13 Ramazan 1444 | Tuesday 04 April 2023 | Srinagar | Vol: 26 | Issue: 84 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

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## **Father Held For Gruesome Murder Of Minor Girl**

**Press Trust Of India** 

**Srinagar:** Police have arrested a man for allegedly suffocating her nine-year-old daughter to death and then slitting her throat in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said on Monday.

"Mohammad Iqbal Khatana was arrested last week for the March 29 killing of his minor daughter," a senior police officer told reporters in Kupwara, about 100 kilometres from here.

Narrating the sequence of events, he said Khatana's relations with his wife, Nageena Begum, were strained for the last one year and they would often

"On the day of the crime, Khatana, a taxi driver by profession, had a heated argument with his wife in the morning. After returning from work in the evening, he took a kitchen knife with the intention of committing

While the accused was leaving the house on the pretext of getting a punctured tyre fixed, his daughter (name withheld) asked

him for Rs 5.

"Khatana gave her a Rs 10 currency note. His wife followed him up to the courtyard. However, my daughter followed her father up to the main road," the officer said.

The other members of the family, including the girl's mother, presumed that the girl had gone with her father.

"Khatana took his daughter in his vehicle and drove around for more than an hour, waiting for the roads to get deserted so that he could kill himself.

"As people left for Taraweeh, he drove his vehicle to Her-Khurhama, near a transformer, where he halted the vehicle. There, out of mental anguish due to domestic issues with his wife, he suffocated his daughter for



A boatman ferries a family to their houseboat inside Srinagar's Dal Lake on a rainy Monday afternoon. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

### **Widespread Rain Predicted** In J&K

**Agencies** 

**Srinagar:** The weather department here on Monday forecast fairly widespread light to moderate rain and thunderstorms over Jammu and Kashmir during the next 24 hours.

A meteorological department official said here on Monday that fairly widespread to scattered light rain and thunderstorms was expected during the subsequent two days in J&K.

Regarding rainfall dur-ing the last 24 hours till 0830 hours today, the MeT official said, Srinagar received 0.3mm, Qazigund 00mm, Pahalgam traces, Kupwara Kokernag traces Gulmarg 1.2mm and Jammu 0.2mm.

Regarding temperature, the MeT official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 7.9°C against 6.7°C on the previous night and it was 1.5°C above normal for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 5.1°C against 3.5°C on the previous night while the tourst resort of Pahalgam recorded a low of 3.0°C against 2.7°C on the previous night. More on P6



## **Rahul Gandhi Gets Bail In Defamation Case**

Hearing On Conviction Stay On Apr 13

**Press Trust Of India** 

Surat- A sessions court in Surat city on Monday granted bail to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi after he filed an appeal against his conviction in a criminal defamation case over his 2019 "Modi surname" remark in which he has been sentenced to two years in jail, a lawyer said.

The court of Additional s Judge R P Mogera said it will hear his plea for suspension of conviction on April 13 after issuing a notice to complainant Purnesh Modi, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA More on P6

## **Corona Ghost Returns: DHSK Urges Precautions As Cases Slightly Surge**

**Majid Nabi** 

**Srinagar:** The administration is bracing up to tackle a possible new wave of coronavirus, as positive cases have started showing an upwards trend in Jammu and Kashmir over the last few days.

Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK) on Monday urged people to follow Covid-19 appropriate behavior (CAB) conscientiously, following a steep rise in the number of cases since last week.

On Monday, 40 more people in J&K tested positive for Coronavirus, 21 in parts of Jammu division and the remaining 19 from various parts of the Kashmir Valley.

There are 166 active cases in the union territory, 41 in Jammu division and 125 in Kashmir division while the number of recoveries so far



has been 474848, officials said.

Moreover, 21 Covid-19 patients recovered during the time, 03 from Jammu Division and 18 from Kashmir, they said.

Talking to Kashmir Observer. DHSK Spokesman, Dr Mir Mushtag Ahmad said there was a slight increase in positive cases over the last few days. However, he quickly added that there was no need to panic and following CAB was the only key

to defeat the virus.

"There's nothing to worry about at this point of time. All we need to do is to follow Covid appropriate behavior,"

He also urged people to conduct necessary testing and get isolated immediately in case they develop any symptoms.

Regarding the probability of a peak in Covid-19 anytime soon, the More on P6

# Gujarati Conman To Be Probed For Rs 18L 'Fraud'

Court Orders Police To Investigate Srinagar Resident's Complaint

Agencies

Srinagar- A court in Srinagar has ordered "preliminary enquiry" into an application by a resident of Rambagh Srinagar, alleging defrauding of Rs 18 Lakh by three persons including Kiranbhai Patel who posed as a PMO official and enjoyed high security protocols prior to his arrest last month.

"From the contents of application as well as from the material on record, it appears that the complainant has been cheated by the accused and on false pretensions has been made to pay amount of Rs 18 lakhs in two installments at Pratap Park Srinagar and Chai Jai Restaurant Srinagar," court of City Judge

Srinagar said. "In view of the nature of



allegations leveled against the accused, it appears that cause of justice will be reserved if concerned police station is directed to conduct detailed P.E (preliminary enquiry) before forma investigation for veracity of the facts projected in the application," the court said in an order, and directed the SHO of Police Station Kothibagh More on P6

## **Home Dept Made 'Inadmissible'** Payment Of Rs 1.58 Cr To JKP

Police Personnel Not Deployed For Election Duties Given One Month Additional Salary: CAG

Agencies

**Srinagar:** The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) report has pointed out that the Home Department paid one month additional salary to 483 Police personnel who were not deployed for Municipal and Panchayat election duties.

In its report, which was tabled in the Parliament recently, the CAG has pointed out that the irregularity by the department resulted in inadmissible payment of Rs 1.58 crore to the police personnel.

The CAG in its latest report has stated that the General Administration Department I&K in December 2018 accorded sanction for payment of onemonth additional salary to the



employees who were deployed for conduct of Municipal or Panchayat elections in 2018.

The CAG has pointed out that after doing the audit scrutiny of records of six Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) of Home department s from December 2020 More on P6

#### **Takes Note Of Delay In Filing UCs Of Funds**

aking serious note of the delay in filing of utilisation certificates (UC) of funds in Jammu and Kashmir, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has called for timely submission of the UCs and necessary steps to ensure adjustment of the advances drawn on the Abstract Contingent (AC) bills within the stipulated period. In its report on the Union Territory Finances for the year ended March 31, 2022, the CAG also called for timely

preparation and More on P6

### **Record 1.4 Million Migratory Birds Visited Kashmir This Winter**

**Press Trust Of India** 

Srinagar: A record 13 to 14 lakh birds from eastern Europe and Central Asia visited the wetlands of Kashmir this winter, a senior official of the Wildlife department said here.

The significant increase in the bird arrivals, which came to the fore during a census carried out by the wildlife department, was due to the efforts to restore and rejuvenate the wetlands, which form the winter home for these winged guests.

'We have seen a remarkable increase in the number of certain species of birds and the results are encouraging, especially with regard to the areas that used to be the primary habitats of these migratory birds, such as Hokersar, Hygam and Shallabugh," Chief Wildlife Warden Rashid Nagash said.

He said an estimated 13 lakh to 14 lakh migratory



birds visited the wetlands of Kashmir, including areas protected by the wildlife department as well as those falling outside its jurisdiction.

"If we compare this number to the previous years -- the last three to four decades -- this is the highest recorded number," Nagash added.

Most of the birds seen at the wetlands are ducks and other

waders and water birds.

The officer said the Wullar Conservation Management Authority has done some good work in terms of improving the habitat by restoring the critically-silted areas, which has attracted a large number of migratory birds.

Wullar earlier used to be recognised as one of the biggest areas in terms of hosting a high number of migratory birds. But this time, we saw that the birds that used to arrive at these wetlands or the Wullar lake 30 to 40 years ago also made a comeback. Even some birds, such as long-tailed ducks and skimmers, were seen after decades," he added.

Asked if the Russia-Ukraine war had any correlation to the rise in the number of avian visitors, Nagash said there was no unusual pattern in the arrival or departure of the birds.

"Regarding the timing of their arrival or departure, it seems quite normal in our wetlands. Any theory on a good number of bird arrivals needs to be supported with solid scientific data," he added.

Sajid Farooq, who is a range officer (lakes), said the department has devised a five-year programme for the rejuvenation of the wetlands.

"In protected More on P6

#### **LG Greets People On Mahavir Jayanti**

he Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday greeted the people on the auspicious occasion of Mahavir Jayanti.

In a message, the Lt Governor said

that Bhagwan Mahavir's ideals of truth, sacrifice, non-violence and right conduct, inspire all to lead a life of compassion and harmony. "May this Mahavir Jayanti festival strengthen our commitment to lead a virtuous life and bring peace, prosperity and happiness to all," Sinha added. More on P6

#### **Arms Cache Recovered Near IB**

olice on Monday recovered a cache of arms and explosive materials from a package suspected to have been airdropped by a drone from across the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, officials said. The package — found early on Monday near the railway line in Rakh Barotiya - contained, among others, three China-made pistols and grenades, they said. Additional Superintendent of Police (Samba) More on P6

#### **Woman Dies After Falling From Train**

S H O

woman aged around 35 years died after she fell from a Adled after sile reinforma Kashmir's Samba district, an official said on Monday. The unidentified woman fell down from the Jammu Mail Express on the railway track near Vijaypur on Sunday evening, the Government Railway Police (GRP) official said, adding that she died on the spot. He said the body was shifted to the Government Medical College Hospital in Jammu for post-mortem

and identification. More on P6

#### TAK **Interview Of Haj Trainers Today**

Е

he J&K Haj Committee will hold an interview of the candidates, who have applied for selection as Haj Trainer for the upcoming annual pilgrimage to Mecca, on Tuesday at Haj House Bemina. According to the notification of J&K Haj Committee, the interview of eligible candidates of Kashmir Division will be conducted on Tuesday at Haj House Bemina, Srinagar from 10:30 am, an official spokesperson said. He said that the interview of the candidates from More on P6

#### **Multi-Storey Building Gutted In Fire**

multi-storied building, housing six shops and 19 rooms, was gutted in fire in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, officials said. The incident happened in the building located in the main market Bhalla, 15 km from Bhaderwah town, at around 1.40 pm, they said. The building was damaged in the fire but its occupants escaped unhurt, the officials said. "The cause of the fire was not known immediately," Sub Divisional Police Officer More on P6

#### **Gram Rozgar Sevak Falls In ACB Net**

he sleuths of anti-corruption bureau (ACB) on Monday arrested a government employee for demanding and accepting a bribe for release of bill for construction of the spring in Kulgam district of South Kashmir. ACB received a complaint alleging that Ajaz Ahmad Mir, Gram Rozgar Sevak, Block Damhal Hanjipora was demanding a bribe of Rs 7,000 for processing / forwarding the demand of labour money with regards to a project namely Bhuhi Naag at Reshipora, a Bureau More on P6

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm) No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir KASHMIR OBSERVER Srinagar | Tuesday | 04-04-2023

## **'Tightly Twisted Core Of Stem Of SARS-CoV-2 Spike Protein Made Its Variants Fit'**

Press Trust Of India

'tighter' core of the stem of the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein could be the reason for the enhanced fitness of the virus's mutant strains, according to a new research.

Researchers from Pennsylvania State University, US, said that the Omicron variant's stem is as rigid as it can get. This could mean, they said in a study, that newer vaccines may be effective for longer than the ones targeting the original variant.

'We found that the spike protein was initially more flexible at the stem region, which is where the spike protein is bundled together, but over time, mutations caused the protein to become progressively tighter and more rigid, and we think it's now as rigid as it can get," said Ganesh Anand, study author and associate professor of chemistry and of biochemistry and

The study is published in the jour-

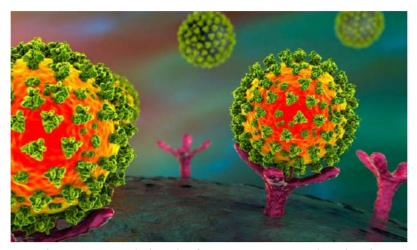
nal eLife.

