRI, Languishing, PMDP, etc, the ADDC stressed on physical and financial completion of all ongoing works before end of the fiscal.

Some interdepartmental issues were also coordinated to ensure hassle free plan implementation.

Kumar Reviews Progress On Implementation Of RBSK In J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Health & Medical Education, Bhupinder Kumar on Friday reviewed implementation of Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakam (RBSK) and functioning of District Early Intervention Centers in J&K in a meeting held at Civil Secretariat, here.

It was informed in the meeting that during the current financial year, 83.90 percent of government schools and 80.11 percent anganwadi centers have been visited by RBSK Mobile Health Teams for conducting Health Checkup of children till date.

Secretary directed all the Chief

Secretary directed all the Chief Medical Officers to complete the screening of children enrolled in government schools and anganwadi centers before the closing of financial year. He directed that CMOs shall ensure that teams under RBSK carry out screening of all children in the pre-school age enrolled at Anganwadi centres at least twice a year besides screening of all children studying in government and government aided schools.

Secretary laid stress on making District Early Intervention Centers functional in all aspects for providing support to the referred children so that Children diagnosed with identified health conditions receive follow up including surgeries at tertiary level, free of cost so that the benefits reach to the needy people across the UT.

Ayushi Sudan, Mission Director, NHM J&K, informed that UT has started online portal for data capturing under RBSK and in the first phase uploading of screening data by the Mobile Health Teams on daily basis has been made functional and all MHT's are now uploading the data on the online portal.

Dr Mohammad Shafi Koka, State Nodal Officer NHM J&K, informed about the guidelines of branding for Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centers and organizing of Health Melas at HWCs on monthly basis.

On the occasion, a presentation regarding RBSK was made by Dr Syed Gazala Nazki, Programme Manager, RBSK.

The meeting was attended by Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Rather, Chief Medical Officers, Medical Superintendents of Associated Hospitals of Government Medical Colleges and District Hospitals, Programme Manager RBSK, DEIC Managers and other officers from State Health Society, NHM in person and through video conference.

Noted Scholar Mufti Muzaffar Hussain Qasmi Injured In Mecca

He Is Doing Well, Nothing To Worry: Mufti Ishaaq Nazki

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Clearing the looming confusion over the health of Mufti Muzaffar Hussain Qasmi, one of the known scholars' of Kashmir who is currently in Mecca to perform Umrah, his close associates on Friday said the scholar is doing well and there was absolutely nothing to worry about his overall health condition.

A photo of Mufti Muzaffar Hussain Qasmi was widely shared on social media platforms, showing blood stains on his clothes, while at a hospital somewhere at Mecca.

The circulated photo plunged

the people, especially back home, into deep anguish and despair about his health.

To allay the apprehensions, peo-

ple close to Mufti Muzaffar Qasmi said that the photo was taken instantly as the scholar had suffered minor injuries after getting hit by a car in Mecca on Friday. "Mufti Sahaab is currently at his

"Mufti Sahaab is currently at his allotted hotel and there is nothing to worry about his health condition", Mufti Ishaaq Nazki told a local news agency GNS.

Meanwhile, the people close to Mufti Muzaffar Hussain Qasmi have urged the people to delete the photo and also restrain from sharing it to avoid the anguish among the people.

Lineman Injured Due To Electric Shock

Agencies

KULGAM: A lineman, working as a daily wager in Power Development Department, on Friday suffered injuries due to an electric shock in Damhal Hanjipora area of South Kashmir's Kulgam.

An official said that the lineman identified as Muhammad Ramzan son of Ghulam Qadir of Manzgam sustained injuries after he came in contact with a live wire. He said he was rushed to a nearby hospital, where from she was referred to the SKIMS, Soura—(KNO)



Real Kashmir Play NEROCA At TRC Today

Observer News Service

all set to take on NEROCA FC in I-League today at Synthetic Turf TRC here, with kick off at 2:00 PM.

Real Kashmir look rejuve-Srinagar-based side ended its eight-game unbeaten run by defeating Sudeva Delhi FC 4-2 on February 8. The Snow Leopards' match against NEROCA would be the side's second consecutive home game, and a positive result would lift them in the I-League table.

