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#### Article-370 Abrogation

# No One Even **Dared To Throw A Pebble: HM Shah**

Says Stone Pelting, Processions In Kashmir Have **Disappeared; Cinemas Holding Night Shows** 



#### **Observer News Service**

Srinagar: Hailing the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for reduction in violence in Jammu and Kashmir, the Union home minister Amit Shah said on Saturday that after abrogation of Article-370, stone pelting and processions have disappeared and cinema halls have started functioning in Kashmir

"After the abrogation of Article 370, some people used to say in Parliament that rivers of blood will flow in Kashmir, but no one even dared to throw a pebble there," Shah said.

He was speaking at an event organised by the Lokmat Media group in Nagpur to celebrate the birth centenary of founder-editor and veteran freedom fighter Jawaharlal Darda, popularly known as 'Babuji', and the golden jubilee of its Marathi newspaper's edition from the city.

"Earlier there used to be stone pelting and processions in Kashmir, today all this has disappeared and cinema halls have started functioning and night shows are also being held. In one year, 18 million people have visited Kashmir, which is a big achievement," he said.

The Home Minister

areas were three big hotspots in terms of internal security.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, violence has been reduced by 80 percent in these three areas," he said.

Shah said that J&K received investments worth Rs 12,000 crore in 70 years while under the Modi government; it has got Rs 12,000 crore in just three years.

"Electricity and water have reached every house in Kashmir," he added.

Speaking about the reduction in left wing extremism, Shah said earlier 160 districts were affected while today their number has reduced to only 46. He said that there has been an average reduction of 80 per cent in all forms of Left Wing Extremism related violence.

"Like Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand are also almost free from Left Wing Extremism. There is a small area left where the personnel of our Central Armed Police Forces are fighting the Left Wing Extremism," he said.

The Home Minister expressed confidence that the Government of India would soon win here too. Shah said that there has been a 90 percent reduction in violence

#### Anti-Encroachment Drive

# Govt Starts Geo-Tagging, **Geo-Referencing Of Retrieved Lands**

#### **Auqib Javeed**

Srinagar: The Union Territory administration has started geo-tagging and georeferencing of around 4 lakh kanal state and Kahcharai land retrieved in the massive anti-encroachment drives across Jammu and Kashmir during the last two months. The exercise is being con-

ducted at a time when the administration has slowed down the eviction drive reportedly on the instructions of Home Minister, Amit Shah. An official of the revenue

department told Kashmir Observer that geo-tagging and geo-referencing will help the authorities to keep a close watch on the retrieved lands and to ensure no more encroachments take place.

The geo-tagging is a pro-cess of adding geographical identification marks like latitude and longitude. It helps users find a wide variety of location-specific information from a device.

'The idea is to look after the lands continuously and

**'Comprehensive** Policy **Required For Exempting Poor'** 



#### WE HAVE CLEAR CUT INSTRUCTIONS not to spare the influential persons and not to touch the poor."

stop it from being occupied again." the official said.

He further said that the administration is searching for "big chunks of land" and the land belonging to poor people have been ordered to be skipped.

"We have clear cut instructions not to spare the influential persons and not to touch

Majid Nabi

Earlier, Kashmir Observer had reported that the UT administration has retrieved around 3.90 lakh kanal of state and Kahcharai land from the "illegal occupants" across I&K.

only, for which the work is going on," he told reporters Notably, the Jammu and Kashmir government had in Srinagar.

said everything is taken into consideration by the government before taking a final call. More on P6

### **Rain, Snow** Predicted From Today

#### Agencies

**Srinagar:** The meteorological department on Saturday forecast scattered to fairly widespread light to moderate rain and snow in Jammu and Kashmir for a few days from Sunday.

Also, most places recorded an increase in mercury and Pahalgam remained the only place to record sub-zero level temperature.

"Ĝenerally cloudy weather with light rain/snow is expected at isolated to scattered higher reaches of Kashmir Division on February 19," a department meteorological official said.

He said light rain is expected in plains and light to moderate rain and snow in middle and higher reaches during February 20th late afternoon to early morning of February 21. From February

#### After Rahul, **Priyanka Arrives** In Gulmarg

#### Agencies

Srinagar: After Rahul Gandhi, his sister Priyanka Gandhi alongwith her husband Robert Vadra arrived in Kashmir on a personal visit, reports said Saturday.

Priyanka Gandhi, National General Secretary AICC along with her husband Robert Vadra arrived from Delhi by flight UK-643at 09:00 hours on Saturday, a local news agency KDC reported. Both Husband and More on P6

#### **WAR AGAINST DRUGS**

#### **Shopian Admin** Freezes 'Ill-Gotten' **Assets Worth Crores**





visional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Biduri Saturday said the formal order 'exempting' poor from the ongoing demolition drive will be issued, when there is

a 'comprehensive' policy in place. Talking to the reporters during his visit to city center Lal Chowk here to review ongoing projects being undertaken under the Smart City mission, Bidhuri

The government action

business fraternity are also

Commissioner, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri said

the government has made it

clear that the poor and land-

less will not be touched in

the anti-encroachment drive.

as the land being retrieved

belongs to the local people

and will be used for them

"There is no need to panic

Divisional

being targeted.

On Friday,





the poor," said the official, wishing not to be named.

before Narendra Modi came to power, Kashmir, North-East and Left Wing Extremism affected

in the North East in the last three years and today peace has been established there. More on P6





**Srinagar:** Thousands of devotees are expected to throng shrines and mosques across Kashmir for special prayers on Me'raj-e-Alam, believed to be the night in which the Prophet of Islam (Pbuh) embarked on the famous night journey and ascension.

The biggest congregation is expected at Dargah Hazratbal here where thousands of

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devotees are likely to attend to have a glimpse of the holy relic of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) after five-time prayers. Hundreds of people also participated in nightlong prayers.

Local administration has made special arrangements including for management of traffic to ensure smooth movement. More on P6

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#### **Observer News Service**

Srinagar: The administration in South Kashmir's Shopian district on Friday ordered freezing of ill-gotten properties worth crores of five drug peddlers, who were given a reasonable time period to prove their assets as legal.

The order was issued by the District Magistrate, Shopian under the provisions of Chapter VA of the Narcotic Drugs & Psychotic Substances Act, 1985, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the competent authority under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, Shopian, accorded a seal of approval to freezing of ill-gotten properties worth crores of five drug peddlers who were given reasonable time period to prove credentials and produce the requisite documents that substantiate the property as legal.

As per the orders issued today, the spokesperson said, the properties shall not be transferred for any other use undertaken on it without the permission of the District Magistrate.

"It included illegally acquired buildings and land from the proceeds More on P6

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## **Former Minister**

**Calls On LG** 

Cukhnandan Choudhary, former Minister called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, at the Raj Bhavan here on Saturday. The former Minister apprised the Lt Governor about various issues pertaining to the revival of defunct cooperative societies, and welfare of farmers and Anganwadi workers, an official spokesperson said. The Lt Governor, he said, assured the former Minister of due consideration of all the genuine issues put forth during the interaction.

#### **3 Hizb OGWs Held** In Kulgam: Police

Dice on Saturday claimed to have arrested three overground workers (OGWs) of Hizbul Mujahideen from South Kashmir's Kulgam district. Based on specific input about the movement of anti-national elements carrying illegal arms and ammunition in a vehicle, police parties of PC Hatipora and Police Station Behibagh established a specific checkpoint at Daderkoot, Alamganj crossing around 5:19pm on Friday and intercepted three persons riding a More on P6

#### **Youth Found Dead** In Ganderbal

youth was found dead on Saturday in Waskura area of A Saturday in Washing a Meridian Annual Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. 30-year-old Tashooq Ahmad Rather of Najwan village in Kangan was found dead under mysterious circumstances at Waskura area of the district on Saturday morning, reports said. Rather's body, reports said, was spotted by some passersby in the area who then informed the authorities. "The body was taken to district hospital in Ganderbal for Postmortem, where More on P6





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# **Scholarships This Week**

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir.



#### Scholarship Name 1: **ZScholars** Program

Description: ZS Associates India Pvt. Ltd. invites applications from first-year students pursuing general or professional undergraduate courses in institutes located in Delhi, Pune, or Bengaluru. The scholarship aims to support meritorious students from low-income families to continue their higher education.

Eligibility: The scholarship is open for first-year students pursuing general or professional undergraduate courses in any stream from institutes located in Delhi, Pune, or Bengaluru. Applicants must have scored at least 60% marks in Class 12 examination. The annual family income of the applicants from all sources must not be more than INR 8 lakh.

- Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 50,000 for 1 vear
- Last Date to Apply: 09-03-2023 Application mode: Online applications
- only Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/ZSPU1

#### Scholarship Name 2: CF Sparkle Inclusive Scholarship Programme for Higher Education

Description: CF Sparkle Inclusive Scholarship Programme for Higher Education aims to provide financial assistance to meritorious girls, students with disability and transgender students who belong to a low-income family group in continuing their education which further leads to employability.

Open for girls, students with dis-Eligibility: ability and transgender students.

Applicants must be pursuing first-year of their undergraduate degree in STEAM (Science, Technol-

# SPY BALLOONS **Modern Technology Has Given These Old-Fashioned Eyes In The Sky A New Lease Of Life**

#### The Conversation

The US military has now shot down four high-alti-tude objects that had entered American and Canadian airspace, raising questions

about their purpose and origin. The first of these objects, a Chinese balloon, was downed by a fighter jet on 4 February. While China says it was for weather monitoring, US officials say it was being used for surveillance. A knowledge of technology in this area throws up some clues about what may have been going on.

The balloon is believed to have supported a signals intel-ligence collection payload, although this has yet to be confirmed. Debris has now been retrieved from US territorial waters off the coast of South Carolina and will be transported ashore for analysis. A further three objects were

downed between February 10 and 12 over Deadhorse in Alaska, near Yukon in Canada and over Lake Huron close to the US-Can-

ada border. Signals intelligence, or "sigint", refers to electronic data, which could consist of conversations, written messages or data from weapons or radar systems. Sigint is normally collected by satellites, but can also be gathered from aircraft flying in international airspace.