A technique called amide hydrogen/deuterium exchange mass spectrometry was used to study how the spike protein changed with each of the ew variants.

Explaining the structure of the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein, Anand said that it is composed of three chain molecules called monomers that are bound together to form a trimer. Two subunits, S1 and S2 make up the spike protein, with S1 containing a receptor binding domain, and S2 containing the stem region bundling the trimer.

"It is analogous to a tree, with the stem forming the trunk and the receptor binding domain forming the anches," said Anand.

The study revealed that the stem first stiffened with the D614G mutation common to all SARS-CoV-2 vari-



ants. The stem progressively twisted with each mutation in subsequent variants, with the Omicron BA.1 variant exhibiting the largest magnitude increase in stabilization.

"We can say that the changes likely made the virus more fit, which could translate to better transmission," said Anand.

"A tighter core could likely make

A tighter core could likely make the virus more stable in nasal droplets and faster at binding to and entering host cells. So, for example, what initially took about 11 days to develop an infection after

the virus more stable in nasal droplets and faster at binding to and entering host cells. So, for example, what initially took about 11 days to develop an infection after exposure now takes

exposure now takes

only about four days

only about four days," said Anand.

Having been generated against the spike protein of the original wild-type variant, Anand said that the vaccines, thus, have not been able to fully neutralise the virus.

"The latest bivalent booster targeting newer variants helps, but people who never got this booster aren't receiving this more targeted protection," he said.

"Future vaccines that focus specifically on Omicron are likely to be effective for longer," said Anand.

Anand said that the spike protein has now become so tightly twisted that it is unlikely to structurally change further at the stem region.

"There are limits to how much it can tighten," he said. "I think that we can have some cautious optimism, in that we're not going to continuously have variants emerging, at least tightening is not going to be a mechanism.'

#### **Faculty of Forestry**

(Division of Natural Resource Management) (Benhama-Watlaar) Ganderbal, J&K-191201

#### ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the positions of JRF, under Wular Conservation and Management Authority, Govt. of J&K funded project entitled "Soil erosion and vulnerability assessment of Wular catchment for planning catchment area treatment through remote sensing and GIS based approach". The application along with brief CV having contact details including mobile number and e-mail ID should reach to the Principal Investigator's Office or through email (akhlaqwani@gmail.com) by or before 13-04-2023. Date of interview shall be communicated to all the eligible candidates through email.

ı	S.	Name of	No of	Duration	Emoluments/	Qualification
ı	No.	the	positions		month	
ı		position				
ı	1	Junior	2	1 year	Rs. 20000/-	Essential:
ı		Research			(consolidated	1. MSc (Forestry/Allied agricultural fields)
ı		Fellow			)	2. BSc/B.Tech (Forestry/Allied agricultural
ı		(JRF)				fields)
ı						Relevant desired qualification/ Relevant
ı						Experience:
ı						Skills in remote sensing and GIS
ı						Relevant higher qualification:
١						PhD in Forest Resource Management/Other

sub-disciplines of Forestry The engagement of the project staff shall be ruled by the following terms and conditions:

- 1) The position is temporary for a period of 1 year or co-terminus with the project. 2) The appointee shall have no claim for absorption in SKUAST-K.
- 3) No TA/DA shall be paid for appearing in the interview.

No: AU/FoF/NRM/2023/352 Dated: 03-04-2023

سيڈ پیتھالوجسٹ کشمیر

Sd/-Dr Akhlaq Amin Wani (Principal Investigator)

حکومت جموں و کشمیر					
زراعت و کسان بهبود	نر سیڈ پیتھا لوجسٹ محکمه	از دفا			
اور ان کا انسداد	<u>فصلوں و سبزیوں کی بیماریاں</u>				
تدارک	بيماريان	فصل	نمبر شماره		
	•				
۔ ۱ ۔ کھیتوں میں پانی کی نکاسی کو یقینی بناءہں۔	سفید زنگ، ڈاؤنی	سرسوں	1		
۲۔ سفید زنگ اور ڈاونی پھپھوندی کے خلاف	پهپهوندی،الٹرنریا				
حفاظتی قدام کے طور پر میٹالیکزاءیل ایم زیڈ ۷۲					
ڈیبلیو پی ۲۰۵ گرام فی لیٹر پانی کے ساتھ ملاکر					
چهڙکاو کريں۔					
۱ ۔اس بات کو یقینی بناءیں که کھیت میں پانی	پتوں کا دھبه، پیلا یا دھاری	گندم	٢		
جمع نه هو۔	دار زنگ				
۲ ۔ زنگ یعنی رسٹ بیماری کے نمودار ہونےکی					
صورت میں پروپیکونازول ۲۵ ای سی بحساب					
۵ملی لیٹر فی ۱۰ لیٹر پانی میں یا هیکساکونوزال					
۵ای سی بحساب ۵ ملی لیٹر فی ۱۰ لیٹر پانی میں					
ملاكر چهڙكاو كرين۔					
۔ ۱۔ مٹر میں گھاس پھوس کونکال کر کھیت کو	پائتهیم سیڈ اور سیڈلنگ	مٹر	٣		
صاف کریں۔	روٹ				
۲۔ولٹ بیماری یا جڑوں کی سڑن کی یا پودے مرجانے					
کی صورت میں کار بینڈازیم ۵۰ ڈبلیو پی بحساب					
۱ گرام فی لیٹر پانی میں یا میٹالیکزاءیل ایم زیڈ ۷۲					
ڈیبلیو پی ۲۰۵ گرام فی لیٹر پانی کے ساتھ ملاکرپودں کی جڑوں کو تر لیں۔					
ملا درپودن بی جرون دو در بین۔ ااگر بیماری نمودار ہو تو هیکزاکونوزال ۱۵ی سی	ليف بلائث	\ = \	۴		
احر بیماری تمودار بهو تو هیگراتوتوران ۱۵ی سی بحساب ۵ ملی لیٹر فی ۱۰ لیٹر پانی میں ملاکر	نیف بردت	(جئی (چارہ	'		
بخشاب تا می تیبر فی ۱۰ تیبر پایی می <i>ن مار</i> در چهڙکاو کرين					
پہرہ و حریں ۱۔ رویاءی سے پہلے پنیری کو کپٹان ۵۰ڈبلیویی	پنیری کو زمین میں نکلنے سے	سبزیاں	۵		
بحساب ۳ گرام فی لیٹر پانی میں یا میٹالیکزاءیل	پیری تو رمین میں تعلق آپ قبل اور بعد میں ڈیمینگ آپ	المجروع ا			
ایم زید ۷۲ ڈیبلیو پی ۲۰۵ گرام فی لیٹر پانی یا	اورجڑوں کی سڈن				
کاربینڈازم ۱۲% مینکوزب٪ ۶۳ ڈبلیویی	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0				
بحساب ڈھای گرام فی لیٹر پانی میں ملا کر محلول					
بنا کرینیری کو ۱۵۔ ۱۰منٹ تک ڈبو دیں ۔					
۲ ۔ کھڑی فصلوں کو میٹالیکزاءیل آیم زیڈ ۷۲					
ڈیبلیو پی ۲۰۵ گرام فی لیٹر پانی کے ساتھ ملاکر					
چهڑکاو کریں یا پودوں کو (ڑرینچ) سوک لیں					
المشتهر					
DIPK-49	9/23				

dated: 03-04-2023

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

My mother's name has been wronlgy written in my school records as Rifat Banoo while her correct name is Rifat Ara which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the TIA Public School Asnoor Noorabad Kulgam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Maimeena Noor D/o Nisar Ahmad Padder

R/o Reshnagri Shopian

COURT OF THE 2nd ADDITIONAL MUNSIFF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS AT SRINAGAR

(PROCLAMATION REQUIRING OBJECTIONS FROM GENERAL PUBLIC) CNR: JKSG03-008681-2023 Date of filing 29.03.2023

Mohammad Aslam Bhat S/o Ghulam Mohammad Bhat R/o Wazir Bagh Srinagar

Versus

...Applicant

Applicant.

Registrar, Births and Deaths, SMC Srinagar

NON-Applicant WHEREAS an application has been made before this court that Ghulam Mohammad Bhat S/o Gul Mommad bhat R/o Wazir Bagh, Srinagar has died on 25.02.2001 and the applicant has sought a direction from this court for registration of the death particulars of Ghulam Mohammad Bhat, in the concerned Register of Births and Deaths.

Proclamation is hereby made that the any person having any objection(s) to this application may appear before this Court (or before me) to file objections within 07 days of this publication. Dated, this 29th day of March 2023.

(AHTZAZ AHMED) 2nd Addl. Munsiff (JMIC) Srinagar

## Before The Hon'ble Court Of

Judge Small Cause At Srinagar.

W/o.Abdul Hameed Kak

Registrar,

R/o. Khawaja Bazar, Srinagar

Births and Deaths, S.M.C. Srinagar.

Non-Applicant. In The Matter Of: Application for recording the date of birth of the applicant's son.

1. That the date of birth of the applicant's son has not so far been recorded in the records of Non-applicant as is evident from the NOC issued by non-applicant enclosed with this application. 2. That the applicant wishes to get the date of birth be recorded in the record of non-applicant and solicits application accordingly-

3. That this application is supported by duly sworn Affidavit In The Premises It Is Therefore, prayed that the Non-Appli-

cant be directed to record the following ''particulars of the applicant. Name of the born person Inavat Ahmad Kak

sex	Male
Father's Name	Abdul Hameed Kak
Mother's Name	Amina
Date of birth	19.08.2007
Residence	Khawaja Bazar, Srinagar.
Place of Birth	Khawaja Bazar, Srinagar
	, , o nj_i

ازعدالت چیف جوڈ بیش مجسٹریٹ سب جج سر بیگر

بااجلاس راجامجم تسلیم
طاریق احمد بت ولدعبدل شید بٹ ساکنہ رجٹرار برتھس ایٹڈ ڈیستھس
سوزیٹھ گوری پورہ سرینگر (سائل) بنام ایس۔ایم۔ی سرینگر درخواست بمراداندراج كرنے تاریخ پیدائش آزال عمران طاريق تاريخ پيدائش 2014-06-06 قيصرطاريق تاريخ پيدائش 2014-04-06 آرزُوطار کی تاریخ پیدائش 2016-07-0 اشتهار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام معامله مندجي عنوان الصدر مين سائل اسائله نے عدالت بذامين ايك درخواست بشمول حلفي بغرض

اندارج کرنے تاریخ پیدائش دائر کی ہے۔ لہذاعوام الناس کوبذر بعداشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے كنبيت درخواست سائل اسائله منظور ہونے میں کوئی عذریا اعتراض ہونے كى صورت میں عدالت میں آ کر مور د2023-04-12 تک پیش کرے۔بعد گزرنے معیاد كوئى عذريااعتراض قابل قبول نهيس ہوگا۔ تح برالصد2023-04-03

### Public Notice

I want to change the name on electricity bill bearing consumer id no: 0206050004809 from Ali Mohammad Khan S/O Gh Mohammad Khan R/O Sharief Abad to Gh Hassan Khan S/o: Ali Mohammad Khan R/O: Sharief Abad Budgam . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Afte rthat no objection shall be entertained. Gh Hassan Khan

S/o: Ali Mohammad Khan

R/O: Sharief Abad Budgam

.(..Respondent(s)

#### IN THE HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH AT SRINAGAR CM No. 1636/2023 in

WP(C) No. 691/2023 CM No. 1637/2023

Inhabitants of Garind Khurd through its Chairman (Petitioner)

Through: Mr. Bilal Ahmad Khan, Adv.

UT of JK and Ors.

Through:

HON'BLE MS JUSTICE SINDHU SHARMA. JUDGE

31.03.2023

This writ petition has been titled in representative capacity Application under Order 1 Rule 8 CPC is allowed. Let notice be issued to the respon dents to be published in two daily Newspapers having wide circulation in the area at

the expenses of petitioner. CM No. 1636/2023 is, accordingly, disposed of Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that an identical matter being WP(C) No. 1023/2023 is pending consideration before this Court and the same be heard along

Notice to the respondents in the main petition as well as in CM, returnable within

List along with WP(C) No. 1023/2023 on 29th April. 2023.