Real Kashmir are currently seventh in the points table and

tions. Coach Noel-Williams will be aware of the danger NEROCA SRINAGAR: Real Kashmir FC is pose. The Imphal, Manipurbased side is just two points behind them.

"I'm sure NEROCA are a team that wants to avenge the firstnated under new head coach leg defeat. But we know how Gifton Noel-Williams, as the good a team they are and how they play their game. Hopefully we can overcome them with our determination and hunger," Noel-Williams told AIFF.

"There were so many heartening things in the last match but there's still so much to improve on. I'm not going to reveal all my secrets, but I can only say I've been working on some things in the classroom and in practice. three points would take them Hopefully, some of that work closer to the top three posi- will help tomorrow," he added.

35 Countries Want Russia, **Belarus Banned From Olympics**

Agencies

Agroup of 35 countries in-Russia launched a wave of at-cluding the United States, tacks on Ukrainian infrastruc-Germany, France, Britain and Jature in the cities of Kharkiv and pan have unanimously agreed to Zaporizhzhia on Friday morning demand that Russian and

Belarusian athletes are banned from the 2024 Olympics, the Lithuanian sports minister said on Friday With war raging in Ukraine, the Baltic States, Nor-

countries and Poland had called on inter
Ukraine to drop threats of a boy-

national sports bodies to ban Russian and Belarusian athletes from competing in the Olympics.

Ukraine has threatened to boycott the games if Russian and Belarusian athletes compete and als of blood, deaths and tears" countries are unani-

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy took part in the online meeting attended by 35 ministers to discuss the call for the ban, a Lithuanian sports ministry spokesperson said earlier. The spokesperson said Zelenskiy's message to participants have said they will abide by the was that principles of neutrality IOC's decision on the issue.

cannot apply to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

as Ukrainian officials said a long-awaited Russian offensive was under way in the east. How-International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thom-

as Bach has called on

opened the door for Russian and Belarusian athletes to compete as neutrals. It has said a boycott

will violate the Olympic Charter and that its inclusion of Russians and Belarusians is based Ukrainian boxer Oleksandr Usyk on a U.N. resolution against dishas said Russians will win "med-crimination within the Olympic movement. Some 18 months if allowed to compete. "We are before the competition is due going in the direction that we to start, the IOC is desperate to would not need a boycott be- calm the waters. A Games torn asunder by war would be an exmous," Jurgita Siugzdiniene said. istential threat to the Olympics and its message of global peace - not to mention a huge hit to

> Anne Hidalgo, the mayor of host city Paris, has said Russian athletes should not take part. However, Paris 2024 organisers

Club World Cup Final A Turning Point: Ancelotti

income.



Agencies

REBAT: Contesting Saturday's Club World Cup final will hopefully be a turning point for Real Madrid after a difficult season in which they have had to cope with several injured and fa- and defender Eder Militao, who tigued players, manager Carlo Ancelotti said on Friday.

difficult, we have made many able for the final. sacrifices but we are here, like this club always are, so today is a day to be excited," Ancelotti, who led Real to a LaLiga and Champions League double last season, told a news conference.

"It's a key moment of the season. When you arrive in contention in February... March, is always a decisive time. And we are here as always.

"The Club World Cup is a very important challenge, we are very close to a title that is very important and to be here is a sign that

you were successful. "I will ask my players to go ager, in the showpiece.

and enjoy themselves in the final because if they enjoy we will do well." After several key starters were absent from their 4-1 win over Egypt's Al Ahly on Wednesday, Ancelotti confirmed that forward Karim Benzema stayed behind in Madrid to treat injuries, joined the team on "Getting here has been very Thursday and should be avail-

"The players are progressing well physically in a decisive stretch of the season," Ancelotti said. "I still believe that the squad has improved compared to last year.

"We will start with the Club World Cup final, a beautiful moment and a title that we are looking forward to winning."

Al Hilal shocked South American champions Flamengo 3-2 in the semi-finals and Ancelotti is looking forward to taking on familiar foe Ramon Diaz, the Saudi Arabian club's Argentine man-

3rd Khelo India **Winter Games Begin At Gulmarg**



Observer News Service

GULMARG: The third edition of the Khelo India Winter Games were declared open by J&K LG Manoj Sinha and Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on Friday at Gulmarg. More than 1500 athletes will compete in 11 different winter-sports disciplines in the five day mega sporting event.