Normally, satellites that collect sigint are positioned in low-Earth orbit (LEO) say at 500 to 1,000km altitude or at geostationary orbit, at the much higher altitude of 36,000km. Although the collection of this type of in-telligence by satellites is efficient and reasonably effective, there

are some limitations. A satellite in LEO will complete an orbit around the Earth in 70 to 100 minutes but it will not pass the same point on the Earth again for 14 to 20 hours depending on its altitude. This is because our planet is also mov-

ing. Even then, it will only be visible to a point on Earth for a maximum of 20 minutes; which

Signals intelligence, or "sigint", refers to electronic data, which could consist of conversations, written messages or data from weapons or radar systems. Sigint is normally collected by satellites, but can also be gathered from aircraft flying in international airspace. "constellation", called Chuangx-

helps, but there will still be large time gaps in coverage.

In theory, a geostationary satellite could have a permanent dwell time. But, because it is positioned at around 36.000km from the Earth's surface, it could miss the collection of important but weak signals.

The US military has been developing signals electronic data transmissions with a low probability of intercept. This is making sigint collection by both Chinese and Russian spy satellites diffi-cult. There will be large gaps in a 24-hour period when collection is not possible a silent time.

China has attempted to close the gaps. In 2020, the country launched, to a 600km orbit, three new reconnaissance (spy) satelsignals.

**Steering ability** 

Enter the high-altitude "objects" that have been shot down over the US. Let's take the balloon that was shot down on February 4. By tracing this object's path over the US, it can be seen to have passed several highly sensitive defence installations, including silos for nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) in Montana, US. The balloon travelled across

the US at an altitude of 20 to 30km and had the ability to steer in the upper atmosphere jet streams. Clearly, the advantage for sigint collection was that its dwell time

Earth ensured that it could, if it were spying, collect very weak

Thus, a balloon that can remain undetected would be an ideal platform to augment the collection of sigint by both satellites and aircraft. Many countries have been employing balloons for intelligence gathering for at least 200 years, so the idea is not new and the advantages are well known.

Today's technologies have given this method of intelligence collection a new lease of life, as we've also seen from the use of small aerial vehicles or "micro drones". Remaining undetected for a significant period is a key requirement to success. As to how this was possible in the US best air defence systems anywhere.

One possible answer lies in the design of ground-based and airborne early warning system (AEW) radars. To reduce clutter on the radar, objects that are static such as mountains and towers are removed from the radar returns by making use of a natural effect known as "Doppler shift". When a train travels past you, the pitch of its whistle seems to change as it moves away from you. This is an everyday demonstration of the Doppler shift in sound waves.

The Doppler capability is common to all defence radars as they are focused on an aircraft and missile threat. A balloon or inflatable object, could be travelling at a velocity slower than the Doppler threshold and thus remain undetected.

#### **Radar clutter**

This shortfall in detection capability was recognised by NORAD (North American Air Defence Command) and radars have been reset to see very low velocity objects. However, the clutter will increase - perhaps fulfilling one of China's aims to reduce the effectiveness of air defence radars.

A further difficulty with detection is the material used for balloons or objects. Plastics and synthetic inflation fabrics have no or very low radar reflectivity, thus adding another notch to their covert credentials. The balloon that started the current controversy in the US was first discovered visually and reported, rather than detected by air defence systems.

But the more recent discoveries over Canada and Alaska resulted from high-intensity surveillance. It has not yet been revealed what they are. Once that has been ascertained, the key question will be whether the objects were designed to penetrate the US defence system to gather better signals intelligence, or whether they were a test of US air defence systems.

It could, alternatively, be just a nuisance ploy. We shall know

in-5 (CX-5), bringing the number of satellites in the network to 21.

ogy, Engineering, Arts, Math) courses or undergraduate degree or diploma in Vocational Technical Education (VTE), Paramedical Sciences, and Allied Health Sciences.

Applicants must have scored a minimum of least 60% marks in their Class 12 examination.

The annual family income of the applicants from all sources should not exceed INR 5 Lakh.

Children of employees of Cognizant, Cognizant Foundation and Buddy4Study are not eligible to apply. Students from Pan India are eligible.

- Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 75,000 per vear
- Last Date to Apply: 05-03-2023
- Application mode: Online applications only
- www.b4s.in/observer/CFSI1 Short Url:

#### Scholarship Name 3: JN Tata Endowment Loan Scholarship 2023-24

Description: The IN Tata Endowment invites loan scholarship applications from Indian students who wish to pursue overseas higher studies. Students who are selected for the loan scholarship may be recommended for a partial 'Travel Grant' and a 'Gift Award'which is linked to their academic performance in their overseas studies.

Eligibility: Open for Indian nationals who have completed at least one undergraduate degree OR students who are in the final year of any undergraduate programme at a recognised university/college/ institution in India.

Candidates must be willing to pursue Postgraduate/Doctoral/Postdoctoral studies abroad.

Candidates who are at the end of the 1st year and entering into the second year of their overseas studies (Fall 2023 – Spring 2024) are also eligible to apply. This is applicable only if the minimum duration of the course is 2 years and there is at least one full academic year remaining to complete at the time of award of the loan scholarship, normally by July of any calendar year.

Students must have scored at least 60% marks on average in their undergraduate or postgraduate studies.

Candidates must not be older than 45 years as on June 30, 2023.

Prizes & Rewards: Loan scholarship of up to INR 10 lakh

- Last Date to Apply: 07-03-2023
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/INT6

is called its "dwell time". In-

lites from the Yaogan-30 series, was likely to be several hours, and is an interesting question, given

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when the results of the balloon debris analysis are made known.

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE FOR NOC**

That I Sh. Abdul Rehman Wani S/O Mustafa Wani R/O Prantee Panikhar Kargil intend to sell Plot No. 651 in Housing Colony Ompora Budgam, to Sh. Jahangeer Ahmad Bhat S/O Abdul Rahim Bhat R/O Kakanmaran Budgam. I have applied for NOC for conveyance Deed for transfer of lease hold rights of above said plot. Objection, if any, may be conveyed to the Managing Director, J&K Housing Board, Green Belt, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this Notice. However, no objection will be entertained after the expiry of the above said period.

Jahangeer Ahmad Bhat S/O Abdul Rahim Bhat R/O Kakanmaran Budgam

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#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have lost the Number plate of my vehicle bearing Regd No; JK01AJ 5848 . 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 Police Station Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Imtiyaz Ahmad Mir S/o Farooq Ahmad Mir R/o Magam bmg

#### From the office of Advocate Syed Munazer.

Chamber No 112 District Court Moominabad Srinagar

In the case of

Caveator=Bilal Ahmad Hajam S/o Nazir Ahmad Hajam R/o Dar Mohalla Soura Srinagar

Versus

Public at large

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In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A The Caveator has reason to believe that Non-Caveators may file any Application, Petition, Appeal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hob'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrpresentation and cooked story and may seed in obtaining some relief/order at their back /in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irreparable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveator be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

Sd/ Advocate

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creasing the number of satellites as part of a wider network, or its closeness to the surface of the that the country has one of the

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## **All Smart City Projects To Be Completed Before** April 15: Div Com

#### MAJID NABI

Srinagar: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Biduri today said that all projects being executed under the Srinagar Smart City Mission will be completed before April 15.

Talking to the media during his visit to city center Lal to review ongoing projects being undertaken under the Srinagar Smart City mission, the Div Com said the upper deadline set for the projects is April 15 and that all the projects will be completed before this date.

The upper deadline set for the projects being undertaken under the Smart City mission is April 15 and we are hopeful that all projects will be completed before this date," Biduri said.

Regarding G20 tourism track meeting scheduled to be hosted in Srinagar in May this year, he said G20 will be organized in a good manner once all projects under Srinagar Smart City are completed.

people of Srinagar a day after the summer capital secured the number one rank under Swachh Survekshan Gramin. 'Works on Smart City

projects are on at full pace; people have to be little patient as they might face some inconveniences during this period. The G20 summit will be organized in a very good manner once all projects are completed," he said, adding" I congratulate people of Srinagar for securing first position under Swachata Abhiyan as credit goes to them only.

detention of Mirwaiz Umar

peals to the administration

to release Mirwaiz, his deten-

tion is prolonged. Muslims

of the valley are deeply dis-

mayed as they are being de-

prived of the invaluable ser-

mons of Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir

and his other religious and

socio reformative guidance,"

on the occasion of Meraj-un-

Nabi (SAW), Anjuman Auqaf

said that Prophet Muham-

mad (SAW's) ascension to the

heavens is a practical mira-

cle of the Messenger of Allah

(SAW), which is celebrated as

a memorial and inspires new

areas of thought till the Day

urged the authorities to en-

sure the release of Mirwaiz-

e-Kashmir before the upcom-

ing month of Shabaan so

that he is able to resume his

The Anjuman once again

While greeting the people

"Despite repeated ap-

Farooq, it adds.

statement said.

of Resurrection.

## Meraj-un-Nabi (SAW) Not Observed In Jamia Masjid Since 2019

Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Urges Govt To Release Mirwaiz

#### **Observer News Service**

Srinagar: Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid Srinagar today expressed regret over the continuous house detention of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq due to which Me'raj-un-Nabi (SAW) could not be observed at the historic Jamia Masjid or Aali Masjid Eidgah in old city for the last four years.

The managing body of the central Jamia Masjid in a statement said such important functions are impossible to be organized by the Auqaf in absence of Mirwaiz.

"Every year on Meraj-un-Nabi (SAW) Majlis-e-Wazo Tableegh led by Mirwaiz was held in the mosque in accordance with centuries old tradition, however, it is not possible for the Auqaf to organize such important religious event in absence of chief cleric of the valley," statement reads.

Social and ref

He also congratulated the

Observer News Service Srinagar: Joined by Kashmiri Pandit's, hundreds of Hindu devotee's thronged temples in Srinagar and elsewhere to celebrate Maha Shivratri or Herath, marking the wedding of Lord Shiva with Parvati on Saturday.

Herath is a three-day festival in which the families come together for elaborate prayers and celebrations. The festival symbolizes the unity of divinity and the complementing nature of consciousness and feminine energy that together lead to creation.

Reports said that hundreds Kashmiri Pandits celebrated Maha Shivratri with religious fervor with devotees thronging the Shankaracharya Temple here to participate in the special prayers.

Herath Celebrated In Srinagar,

**Other Places With Piety** 

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The special prayers were also held at Ganpatyar and Hanuman Temple at Amira Kadal in Srinagar throughout the day.

A festive look wore in and around the temples in Srinagar and elsewhere in the valley, as the religious places were decorated for the special prayers, joined by the Kashmir Pandit community as well as the people from outside, who are presently on tour to Kashmir.