In the meanwhile, subject to objections and till next date, in case the eviction proeedings are initiated, the respondents shall not proceed v affording an opportunity of being heard to the petitioner, and till the petitioner is heard, status quo as on date be maintained.

#### BEFORE THE HON'BIE COURT OF PR. DISTRICT JUDGE A T BUDGAM

In the case of:-

Ghulam Ahmad Parray S/o gHULAM rASOOL Parray R/o Nunar Tchsil Khansahib District Budgam.

I. Asadullah Parray S/o Gh Rasool parray R/o. Nunar

Tehsil Khansahib District Budgam

2. Farooq Ahmad Parray S/o Asadullah Parray R/o Nunar Tehsil Khansahib District Budgam.

3. Public at Large. (Non-Caveators)

In the matter of.

(Caveator)

Publication for Caveat. I. That the Caveator apprehends that the non-Caveators may file any suit

or Writ or any Appeal at the back of the Caveator and may manage to get Exparte order, therefore the Caveator submit in case of any writ Petition, appeal, Suit or any such proceedings are filed before this Honble Court by the non-Caveators against the Caveator, the Caveator or the Counsel for the Caveator may be provided any reasonable opportunity of being heard before passing of the any order in the said Writ Petition, Appeal or suit or any proceeding otherwise, the Caveator may suffer such an irreparable loss and injury which cannot be compensated later on in any manner and same would be an abuse of the process of the Court.

Caveator Through Counsel Sheikh Irshad Advocate High Court Of J&K Srinagar

ازعدالت سب جج ميونپل مجسٹريٺ سرينگر بااجلاس مهرين مشاق

Raja Bano

ر خواست بغرج اندراج تاریخ پیدائش اوفات ام: Ghulam Mohamad Bhat ناریخُوفات / : 1993-01-01

معامله مندجة عنوان الصدرمين سائل سائله نے عدالت مذامين ايک درخواست بشمول حلفی بغرض R/o Khemani Chowk Bemina مورخه 29-03-2023 پیش کی ہے۔لہذاعوام الناس کو Sgr بزر بعداشتهار مطلع کیاجا تاہے کہ نسبت درخواست کوئی عذریااعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں اینے عذرات اشعاعت اشتہار کے اندردس یوم عدالت میں آ کر پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معیاد کوئی عذر ّیا

اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آیندہ عدالت ہذامیں 2023-04-05 کومقررہے۔ سب جج میونیل مجسٹریٹ سرینگ

## **As Holy Month OF Ramazan Begins, Non-Local Beggars Swarm Srinagar**

Div Com Kashmir Says Will Look Into Issue

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: On a chilly Monday morning, the students Kashmir University were surprised to see beggars entering their classrooms as non-local beggars have flooded Kashmir with the onset of the holy month of Ramazan.

"I was surprised to see beggars entering our classroom. At first a non-local beggar entered, he was followed by a local beggar. Students did not shy away from helping them wholeheartedly, but how far is this genuine to allow them to enter the University premises" questioned a student from the Persian Department.

Pertinently, with the beginning of the holy month of Ramazan, beggars start to swarm Kashmir especially Srinagar city. The beggars including non-locals could be seen at every major nook and corner of the city, seeking alms.

Dozens of beggars can be seen outside prominent Shrines of the city including Dastgeer Sahab and Hazratbal Shrine.

City dwellers say the begging menace has increased manifold in the holy month with authorities miserably failing to curb the menace.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Div Com Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri said feigned ignorance visà-vis the issues, saying he will look into the matter.

"As of now, I don't have any data. I will look into the matter" Bidhuri said.

keep travelling across the city and observed that begging menace has increased since the holy month of Ramazan began." A banker, Syed Mutahir said.

"Beggars have occupied major city junctions including TRC, Dalgate, Qamarwari Batamaloo. and other areas. Their number has increased manifold" Mutahar added.

Pertinently, the government in 2018 imposed a ban on begging, invoking the Jammu and Kashmir Prevention of Beggary

### **Action Plan For Special Summary Revision Of Electoral Rolls Reviewed**

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: District Election Officer (DEO), Mohammad Aijaz Asad today took a detailed review of the action plan for smooth and successful conduct of the Special Summary Revision (SSR) of Electoral Rolls-2023 to register all eligible electorates in all 08 Assembly segments of the Srinagar District.

Asad, who is also Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar while chairing a review meeting of District Election Authority, was informed that as many as 725394 voters are already registered in all 8 Assembly segments of the District with 34779 male and 36015 female electorates. He was further informed that a total of 902 polling stations have been designated in Srinagar.

It may be in place to mention that the Election Commission of India (ECI) has ordered a Special Summary Revision (SSR) of Electoral Rolls-2023 in Jammu and Kashmir.

On the occasion, the DEO was given a detailed overview about the exercise through a PowerPoint presentation and it was given out that the Special Summary Revision (SSR)-2023 with April 01, 2023 as the qualifying date is commencing from April 05 with the publication of Draft Electoral Rolls and culminate on May 10, 2023 with the Publication of Final Electoral Rolls.

Giving activity wise details, the meeting was also informed that date of Publication of Integrated Draft Electoral Rolls of all Assembly Constituencies of Srinagar is 05-04-2023, while period of filing claims and objections for Additions, Deletions, Corrections and Transpositions is from 05-04-2023 to 20-04-2023.

## **Mandatory For Pet Shops To Get Registered With SMC**

No Such Outlet Without Registration Will Be Allowed To Operate: Commissioner

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has directed all the pet shop owners to get their establishments registered with the corporation while the Commissioner, Athar Aamir Khan Monday said that a formal order in this regard will be

issued by tomorrow. SMC Commissioner, Athar Aamir Khan, according to KNO said that the corporation has already decided to get all the pet shops registered with the corporation.

"We are issuing a notification in this regard, which will be circulated through newspapers and agencies. The notification will be issued today or tomorrow," he said, adding that all the pet establishments will have to be necessarily registered with the SMC and anyone found without registration will not be allowed to operate.

"We are working on this and a formal. There was already a criterion for the pet establishments. Some of these establishments are already registered with the SMC while some are yet to get registered. We have streamlined a process in this regard and all the pet establishments will have to be registered properly. Only after having proper registration, the establishments will be allowed to operate," he said.

#### Public Notice

I want to change the name on electricity bill bearing consumer id no: 0206050010746 from Mohd Yaseen Baba S/O Ab Gaffar Baba R/O Hajibagh Budgam to Rubeena Yaseen W/O Mohd Yaseen Baba R/O Hajibagh .If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ruheena Yaseen W/O Mohd Yaseen Baba R/O Hajibagh

nj



Female tourists takes cover under umbrella amid rainfalll in city center Lal Chowk on Moday, KO Photo Abid Bhat

## **Integrated Bus Service On 11 Srinagar Routes To Be Started Today**

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: After completing the route integration plan, the transport authorities in Kashmir are all set to start bus service on 11 routes in Srinagar, officials said on Monday.

Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari, the Regional Transport Officer (RTO) for Kashmir said that with a fleet of around 185 minibuses, department is all set to start the bus service on eleven (11) routes and that the officials from their department and representatives of transport associations will be available at every station.

"We have completed the route integration process and from tomorrow we are going to start a full-scale bus service on 11 routes," he said.

In a letter to all Mini-Bus Transport Unions/ Associations, the RTO Kashmir has directed them to ply the Mini/Medium-Buses on the routes, from 04-04-2023 from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm and that they should conspicuously exhibit at least 1feet x 9 inch Route Plate on the vehicle indicating the route number.

"As far as your internal ar-

rangements are concerned, you may pool your vehicles onto these routes in the proportion of your existing vehicle fleets affiliated with respective unions/ associations. It may also be noted that this route arrangement is also subject to change, on working efficiency, on public review and feedback," the letter mentions.

RTO Kashmir said that be-

a full-scale bus service on 11 routes

NawaKadal, Rajouri Kadal, Bohri Kadal, Khanyar, Dalgate, Residency road, Lal Chowk, H.S.H.S, Jahangir Chowk, Batamaloo, Bemina crossing and finally back to origin-destination Qamarwari. As per the route plan shared by the RTO authorities, for route number three (03) from Pantha Chowk to Soura they have placed

10 minibuses, and for route four We have completed the route integration process and from tomorrow we are going to start

sides the privately owned minibus fleet, they have also added the services of 10 JKSRTC buses on some routes. "These buses will ply at a time interval of every 15-20 minutes on all routes," he said, adding that the process has been done to comfort the commuters. I want people to come and avail of the services.

According to the newly framed integrated route plan, the RTO authorities in Kashmir have placed 45 minibuses for its circular route no seven (07) from Qamarwari to the cement bridge, Noorbagh, Sekidafar,

(04) from Chadoora to Soura 20 buses have been allocated.

Similarly, for route number one (01) from Budgam bus stand to Hazratbal they have placed 15 minibuses, for route ten (10) from Panthachowk bypass to Narbal passing through bypass road connecting JVC and children hospital, 10 minibuses have been allocated for the route and that from Parimpora to Hazratbal 20 minibuses.

The RTO Kashmir authorities last month said that they carried out the route integration exercise to streamline the public transport service coming to Srinagar.

#### Police Busts Prostitution Racket In Baghi Mehtab, 8 Held

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar, April 3: Police claimed to have busted a Prostitution racket in the Bagh-e-Mehtab

area in uptown Srinagar here this evening.

"A prostitution racket in a rented accommodation at Bagh-e-Mehtab busted. 2 persons running this arrested, Irshad Ahmad Bhat of Pampore, Mohd Shafi Hajam of Karimabad Pulwama. 4 female sex workers (all locals of Srinagar) & 2 customers detained. FIR registered at Chanpura PS," Srinagar police tweeted.





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

Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488,2452222,2452155 CAPD: 18001807011 SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

**AIRPORTS** 

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

**RAILWAYS** 

SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259

ANANTNAG: 01932-228243 BARAMULLA: 0194-102029 BIJBHERA: 01932-228243 PAMPORE: 01933-294132 PATTAN: 01954-293507

QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

#### **HIGHWAY STATUS**



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



#### **PRAYERS FAJR** 4:50 **ZUHR** 12:34 **ASR** 5:05 6:56 Magrib ISHA 8:19

### This Day In History

- 1944 Allied Bucharest bombings targeting railroads kills 5,000
- 1945 Hungary liberated from Nazi occupation (National Day)
- 1947 Convention on International Civil Aviation goes into effect
- 1947 Largest group of sunspots on record • 1947 - UN's International Civil Aviation Organization
- forms • 1949 - Israel & Jordan sign armistice agreement
- · 1949 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) treaty signed in Washington DC
- 1960 Senegal declares independence from France · 1968 - Apollo 6 launched atop Saturn V; unmanned
- 1968 US civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee
- · Marine clay under houses liquefies in St-Jean-Vianney, Quebec, 31 die
- · 1972 1st electric power plant fueled by garbage begins operating

### From KO Archives

## Basketful Of Apples To Say Thank You

RINAGAR - Apple growers of Kashmir have sent a gift of 12 cartons of apples to Pakistani and Indian leaders with a message "From Kashmir with Love.' Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, Pakistan Prime Min-

ister Shaukat Aziz, Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Congress party president and

Chairperson of the National Advisory Council, Sonia Gandhi will be among the recipients.

Apple growers are sending mix cartons of the world famous apples to Pakistani leaders as a thanksgiving gesture for starting the bus service' between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad on April 7, which will link divided parts of Kashmir for the first time in 58 years. Six other cartons are being sent to New Delhi for Dr. Singh

and Mrs. Gandhi before both leave for Srinagar to inaugurate the historic bus service next week.

The bus service is being seen as one of the most tangible signs of a fledgling peace between the nuclear rivals after decades of enmity. It will travel 170 km on the highway between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad in the Pakistani sector.

Apple growers say a carton each will be gifted to Musharraf and Aziz, while the other four will be given to other political

Ghulam Rasool, the President of Fruit Growers Association here, said with the opening of the bus service, there is hope it would revive trade links.

