

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 quarrel. "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 suicide," the officer said.

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 around two to **More on P6**



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

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 during the last 24 hours till 0830 hours today, the MeT official said, Srinagar received 0.3mm, Qazigund 00mm, Pahalgam traces, Kupwara 2.0mm, 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 tourist 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 Gujarat's 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 Sessions 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 Mushtaq 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," Ahmad said. 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 formal 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 J&K in December 2018 accorded sanction for payment of one-month 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**

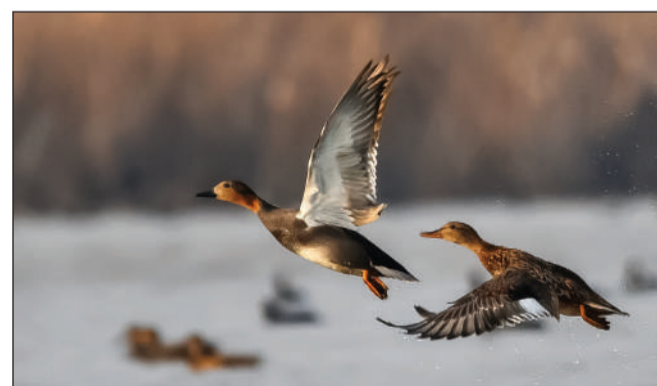
Takes Note Of Delay In Filing UCs Of Funds

Taking 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 Naqash 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," Naqash 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, Naqash 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**

S H O R T T A K E S

LG Greets People On Mahavir Jayanti

The 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

Police 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

A woman aged around 35 years died after she fell from a running train in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, an official said on Monday. The unidentified woman fell down from 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**

Interview Of Haj Trainers Today

The 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

A 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 Bhabderwah 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

The 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**



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

Press Trust Of India

A '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

molecular biology, Penn State.

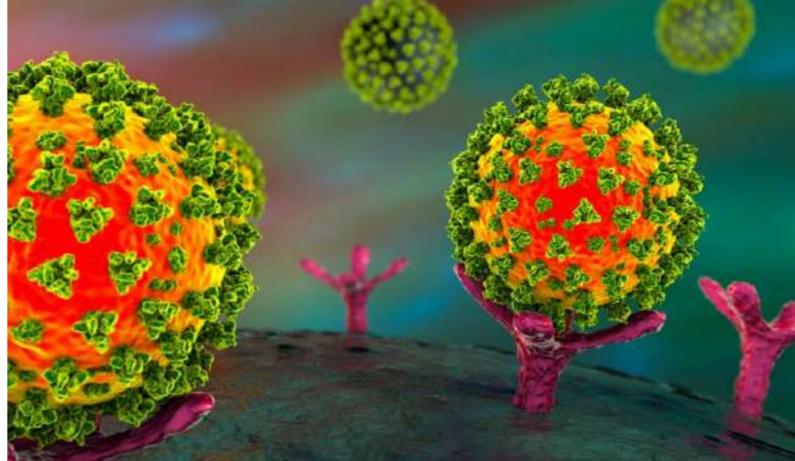
The study is published in the journal Life.

A technique called amide hydrogen/deuterium exchange mass spectrometry was used to study how the spike protein changed with each of the new 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 branches," said Anand.

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



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 exposure now takes

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-Wataar) 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".

Table with 6 columns: S. No., Name of the position, No of positions, Duration, Emoluments/month, Qualification. Includes details for Junior Research Fellow (JRF) position.

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

Sd/-
Dr Akhlaq Amin Wani
(Principal Investigator)

حکومت جموں و کشمیر
از دفتر سیڈ پیتھا لوجسٹ محکمہ زراعت و کسان بہبود
فصلوں و سیزنوں کی بیماریاں اور ان کا انسداد

Table with 4 columns: Number, Disease Name, Symptoms, and Treatment. Lists various agricultural diseases and their management strategies.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My mother's name has been wrongly 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.

COURT OF THE 2nd ADDITIONAL MUNSIF
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 Gulam Mohammad Bhat R/o Wazir Bagh Srinagar
Versus
Registrar, Births and Deaths, SMC Srinagar
NON-Applicant
WHEREAS an application has been made before this court that Gulam 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 Gulam Mohammad Bhat, in the concerned Register of Births and Deaths.

Before The Hon'ble Court Of Judge Small Cause At Srinagar.

Amina W/o. Abdul Hameed Kak R/o. Khawaja Bazar, Srinagar
Versus
Registrar, Births and Deaths, S.M.C. Srinagar.
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.

از عدالت چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سب جج سرینگر
با اجلاس راجا محمد تسلیم

طارق احمد تھیلہ عدالت چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سب جج سرینگر
سوزندہ گوئی پورہ سرینگر (سائل) بنام
ایس۔ ایم۔ سی سرینگر (سویل)
درخواست برآمد اندراج کرنے تاریخ پیدائش آزماں
06-04-2014
عمران طارق تاریخ پیدائش
06-04-2014
قیصر طارق تاریخ پیدائش
0-07-2016
آرزو طارق تاریخ پیدائش
اشتبہا برادر آگاہی بر خاص دعاء
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان صدر میں سائل اسانکے عدالت ہذا میں ایک درخواست بشمول غلطی بغرض اندراج کرنے تاریخ پیدائش دائری ہے۔ لہذا دعوا اس کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست سائل اسانکے منظور ہونے میں کوئی غلطی اعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں عدالت میں آکر مورخہ 12-04-2023 تک پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معیار کوئی غلطی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
تقریر صدر
03-04-2023
nj