The games began with a mes-Modi to the participating players.

Speaking during the inauguration ceremony, Sports Minister Thakur lauded the J&K Govfacilities at grassroot level and achieving unprecedented prog- and endurance of athletes. ress in the sports sector in a short span of time.

"What Jammu and Kashmir has done in the world of sports in just three years is a matter of great pride. Indoor stadiums have been built in every district and every village has a Sports Ministry we will work the inaugural ceremony.

used to be incidents of stone pelting, today football, wushu and various sports are played there. This is the picture of new Jammu Kashmir," Thakur said.

"Khelo India Youth Games also gives an opportunity to hunt good talent. After which top players are picked up and given a chance at Khelo Indiaaccredited academics. Their boarding and training expenses sage by Prime Minister Narendra are borne by the Government of India," the minister added.

In his address, LG Manoj Sinha said that Khelo India Winter Games will celebrate ernment for developing sports and honour sporting excellence and witness the contests of skill

"The entire country at the moment is united by the 3rd Winter Games dream. Each participating will become the best ambassador of J&K," he said.

playground. Where once there for establishing Center of Excellence for Winter Games. The location has already been identified. All efforts are being made to provide opportunities to sportspersons to excel in their career," the LG noted.

> On the occasion, Union Sports Minister and J&K LG e-launched 40 Khelo India Centres across Jammu and Kashmir. The Centres have been dedicated to all the budding sportspersons of J&K. At the onset of the inaugural

> ceremony, Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary, Youth Affairs & Sports J&K and Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council shared the achievements of J&K in national and international sports arena. Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Ad-

visor to LG; Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Lt Gen Amardeep Singh Aujla, GOC, 15 Corps; representatives of various sports organizations, prominent sports personalities "With the help of Union and sports-lovers witnessed



Ton-Up Rohit, All-Rounder Jadeja Put India On Top

Press Trust of India

NAGPUR: Skipper Rohit Sharma conjured up one of his most impressive Test hundreds under pressure against a quality Australian attack as India vaulted to a crucial 144-run lead in the series-opener after ending the day two at 321 for 7, here Friday.

Rohit (120) displayed class and composure of the highest order and in the process became the first Indian captain to have scored a century in all three formats.

While Rohit's ninth Test hundred is worth its weight in gold, Ravindra Jadeja's (66 not out) 18th half-century is also priceless. The all-rounder's knock will be equally important in the context of the game. Jadeja once again showed his true worth by adding 61 runs for the sixth wicket with Rohit and another 81 runs for the unconquered eighth-wicket with Axar Patel (52 batting), who is also playing a fine hand.

It was a battle of attrition for Indian batters, especially Rohit and Jadeja with the home team putting on board 244 runs on the second day.

On a slow track where other batters found the run-scoring extremely difficult, the Indian captain was concentration-personified.

It had the same class as the 161 he scored in against England in 2021 in the Chennai Test. The but bowled fuller during his opener put his best food forward against an attack, led by spinners Nathan Lyon (1/98) and Todd Murphy (5/82), who got a five-for on Test debut.

In fact, both the off-break ers on day two.

bowlers came round the wicket against right-handers to stem the flow of runs and succeeded partially.

It took Rohit 171 balls to reach his hundred. He hit 15 boundaries and two sixes in a knock that spanned more than four and half hours.

Once second new ball was taken, Cummins dismissed Rohit with an unplayable delivery that was fast and also moved away late after pitching.

However Jadeja stood firm and got good support from fellow all-rounder Axar to further consolidate India's position in the game.

Virat Kohli (12) along with debutants Suryakumar Yadav (8) and Kona Bharat (8) would be disappointed that they didn't score big.

In the case of Kohli, bespectacled Murphy bowled a similar deliant lar delivery to the former India skipper that had earlier accounted for Cheteshwar Pujara. The young spinner bowled on the fifth stump on the leg side and a faint nick was taken on the second attempt by wicket-keeper Alex Carey.

Surya became Lyon's first victim as the off-break bowler breached his defence.

In the morning, captain Cummins had set the bait for his opposite number with a deep fine leg and deep mid-wicket fielder morning spell.

Scott Boland also toiled manfully but once Carey stood up to the stumps, it was evident that there was no help for fast bowl-