"Kashmir is known in, the world for its fruits. So this time we will gift baskets of apple to Pervez Musharraf, Shaukat Aziz and the Indian High Commissioner in Pakistan. When we had a good trade in apples 1947 the wholesale market was in Rawalpindi and we used to send apples to Amritsar, Delhi Karachi etc front there and when we heard about this (the bus service), we decided then itself that we will gin six basket of apples to Pakistan and seven basket of apples for our Prime Minister Manmo-han Singh and other leaders which includes Ghulam Nabi Azad and Sonia Gandhi." he said

India had said on Friday it hoped free trade with its nucle-ar-armed neighbour Pakistan would happen within one to two years, as their sluggish peace process moves forward

Around 600000 families' arc directly involved in the val-ley's fruit business and if the market opens for their produce in Pakistan, growers are optimistic that both the countries could overtake Gulf countries. Ghulam Mohammed, a senior member of Fruit Growers Association, said fruit trade via Pakistan could also solve the unemployment problem.

"A lot of unemployment problems will also be solved. More youths will be engaged in the work as there is no other viable industry and only Fruit industry is the living industry." said Rasool. With 1.2 million metric tonnes of apple production. Kashmir is the biggest producer of apples in India. Barriers to commerce cemented by more than a half-century of hostility mean companies selling everything from wheat to tyres to Pakistan arc forced to make costly detours into countries like Afghanistan and the United Arab Emirates.

Trade is on course to rise more than 150 percent in the fi-nancial year which ended in March to about \$500 million, but businessmen predict it could reach 10 billion dollars within five years of signing a free trade agreement. Pakistan, with 66 million dollars worth of exports to India

in the eight months to November, were dwarfed by imports of 315 million dollars. (ANI)

(Kashmir Observer, 04 April, 2005)

## KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Tuesday | 04-04-2023

## **Keeping Our** Food Safe

mericans are consuming more food additives in their diet than in the past, a new study has found. Food additives are substances that are added to foods to improve their taste, texture, and appearance. Some additives, such as preservatives and antioxidants, are added to prevent spoilage and increase the shelf life of the food. However, some food additives have been linked to health problems such as allergic reactions, hyperactivity, and cancer. While some others are safe to consume in small amounts, the consumption of large amounts of additives can have negative health consequences. Around sixty percent of the foods purchased by Americans contain food additives, a 10 percent increase since 2001, as per the research.

The point of highlighting this study here is that if food in America - one of the countries with the best regulation of the food industry in the world - can be so liberally laced with additives, what could be the situation on this side of the globe, or for that matter in India. In fact, in our country, the problem is not only about food additives but more gravely, it is about food adulteration. Recently, the Chief Executive Officer of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), G Kamala Vardhana Rao, urged states to increase their efforts to monitor and sample food products in order to reduce food adulteration and ensure compliance with the laid down requirements. But this is easier said than done. It is a menace that hasn't been easy to fight.

The food adulteration is also widely prevalent in Jammu and Kashmir and there haven't been any serious efforts to address it. In recent years, food contamination and adulteration have emerged as major issues in the union territory. Hazardous agents have been found to have been used even in the food products of some major local food companies. Sadly, J&K government has so far done little about the growing food adulteration in the UT, which has now been proven to be one of the factors leading to the rise in cases of cancer in the valley. the Sher-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Soura has recorded over 27,000 cancer patients According to the latest data in the last six years,. Overall, around 51,000 cancer cases have been registered in the UT over the past four years.

The rise in the incidence of the deadly disease is, therefore, a wake-up call. The government has to get cracking on the unscrupulous traders and expose the use of chemicals and dyes in food. And at least, to start with, there has to be a campaign to create more awareness of the ways in which our food is adulterated.

#### OTHER OPINON

## A bold message from Lahore

t a time that Pakistan appears to be imploding under the strain of its political tug of war brought about by years of military domination, economic failures and security woes, the Lahore High Court has provided a glimpse of a country that could have been, and yet might emerge, despite all its trials and tribulations. The Lahore High Court ruling striking down Section 124-A of the Pakistan Penal Code — the "sedition law" that Pakistan and India inherited from the British-imposed Indian Penal Code and that was adopted almost in its entirety by the two countries at independence — is a landmark decision that seeks to draw a line under colonial rule, and its

offspring, "the colonial mindset". The section, introduced in 1870, 10 years after the Penal Code was introduced, was intended to stifle the voices of those opposed to colonial rule. The first person to be convicted for sedition was Bal Gangadhar Tilak in 1897. He would be charged twice more for inciting "disaffection", convicted in one case and acquitted in the other (both times Mohammed Ali Jinnah was his lawyer). Nearly identically worded in India and Pakistan, Section 124-A says whoever, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the government will be punished with a prison sentence that can range from months to life, and/or a fine. In the manner in which the law has been deployed on the both sides of the border in recent years against political opponents, journalists, satirists, cartoonists and other critics of those in power, "disaffection", which means a feeling of dissatisfaction usually with those who wield authority, has been equated with dissent, and had led to the criminalisation of a perfectly legitimate activity in a democracy.

The detailed judgment of the Lahore High Court is awaited. Justice Shahid Karim declared the law null and void in response to a batch of petitions seeking to declare the provision as ultra vires the fundamental rights enshrined in Articles 9, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19 and 19A of the 1973 Pakistan Constitution. The petitions argued that the colonial-era relic was being used as a tool for "illegitimate limitation" on these constitutional freedoms. While a High Court ruling is open to review and may be challenged in the Supreme Court, the bold move to do away with a 153-year-old law, for which there should be no place in a democratic country, will certainly inspire those who have been agitating against the law in India.

Indian Express

# **CBG: An Untapped Clean Energy Source**

As Rs 10,000 Cr budget has been earmarked for CBG by Gol, J&K Govt must invite people to invest in this sector



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

nance Minister of India Nirmala Sitharaman in her budget speech in parliament earmarked Rs 10,000 crore from the Union Budget for 2023-24 towards setting-up of 200 Compressed Biogas (CBG) plants and 300 community and cluster based biogas plants in the country. The Minister also announced duty cuts for certain blended fuels. The Gas Authority of India Ltd (GAIL), Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) are some of the companies who plan to invest more for setting up the CBG plants. The Union Finance Minister said that under Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan- also called GOBAR -Dhan scheme Compressed Biogas (CBG) plants will be established for promoting a circular economy. These will include 200 compressed biogas plants and 300 community or cluster-based plants with a total investment of Rs 10,000 crore.

#### What is Compressed Biogas (CBG)?

CBG is a mixture of various hydrocarbon gases, produced by decomposition of animal and plant waste which consists mainly of Methane. This is further processed and compressed for use as fuel. CBG is chemically similar to CNG, and hence can be used to replace CNG as transportation fuel.CNG and CBG are both methane based gases. CNG, like gasoline, comes from underground, while CBG is made from fermented waste or other biological material, thus making it a CO2 neutral fuel.

#### **SATAT Initiative**

Biofuel such as Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) is being advocated by the government as an alternate source of fuel. This is known as SA-TAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) which is an initiative of the Government of India to promote and adoption CBG by collaborating with oil marketing Public Sector Undertakings -PSUs like HPCL, BPCL,IOC to issue Expression of Interest (EOI) to entrepreneurs to set up CBG plants as a viable alternative to conventional fuels. This alternative source of energy is chosen by the Govt because the Biogas is produced naturally through a process of anaerobic decomposition from waste/biomass sources like agriculture residue, cattle dung, sugarcane press mud, municipal solid waste, sewage treatment plant waste etc. After purification, the said gas is compressed and stored and that is why it is called compressed biogas-CBG.

Compressed Biogas-CBG is exactly similar to the commercially available natural gas in its composition and energy potential. With calorific value (~52,000 KJ/kg) and other properties similar to CNG, Compressed Biogas can be used as an alternative, renewable automotive fuel. Given the abundance of biomass in India, Compressed Biogas-CBG has the potential to replace Compressed Natural Gas-CNG in automotive, industrial and commercial uses in the coming years. The potential for Compressed Biogas production from various sources in India is estimated at about 62 million tonnes per annum. Through the SATAT, the government plans to set up 5,000 CBG plants by 2024 and incur an expenditure of INR 75,000 crore

towards setting up the city gas distribution networks for CBG. The SATAT initiative envisages the production of 15 million tonnes of CBG on an annual basis, which is equivalent to 40% of the nation's CNG consumption.

#### CBG and its future in J&K

There is a huge potential to produce CBG in Jammu & Kashmir as well. The organic waste lifted from fruit mandis is dumped unscientifically in landfill sites which not only causes pungent smell but is choking our landfill sites as well. At a time when the land is shrinking day by day especially in a place like Kashmir valley and with no land mass even to set up new landfill sites by municipal institutions, I believe setting up CBG plants in fruit mandis of Srinagar, Jammu, Sopore, Shopian and Kulgam is much needed.

In addition, the agricultural residue, cattle dung and biodegradable municipal solid waste (MSW) can also be converted into CBG on a commercial scale across India including J&K

idia's commitments on reducing fossil fuel

to finance and with methods of tracking flows of such finance in a transparent manner.'

While India explicitly conveyed that its coal transition will not be adopted before 2024, Prayaas Se Prabhaav Tak – 'From Mindless Consumption to Mindful Utilization' was published by prominent dignitaries from UNEP, UNDP, and UNFCCC along with Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MOEFCC) Mr Bhupender Yadav. The compendium suggests frameworks for behavior modification that can aid in the creation of laws that promote sustainable production and consumption all around the world.

#### Waste to Energy

To address the menace of municipal solid waste and to decongest the Achan Saidapora landfill site in Srinagar, around 5 years back, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) passed an order to set up waste to energy plants near the Achan Saidapora landfill site. NGT had directed the Chief Secretary of J&K to ensure compliance to the cabinet order dated October 23rd 2017, on setting up of the waste to energy plant which would not only reduce the waste In November last year, the Government but would give an alternate source of energy

**At a time when the land** is shrinking day by day especially in a place like Kashmir valley and with no land mass even to set up new landfill sites by municipal institutions. I believe setting up CBG plants in fruit mandis of Srinagar, Jammu, Sopore, Shopian and Kulgam is much needed

of the Arab Republic of Egypt hosted the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP 27) at Sharm El Sheikh with a view to building on previous successes and paving the way for future ambition to effectively tackle the global challenge of climate change. The COP27 climate summit in Sharm El-Sheikh, concluded with a historic breakthrough to help vulnerable countries deal with losses and damages from the impacts of climate change. At COP 26 in Glasgow, India, as part of its five-point pledges, committed to net zero transmissions by 2070. The government ratified two additional components to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). First, it aspires to enhance its 2015 commitment to reducing emissions intensity, or the amount of emissions per unit of gross domestic product (GDP), by 45% from 2005 levels by 2030. Besides that, the government is expected to supply 50% of its power requirements using non-fossil fuel renewable energy sources, up from the 40% pledged at the Paris Agreement.

The Indian delegation announced its key commitments for COP27 based on "action in climate finance, technology transfer and capacity building." Indian representatives of multilateral organizations (including the UN, UNDP, and UN-FCCC), the Government of India, NGOs, and other key stakeholders harmonized for concessional and climate-specific grants, progress towards target of mobilization of \$100 billion annually, a new collective quantified goal (NCQG) on climate finance and the need to specify the quantity of long-term finance in trillions, the quality of this finance and its scope as well as ease of access

to generate electricity. It is now almost 5 years, yet, the order of the NGT and J&K cabinet has not been implemented on the ground and the 450 MTs of waste is dumped in Srinagar city on a daily basis and most of it goes untreated.

Srinagar city is sitting on a literal volcano of waste. As the Govt of India is now seriously looking into investments in alternative energy sources like CBG, it is the duty of J&K Govt to make the waste to energy plant in Srinagar op-

#### Conclusion

Setting up CBG plants or any other source will not only give us clean energy free from carbon emissions but will ensure responsible waste management as well. More use of CNG as an alternative source of fuel will be a great support to national commitments made by India at international forums like the UN in achieving climate change goals. As a huge budgetary allocation of Rs 10,000 Crores has been made by Govt of India, it is now the duty of state Govts and Union Territories especially Jammu & Kashmir administration to motivate investors and even local businessmen to set up CBG plants across J&K.