"A great enthusiasm was

witnessed today. Celebrating the pious day in Kashmir was the happiest moment for all of us," Rajni, a lady devotee from Jammu, said at Shankaracharya Temple.

PIC: Abid Bhat/KO

The biggest gathering was held at Shankaracharya Temple while hundreds of devotees thronged Khir Bhawani temple at Tullamulla in Ganderbal.

Chanting hymns 'Har Har Mahadev' and 'Bam Bam Bhole', the devotees attended the special prayers at different temples across Kashmir.

Elaborate arrangements were put in place by the authorities for the devotees on the occasion.

## **Nowshera Residents Urge Authorities To Repair Dilapidated Roads**

#### **Observer News Service**

Srinagar: The residents of Chanpora in Nowshera area of Srinagar are up in arms against the R&B and UEED department for failing to repair the dilapidated road in the area.

The residents of the area said the road has been in a dilapidated condition for months together and despite bringing the issue into the

notice of authorities, no measures were taken as yet, they said. The road, as per lo

suffered damage when Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED) were constructing drainage in the area.

"Residents living around face difficulties on a daily basis but the authorities take no concrete steps to mitigate their woes." they said.

Road is lying in a very dilapidated condition due to which people of the area suffer a lot especially in inclement weather, said Zahoor Ahmad a local resident

He said the condition of roads has turned from bad to worse but the authorities concerned pay no attention to the problems people face on a daily basis.

Locals said that they have brought this issue into the notice of concerned authorities several times but nothing has been done so far.

They requested concerned authorities to look into the matter at an earliest and repair the road so that they won't ffer anymor

Cashmer



Magrib 6:20 27 Rajab ISHA 7:42 1444

### This Day In History

- 197 Lucius Septimius Severus' army beats Clodius Albinus at Lyon
- 356 Emperor Constantius II shuts all heathen temples
- 607 Boniface III begins his reign as Catholic Pope
- 842 Medieval Iconoclastic Controversy ends as a council in Constantinople formally reinstates the veneration of icons in churches
- 1512 French troops under Gaston de Foix occupy Brescia 1574 - Spanish troops plunder Krommenie, Wormerveer & Jisp, Netherlands
- 1634 Battle of Smolensk: King Wladyslaw IV of Poland beats Russians [NS=Mar1]
- 1674 Netherlands & England sign Peace of Westminster (NYC becomes English).
- 1797 One third of papal domain ceded to France

1819 - British explorer William Smith discovers the South Shetland Islands, and claims them in the name of King George

- 1856 -Tin-type camera patented by Hamilton Smith, Gambier. Ohio
- 1878 Thomas Edison is granted a patent for his gramophone (phonograph)
- 1920 Netherlands joins League of Nations 1936 - Manuel Azaña becomes Prime Minister of Spain for the
- second time 1942 - Japanese troops land on Timor
- 1943 German tanks under Generalmajor Karl Buelowius attack Kasserine Pass. Tunisia
- 1944 823 British bombers attack Berlin
- 1944 U-264 sinks off Ireland
- 1945 980 Japanese soldiers reportedly killed by crocodiles in 2 days on Ramree Island, Burma
- 1945 Brotherhood Day-1st celebrated
- 1949 Mass arrests of communists in India

works under the guidance of Mirwaiz also take a hit due to the continuous and arbitrary

religious responsibilities. like his predecessors – the Mirwaizeen-e-Kashmir.

### **2Nd Edition Of Short-Term Course On Semiconductors Begins At NIT Srinagar**

#### **Observer News Service**

Srinagar: The 2nd edition of 5-day Short-Term Course (STC) on Semiconductors began at PG Department of Physics, National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar in a virtual mode.

The theme of the course is "Journey of Semiconductor Physics to Smart Devices to Intelligent Automation, which coincides with the syllabi module of both UG and PG programs, the motivation behind conducting the course.

The opening session of STC was presided over by Chief Guest Director NIT Srinagar Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal, while HoD Physics Prof M A Shah is the chairperson of the five-day-long scientific event.

The inaugural lecture "Two-Dimensional Semiconductor Materials: Graphene and Beyond" was delivered by Prof Farhan Rana from Cornell University, USA. The talk was informative and inspiring and was appreciated by the participants including the faculty. Prof. Gousia introduced Prof Farhan Rana, an eminent faculty from Cornell University.

He highlighted the importance of two-dimensional materials like Graphene which have multiple applications in our day-to-day life.

"There is a race among scientists to develop new products using two-dimensional materials," Prof. Farhan said.

On the occasion, Director NIT Srinagar Prof. Sehgal appreciated the efforts of the Physics Department for organizing 5 days STC on an emerging and relevant area.

He welcomed the participants and acknowledged the sincere efforts of the HoD Physics for taking such new and innovative initiatives.

In his speech, Prof. Sehgal laid emphasis on the role of semiconductors in our dayto-day lives. He mentioned that India has a huge youth population that needs to be self-independent in semiconductor technology.

He said technological institutions have a big responsibility to make the life of people around them easy, cost-effective, and more beneficial.

Prof. Sehgal said only a few IITs are working in this area and the need of the hour is to establish state of art labs across India. He also lauded the role of Dr. MA Shah is organizing many scientific events on campus.

"The 5-day STC will be beneficial for the participants and definitely, they will learn from each other's experience," he said.

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1952 - French offensive at Hanoi

- 1959 Britain, Turkey & Greece sign agreement granting Cyprus independence
- 1959 Gabon adopts its constitution
- 1963 USSR informs JFK it is withdrawing several thousand troops from Cuba
- 1970 USSR launches Sputnik 52 & Molniya 1-13 communications satellite
- 1977 Space shuttle Enterprise makes 1st Test flight atop a 747 ietliner
- 1984 USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/ Semipalitinsk USSR
- 1985 150 killed when a Spanish ietliner crashes approaching Bilbao, Spain
- 1986 King Hussein of Jordan severs ties with PLO
- 1987 US President Reagan lifts trade boycott against Poland 1990 - Sovuz TM-9 lands
- 1992 Peter Collins discovers nova Cygni 1992
- 1998 Soyuz TM-26 lands
- 1998 US hockey team destroys their rooms at Olympic village in Japan



#### **Observer News Service**

AMMU - Chief minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah today said he was never opposed to prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's peace initiative in the state which would be carried forward to its logical end.

Winding up discussions on the motion of thanks on the gov¬ernor's address in the legislative assembly, Abdullah urged the comity of nations to pressurise Pakistan to stop militant violence in Jammu and Kashmir.

The chief minister launched a frontal attack on the Hurriyat Conference who, he said, ac¬cused him of scuttling the peace process saying I am for peace, am never opposed to peace. He said killing of innocent peo-ple, were continuing unabated in the state despite the cease¬fire and suggested a pro-active strategy to deal with militants. According to a NAFA re-port, Dr. Abdullah advocated a more aggressive 'pro-active' policy for Jammu and Kashmir adding this was the only way Pakistan could be brought un¬der pressure.

Stating he was never opposed to talks with Hurriyat leaders, Abdullah said let the Centre treats the Hurriyat the way it wants and let them go to any country.

If those nearer and dearer to Pakistan come close to New Delhi, what objection I have, he said, adding the Centre was doing experiments.

(Kashmir Observer, 19 February, 2001)

Send your write ups and feedback at editpage.ko@gmail.com

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# **Business of Betrothal**

She ran away and sat by some faraway lake, looking at the horizon, waiting for the sun to set and the day to end.

#### Hirra Sultan

t was the wedding season again. Last time her cousin had been married. Then a childhood friend. Since then everyone had been pestering her to get married too, telling her how this was the right age and how PCOS was destroying marriages. However much she avoided the question, it met her at every nook and corner. As if trying to push her into a different dimension. Or catch her unaware.

Marriage. Who could run away from it? Especially when someone was a woman and born in a patriarchal society. Female children are always raised so that they know they would someday get married and leave. Conditioned like that. Disciplined by the idea of mother-in-law shaming her in front of everyone because she laughs a particular way or has some peculiar trait. With the knowledge that a permanent departure was approaching fast.

It was a little unfair and equally thought provoking that the most feared person in a lady's life is another lady. Instead of support, mother-in-law spelled doom.

Marriage. The one thing that probably a lot of ladies loath because of all this conditioning.

She wasn't a lot different though. She was a feminist who wanted to be treated and seen as a human rather than a burden onto a family. Or a child bearer for a husband. She wanted her share of happiness and autonomy. Somewhere, all of it felt threatened and every probable aspect of life a fantasy, thanks to the people who didn't want to rock the boat too hard. Who wanted to just be silent and comment on the society or its ways but never take a step to change anything about it. Not even something minor.

Male chauvinism wasn't new in her society. She had seen women, wives and daughters alike, being beaten and shamed for trivial reasons. As if they didn't experience pain. Or maybe they were meant for pain only. A strange destiny. She had seen so many girls who couldn't trim their hair because their fathers didn't allow them to; siblings being treated differently only because of a difference in gender; women not working, or bearing more children than their bodies could accommodate. The worst was always a family grieving because they had had a female child; men divorcing their wives or getting themselves second wives for the desire of a son. The name bearer of the family.

Looking around it always felt like there was a puppet show going on. Men the puppeteers and women, puppets.

Every once in a while her family asked her to marry some relative, some cousin and every time she found herself an excuse. Some random excuse. She was lucky her excuses were entertained. Well, at least for a while they did work like a charm.

They say everything happens at its destined time. Not one moment before, not after. And everything that happens is so intricately designed by Him that we never are able to understand the significance of events as and when they are happening. The shortsighted folks that we are.

For a lot of people that early August morning spelled treachery and backstabbing. And for a lot of common people, uncertainty. No one knew what life would turn out to be like anymore and what riage not only because she refused to but also because she was quite young. Stubborn and strong. Someone who didn't like people meddling in her business. For her, her autonomy meant everything. Despite being a girl, she loved to keep things scattered in her room and collecting random stuff. She was conscious of her health, maintaining a size zero figure, yet equally negligent of how she looked or how she was perceived by others. Tomboyish. She couldn't care less about the world.

Putting the responsibilities of a marriage and household onto her made them feel guilty. She deserved a little more time to enjoy the freedom. But the changed political scenario spelled doom in more than one way. Not only did it strip the people of their exclusive rights and autonomy, but also of their peace and the little solace that their land was protected. Now, who knew to whom the government would sell everything or how they would sell ecological damages in the name of tourism and development.