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. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Gh Hassan Khan
S/o: Ali Mohammad Khan
R/O: Sharief Abad Budgam nj

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. Vs. (...Respondent(s)
UT of JK and Ors. (...Respondent(s)
Through:
CORAM:
HON'BLE MS JUSTICE SINDHU SHARMA, JUDGE
ORDER
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 respondents 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 with this petition.
WP(C) No. 691/2023
Notice to the respondents in the main petition as well as in CM, returnable within four weeks.
Requisite steps for service within one week.
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 proceedings are initiated, the respondents shall not proceed with eviction without affording an opportunity of being heard to the petitioner, and till the petitioner is heard, status quo as on date be maintained.
nj

BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF PR. DISTRICT JUDGE A T BUDGAM
In the case of:- Ghulam Ahmad Parray S/o Ghulam Rasool Parray R/o Nunar Tehsil Khanshab District Budgam. (Caveator)
VS
I. Asadullah Parray S/o Gh Rasool Parray R/o. Nunar Tehsil Khanshab District Budgam
2. Farooq Ahmad Parray S/o Asadullah Parray R/o Nunar Tehsil Khanshab District Budgam.
3. Public at Large. (Non-Caveators)
In the matter of.
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
nj

از عدالت سب جج میونسپل مجسٹریٹ سرینگر
با اجلاس مہرین مشتاق
Raja Bano بنام
سائل اسانکے
درخواست بغرض اندراج تاریخ پیدائش اوقات
Ghulam Mohamad Bhat نام:
تاریخ وفات 1 : 01-09-1993
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان صدر میں سائل اسانکے عدالت ہذا میں ایک درخواست بشمول غلطی بغرض اندراج تاریخ پیدائش اوقات
Ghulam Mohamad Bhat S/o Ghulam Hassan Bhat نام:
تاریخ وفات 1 : 01-09-1993
مورخہ 29-03-2023
R/o Khemani Chowk Bemina Sgr
بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست کوئی غلطی اعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں اپنے غلطی اشتہار کے اندر میں ایک دعوت میں آکر پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معیار کوئی غلطی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آئندہ عدالت ہذا میں 05-04-2023 کو قلمبر ہے۔
تقریر صدر
سب جج میونسپل مجسٹریٹ سرینگر
nj

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 of 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 includ-

ing 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 vis-à-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.

"I 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, Batamalo, Qamarwari 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 Act, 1960.

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 Elec-

tion 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.
Rubeena Yaseen
W/O Mohd Yaseen Baba
R/O Hajibagh nj



Female tourists takes cover under umbrella amid rainfall 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-

NawaKadal, Rajouri Kadal, Bohri Kadal, Khanyar, Dalgate, Residency road, Lal Chowk, H.S.H.S, Jahangir Chowk, Batamalo, 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 a full-scale bus service on 11 routes

sides the privately owned mini-bus 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 Champura PS," Srinagar police tweeted.

CRITICAL CARE AMBULANCE

FREE FOR EVERY ONE

Call, Any Time 24x7

9484100200
01942310018

CONTROL ROOM:
27 Gogji Bagh, Near Oasis School, Srinagar

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS
 • SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
 • ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
 • BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
 • BUBHERA: 01932-228243
 • PAMPORE: 01933-294132
 • PATTAN: 01954-293507
 • QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

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

 HIJRI CALENDAR 13 RAMAZAN 1444	PRAYERS FAJR 4 :50 ZUHR 12:34 ASR 5: 05 Magrib 6:56 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

S 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 Minister 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 leaders.

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 Manmohan 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 nuclear-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 valley'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 financial 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 OBSERVERTM

Tuesday | 04-04-2023

Keeping Our Food Safe

Americans 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 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 OPINION

A bold message from Lahore

At 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

Finance 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 SATAT (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 as well.

India's commitments on reducing fossil fuel

In November last year, the Government

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 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 UNFCCC), 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 operational.

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 communities the figure stood at 68 percent.

Figures also reveal that Sikhs (77.7 percent) are most likely to own their own homes, while among Muslims, 45.6 percent live 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 percent, compared with 33.8 percent for the overall population. However, just 31.6 percent 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.

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 Yusuf, 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 Saeda 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

Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. He can be contacted at www.asadmirza.in



FEATURE IMAGE CREDITS: (GETTY)

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 Jonathan 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 contemporary 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 cell phones 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 meth-

od 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 technology—specifically, 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 non-invasive 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



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 voters about the importance of casting votes and urge them

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 senior officers were present on the occasion.

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 Kashmir-based 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 batting 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.

"Yeah that's (batting) been discussed and he will bat up the order as his batting has improved. He has batted exceptionally well on difficult tracks against Australia and hopefully

he can score runs for us," Ganguly told mediapersons.

He was, however, sympathetic about spinners getting hit on a flat deck.

"It's not easy when West

Indian boys keep hitting you through middle. And they hit a long way. Mayers, Pooran, Russell and Powell they hit miles in T20 cricket."

"Yes, he has to get lines right

and most of the time T20 is 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



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 come back," he added.

UFC, WWE Combine To Form Sports Entertainment Company

Agencies

WWE and the company that runs Ultimate Fighting 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 led 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 and WWE catapults WWE into a new era, after functioning as a 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 Ronda Rousey crossing over be-

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 booked revenue of \$1.3 billion.

Ramazan Kargem

Quick eats for busy people

Bun Maska

& Chai

Chicken Crispy Burger

Come Have
Iftar
With Us

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