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

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow. He is also Anant Fellow for Climate Action, Anant National University Ahmedabad

# Progressing British Muslims



Instead, once the figures were released publicly it would have given an opportunity to Muslim leaders and organisations to introspect about the status of Muslims in the UK and elsewhere, too. But as usual they tried to shift the blame to the government policies and access to facilities



**Asad Mirza** 

Superficial concerns have been raised both within and outside the UK about the status of the Muslim population, though the census statistics convey something positive

The UK's Office of National Statistics (ONS), last week released the latest Census data, which apparently shows that unemployment level amongst Muslims was as high as 1 in 20, for people aged between 16-64 years. As per the figures about 2.6 million Muslims live in areas where unemployment rates are high and which face housing shortage.

Figures from the ONS also revealed that Muslims in England and Wales reported the highest unemployment rates among religious groups, at 6.7 percent. Only 26 percent of Christians live in areas with the highest unemployment levels, but for Muslim com-

munities the figure stood at 68 percent.
Figures also reveal that Sikhs (77.7 per cent) are most likely to own their own homes, while among Muslims, 45.6 per cent lived in households that owned their home.

A quarter of Muslims live in socially rented housing - the highest for any religious group. As per figures, Muslims are more likely to live in overcrowded homes - their bedroom occupancy being the highest for any group,

followed by Hindus and Sikhs. In contrast, those who identified themselves as having 'no religion', Christians and Jews live in the least crowded homes.

According to the figures based on self-declaration, Hindus have the highest percentage of 'level 4 or above' qualification at 54.8 per cent, compared with 33.8 per cent for the overall population. However, just 31.6 per cent of Christians reported they have a similar level of education.

Jews and Hindus have the highest proportion of 'managers, directors or senior officials' and 'professional occupations', whereas Buddhists and Muslims have the highest percentages of people working in elementary occupations.

In response to the census findings in a press statement, the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) has said that the inter-generational cycles of poverty impacting British Muslim communities can result in young people being forced to leave education in pursuit of work so they can help support their families. Those that are able to break into the job market, pursuing chosen careers, can face Islamophobic prejudice and discrimination in the workplace. It further asked for creating a level playing field, so that the dynamism and sheer potential of young British Muslims could prove itself to be a strategic national asset.

Indeed these are statistical figures and can be interpreted as per the desire of the reader. If we take a deeper analytical look, what exactly The Guardian has done, shows that the age trends amongst Muslims, as compared to other groups, may be a contributing factor to the statistics, with younger Muslims more likely to be studying than other youth in the general population. Of those who identified as Muslim in the census, the percentage of students in the group was almost twice the rate seen in the overall population. But the fact is that they were studying, so you can't describe them as unemployed, leading to despair. Also the unemployment rate is reported along with the areas having the highest unemployment rate, and since mostly Muslims inhabit these areas the unemployment rate is reported high, though the reality might be different.

might be different.

Further, the data has led to campaigners urging the government to focus on Muslim youth as part of its plan to "level up" Britain's economy. As more than two-thirds of Muslims live in local authorities that report the highest levels of unemployment.

Instead, once the figures were released publicly it would have given an opportunity to Muslim leaders and organisations to introspect about the status of Muslims in the UK and elsewhere, too. But as usual they tried to

shift the blame to the government policies and access to facilities.

But in this calculus they coolly try to ignore the role, which could be played by the community leaders, both religious and political. Instead of sensitising the Muslim population about its own duties and how to make best of the opportunities offered in the UK, which perhaps offers an individual the most level playing field, they continued with their old tune.

This is happening with Muslims not just in the UK, but elsewhere too. Instead of becoming part of the mainstream and striving to access educational and job opportunities based on merit and competition, they want to be spoon fed by the governments.

If we take the case of the U.K., then perhaps it is amongst the leading countries that provide a level playing field to its citizens. This is evident by the success of the Muslim community in any field whether be it business, finance or politics. We have a recent winner in Hamza Yousuf, the newly elected First Minister of Scotland and leader of the Scottish Nationalist Party. Similarly, we have London's Mayor Sadiq Khan, former Chancellor of the Exchequer Sajid Javed, and former co-chair of the Conservative Party Baroness Saeeda Warsi

A record number of Muslims were elected to the House of Commons in the UK's last

parliamentary elections in 2017. 19 Muslim candidates, including 10 women, won the elections. The mayors of London, Birmingham, Leeds, Blackburn, Sheffield, Oxford, Luton, Oldham, and Rochdale are Muslims. An estimated 443 Muslim councillors were elected in the local elections held in 2022. Out of the 11 members in the House of Lords, there are 5 Baronesses and 6 Lords.

This leads one to surmise that instead of bemoaning about the facilities extended by the governments, Muslims should get better organised at the community level, focussing more on educational gains leading to better employment and financial opportunities, and as is evident from the numbers shown above, they could perform much better politically if they turn out to be more educated but in addition we should try to ensure that once elected then they should work more towards community's progress in social, educational, financial and employment fields and contribute positively to its growth.

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

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th New Deim. He can be contacted at www.asadmirza.in

## The School of Cybernetic Minds

#### THEO ZANTO

There's a famous saying, often credited to Isaac Asimov, that "today's science fiction is tomorrow's science fact." Whoever said it, they weren't wrong. The Dick Tracy two-way wrist radio is now commonplace, the Jetsons' videophone is ubiquitous (and more compact), and stun guns are often carried by police officers—although they never say "Set your phasers on stun."

Today's science fiction is chock-full of ideas that are not yet fully realized, such as interstellar exploration, time travel, alien communication, teleportation, and cybernetics. But more progress has been made in some of these domains than others. Notably, astronauts have traveled (slightly) into the future—we just don't know how to go into the past. We have also sent communications to space and are now searching for a reply.

Unlike time travel, cybernetics (which refers to the integration of our biology with machines) is one science fiction theme that is part of our experiential reality. We can already control machines with our thoughts—but only with simple commands, like those needed to move a wheelchair or play Pong. Cybernetic devices available today include (but are not limited to) pacemakers, cochlear implants, retinal prostheses, deep brain stimulators, and prosthetic limbs. Current brain-computer interface—or BCI—technologies have enabled us to use computers to decode information from our brains, such as what we have seen or heard, what we intend to say, and what we would like a prosthetic limb to do. With the continual integration of these technologies into our lives, 20th-century sci-fi writers would be surprised at how quickly humans are

taking the evolutionary leap from primate to cyborg.

In Ionathan Parks-Ramage's short story "The Preschool," we get an intriguing peek into what life could be like when BCI technology can be implanted into the brain as an elective surgery. On a sci-fi evolutionary timeline, "The Preschool" likely takes place sometime after Johnny Mnemonic (the ability to store digital information in the brain), but before Total Recall (the ability to overwrite memories in the brain). This means the implanted BCIs in "The Preschool" are capable of, at the very least, facilitating everyday activities. Think of it as having your smartphone embedded in your brain.

At a glance, this would seem like an amazing technology that provides unprecedented convenience. Indeed. Maggie, the story's protagonist and an implant patient, is understandably exhilarated. After all, who isn't tired of pushing buttons just to send an email or text? Here we are, still using our mouths to talk, like a sucker. It would be nice to communicate with others or command objects with a simple thought. And it could be argued that this represents our next evolutionary step—a small but effective step-toward becoming cyborgs with telepathy and telekinesis powers. But beyond capturing the benefits of such enhanced brainpower, "The Preschool" also places these new technologies in the context of contemporaneous anxieties that are only likely to become more acute.

Take security concerns surrounding connected networks—and now plug your brain in. Any time you have access to the world through the internet, the world will have access to you. If an implanted BCI enables the use of a prosthetic limb, and that same BCI bridges communication be-



tween the brain and the internet, it is reasonable to presume that hackers will eventually find a way to become remote puppet masters. And not having control of a limb can go bad really fast. Sci-fi speculation aside, one simple solution is to ensure that the BCI controlling your body does not communicate with the BCI that has a network interface.

Nonetheless, this solution does not solve for the security issues surrounding privacy. We know that cellphones and computers are generally not secure devices. We've come to accept that backdoors exist, and when one is closed, a more sophisticated one opens. This means that your private data, such as conversations, locations, photos, IDs, banking information—effectively anything stored on your device—can be obtained by others. This problem will likely extend to BCIs that have access to both the internet and your brain.

Yes, there are security steps you can take to minimize access to your personal information, but the best method is to disconnect from the network altogether. This is why the Chuck E. Cheese animatronic band cannot be hacked remotely—their tech is so old it doesn't connect to the internet. But what would you do to "disconnect" a BCI that is implanted in your brain? Trust that "airplane mode" keeps the data in your head away from hackers? Or, possibly worse, trust that your personal thoughts remain personal? Perhaps in the future, conspiracy theorists with tinfoil hats won't seem so crazy after all.

Fortunately, current BCIs cannot decode specific thoughts very well. Rather, they are more adept at identifying broad emotional or attentional states. Any specific thought, such as communicating a sentence through a BCI, is a more complex process that requires volitional effort. The ability for a BCI to capture a random thought or memory, particularly against your will, still remains well within the realm of science fiction. It will be a while before the first BCI is used to actually steal a personal thought.

Interestingly, "The Preschool" takes place against the backdrop, we're told, of regulatory and political debates around the use of BCI technologyspecifically, whether children should be allowed to receive a BCI as an elective surgery (hence BCI/preschool proprietor Reid Anderson's interest in politics). On the pro-BCI side, science would point out, a child's brain is more malleable—this is why children can learn new languages more easily than adults can. It's therefore likely that kids may quickly adapt to a BCI and benefit more from the technology compared to a late adopter who gets their BCI as an adult.

In a school context, a BCI could conceivably monitor the attention levels of students in the classroom. This could be used to help the teacher identify specific children who may need additional instruction. In fact, similar ideas are currently being tested in both elementary and high school classrooms. However, modern BCIs in children utilize electroencephalography, which is a noninvasive technology that does not carry the acute risks of BCI surgery. The downside of noninvasive BCIs is that the brain signals recorded outside the head are much noisier compared with recording directly from the brain. This is why implantable BCIs are being developed—for more precise communication between the

computer and the brain.

But we should proceed with caution, as it remains to be seen whether the use of future BCI technology will meet expectations. It's difficult to gauge whether any perceived benefit of the implant would outweigh the surgical risks, or the risks of unintended consequences, depending on how the BCI is used. For example, kids could be punished because their brain activity indicated they were not "paying atten-

tion" in class. While this might seem like a reasonable action taken by the teacher or parent, we must be careful how "attention" is quantified. One current way to do this is by assessing whether all children have similar brain activity. If they are all paying attention to the teacher, their brains should all respond in roughly the same way, because their brains are responding to the same environmental stimulus (i.e., the teacher). However, a child might exhibit a unique neural pattern due to a number of hardware recording issues. This would lead people to think a child is not paying attention when in fact, the BCI itself is not operating as intended.

Another possibility is that a child may be paying attention to the teacher, then take their attention away from the teacher to understand and consolidate the information they have just received. In this case, punishing a child for this form of inattentiveness could stifle their learning process. In turn, this could have two unintended consequences. First. it could lower that child's ability to understand the content. Second, it could discourage new or independent thoughts that the child would otherwise have created. In effect, this is a more subtle version of stealing a thought. Take this population-wide and add a dystopian twist, you may find yourself surrounded by a generation of people raised to think alike.

Today, our cybernetic technology is closing in on Luke Skywalker's prosthetic limb ability, but we're far from a Rick Sanchez- or Borg-level integration (or assimilation). Fortunately, this means we still have time to enjoy cybernetic-themed sci-fi stories like "The Preschool." And to learn from them, so that today's dystopian cybernetic science fiction does not become science fact.

– Slate

## **Prof Nath Assumes Charge As Vice Chancellor CUK**

**Observer News Service** 

Ganderbal: The newly appointed Vice Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir (CUK) Prof. A Ravinder Nath, assumed charge of the office at varsity's Green Campus here on Monday.