It all happened one fine day that a mediator chanced to be at their place and the idea of at least starting a search was agreed upon. Arranged marriages take a lot of time to happen, two-three years on an average. So it was just a search. By the time they expected to find a match, they expected her to be elder and more open to the idea of marriage.

But everything is destined. Maktoob. So the first suitor became her fiancé. Everyone marveled and congratulated her on her luck. People were fed up looking for a partner, ready to get hitched and here she was. Found 'the one' in the first attempt. They were glad she didn't have to undergo the torment of meeting someone's parents every once in a while and being sized up, to be rejected at the end because of the way she dressed, or smiled. Or something equally trivial. Blessed.

Even she was happy. Despite this engagement being way earlier than what she would have preferred, she was glad she found someone who was somewhat similar. Compatibility is what matters the most. Somehow all of this felt euphoric. In a dystopian society, this happiness somehow felt out of place. As if it didn't belong. It took her quite a while before she got accustomed to the idea of having a partner to share life with and being happy.

Sounds good in fantasy. Being fed with "happily ever after" makes us think that this is it. That they get hitched and have a happy life.

For her, though, it was not. Probably could never be.

Even though everything about this relationship sounded good, the dark spots were yet to be uncovered. The groom's family was rich and hence what they planned was extravagant. Even though they were planning marriage in the same year, they wanted to have three different functions. They didn't want to burden her family, so they kept the initial gathering small. Just 30 odd people. For nikaah, they had a higher number in mind. And on the wedding, they planned on inviting everyone who had invited them. Ever. It was sold on the idea that they have very close knit relations and hence they couldn't do without any of them.

The bride-to-be, being a sensitive and rational person, was baffled by all of this. These people only had two sons, so maybe they had no idea how hard it is to be a daughter's father. They had mentioned all of this without a tinge of guilt in their heads. Or consideration. It was quite okay with them. She might have chosen to let all of this slip had it not been for the fact that her parents asked her wouldbe in-laws to skip the engagement and directly go for a wedding but they refused.



It all happened one fine day that a mediator chanced to be at their place and the idea of at least starting a search was agreed upon. Arranged marriages take a lot of time to happen, two-three years on an average

ate people they were. Could they not see that her parents had very subtly told them that they might not be able to make arrangements for these many people, twice in a single year? Or were they this blinded by money that they didn't want to see any of it?

They wanted to show off their wealth. That was very evident from the very beginning. Yet, they could have considered not being a burden onto her family. If they so wanted everyone to join the celebrations and repay everyone who had invited them, they could have planned an extravagant feast at their own place. Why were they burdening her family with all of this? Why didn't they consider for a moment that they might be overburdening her family? Were they this selfish?

This superiority, this power. All because of the gender of their offspring. Something they personally had no control over.

This got her thinking a lot. Every time some calamity befell the region; it was immediately and without any thought blamed upon the women of society. To their western attires and flicks. Their relationships. For every wrong, a female was the defaulter. In circumstances like these she wondered why were people like them never blamed, ever?

Was a girl's jeans more devastating than a family who were hell bent on sending a caravan of guests with the groom and cause the bride's family a debt? Weren't families like these more responsible for the late marriages happening in the society than the career-orientedness of the women folk? Weren't parents worried about the dowry and 'Mahraaz Saal' and the costs thereof, more than the age of their daughters? gion to subdue women. Then, when it comes to marriage why do they forget that a bride's family should not be burdened? Why do they forget that it is the groom who is supposed to pay for all expenses incurred by the bride's family?

It is easy to print a hadith on invitation cards, 'Nikaah is my sunnah'. It is another thing to follow this hadith and perform weddings as is the sunnah.

If looked at from a different point of view, families also mourn the birth of a girl child for this reason. The unrealistic expectations and expenditures they have to incur on their marriages. It wasn't merely the name-bearer issue.

She talked to her fiancé about her concerns. How could she not? She could see the worried faces of her parents' day in and day out. How could she turn a blind eye onto them? She was glad she had found someone she really liked but the tradeoff has to be reasonable. This worry on her parents' faces didn't seem right.

The guy's reply, instead of sorting out her concerns, shocked her; her wake up call.

He didn't want to take a stand or speak to his parents. He was like some dead fish who wanted to go with the flow. Or maybe he was a puppet of his parents who couldn't utter a word in front of them. He was afraid that if he said something to his parents; it might ruin things, though he didn't state why it might be so. She had expected him to understand; instead he told her to stay on the banks and not interfere. How could she not?

She wondered, she really wondered what kind of a person she was getting married to. Plus, was it worth it all? All this trouble and worry?

She tried talking to her parents but somehow their child's gender was a disadvantage to them. They couldn't say no to anything the groom's family said. Or demanded. Everything was to happen as they would dictate. She asked, again, whether it was really necessary for her to get married and they started convincing her again. That a spouse is someone, the only one, who stays by you all life through. Nobody else can be bothered enough.

Yet, she wasn't convinced enough. Somehow the idea of her parents spending their hard earned money on a feast so that the groom's family is happy didn't go well with her. That amount could be put to so many better causes. And instead it was being used where people would still criticize.

There are so many people who sleep hungry every night, unable to find anything to eat and here people were asking to lavishly feed a truckload of people and still were claiming that everyone is well off and do not need a feast. The irony!

She was someone used to being alone. She enjoyed her own company and loved herself, to the extent that she didn't need people to validate her. She couldn't convince her parents to let go of the relationship. Neither could she convince the groom to take a stand and talk to his parents. This moment, instead of the moment she was supposed to say yes to the groom, was one of the most decisive ones for her. And one of the most difficult as well.

As no one paid her any heed, she simply slipped out of the door with a backpack; turned her phone off and went off the grid, liberating her parents from her responsibility and making sure she wasn't stuck with some selfish people at the same time.

She ran away and sat by some faraway lake,

future the children had, or if they had any at all. It was this panic, this uncertainty of future and equally of life that triggered her parents. The need to find her a groom was more urgent and pressing than ever before.

Her parents had been relaxed about her mar-

She was left wondering what kind of inconsider-

This patriarchal society always quotes reli-

looking at the horizon, waiting for the sun to set and the day to end.

> The author is a Srinagar-based techie who writes on Gender and Society.

# Hands That No Longer Serve

#### Kaiser Bhat

feisty homemaker from Srinagar's Rainawari area suddenly gave up on her cherished indoor work lately. Years of spinning wheel had thinned her right index finger and rendered her eyesight weak. But even then, she says, staring at her cobwebbed spinning wheel placed at one corner of her rundown house, she would've continued her 'labour of love', if only it hadn't turned unyielding.

"What would you do when you buy 10 grams of raw pashmina for Rs 120 and ends up just earning a meager Rs 100 as a profit after two-three days of slog," Sabnam, 37, a mother of two school-going daughters, asks. "Even construction labour today earns close to Rs 800 a day now!"

Labouring for upholding cultural way of living has indeed become a tall task for Kashmiri artisans today. While many of them are witnessing their lately-rich neighbours flaunting their new pompous ways of lifestyles, these selfrespecting—and once self-sustaining skill-persons are apparently lagging behind, as they no longer find any hope in the endeavor.

"It's like beating the dead horse," Sabnum grimaces.

Disparity and difference in status and earning in the society has indeed taken its toll on the handicraft artisans. Once hailed for their "golden hands", some of them now double as conductors, grocers, salesmen, or peons. While men are switching over to the other means of living, women artisans are sitting idle and moping at home. The relapsing art has taken a great hit on them.

"There was a time, just five years ago, when I would earn around five to six thousands in a month," says Mehjabeen, 38, an 'aari' worker from Safa Kadal. "But then, years of regimental routine made me diabetics and rendered my eyesight weak. I was forced to give it up."

In absence of any welfare scheme or health cover, many artisans today are forced to give up on their beloved art.

"Seven years ago when I suddenly developed the bad knees due to prolonged sitting and overweight, I quitted the needle work art to save myself," says Aasha Begum, 48-year-old homemaker from Batamaloo. "Art can wait, health can't."

Many artisans might be severing their ties with the traditional handicrafts on health grounds, but scores are quitting it over the 'peanuts' they get as income. Even traditional art-brokers and middlemen are changing their line now.

The disruption runs deep and has badly unsettled the art ecosystem of the valley.

From the interiors of Rathpora, Srinagar, Mohammad Aslam no longer

#### Many grandmother figures today take a jibe at their granddaughters for chasing the futile pursuit of government jobs while remaining indifferent towards their "golden hands".

comes out with his bicycle loaded with a bundle of printed sheets. He would make exhaustive trips down the serpentine streets of old city to deliver those sheets to his women workforce in their homes.

"They would knit those sheets with their colourful needle designs, which I would sell to the different customers," Aslam, a lanky man in his early fifties, says. "Everyone was happily working, before it lost its way. And now, there're hardly any takers of the handmade Kashmiri products."

Behind the sudden fall in demand is also the surging supply of machine-

made products flooding local markets like never before. Being cheap and easily available, these machine products are now blurring the line between what 'masses' wear, and what 'classes' would adorn themselves with.

This gradual fall of the handmade articles has also collapsed the cultural support which would once hold many artisan families together.

"If today, I tell my two college-going sons that I received my formal education with the support of the spinning wheel which my mother used to devoutly swirl, they would find it very hard to relate with me," says Mudasir Bhat, a senior government high school teacher. "One can't blame them, humans are wired to judge things based on their present state."

And that present state—of art—is dismal.

Apart from helping countless underprivileged families to script rags to riches story, the handicrafts—especially the needle works—would make Kashmiri women empowered.

Many grandmother figures today take a jibe at their granddaughters for chasing the futile pursuit of government jobs while remaining indifferent towards their "golden hands".

"At this stage, where Kashmiris are losing their golden hands to make-believe idea of life, we need to look at our Ladakhi counterparts and learn from them," says Gowher Mir, a research scholar. "Educated and empowered young generation of Leh, for example, is quitting their big jobs in Indian multinational companies and fashion industry to return and revive their traditional art and culture in their homeland. They're becoming new cultural brand ambassadors of Ladakh and are selling their traditional things to foreigners at exuberant rates. Those are the same people we would habitually dismiss as 'weakwilled'. But see, how they truly became the masters of their own destination."

Even as Kashmir witnessed rise of many young art entrepreneurs in recent years, but the overwhelming scene still looks dismal. But then, many believe, there's still room for some hope.

"Cultural demise just like civilizational downfall is a certain fact," Mir continues. "But while up and down is a part of life, fresh creative designs, packing and marketing is needed to overcome the native art crisis in Kashmir. Kashmiris are gifted salespersons. They need to spare some of that skill to save their golden hands."

The author is a Srinagar-based freelance journalist.

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# Over to Professor **'KASHMIRI IS A LIVING LANGUAGE'**

#### Umar Hayat Hussain

A mid the ongoing debate in South Asia on the significance of native languages, the focus on Kashmiri as a language is getting a lot of traction.

Being one of the oldest languages of the South East Asia with a unique syntax, phonology, and morphology, the future of Kashmiri language, says Prof. Shafi Shauq, is safe.

"Kashmiri language has been and shall continue to be the language of peasants, artisans, and various professionals," Prof. Shauq, a noted author, editor, translator of over fortyfive books, says. "It is the most effective means of communication at the speech level."

In a brief chat with Kashmir Observer, the professor who has received several National and State awards is deconstructing the debate.

#### **IS KASHMIRI REALLY A LANGUAGE?**

I say it with conviction that the Kashmiri language is a living language.

It has an area of occurrence, speakers, dialectical variations, oral and written literature, and capacity to change through borrowing and codeswitching in consonance with changing economic and social conditions.

### BUT THEN MANY SAY IT'S ON THE VERGE OF EXTINCTION?

It is a big fallacy propagated



by ill-informed journalists, profiting linguistic activists and by all those who do not know Kashmiri.

The Kashmiri language has been and shall continue to be the language of peasants, artisans, and various professionals. It is the most effective means of communication at the speech level.

WHAT CHALLENGES DID YOU FACE AS A LANGUAGE LECTURER? I taught the literature and linguistics at the postgraduate level and research. Books, right from Aristotle to present day critics, and writers have been translated and published that are taught. I wish that more and more teaching material is made available through translation.

#### BUT IS YOUNGER GENERATION READY TO ACCEPT KASHMIRI AS A LANGUAGE?

Younger generation does not mean broiler-like kids of Convent, Mallinson and Biscoe and other exploiting private schools. Younger generation means teeming millions of boys and girls in rural and urban areas who speak Kashmiri, and never use any other language in natural communication, customs, rituals and various social activities. They sing, dream, converse, narrate, and remember through their native language.

#### SINCE YOU'VE TRANSLATED MANY KASHMIRI BOOKS IN OTHER LANGUAGES, DID YOU GET ANY GOOD RESPONSE?

Unfortunately, there aren't many buyers of books in all languages. Nevertheless, books are sold and bought always. Some of my books like Kashmiri Grammar, History of Kashmiri Language Literature, and Kashmiri Dictionary are reprinted every year and publishers have made considerable money. Some of my books are the most circulated books in Kashmir for the last fifty years.

#### WHERE DO YOU PLACE THE KASHMIRI LANGUAGE AMONG ALL THE SPOKEN ONES?

Kashmiri is one of the oldest languages of the South East Asia with a unique syntax, phonology, and morphology. It is the only language of Asia that has a non-Indo-Aryan structure. It is interestingly closer to the Indo-European Languages having the finite verb at the second slot in all sentences.

#### WHAT MEASURES NEED TO BE TAKEN TO SAFEGUARD THIS LANGUAGE?

All measures taken by any government are politically motivated. But the future of Kashmiri language is safe so long its speakers continue to survive.



# Inside Elif Shafak's Strange World

#### Hirra Sultan

The title of the book hints at someone being born and then leaving back for heavens in 10 minutes and 38 seconds. Vet instead of birth the book starts at death and contrary to the idea of someone dying within 10 minutes; the dead person is 40 years old! This book is one of those which give a vivid idea of the society and yet, is extremely personal in nature. It does not comment on anything, nevertheless it speaks volumes about everything going on in the society. Like a background track in a café. One is essentially there for coffee but one can hear things too. The story revolves around Leila, Tequila Leila, who happens to be a prostitute and is dead when the book opens. Dead and dumped in a trash can, because she was a prostitute. The first part of the book is in flashbacks, as Leila sees them before her brain activity ceases. The second part revolves around the events that happen afterwards, with her and with the characters related to her. The book talks high about friendship and relations that we build over time, referred by Elif as 'Water Family'. Even though we look after our blood relations, the ones tied by fate, as the ones who would always stay loyal, Elif beautifully says that sometimes water runs thicker than blood. This cannot be truer than in current times and situations. In times when family belittles and disappoints us while one is looking for support, it is mostly the water family, the friends accumulated over a period of time who understand more than the blood. Sometimes the concern of blood is washed away by the support and enthusiasm of these friends.



The story has multiple facets to it and each feels like a cut in diamond, making it sparkle in a splendid brilliance.

The first flashback of Leila takes her to her birth. Her mother was her father's second wife and she (Leila) was conceived after a lot of difficulty and miscarriages. Somehow the first wife convinces Leila's father to let her raise the child, instead of its biological mother.

Her father agrees and convinces the mother that she will have another child, but does not realize how deep the wound was. Or how this moment, this decision became the cause of her unwinding, making her mentally unstable.

Somehow we find this so common in our own society too. Forced decisions of parents, husbands and in-laws without any consideration for the concerned. Maybe that explains the huge number of depressed people in our society. It also talks about sexual abuse of Leila by her own paternal uncle, and her conceiving because of it. Instead of punishing the culprit or taking some action against him, her family asked her to marry that very uncle's son.

She was first molested by him when she was 6. They silenced her by making her feel that she had done something wrong, instead of him.

This particular memory speaks volumes about patriarchal societies and the fault in putting the respect of a family onto a lady's virginity. Even though Leila was not at fault, she was blamed, asked to compromise and made feel dirty. She wanted her family to understand, take her side, do something, but instead they were the ones to humiliate her.

Leila runs away to Istanbul and finds herself trapped into prostitution. A society that wears religion on her sleeve, duped a young lady into selling her body.

On top of that, the very society would look at these prostitutes and brothels, and condemn the act, without acknowledging the fact that it was their personal greed that turned an innocent young girl into all of this. They could have guided her better but chose not to, standing at the banks and pointing fingers. The book talks about her five friends, who stayed by her when her family had abandoned her and severed all ties. The group was composed of a transgender, Nalan; a helper, Zainab; another prostitute who was trafficked into the city, Jameela; a bar singer, Humera and her childhood friend, Sinan. The book identifies their stories and struggles and how this strange group of people fell together.

The book also emphasizes how someone's words can change everything for a person, like Leila did the night she was murdered.

The client she was hired for was gay but could not stand his ground against his father. It was Leila, and the news of her death next day, that gave the client strength to leave everything behind and pursue a life with his lover.

It was also in her death that she gave Sinan the strength to do what he felt was right, without trying to rationalize anything or wonder what the society would think. This act of defiance cost him his job and his marriage.

The book further talks about leftist revolution in Istanbul and how a procession was fired upon, in which Leila lost her husband and hence was forced to take up prostitution again.

The protest was a peaceful one, where people held placards and shouted a few slogans. Yet, they were ambushed and fired upon by snipers hiding on top of a hotel building. Some were killed by the bullets and others in the stampede that occurred.

The book is filled with loss and grief. The fact that we are most often misunderstood by our own and supported by strangers; that we deny being wrong yet push people where they have no option but to live dishonestly; the inhumane and inconsiderate behavior of authorities on someone's death and how friends, if one is blessed to have them, can turn mountains upside down for a friend.

The book is highly relatable and in a society like ours, where we deny even knowing what prostitution is or never tell our kids what sexual harassment is, with sex word being a taboo, it is a must read.

Not only does it make one realize how many vices we are simply neglecting for the fear of rocking the boat but also emphasizes on the impact of our small actions. It is a book that forces a person to introspect into his own behaviors, if he has a conscience that is, and the results thereof.

# News

# KASHMIR OBSERVER SRINAGAR | SUNDAY | 19.02.2023

# Turkiye: Couple Saved 296 Hours After Quake, But Children Die



Agenceis

**Istanbul:** A couple and their son were pulled alive from under a collapsed apartment building more than 12 days after a 7.8 magnitude earthquake ravaged parts of Turkiye and Syria, although the child later died at a hospital, Turkish state media reported Saturday.

A foreign search team from Kyrgyzstan rescued Samir Muhammed Accar, 49, his wife, Ragda, 40, and their 12-year-old son while digging through the rubble of the apartment building in the southern Turkish city of Antakya, the state-run Anadolu news agency said.

They were removed at about 11:30 a.m. local time (8:30 GMT), or 296 hours after the Feb 6 quake, and quickly transferred to ambulances. TV footage showing medics fixing an IV drip to the man's arm as he lay on a stretcher.

One of the Kyrgyz rescuers said the team also found the bodies of two dead children. Anadolu later reported they also were the children of Samir

Muhammad and Ragda Accar. During a visit to Antakya, the capital of Hatay province, Turkish Health Minister Fahrettin Koca said the father was conscious and being treated at Mustafa Kemal University Hospital. Anadolu published photos showing American TV personality and former US Senate candidate Mehmet Oz visiting the recovering man.

Reporting on their conversation, Anadolu said Samir Muhammed Accar described how he survived the ordeal by drinking his own urine. He also told Dr Oz that his children responded to his voice for the first two or three days but he heard nothing from after that.

Hatay province, where Antakya is located, was one of areas hit hardest by the earthquake, which killed at least 40,642 people in Turkive and 3,688 in Syria. Search and rescue operations

are continuing in Turkiye, although the head of the country's disaster response agency said they would end on Sunday. (AP)

constituency. The meeting was

called to evaluate the performance

of the constituency party leaders

and workers and gauge the pres-

of the present political scenario

### **Antarctic Sea-Ice Cover Hits Record** Low For Second Year In A Row, Hitting It Sooner Than Last Year: Study

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

Washington: Antarctic sea ice extent has been reported to have broken its last year record low, and has also recorded it sooner than when it did last year, according to a statement by the National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC). On February 13, 2023,

Antarctic sea ice extent fell to 1.91 million square kilometers, it said.

This set a new record low, dropping below the previous record of 1.92 million square kilometers set on February 25, 2022, it said. This year represents only

the second year that Antarctic extent has fallen below 2 million square kilometers, the statement said. In past years, the annual

through

А

the

agreement.

statement by NSIDC.

positive

stronger-than-average west-

erly winds. Along with a

strong Amundsen Sea Low,

have brought warm air to

the region on both sides of

the Antarctic Peninsula, the

the ice cover in the Amundsen

and Bellingshausen Seas, and

reduced the sea ice extent in

the northwestern Weddell

absent over a long stretch of

Sea ice is patchy and nearly

Earlier studies have linked

This has largely cleared out

statement said.