He received a warm reception from the teaching and non-teaching staff, including Registrar, Deans, Finance Officer, Heads/Coordinators of various departments and the officers/officials. The University guards offered a guard of honour.

Immediately after taking over, the new Vice Chancellor visited the Tulmulla and Sciences campuses of the University and interacted with the faculty members, scholars and students.

Interacting with the senior faculty, Prof. Nath expressed his desire and determination to take the University to new heights and sought cooperation of all the teaching and non-teaching colleagues for accomplishing this

Earlier, the President of India, in her capacity as the visitor of the CUK, appointed, Prof. A Ravinder Nath, former Dean, Faculty of Technology, Osmania University (OU), Hyderabad, as the Vice Chancellor of Central University of Kashmir (CUK) for a period of five years, read an order issued by the Ministry of Education.

Prior to the appointment as Vice Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir, Prof. A Ravinder Nath, with more than 35 years of Research and Teaching experience, has worked on different senior academic and administrative positions in various institutions of higher learning. Prof. A Ravinder Nath was presently working as Professor of Biotechnology, at School of Life Sciences, Central University of Karnataka. Earlier, he has served as the Dean, Faculty of Technology and the Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy, Osmania University, the Dean, Academic Affairs at MANUU and the Dean, Development and UGC Affairs, OU. He has also been Professor and Head, Department of Pharmacy and Biotechnology, OU. He was selected for the prestigious UGC-BSR Faculty Fellowship recently.

Prof. A Ravinder Nath was also



the Chairman, BoS, in Pharmacy and Biotechnology. He served the Osmania University for more than three decades. He also acted as the chairman for a Committee on Implementation of CBCS and CFSD by the Telangana government, and also served as a member of the Academic Council of Maulana Azad National Urdu University.

Prof Ravinder Nath's administrative responsibilities included International exposure on H.E. system with State and Central Universities Structure and Function. He served on various committees of state and national level institutions including prestigious AICTE and UGC etc.

Prof. A Ravinder Nath participated in more than 20 International Conferences, visited over 23 countries and has delivered more than 200 Lectures in scores of Institutions across the nation. He has successfully executed five research projects funded by Government of India agencies (MHRD, AICTE & UGC) and three sponsored projects by the industry besides a Departmental project. He served as the Coordinator, World Bank

MHRD project TEQIP-I; Principal Investigator for CoE Program under TEQIP – II Phase; Chief Coordinator of the UGC - UPE scheme and Nodal Officer for RUSA-1.0 at the University level. He was the chief coordinator UPE Osmania University between 2012 and 2016 and Nodal Officer for RUSA (2015-2016).

Prof. A Ravinder Nath obtained his Graduate Degree in Industrial Chemistry, Master Degrees (M.Sc and M.Tech) in Chemistry and Biotechnology, and Doctorate in Natural Products Chemistry from India. He worked as a Post-Doctoral Fellow in Pharmacy at the State University of New York, Stony Brook in USA. Prof. Nath was selected and Trained at University of Cambridge, UK under LEAP - Flagship Scheme of MHRD and completed over 25 trainings in Pedagogy and Subject Advancement Research and Management.

He has been very instrumental in the Introduction of Food Technology, and Biotechnology Pharmacv Programs at UG and PG Level. Prof. A Ravinder Nath has been the architect of over 42 Reports on Academics, Research and Governance policies for creation of Central Facilities and Other Institutional Structures / Bodies at University and Institution level, besides formulating the CBCS Templates for both Regular and Distance Education Programs at MANUU.

Prof. A Ravinder Nath, possesses a very strong research background and under his supervision, 18 Doctorate Degrees and 98 Masters Dissertations have been awarded. He also mentored and advised two PDFs and more than 30 UG students. Besides completing five major research projects and four consultancy projects sponsored by MHRD, AICTE and UGC, he has over 100 publications with Google Scholar: I-10-Index-38; H-Index-20; Cumulative CITATIONS- 1600+ and CIF-55 +).

Prof. A Ravinder Nath is also the fellow of Institute of Engineers and Fellow Telangana Academy of Sciences.

#### CONTD. FROM FRONT **PAGE**

#### **Father Held**

three minutes, as a result of which the girl died on the spot," the officer said.

The accused then drove to his house and carried his daughter's body to a spot next to the firewood shed of his uncle's house.

"He placed the body in the shed in the supine position (chest facing upwards) and then slit her throat with the knife, so that the blame falls on the occupants of the adjacent houses,' the officer said.

The accused then returned home, where the other family members raised a hue and cry when they saw the girl was not with him.

Subsequently, the accused, along with a few others, went to the Khurhama police post in his vehicle to get a missing report lodged for the minor girl.

#### **Widespread Rain**

Kokernag recorded a low of 5.2°C against 3.1°C on the previous night and it was 0.1°C

above normal for the place, the officials said. Gulmarg recorded a low of 0.5°C against minus 0.6°C on the previous night and it was 0.1°C above normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 7.2°C against 6.6°C on the previous night and it was 2.0°C above normal for the north

Jammu recorded a low of 16.3°C against 12.3°C on the previous night. It was 0.8°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal, he said, recorded a low of 7.5°C (above normal by 0.5°C), Batote 9.0°C (above normal by 0.1°C), Katra 14.0°C (0.5°C below normal) and Bhadarwah 6.3°C (0.7°C below normal). Ladakh's Leh and Kargil recorded a low of minus 2.5°C and 3.6°C respectively.

#### **Rahul Gandhi Gets**

and former Gujarat cabinet minister.

The sessions court asked the respondent Purnesh Modi) to file his reply by April 10.

"We had filed an application for Rahul Gandhi's bail and suspension of sentence along with his appeal against conviction by a lower court. The (sessions) court heard the matter and granted him bail. The court kept the matter for hearing on the stay of his conviction for April 13," a member of his legal team told

Rahul Gandhi, who arrived in Surat earlier in the day, will not be required to appear in the court during the hearing of the case, he said.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and other party leaders were present in the courtroom when the matter came up for hearing at around 3 pm.

Rahul Gandhi reached the sessions court premises in a luxury bus along with Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and other senior leaders. Raiasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and several other party leaders were present in Surat.

The case was filed against Rahul Gandhi on a complaint by Purnesh Modi for the 52-yearold Congress leader's remark, "How come all thieves have Modi as the common surname?"

The disqualified MP made the comment on "Modi surname" while addressing a rally at Kolar in Karnataka on April 13, 2019, during campaigning for the Lok Sabha elections.

The Congress leader, who was elected to the Lok Sabha from Wayanad in Kerala in 2019, was convicted on March 23 by the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate H H Varma and sentenced to two years in jail.

The magistrate's court granted him bail the same day and suspended the sentence for 30 days to allow him to appeal in a higher court. A day after his conviction and sentence, he was disqualified as a member of the Lok Sabha.

#### **Corona Ghost Returns**

DHSK spokesperson said he cannot predict anything beforehand.

Meanwhile, the DHSK has directed all the medical officers across the Valley to increase Covid-19 testing rate amid a spike in the number of cases.

"It has been observed that there is no increase in the Covid-19 testing rate and there hasn't been any increase in the proportion testing of RT-PCR which should be a benchmark of minimum 80 percent of total Covid-19 testing," reads a letter issued to the Chief Medical Officers (CMOs).

As such, the DHSK has directed the medical officers to increase the rate of Covid-19 testing, proportion of RT-PCR testing and ensure the establishment of flu clinics at all the health institutions as per the guidelines issued by MoHFW.

#### **Gujarati Conman**

to conduct preliminary enquiry in the matter and submit detailed report before it by or before the next date on April 15. The two other persons named in the complaint include Shailesh Jain and Piyush Jain, both residents of

According to the complaint filed through advocate Amir Masoodi, Patel revealed his name as Chetan Prakash resident of Begumpur, North West Delhi and projected himself as managing partner at the particular company dealing in

The resident has alleged that he paid Rs.18 akhs in two installments following the interactions with Patel at Pratap Park Srinagar and at the Chai Jai restaurant in Srinagar last year.

Patel was arrested on March 2 for posing as a senior official in the Prime Minister's Office. He had managed to get Z-category security protocol during his visits to the valley and attended several official meetings. Patel had also visited many sensitive areas, including the Line of Control in Uri sector.

Pertinently, on March 29, the government ordered inquiry into the various aspects related to the visits of "Shri Kiran Patel" who conned the security establishment in J&K into believing him to be a PMO official and enjoyed five star protocol "brazenly" for a considerable period of time prior to his arrest.

The inquiry is being conducted by Divisional Commissioner Srinagar and he is required to submit a report within a week. (GNS)

#### **Home Dept Made**

to June 2021, it was revealed that one month additional salary was irregularly paid to 483 police personnel who were not deployed for election duties held in 2018.

"These police personnel were providing security to Very Important Persons (VIPs) and other protected persons in and outside their respective districts during the months when the elections were held," the CAG has observed.

The CAG has further pointed out that the accounts officers in the offices of Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Jammu and Rajouri, SSP Doda and Commandant IR-2nd Battalion, Rajouri accepted the audit contention and admitted that the payment was made inadvertently and informed that the recovery would be initiated against these employees.

As per the Audit findings, the accounts officer in the office of SSP Reasi has reported that the recovery was started from the salary of May 2021 in respect of these employees.

The CAG has stated that after the matter was referred to the Government in January 2022, the financial advisor of the J&K Home Department informed that out of Rs 1.58 crore, recovery of Rs 1.10 crore was made by the department from the salary of these employees.

The department has further reported that more than 75 percent recovery was by SSP Jammu, SSP Doda and SSP Rajouri—(KNO)

#### **Takes Note Of**

submission of accounts by various autonomous bodies in the Union Territory, highlighting that 37 numbers of accounts were not rendered for the period ranging between one to 12

'There are 3,859 number of UCs amounting to Rs 11,295.43 crore pertaining to erstwhile State and UT of Jammu and Kashmir outstanding as on 31st March 2022," the report, tabled in the parliament last week, observed. It said while 3,089 UCs for grants paid up

to 30 October 2019 amounting to Rs 8,158.32 crore by the erstwhile state and 770 UCs for grants paid by UT of Jammu and Kashmir amounting to Rs 3,137.11 crore were outstanding up to 31 March 2022.

The CAG said the department-wise breakup of total outstanding UCs shows that 77.73 cent of total outstanding UCs pertain to four departments, of which 43.13 per cent of outstanding UCs pertain to the education

Rural Development Department, Agriculture department and health and medical education department are others that have failed to submit UCs till the end of the last financial year.

"Non-submission of the UCs means that the authorities have not explained as to how funds were spent over the years. There is also no assurance that the intended objectives of providing these funds have been achieved," the report

The CAG said this assumes greater importance if such UCs are pending against Grantsin-Aid meant for capital expenditure.

"It is imperative that the government should monitor this aspect closely and hold the concerned persons accountable for submission of UCs in a timely manner," it said.

The CAG said the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has not framed revised rules relating to drawal of Grants-in-aid and submission of UCs thereof but in terms of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir (Pre re-organisation) Financial Code, UCs should be furnished within 18 months from the date of receipt of grant or before applying for a further grant on the same subject whichever is earlier.

The report said Detailed Countersigned Contingent (DCC) bills in respect of Rs 5,830.41 crore drawn on 2,154 number of AC bills up to 30 October 2019 and DCC bills for Rs 11,448.03 crore drawn on 1,139 AC bills post reorganization of Jammu and Kashmir are outstanding ending 31 March 2022.

"Advances drawn through Abstract Contingent Bills and their detailed countersigned bills not submitted increased the possibility of wastage/ misappropriation/ malfeasance," the CAG said.

In respect of eight autonomous bodies which were to render annual accounts to CAG, the report said 37 numbers of accounts were not rendered for the period ranging between one

The CAG said Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) has submitted the accounts for audit for period up to 2008-09, accounts for 12 years are pending, while SKUAST, Kashmir, has not submitted its accounts for audit for the last 11 years.

"Non-submission/delay in submission of accounts by these Bodies receiving substantial funding from the budget is a serious financial irregularity persisting for years. Despite taking up the issue of preparation and submission of accounts to this office with the Government, the accounts are in arrears," it said.