Sea, NSIDC said.

weather conditions

minimum occurred between February 18 and March 3, so, further decline this year is expected, it said. With a couple more weeks

likely left in the melt season, the extent is expected to drop further before reaching its annual minimum, it said. Much of the Antarctic coast is ice free, exposing the ice shelves that fringe the ice sheet to wave action and warmer conditions, the state-

ment said. The NSIDC is a US information and referral centre in support of polar and cryospheric research. NSIDC is part of the University of Colorado Boulder

the Pacific-facing coastline of Cooperative Institute for Antarctica, NSIDC said. Research in Environmental Sciences(CIRES), and is affiliated low sea ice cover with



with the National Oceanic and wave-induced stresses on Atmospheric Administration the floating ice shelves that (NOAA) National Centers for hem the continent, leading to Environmental Information break up of weaker areas, the statement said. cooperative а

Antarctic sea ice extent has The sea ice extent has been highly variable over the tracked well below last year's last several years. While 2022 melt season levels since midand 2023 have had record December, according to the low minimum extent, four out of the five highest mini-Southern mums have occurred since Annular Mode has led to

2008, NSIDC said. Overall, the trend in Antarctic minimum extent over 1979 to 2023 is near zero, NSIDC said.

The current downward linear trend in the Antarctic minimum extent from 1979 to 2023 is 2,400 square kilometers per year, or 0.9 percent per decade, which is currently not statistically significant, NSIDC said.

Nevertheless, the sharp decline in sea ice extent since 2016 has fuelled research on potential causes and whether sea ice loss in the Southern Hemisphere is developing a significant downward trend, the statement said.

# Nepal Is Theoretically' And Practically' A Hindu Nation, Says Puri Shankaracharya

#### Agenceis

Kathmandu: The Shankaracharya of Govardhan Math in Puri, Nischalananda Saraswati, on Saturday said Nepal is a Hindu nation, "theoretically" and "practically," as he performed a special pooja on the occasion of Maha Shivaratri festival at the holy centuries-old Pashupatinath Temple here.

Nepal was declared a secular state in 2008 after the success of the people's movement of 2006 that saw the abolition of monarchy. Hinduism is the majority religion in Nepal, constituting more than 81 per cent of the country's population.

"Nepal is a Hindu nation on the basis of both theoretical and practical grounds, and this is what I feel," he said while addressing a Maha Shivaratri event at the famed Hindu temple here in Nepal's capital.

He unveiled a newly-installed statue of Aadi Shankaracharya, the 8th-century spiritual icon, who propagated "Advayita Vendata Philosophy".

The statue was rebuilt following the 2015 earthquake.

He also performed a special pooja at the Shiva Linga during the occasion.

The Shankaracharya delivered lectures on Vedic philosophy on Friday during a two-and-ahalf-hour prayer meeting at the Pashupatinath temple premises. He will also participate in

discussions with Nepalese vedic scholars and mathematicians from Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu University and Mahendra Sanskrit University at Pashupati on the occasion. Meanwhile, lakhs of devotees,

paper entered the second

In the Capital Complex com-

prising - Itanagar, Naharlagun,

Nirjuli and Banderdewa ar-

eas, business establishments,

markets, banks, educational

institutions, government and

private offices remained closed



including thousands from India, thronged the Pashupatinath Temple since Saturday morning, temple authorities said.

The entire temple complex and surrounding areas were decked up with colourful lights, paper flags and garlands to welcome the devotees. The four gates of the temple premises were opened at 3 am, ushering in ardent devotees for darshan, authorities said.

Free food, drinking water and accommodation was arranged for Sadhus by the authorities.

Around 7,000 security personnel and 10,000 volunteers were mobilised to provide security to the devotees, they said. On Saturday, around 3,500 sadhus from India, and over 1,000 Naga Babas, also known as Digambar Sadhus, arrived here for the occasion, they added.

The Pashupatinath Temple is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva and is situated near the sacred Bagmati River. The temple was classified as a World Heritage Site in 1979 by UNESCO.

**Apni Party Getting More Public Acceptance: Bukhari** Says Party Making Inroads In Most J&K Areas With Each Passing Day

#### **Observer News Service**

Srinagar: Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Sunday said that Apni Party is making inroads in most of J&K constituencies and getting more public acceptance with each passing day.

"He was speaking in a meeting which was attended by the party cadre of Srinagar's Chanapora

#### ent political scenario in the area," a press release issued by the party said. In the meeting, the statement said, leaders and senior workers apprised the Party President

in the constituency, and shared their ideas for enhancing the party presence in the area.

On this occasion, Bukhari said that he was satisfied with the hard word work that the party cadre is putting in to strengthen the party further in the constituency. He said, "I am pleased to see that our leaders and cadre are doing their

best to ensure the strengthening

of the party in their constituency," Bukhari said.

He added, "It is not only about the Chanapora constituency, we are gaining public support and acceptance in most of the areas across J&K."

However, he urged the party leaders and workers to remain wellconnected with the masses in order to make them aware of the peoplefriendly agenda of the party.

### **Bandh Affects Normal Life In Arunachal Pradesh Capital**

day.

#### Agenceis

Itanagar: Normal life was affected in Arunachal Pradesh capital on Saturday as the 'public' bandh called to press for fulfilment of 13-point charter of demands of the Pan Arunachal Joint Steering Committee(PAJSC)-APPSC related to the alleged leak of

the Arunachal Pradesh Public and vehicles kept off the road, a Service Commission question senior police officer said. Thousands of protestors blocked the NH-415 by burning

tyres. The government temporar-

ily suspended internet services in the Itanagar capital region from 6 pm of Friday to 5 pm of Sunday in the "interest of public safety".

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### No One Even

policy everything is taken into consideration, including welfare of people. This drive too was

Rain. Snow he said, "occasionally cloudy with

Ladakh's Leh and Kargil recorded a low of minus 3.5°C and minus 7.8°C respectively, the official said. (GNS)

Bhadarwah 5.6°C (5.3°C above normal).

the acquisition of the properties.

"Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) has been removed from 60 percent of the areas. More than 8000 youths of the North-East have laid down their arms and joined the mainstream," he added.

#### Me'raj-e-Alam Being

Similar congregational prayers are expected in many other shrines in the valley include Jinab Sahib Soura, Aasar-i-Sharief Shahri Kailshpora, Aasar-i-Sharief Lal Bazar, Khangahe-Mualla, Dastgeer Sahib Khanyar, Makhdoom sahib Kohimaran and Ziyarat Syed Saib Sonwar.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has extended his greetings on the eve of Shab-e-Me'raj.

In a message, the Lt Governor said: "On the auspicious occasion of Shab-e-Meraj, I convey my greetings to the people. The pious night provides an opportunity to the people to pray and seek forgiveness & blessings from the Almighty God. I pray for the well-being, happiness and prosperity of all."

#### **'Comprehensive Policy**

"Government is working on it as this is a policy matter and when the government frames a

launched for the welfare of the people," he said, replying to a query whether any formal order will be issued for the poor, having raised residential structures on small patches of state land.

The Div Com also said the government before taking a decision always makes sure that there should be no room for questions.

"Like if someone has built a structure on five marla land at Lal Chowk, questions will certainly be raised as to why the same was not retrieved despite being so expensive. So policies are devised after taking everything into consideration"

Contesting claims that houses of the poor were bulldozed as part of the demolition drive, Div Com said nothing of the sort was witnessed anywhere in the Valley.

Bidhuri also reiterated Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's assurance that the poor will not be touched during the drive.

"If LG Sahab has assured that nothing wrong will happen that means nothing will happen, be sure about it," he said. He also said the administration is implementing LG's directions in letter and spirit.

mainly dry weather is expected."

Meanwhile, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 2.9°C against the previous night's 2.8°C. Today's minimum temperature, he said, was above normal by 2.8°C for the summer capital. Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 1.8°C against 1.8°C on the previous night while Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 1.4°C against minus 0.9°C on the previous night.

Kokernag recorded a low of 1.9°C against 0.6°C on the previous night and it was 2.8°C above normal for the place, the official said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 0.2°C, the same as on the previous night and it was 7.0°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 1.2°C against 0.6°C on the previous night and it was 1.4°C above normal for the north Kashmir area. Jammu recorded a low of 11.3°C against 12.9°C on the previous night. It was 0.8°C above normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal, he said, recorded a low of 4.2°C (above normal by 2.9°C), Batote 8.2°C (above normal by 5.3°C), Katra 11.7°C (3.6°C above normal) and

#### After Rahul,

wife reached the Zaika restaurant of JKTDC Tangmarg where they stayed for half an hour and then reached Ski resort Gulmarg.

Both the Z+ protected persons will stay for night at Khyber resorts.

Earlier, Senior Congress leader and Member of Parliament Rahul Gandhi arrived in Gulmarg on Wednesday on a personal visit.

"This visit of Priyanka Gandhi and Robert Vadra is personal and has nothing to do with any official or party activity," sources told KDC.

#### **Shopian Admin**

of narcotics trade. The properties were purchased from ill-gotten money of drug trafficking within the last six years in the name of accused persons as well as in the name of their kith and kin," he said.

The district administration, he said, has issued notices to several persons involved in the drug trafficking in the recent past and asked all of them to show cause the source of means of

#### **3 Hizb OGWs** motorcycle, a police spokesperson said. During

search, he said, arms and ammunition, including 1 Pistol, 2 Pistol Magazines and 13 rounds were recovered from their possession. Police identified the trio as Mohd Abass Wagay of Wuyan Imamsahab, Gowhar Shafi Mir and Nisar Rehman Sheikh, both residents of DK Pora Shopian.

During the course of investigation, the spokesperson said, it came to fore that the arrested men were involved in many terror crime cases and were providing logistic and other support to the terrorists.

"In this regard, a case vide FIR No. 05/2023 under relevant sections of law stands registered in Police Station Behibagh and further investigation into the matter has been initiated," he added.

#### **Youth Found**

from the body was handed over to the family after the completion of medical legal formalities," an official said.

Meanwhile, a case has been registered and further investigations have been started in this regard.



# STATE

#### DEVENDER SINGH CASE

## **NIA Seizes 3 Cars Used For Terror Activities In J&K**

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

JAMMU: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday said it has seized three private vehicles in a case related to militant activities of former Jammu and Kashmir Police officer Devender Singh who was arrested in 2020.

These vehicles were used by the accused persons for "furtherance of terror activities in the Kashmir Valley", a spokesperson of the NIA said.

Singh, a former deputy superintendent of police, was arrested on January 11, 2020 along with commander of Hizbul Mujahideen Naveed Babu, Rafi Ahmad Rather and advocate Irfan Shafi Mir when their car was intercepted by the Jammu and Kashmir Police near Qazigund.

A search of the vehicle led to the recovery of an AK-47 rifle, three pistols and a cache of ammunition and explosives.

The NIA took over the case on January 17, 2020 and subsequently filed a 3,064-page charge sheet under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday

arrested seven people for their

alleged involvement in poison-

ing a fish farm in South Kash-

On February 13, Police Post

Lassipora received a written

complaint from Manzoor Ahmad

Mir claiming that some unknown

persons have mixed some poi-

sonous substance in water due to

which thousands of fish died in

his fish farm at Bathnoor area of Litter, Pulwama, a police spokes-

Accordingly, he said, a case

vide FIR No. 9/2023 under rel-

evant sections of law was reg-

mir's Pulwama district.

person said Saturday.

7 People Held For Poisoning

OLICE POST

Fish Farm In Pulwama

sections of the Indian Penal Code against Singh and five others. The agency gave a detailed description of Singh's involvement in providing shelter to Hizbul Mujahideen militants.

Besides Singh, who was dismissed from service on May 20, 2021, others named in the charge sheet are Babu, his brother Syed Irfan Ahmad, Rather, Mir and businessman Tanveer Ahmad Wani, a former president of the Line of Control Traders Association.

The NIA spokesperson said the agency seized the three cars on Wednesday under Section 25(1) of the UAPA.

"These vehicles were used by accused persons for the furtherance of terror activities in Kashmir Valley.

"Investigations have revealed that the Hyundai i20 owned and used by accused Mir, Maruti 800 registered in the name of Mushtag Ahmad Shah and used by his son (Naveed Babu), and Hyundai i20 Sportz registered and used by Wani were used for terror activities in Kashmir Valley," the spokesperson said.

istered at Police Station Litter

and investigation was initiated.

gation, the spokesperson said,

police took aid of technical and

human resources and zeroed in

to fore that seven persons have

used Bleaching Powder for

catching fishes at Canal, which

acted as source of water for the

said farm, due to which farm

Subsequently, he said, all the

7 accused persons involved in

the commission of crime have

been arrested and shifted to

police station where they re-

"During questioning, it came

on some suspects.

fish died," he said.

main in custody.

During the course of investi-

DEVOTEES WAIT IN QUEUE TO PAY obeisance at Shankaracharya temple, overlooking the Dal Lake, on the festival of Maha Shivratri on Saturday. KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

# **J&K On Path Of Socio-Economic Development: Union Minister**

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

IAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing unprecedented socio- economic development under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister Pashupati Kumar Paras said on Saturday.

sectors.

tive and held a series of meetings with various delegations.

dented socio-economic development across all sectors, be it education, healthcare facilities, seamless online services, power upgradation, road network, 24x7 piped water supply

schemes being launched and



implemented by his ministry, Paras said these are a stepping stone towards achieving the prime minister's dream of an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' besides boosting the concept of 'Vocal For Local'.

avail the benefit of schemes like Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLIS-FPI) and mini food parks which is providing a boost to growth of the food processing sector in the country.

Deputations of District Deof Bari-Brahmana and Samba,

# **Muslim Couple** Joins Mahashivratri **Celebration In Kashmir**

#### Press Trust Of India

MATTAN: A Muslim couple from Rajasthan were among the dozens of devotees who offered water to the Hindu god Shiva at Martand Sun Temple in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district on the occasion of Mahashivratri on Saturday.

"It's an auspicious occasion for both Hindus (Mahashivratri) and Muslims (Shab-e-Me'raj) and it is not as if we Mohammedans (Muslims) cannot visit a temple, Zoya Khan, who hails from Kurukshetra in Haryana, told PTI here.

"It is a day of prayers for us and today is Shivratri. We thought we will see how they celebrate it here," Zoya, who is married to Faizan Khan from Rajasthan, said.

"I have offered water to Shivji. It is considered good for couples. My mother has also told me about it. We are Muslims but we like this tradition. So we follow it," she added.

Zoya said before coming to Kashmir, she was under the impression that there is com-

and Muslims in the valley. "Before we came here, we thought there might be Hindu-Muslim communal tension but there is nothing like that. There is no discrimination on the basis of religion. People would not come to know about this until they visit it," she added.

The festival was also celebrated at the Shankaracharya temple at Dalgate in Srinagar city.

"I came here to take part in Shivratri Puja with my uncle as a Pandit. We started Puja at 3 am. This temple is important as Shakracharaya meditated here. He also carried Shivling on his shoulders and put it here," Shubam from Jammu said.

Rakesh Raina, a Kashmiri pandit, was among the devotees who joined the puja in the middle of the night.

"We pray and wish that Lord Shiva bestow his blessings on all so that disasters, like what happened in Turkey recently, do not recur," Raina said.

Jyoti, a tourist from Mumbai, was impressed with the arrangements made for the Puja. "We had darshan here, the managemunal tension between Hindus ment here is very good," she said.

## **Audit Report Of BGSBU Reveals Financial** Irregularities

#### Violation Of Procurement Norms Also Pointed Out

SRINAGAR: A special audit report of the Jammu and Kashmir government regarding Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU) Rajouri, has pointed out large-scale financial irregularities and violation of norms on account of procurements made by the

university. According to the Special Audit Report of Directorate of Audit and Inspections, sent to Higher Education Department, I&K Government has made several observations and recommendations in respect of working of the University based on the examination of records.

While taking review of the establishment section of the University, the

Audit team observed that serfrom the salaries and is credited into a separate bank account no.894 in



Food Processing Industries Associations, and artisans of Handicrafts and Handloom met the minister and presented a memorandum of their demands. Paras also interacted with a group of youths under C-

He called upon the locals to

velopment Council members, Chairman Block Development Council, Industrial Associations

#### Agencies of loss, fraud or embezzlement," the audit report has observed.

The Audit report has also raised queries over management of Welfare Fund being utilised by the University authorities saying that the payments out of the welfare fund were released and sanctioned as "Grant-in-Aid" to the employees who are suffering from serious illness.

"However, no specific guidelines in respect of payments from the welfare fund have been laid down by the University and thus the payments made out of the Fund could not be verified in absence of specific guidelines," it reads.

The Audit has also revealed that welfare fund @ Rs.100 per employee is being deducted



Interacting with various delegations in Samba district, the Minister for Food Processing Industries said the 140 crore

population of the country is witnessing equitable growth and development across all

Paras was in Samba district as part of the central government's public outreach initia-

"Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Modi, J&K is witnessing unpreceopment. The 140 crore people of the country are witnessing equitable growth and devel-

and others," the minister said. Elaborating on various

## Lal Singh Terms Eviction Drive A 'Criminal Act'

Says Admin Has No Mandate To Take **Decision Rendering People Homeless** 

#### Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Criticising an anti-encroachment drive being carried out in Jammu and Kashmir to retrieve State land, Dogra Swabhiman Sangathan Party (DSSP) president Lal Singh on Saturday said the lieutenant governor-led administration has no mandate to take such a decision that is rendering people "homeless and jobless".

Singh also alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is deliberately delaying the Assembly polls in the Union Territory as it is afraid of facing the voters, who are angry with its policies.

This is not an anti-encroachment drive, but a criminal act under which they are harassing the public and taking away their land, demolishing homes and businesses. The LG-led administration is the encroacher here and not the public," Singh, a former Jammu and Kashmir minister, told reporters here.

The DSSP president, who recently launched the "Jan Sampark Abhivan" from Kathua to mobilise people against the government's "wrong policies", said "they (BJP) have defamed the people of Jammu and Kashmir by accusing us of

being encroachers on state land". He asked the Union Territory administration to make the names of the alleged land grabbers public.

"They are indulging in such types of actions to deviate the attention of the public who are angry with the policies of the central government. The LG's rule should have ended within a year, but they are afraid of facing the voters who are angry with them," Singh said.

"They (BJP) disintegrated and downgraded Jammu and Kashmir and took away the rights that were given to us by the Constitution. People have not given them a mandate but they are using the LG-led administration to continue their rule. They stand exposed before the public," he added.

## ANTI-ENCROACHMENT DRIVE **People Have Realised How Art-370 Protected J&K: Mehbooba**

**Press Trust Of India** 

**SRINAGAR:** PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday said the people of Jammu and Kashmir have now come to realise how Article 370 of the Constitution acted as a protective shield for them, after the BJP-led government used bulldozers to demolish houses and

businesses of the poor. She also defended her father Mufti Mohammad Sayeed's decision to join hands with the BJP to form the government in Jammu and Kashmir after the 2014 Assembly polls, saying the PDP patriarch had successfully "caged the beast".

"When Article 370 was abrogated, some people thought it would only affect the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and the National Conference (NC). When the bulldozers came to demolish our homes, businesses and even the shelters for



our domestic animals, people realised how Article 370 was a protection for us," Mufti said at a function of her party here.

Defending Sayeed's decision to ally with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for government formation after the 2014 Assembly polls, the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said her father had caged the beast and stopped it from wreaking havoc.

"No one understands that Mufti sahib had caged the beast. He had caged the BJP," she said. Mufti said after winning three seats in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, the PDP had ex-

pected to win 43 Assembly seats in Jammu and Kashmir, but won only 28, while the BJP bagged 25 seats in Jammu.

DYTE, women Sarpanch,

weavers, artisans and took

feedback regarding imple-

mentation of various govern-

ment schemes on ground, an

The delegations appreciated

the government's outreach

programme especially for J&K

and said the commitment of

the central government to-

wards development of the

Union Territory with its nu-

merous innovative steps are

yielding tangible results.

official spokesman said.

'It took Mufti sahib three months (to form the government). We have been accused of bringing the BJP into Jammu and Kashmir but how would one stop them? They had the

majority in Parliament, they won the majority in Jammu and also, two seats in Kupwara.

"Mufti sahib grabbed the BIP's hand so that he could stop them. For one year, Mufti sahib was the chief minister and I was the chief minister for two years. We implemented our agenda, the Jammu and Kashmir agenda," she said.