It said the delay or arrears in finalisation of accounts carries the risk of financial irregularities going undetected and entails possibility of fraud and mis-appropriation.

"This has also deprived the Legislature/ Government the opportunity to get feedback on their activities and financial performance. The Government may take up the matter with the bodies for timely preparation and submission of accounts for presentation to the UT Legislature," it said.

Besides CAMPA and SKUAST Kashmir, the accounts of JK Employee provident funds organization I&K Housing Board I&K Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB), J&K Building and other construction workers welfare board and State Legal Service Authority are pending for years together.

In its recommendation, the CAG sought timely submission of UCs by the department in respect of grants released for specific purpose and necessary steps to ensure adjustment of the advances drawn on the AC bills within the stipulated period as required under the extant

"The issue of timely preparation and submission of accounts may be taken with respective autonomous bodies," it said.

#### **Record 1.4 Million**

wetlands, we have taken different measures for rejuvenation, such as restoration of breaches etc., so that the migratory birds that visit the wetlands during the winter months get a conducive atmosphere," he said.

The work for the field staff starts in March for the maintenance of the wetlands, so that the habitat is ready before the arrival of the migratory birds. Faroog said the department is taking action

against poachers to ensure that the birds have

a safe stay in the valley.

"Poaching has been banned since the Wildlife Act of India was enforced. Control rooms are established at every range. For augmentation, the forest protection force is also with us.... Patrolling is carried out 24x7 in all our protected areas. In non-protected areas, our teams are always alert to nab poachers," he

Faroog said this year, the department has seized eight to 10 guns and registered an equal number of FIRs.

#### **Arms Cache**

Surinder Choudhary told reporters, "We received information about a suspected package (lying) in the fields of Rakh Barotiya in the Vijaypur belt. We immediately rushed police, bomb disposal squad and FSL (Forensic Science Laboratory) teams to the spot.

"It was first ascertained if the package contained an IED (Improvised Explosive Device)." Among the weapons recovered from the package were three China-made pistols, six magazines, 48 rounds and four hand grenades, the official said.

According to past modus operandi, the police suspect that the package was dropped by a drone from across the border.

Choudhary said, "...It looks like the weapons consignment has been dropped by drone (from across the International Border). ...it had a box and a long string of plas-

tic measuring 50 metres It looks like (air) dropping.'

The senior police official added that the exact detail can be ascertained only after an investigation.

#### **Woman Dies After**

The inquest proceedings have been initiated at the GRP post in Vijaypur, the official added.

#### **Interview Of Haj**

Jammu Division shall also be conducted on the same date through Virtual I

"The list of eligible candidates is available on our website www.jkshc.org," he added. **Multi-Storey Building** 

ders and locals doused the flames, averting a

#### (Bhadarwah) Wasim Mehmood said. He said police personnel along with fire ten-

major tragedy in the densely populated area. **Gram Rozgar** 

spokesperson said. He said that since the contents of the complaint disclosed the demand of bribe by the public servant, subsequently the pre-trap verification was conducted which required prompt

Accordingly, he said, a case FIR No. 03/2023 was registered at P/S ACB Anantnag and investigation was started.

After registration of the case, a team was constituted that laid a trap and caught Ajaz Ahmad Mir red handed for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 7,000.

"He was immediately arrested on the spot after completing necessary legal formalities. Further investigation is going on," the ACB spokesperson added.



## **Govt Orders Transfers, Postings of College Principals**

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: The Higher Education Department on Monday ordered transfers and postings of principals of four Government Degree Colleges besides placing additional charge of Nodal Principal Kashmir.

As per the order by Commissioner Secretary Higher education J&K Khurshid Ahmad Khan, principal, Sri Pratap Singh College has been transferred to Principal, Islamia College of Science and Commerce. Sheikh Aijaz Bashir, Principal,

Islamia College of Science and Commerce has been posted as Principal Amar Singh College

Ghulam Jeelani Qureshi GDC Hyderpora has been posted as Principal SP College, Srinagar.

Manzoor Ahmad Lone Principal GDC Kulgam has been posted as principal of GDC Hyderpora Srinagar.

In a separate order, the higher education department has given additional charge of Nodal Principal Kashmir to Principal, Amar Singh College Srinagar, till further orders.

## **Basohli Painting From Kathua Gets GI Tagging**

**Observer News Service** 

JAMMU: The world famous 'Basohli Painting' from Kathua district has obtained the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag following approval by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Jammu.

Pertinently, Geographical Indications (GI) is a form of Intellectual Property right that identifies goods originating from a specific geographical location and having distinct nature, quality and characteristics linked to that location. The process for GI tagging of 9 products of Jammu region products was initiated by NABARD in consultation with Department of Handicrafts and Handloom in December 2020, during the difficult times of COVID. The GI tags have now finally been granted to these products after a long legal process.

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, congratulated the country on getting 33 GI tags, the highest ever in a single year, by tweeting through his official twitter handle. The products from UT of Jammu and Kashmir have been included in the list of 33 products that have received the GI tag on 31 March 2023.

This is the first time in the history of GI registration that Jammu region got GI tag for handicrafts. Basohli painting of Kathua district is the first independent GI tagged product from Jammu

region. Now, only an autho-

rized user has the exclusive



right to use the Geographical Indication in relation to these products. Due to this, no person can copy it from beyond their geographical areas.

This will prevent unauthorized use of these registered Geographical Indication goods by third parties besides will boost exports and promote their brands at international level, thereby promoting economic prosperity of producers and related stakeholders including contribution to GDP of the country

Dr. Ajay Kumar Sood, Chief Manager, NABARD, thanked the concerned departments of the UT government, all the GI applicant organiza-tions and especially the skilled leadership of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha. He further informed that post GI development projects will now be taken up for the product for training and capacity building, brand building, improving

## **KEA Representatives Call On** J&K Bank MD & CEO

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A delegation of Kashmir Economic Alliance (KEA) called upon MD & CEO J&K Bank Baldev Prakash at Corporate Headquarters.

Bank's management headed by MD & CEO Baldev Prakash met the representatives and office-bearers of KEA led by Chairman.

Speaking on the occasion, MD & CEO Baldey Prakash reiterated the Bank's support to businesses in a pro-active manner. He said, "Since our progress as a bank is primarily linked to the financial development of businesses in J&K, you will always have our support within the regulatory guidelines."

However, he emphasized upon the trade-body delegation to inculcate the importance of financial discipline among its members, which he said, will go a long way to

'AMRIT KAAL BUDGET'



enhance their credibility and creditability besides adding to their ease of doing business with the Bank.

Expressing their hope to deepen their bonds with the Bank, the members voiced few the Bank's MD & CEO.

The members of the delegation also thanked the Bank on the occasion for its financial support and lauded the management for rolling out of One Time Settlement Schemes for the borrowers who were not able to repay their debt due to genuinely proven reasons.



A YOUTH COVERED WITH POLYTHENE, enjoys rainfall along the banks of Srinagar's Dal Lake on Monday. KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

## **CS Directs For Completing Average 7000 Works Per Month To Achieve Targets On Time**

Virtually Participates In Panchayat Level Convergence Meetings Held Across The UT

**Observer News Service** 

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Monday virtually participated in the numerous panchayat level convergence meetings held first time at the beginning of new financial year 2023-24 across the Gram Panchayats of the UT.

Dr Mehta, during this interaction, impressed upon the Prabhari Officers of each Gram Panchayat to take full responsibility of representing Government in their concerned Panchayats. He exhorted upon them to create a proper mechanism of escalation of grievances at an appropriate level so that each of them are resolved up to the satisfaction of the people.

The Chief Secretary also emphasized on avoiding the 'March Rush' of presenting bills in treasuries. He instead asked them to complete all the works physically by the end of the year. He advised them to fix monthly targets for both physical and financial completion of works so that projects are completed efficiently throughout the year. He directed for completing at least

7000 works each month across the UT for even distribution of workload throughout the year.

Regarding the development of panchayats he asked the District Administration to make comprehensive Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP) in consultation with PRIs by calling the Gram Sabhas on 10th of April and finalizing the same by 15th of the month. He told them to ensure convergence of sectoral plans in the District and UT plans as per the nature and scope of the work.

He made out that the micro plans for Employment, Education, Sports, Culture, Health, Tourism, Cleanliness and Heritage like aspects are the way forward to make overall progress at the grassroots level. He termed employment generation as the top priority area and called for making plans to provide employment to all who are in search of it. He emphasized that Planning should be focused on finding solutions to real problems of people rather than expenditure. We should focus on efficiency of expenditure as a major goal.

On the occasion the Chief Secretary interacted with the

PRI representatives, visiting Prabhari Officers, officers of line departments attending the meeting besides Numberdars, Chowkidars and the people assembled for attending this monthly convergence meeting. He asked from the representatives and village level workers about the functioning of Schools, Health Centres, Anganwadi Centres and other village institutions. He also took appraisals from them about different amenities like condition of roads, water, electricity and monthly ration provided to them. He even enquired from each of them about the status of Sports stadiums, online services and Door-to-Door collection of waste in their villages. The Chief Secretary encour-

aged them to raise their grievances in these meetings for their resolution. He maintained that the UT has enough resources to meet the basic requirements of these villages. He directed for seamless connectivity of Numberdars/Chowkidars with higher authorities so that the real motive of 'people first' approach adopted by the LG Administration is implemented right from

## Jammu University To Hold 3-Day **Event Around PM's 'Panch Pran'**

**Press Trust Of India** 

**JAMMU:** The university of Jammu will organise a three-day mega festival "Panch Pran" centred around the five resolves announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his last year's Independence Day address.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will inaugurate the festival on April 5.

University of Jammu is organising three-day mega event on the five resolves (Panch Pran) announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji during his 76th Independence day address to the nation," Vice Chancellor Prof Umesh Rai told reporters here. Prof Rai said the festival is

going to be held from April 5-7 in the University of Jammu in consonance with the PM's vision on "Panch Pran"

At a curtain-raiser ceremony, Prof Rai said the fest will focus on the five resolutions announced by the PM -- making India a developed country; removing any trace of the colonial mindset; taking pride in our legacy; our strength of unity; and fulfilling the duties of citizens,

The VC said that the university tiatives to acquaint the students with the rich heritage of India.

"The event will cover the lectures by the prominent experts, showcasing of documentaries and exhibition of cultural heritage. The Panch Pran Utsav will be inaugurated by Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor, and Ajay Kumar Singh, Press Secretary to President of India, will deliver the Keynote Address on 5th April," he said.

He said new job-oriented academic programmes are introduced recently by the university to further strengthen the research, financial assistance in the form of research grants and seed grant is also provided to the faculty in the university.

## DC Kulgam Reviews **Implementation Of PMAY-Urban Scheme**

**Observer News Service** 

KULGAM: To review the implementation and progress under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)-Urban in the District, a meeting of the Officers of line Departments was held on Monday under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam Dr. Bilal-Mohi-Ud-Din-Bhat at mini-secretariat here.

At the outset, the DC took a detailed appraisal of the implementation of PMAY-Urban scheme in all the Municipal Committees of the district.

With regard to the target achieved under Beneficiary Led Individual House Construction (BLC) the meeting was informed that a total of 1265 houses were sanctioned under PMAY-U out of which 348 non starter cases were curtailed and now there are a total of 917 sanctioned houses out of which 331 houses stand completed and 457 houses are under construction.

District Coordinator PMAY-U Kulgam, informed the chair that against the curtailed cases 127 new cases were proposed for approval to the State Level Monitoring Committee.

The chair was also informed that 64 beneficiaries were provided advance mobilization and 57 new cases were proposed for advance mobilization.

During the meeting, concerned apprised about release of installments to the verified beneficiaries and expenditure made so-far under the scheme.

It was also informed that an amount of Rs 8.50 crore has been disbursed till date in the accounts of 798 beneficiaries after following due procedure and multilevel verification.

The DC directed the concerned Officers to ensure that the scheme guidelines are followed in letter and spirit so that all genuine eligible beneficiaries are covered under the PMAY-U scheme in the district.

## Allama Sheikh Mehdi Remembered On His 24th **Death Anniversary**



**Observer News Service** 

**SRINAGAR:** A large number of people joined a congregational prayer meeting held in memory of late Allama Sheikh Mehdi Hussain Najafi on his 24th death anniversary at Khanda in Pulwama district on Sunday.

Speakers paid glowing tributes to Allama for his scholarly services for the enlightenment of society.

Earlier a Quran Khwani was held at his gravesite and later large number of people participated in an impressive majlis which was addressed by Pairwane Wilayat J&K patron and son of late Allama, Moulana Sibte Mohammad Shabir Qumi. He extended his gratitude to the people for participating in the congregational meeting.

## **IUST Holds Seminar On Psychological** Disorders, Mental Health; Fasting

**Observer News Service** 

Iniversity of Science and Technology (IUST) held on Monday a Seminar on the theme "Psychological Disorders, Mental Health and Fasting" in collaboration with Unani and Panchkarma Group of Hospitals here.

Several eminent religious scholars, health experts of the valley deliberated in the seminar.

In his address, Prof. Naseer Igbal (Registrar IUST), Chief Guest on the occasion emphasized the need of collaboration between the religious scholars, academicians and the general public for redressal of contempo-

rary social issues. Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad Margoob, renowned psychiatrist AWANTIPORA: International Centre discussed the psychological impact for Spiritual Studies (ICSS) of Islamic of fasting, and said that fasting not but also controlling base instincts, evil desires, emotions and feelings that lead to stress and anxiety. Prof. Abdul Majid, (HOD Psychiatry, SKIMS Medical College Bemina), Dr. Nisar Ahmad Trali (Senior Consultant Physician), Dr. Hakeem Naseer, Mufti Zia Ul Haq and Maulana Showkat Hussain Keng and Prof. TayyibKamili also spoke on this occasion. Talking about the ICSS programs, Prof. Hamidullah-Marazi (Director, ICSS) he stressed on the need of conducting elaborative research in this area.

#### concerns and put forth some The University of Jammu in which include prime minister collaboration with Indira Gandhi suggestions, which were paand chief ministers as well. J&K TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED National Centre for Arts, Hintiently heard and responded by dustan Samachar and Cluster of Jammu has already taken ini-



### **TOURIST RECEPTION CENTRE SRINAGAR**

TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of Managing Director, Jammu & Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation Limited, e-Tenders are invited under Two Bid System i.e. Technical Bid and Financial Bid from Registered/reputed companies/ firms/ individuals/ societies etc. for providing laundry services to the city based JKTDC Hotels/Restaurants for a period of one year (extendable to further one year) on the terms and conditions mentioned in the tender document.

Dated 31 /03 / 2023 F-NIT No. 26/IKTDC/GMO of 2023-24

-MIT NO. 20/ JKIDC/ GIM	0 01 2023-24	Dateu. 31 / t		
Category of laundry	Earnest Money (EMD)	Cost of Tender documents	Class of Service provider	Tender inviting authority
Hotel laundry     Restaurant laundry     Staff uniform     Guest laundry	Rs. 20,000/-	Rs. 1000/-	Registered/ reputed companies/ firms/ individuals/ societies etc.	General Manager (Operations) K

- The agency has to deposit CDR amounting to Rs.20,000/- pledged to General Manager Operation Kashmir and will be retained by the Corporation till completion of contract successfully. An amount of Rs.1000/- (non-refundable) of document charges has to deposited by the participating agency in the Corporation account No. 123701020000004 and a copy of the deposit receipt has also to be uploaded by the agency with the tender documents.
- The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility, specification, bill of quantities (B.O.Q )Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ download from the website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

- 1	1	Date of issue of tender notice	31/03/2023 11:00am				
-	2	Date from downloading of biding documents	01/04/2023 10:00am				
-	3	Bid submission Start Date	05/04/2023 10:00am				
	4	Bid submission End Date	19/04/2023 04:00pm				
	5	Date of receiving Hard Copies of uploaded relevant documents along with CDR	20/04/2023 04:00pm				
	6	Opening of Technical Bid /hard copies (In case of untoward situation/Govt. holiday) the technical bid will be opened in next working day	24/04/2023 11:00am				
- 1							

No.JKTDC/GMOK/4662-67 Dt: 31/03/2023

DIPK-NB-7109/22 DT: 31-03-2023

Sd/-General Manager (0)

#### Rs 1522 Cr Budget To Focus On NEP Implementation, **Digital Transformation, Infra Creation** students. Besides, 40 robotic labs cluding changing rooms for play-1000 Classrooms With would be established (Two Labs in ers in 100 High and Higher Sec-

LCD Facilities, High Speed Internet Proposed

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir's education sector would be witnessing a major transformation with a budget allocation of Rs 1522 crore for 2023-24 with focus on full implementation of National Education Policy, digital transformation and infrastructure creation.

The budget also provides scope for strengthening digital infrastructure with establishment of 188 Virtual Reality Labs in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (one lab in each zone) to inculcate scientific temper among

each district) to improve school's digital equity, literacy and economic development besides promoting new teaching methodologies. About 500 schools will be provided ICT labs and 100 Vocaional Labs in the schools of Union Territory.

"Also, 1000 smart classrooms with LCD and high speed internet connectivity will be established in High and Higher Secondary Schools for imparting quality education to students", budget document reads.

To keep students fit, Yoga Training will be introduced for all the students as part of co-curricular

The Budget also proposes to create sports infrastructure in-

ondary Schools.

To strengthen the School education sector in J&K, 500 additional class rooms would be provided in high and higher secondary schools benefitting more than 20,000 students. Besides, free text books and uniforms would be provided to all the students of elementary classes belonging to weaker sections.

As an important step towards ensuring that girls are able to attend school without any barrier, drinking water facility and gender based toilet facility to be made available in all the Schools.

The budget has also proposed establishment of 2000 Kindergartens during 2023-24 for providing quality pre-primary education. Besides, 10 Residential Schools would be established during 2023-24 with preference to tribal students and students from weaker sections for accommodating in these residential schools on merit basis for providing them quality education. The J&K government, which

has already taken a lead in implementation of National Education Policy (NEP)-2020, is likely to get a boost with the new budget allocation which has a specific focus on "full implementation" of NEP-

The Budget also proposes to fully implement Samarth "ERP eGov Suite" in 2023-24 besides making Higher Education Council functional during 2023-24. Also, NAAC accreditation of 32 colleges would be completed in 2023-24.



## **DEO Bandipora Inaugurates Cricket Tourney To Enhance Voter Awareness**

**Observer News Service** 

**BANDIPORA:** District Election Officer Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad on Monday inaugurated a cricket tournament and tug of war competition at SK Stadium Bandipora in an attempt to boost voters' awareness under Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP)

campaign. On the occasion Dr. Owais said the tournament is being organised to raise awareness among prospective voters and eligible of casting votes and urge them the occasion.

to get enrolled in the upcoming special summary revision of Electoral Rolls

On the occasion Dr. Owais interacted with the young players including young first time voters. He urged them to get enrolled at earliest and participate in the decision making process by casting their votes in upcoming elections.

Nodal Officer Coordination MY Hakaak, General Manager District Industries Centre Bandipora Mehraj Wani, padmashree awardee Faisal Ali Dar and other voters about the importance senior officers were present on

## **Waseem Raja Takes Charge As JD Youth Services & Sports**

**Observer News Service** 

**SRINAGAR:** Waseem Raja, a 2008 batch JKAS officer, took over as Joint Director (Kashmir) of the Department of Youth Services and Sports (YSS) on Monday.

Immediately after taking the charge from the outgoing officer he paid a visit to different sections of the Directorate, JD office, District YSS Office Srinagar and Youth Hostel Srinagar. He hoped that his subordinate officers and officials would work with the same dedication and commitment for which the Department of YSS is known for. He stressed upon his subordinate staff that the JD office shall act as an effective bridge between the Kashmirbased field staff/offices of the Department and the Directorate.



"Getting the genuine service related matters of the employees resolved in a time bound manner would be prioritized and I can assure each one of you that your hard-work and commitment towards your job shall yield you satisfactory results," he added while addressing the subordinate officials. Raja also issued a circular to ban smoking and use of plastic in the premises of the Directorate of YSS Wazir Bagh, Srinagar.



CHENNAI SUPER KINGS' opening batters Devon Conway 47 (29) and Ruturaj Gaikwad 57 (31) took the Lucknow Super Giants bowlers to the cleaners on Monday evening. Thanks to an 110-run opening stand, CSK were able to post a commanding 217/7 in 20 overs. LSG were yet to bat when the report was filed.

## DC Might Ring In Some **Changes Against GT**

**Press Trust of India** 

**NEW DELHI:** Axar Patel's promotion in Delhi Capitals bat- thetic about spinners getting ting order is being seriously contemplated by the management, team Director Sourav Ganguly said on the eve of IPL game against Gujarat Titans on Tuesday.

Ganguly, however, expects DC vice captain to bowl a better line after getting some hammering from Kyle Mayers and Nicholas Pooran.

proved. He has batted exceptionally well on difficult tracks in T20 cricket." against Australia and hopefully

he can score runs for us," Gan- and most of the time T20 is guly told mediapersons. He was, however, sympa-

hit on a flat deck.

"It's not easy when West

about clever bowling and being aware of situations because you play on flat tracks and ball is almost new," Ganguly reasoned. "So it's not easy unless it



'Yeah that's (batting) been Indian boys keep hitting you discussed and he will bat up through middle. And they hit a the order as his batting has im- long way. Mayers, Pooran, Russell and Powell they hit miles

grips and turns which doesn't happen most of the times. Hopefully, with all his experience and ability and what he has done for India, he will "Yes, he has to get lines right come back," he added.

## **UFC, WWE Combine To Form Sports Entertainment Company**

Agencies

WE and the company that and WWE catapults WWE into runs Ultimate Fighting a new era, after functioning as a Championship will combine to create a \$21.4 billion sports entertainment company.

A new publicly traded company will house the UFC and World Wrestling Entertainment brands, with Endeavor Group Holdings Inc. taking a 51% controlling interest in the new company. Existing WWE shareholders will hold a 49% stake.

The companies put the enterprise value of UFC at \$12.1 billion and WWE's value at \$9.3 billion.

The new business, which does not yet have a name, will be lead by Endeavor CEO Ari Emanuel. Vince McMahon, executive chairman at WWE, will serve in the same role at the new company. Dana White will continue as president of UFC and Nick Khan will be president at WWE.

tween the two businesses.

The deal between Endeavor family-run business for decades. McMahon purchased Capitol Wrestling from his father in 1982, and took the regional wrestling business to a national audience with the likes of wrestling stars such as Andre the Giant, Hulk Hogan and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson. The company, which changed its name to World Wrestling Federation and later World Wrestling Entertainment, hosted

its first WrestleMania in 1985. The announcement of the WWE sale arrives after McMahon, the founder and majority shareholder of WWE, returned to the company in January and said that it could be up for sale.

Rumors swirled about who would possibly be interested in buying WWE, with Endeavor, Disney, Fox, Comcast, Amazon



"Together, we will be a \$21+ billion live sports and entertainment powerhouse with a collective fanbase of more than a billion people and an exciting growth opportunity," McMahon said in a prepared statement Monday.

He also provided some idea of where the focus of the new company will be, saying that it will look to maximize the value of combined media rights, enhance sponsorship monetization, develop new forms of content and pursue other strategic mergers and acquisitions to further bolster their brands.

Ties already exists talent wise between WWE and UFC, with stars such as Brock Lesnar and

and Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund all in the mix.

McMahon acknowledged to CNBC that there were several suitors for WWE, but that combining with Endeavor is the right move.

"It makes all the sense in the world for all these synergies that we have to extract all of the value that we can out of the marketplace," he explained. Media industry analysts

viewed WWE as an attractive target given its global reach and loyal fanbase, which includes everyone from minors to seniors and a wide range of incomes.

The company held its marquee event, WrestleMania, over the weekend. Last year, WWE Ronda Rousey crossing over be-booked revenue of \$1.3 billion.