Mufti claimed that she would have continued to be the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir even today had she followed the BJP's line. "Since I did not, they pulled out of the government," she said.

vice records of employees were not being maintained and updated as per the prescribed procedures.

"It has also been observed that some of the

important positions of the University are being manned by the re-employed teachers working in the University in contrary to the UGC model guidelines for re-employment," the Audit report reads, adding that a superannuated re-employed teacher shall not be eligible for holding administrative or financial responsibilities at the institution or elsewhere.

The Audit has revealed that Prof Parvez Iqbal, Retired Faculty Dean Academic affairs and co-ordinator of TEQIP-III after attaining superannuation on June 30 of 2018 is still holding various administrative and financial powers.

"Assignment of financial powers to superannuated reemployed officers is fraught with risks in view of lack of accountability, absence of deterrence of the service codes or any mechanism for recovery in case

Bank BGSBU as Welfare Fund Account.

Audit The report has observed that some of the purchases were made by University the during the pe-

riod under enquiry in contravention to the codal provisions. "For the procurement of 200 student desks, the supply order issued to the firm is that of steel desk and the survey committee also submitted its report that goods so purchased are as per the quantity and specifications mentioned in the supply order. But the bill of payment provided by the supplier indicates that

the desks are made of wood instead of steel which is contrary to the terms and conditions of the supply order and grave financial malfeasance, causing loss to the Exchequer," it reads. The Audit report has also re-

vealed that the multi-media projector and projection screen have been purchased in contravention of the norms. "The maker of the product so procured has not been mentioned either in the supply order or in the bills of payment," it reads—(KNO)

#### WINTER CARNIVAL 2023

# DC Bandipora Flags Off Trekking Expedition To Datwas Meadows

#### **Observer News Service**

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Dr Owais Ahmad flagged off a group of adventure lovers for treking expedition to Detwas meadows in surinder valley of the district, an official spokesperson said Saturday..

The expedition was part of the Winter Carnival 2023. In its second phase, the festival is being celebrated at Surinder- a picturesque valley in Arin Block

with an aim to explore the potential of the area for winter

tourism and winter sports. Hundreds of adventure loving youngsters from across the District converged at mini-secretariat Bandipora where from they started their journey to Surinder village and then a trek to Datwas meadows.

As part of the ongoing Winter Carnival, Bandipora District Administration organized a first of its kind Snow festival at Serinder. The festival evoked



tremendous response from not only the locals of the area but from adventure lovers as well. The locals were jubilant and lauded the district administration for conducting the first ever winter festival at Serinder. Colorful local Gojri cultural

performances, snow sports activities like Sheen Jung(Snow fight), snow kabaddi, trekking, camping, photography and display of local cuisine were the main highlights of the day.

On the directions of District Development Commissioner Bandipora the event was presided over by ADC Bandipora Waseem Raja who was also overall incharge of the event.

Earlier the local tribal community welcomed the Participants including ADC Bandipora

with traditional songs and in their local attires. Among the various prominent persons attending the grand event include Officers from Police, Army and civil departments like Rural Development, Forest, Industries, Fisheries, Education, Youth Service & Sports. Besides, the local DDC, BDC members present in the event appreciated the role of District administration for organizing the first winter festival at Serinder. A delegation from Tourism Travel trade including social media influencers headed by renowned Adventure Tour Operator attended the event and assured the administration and locals that they will ensure promotion of the area and will bring large number of tourists to Serinder in coming months.

The event was organised in collaboration with Ali Sports Academy Bandipora, Departments of Rural Development, Forest, Education, YSS, Fisheries etc.

# <u>SPORTS</u>

# Axar, Ashwin Lead India Fightback After Lyon's Five-For On Exciting Day 2

#### Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Axar Patel and Ravichandran Ashwin added another significant chapter to India's lower-order fightbacks as their priceless 114-run eighth-wicket partnership put the hosts on an even keel against Australia on an engrossing second day of the second Test here on Saturday.

Thanks to Axar's invaluable 74 off 115 balls and Ashwin's 37 off 71 balls, India, who were in complete mess at 139/7, recovered well to end their first innings at 262 in 83.3 overs, just one run behind Australia's 263.

At stumps, Australia were 61/1 in their second innings, taking a handy 62-run lead.

Had the two all-rounders not bailed the hosts out, Australia would have been far more happy than they actually were at stumps on Saturday. Travis Head (39 batting), opening for a concussed



David Warner, and Marnus Labuschagne (16 batting) attacked the Indian spinners, knowing that defending wasn't an option. They picked up a handful of boundaries in the process.

As has been the script over

the past few years, batter No.6 (Jadeja), No.8 (Ashwin) and No.9 (Axar) were at the forefront of the recovery act after specialist batters were caught in two minds on whether to attack or defend against the Australian spinners

led by Nathan Lyon (5/67 in 29 overs), who grabbed his 22nd five-wicket haul.

There were no demons in the track but a few cracks on the good- and short-of-good-length spots on both sides of the strip led the ball to keep low.

Most top-order India batters were adjudged leg-before on the front-foot, barring skipper Rohit Sharma, who was bowled playing across the line. The worrying trend was India batters playing the Australian spinners with their pads as the first line of defence.

However, Axar and Ashwin applied the strategy to consistently counter-attack the bowlers despite the fall of seven wickets. Instead of plonking the front-foot forward, they used the pace of the deliveries from Todd Murphy (2/53 in 18 overs) and debutant left-arm spinner Matt Kuhnemann (2/72 in 21.3 overs), to score runs.

# Footballer Christian Atsu Found Dead In Turkey Earthquake

At the moment, his be-

longings are still being re-

moved," manager Murat

Uzunmehmet told private

Atsu joined Turkish club

news agency DHA.

#### Agencies

Christian Atsu, the Ghana international forward who played for Premier League clubs Chelsea and Newcastle, has died in the earthquake in Turkey. He was 31.

Search teams recovered Atsu's body in the ruins of a luxury 12-story building where he had been living in the city of Antakya, Hatay province, his manager said Saturday.

"Atsu's lifeless body was found under the rubble.

Hatayspor in September and scored the winning goal for his new team in a league game at home against Kasimpaşa S.K. on Feb. 5, just hours before the earthquake struck in the pre-dawn hours of Feb. 6.

Antakya, the city where Hatayspor is based, is in the southern region of Turkey hardest hit by the earthquake.

The death toll from the 7.8-magnitude quake in southeastern Turkey and northern Syria passed 43,000 on Friday.

Announcing Free Medical Camp On		
SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2023		
ENDOCRINOLOGY	CARDIOLOGY	GYNAE & OBS
DR. ABID RASOOL MBBS, MD,DM Endocriology (Skims) Expert in Adult & Pediatric Endocrinology	DR. HAKIM IRFAN SHOWKAT MBBS, MD, DNB (cardiologist) FACC (USA) FAPSIC (Singapore), AFESC (Europe)	DR. MUFEED BHAT MBBS, DGO, DNB/MO, MNAMS Fellowship in Infertility, Laparoscopic Gynaecology
UROLOGY	GASTROENTEROLOGY	ORTHOPAEDICS
Dr. Shahid Hamid MBBS, MS , DNB Urology Dr Malik Suhail MBBS , MS, MCH	DR. HAMZA WANI MBBS, MS,DNB(S.Gastroenterology DR.MOHD MUZZAFER MIR MBBS, MS,DNB	DR. KHURSHID AHMAD MBBS, MS ORTHO FELLOWSHIP IN JOINT REPLACEMENT SURGERY
ALLERGY & SLEEP	DENTISTRY	PAEDIATRICS
Dr. Ghulam Hassan MD Internal Medicine) DTCD (Respiratory Medicine). DAA (Allergy) FSM IB (Sleep Medicine) FNCCP, FCCP, FRCP (Glasgow)	<b>Dr. Aijaz Naik</b> MDS Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery. Fellowship AOCMF, AOCID	DR. AEJAZ AHMAD MBBS, DCH, DNB (PAEDIATRIC) CHILD SPECIALIST
		CHILD SPECIALIST
RHEUMOTOLOGY	ONCOLOGY	PSYCHIATRY
RHEUMOTOLOGY DR. ARSHID BASHIR MBBS (SKIMS), PGC. RHEUMATOLOGY (ESOR) EUROPEAN CERTIFICATE	ONCOLOGY DR. AB WAHEED DAR MBBS, MD Radiation Oncology	
DR. ARSHID BASHIR MBBS (SKIMS), PGC. RHEUMATOLOGY (ESOR)	DR. AB WAHEED DAR MBBS, MD	PSYCHIATRY DR. MIR HUMAYUN MAJEED MBBS DNB NEURO Psychiatry
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# Real Kashmir Beats Mohammedan Sporting In A 3-2 Thriller At Home

#### **Observer News Service**

**SRINAGAR:** Real Kashmir FC left it late as the team recorded a comeback 3-2 win against Mohammedan Sporting Club in I-League on Saturday at Synthetic Turf TRC here. The visitors led the tie

twice, but the Snow Leopards proved they are no push overs.

Mirlan Murzaev gave Mohammedan SC the lead in the 14th minute, before Real Kashmir's Samuel Kynshi equalised in the 24th with an exquisite finish. Christy Davis then restored the Black Panthers' lead in the 33rd minute, which the 131-yearold Kolkata-based club maintained till half time.

However, Real Kashmir



midfielder Kynshi had other plans as barely three minutes into the second half, the 22-year-old brought his side on equal terms by scoring his second goal of the match. Ghanian striker Boateng had just been substituted onto the field when he scored the winning header with his first touch of the match. The win sees Real Kashmir

With four minutes of normal time remaining, Kynshi turned provider and sent a delightful ball towards Ernest Boateng. Real Kashmir's Aizawl FC on February 21.



Karachi police chief's office on Friday evening, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Najam Sethi said.

PSL Will Not Be Affected By Terrorist Attack: PCB

Agencies

Sethi said the matches would continue as presidential security has been in place for the players and officials since the start of the league.

"The PSL matches will continue as per schedule. All the players are being well looked after," he said. Another board official said the security agencies and government had also given clearance for the PSL matches to continue in Karachi.

"The incident which happened yesterday is unrelated to the PSL," he said.

Two matches of the PSL are scheduled at the National Stadium on Saturday and Sunday and security has been beefed up at the team hotel and match venue. (PTI)



♥ JK BANK LAWNS, NEAR GHAT 6, BOULEVARD-SRINAGAR