

## Amit Shah Reviews J&K Situation, Preparations For G20 Meet In Srinagar

### Praises UT Govt For Improved Law And Order Situation

Observer News Service

**New Delhi:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday reviewed the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, including the Line of Control and International Border, sources said.

Shah was given a detailed presentation on the prevailing law-and-order situation in Jammu and Kashmir by security officials of the central government and the union territory administration.

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Dilbag Singh and other senior officials attended the meeting, the sources said.

The situation along the Line of Control and International



Border, infiltration bids from across the border and attempts to target minority community members were discussed at the meeting here, they said.

In a statement released to

the media, an official spokesperson said that the Union Home Minister reviewed the functioning of the security grid and various aspects related to security.

Shah, he said, reiterated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Government of India is committed towards zero tolerance against terrorism. **More on P6**

### India Trashes Pak Objection To G-20 Meet In Srinagar

India on Thursday dismissed Pakistan's objection to the hosting of G20 meetings in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh and said these conferences are being organised across the country and it is "natural" to hold them in the two union territories too as they are its "integral and inalienable" part.

India is hosting a meeting of the G20 Tourism Working Group in Srinagar in May while a youth engagement group meeting is scheduled to take place in Leh later this month. On Tuesday, Pakistan criticised India's decision to hold the G20 working group meeting in Srinagar and also objected to the scheduling of the Youth-20 forum in Leh. "G20 meetings are being organised across the country. It is natural to hold them (the meetings) in Srinagar and Ladakh as the places are India's integral and inalienable part," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said at a media briefing. He was responding to a question on Pakistan's objection. "I would say that we are holding these meetings in every place. It is our natural response **More on P6**

### NCERT Drops Maulana Azad From New Textbook

"The Philosophy Of The Constitution", The Reference To Jammu And Kashmir's Conditional Accession Has Also Been Deleted

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** References to freedom fighter and India's first education minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad have been removed from the new class 11 political science textbook by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

As part of its "syllabus rationalisation" exercise last year, the NCERT, citing "overlapping" and "irrelevant" as reasons, dropped certain portions from the course including lessons on Gujarat riots, Mughal courts, Emergency, Cold War, Naxalite movement, among others from its textbooks.

The rationalisation note had no mention of any changes in class 11 political science textbook.

The NCERT has, however, claimed that no curriculum trimming has taken place this year and the syllabus was rationalised in June, last year. **More on P6**

### COVID RESURGENCE

## DHSK To Issue Renewed Guidelines If Cases Spike

Majid Nabi

**Srinagar:** As coronavirus cases continue to show a surge in Jammu and Kashmir for the last two weeks, the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK) Thursday said the situation is being closely monitored, and that the necessary guidelines will be notified, if the number of cases continues to swell.

DHSK ascribed the abrupt and steep increase in Covid-19 instances to the carelessness of individuals, who, in spite of being well aware of the outcome, take Covid proper behavior for granted.

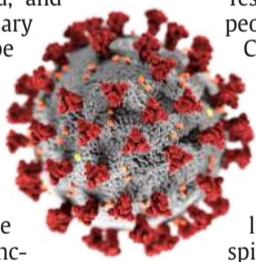
Talking to Kashmir Observer, DHSK spokesman, Dr Mir Mushtaq Ahmad said the virus might be different

but the guidelines are the same, which have to be followed in letter and spirit.

He said although the hospitalization rate in J&K is low at the moment, the situation might worsen, in case people continue to flout the guidelines.

"Yes the negligence of people in re-adopting Covid -19 appropriate behavior is the sole reason for resurgence. People have to be extra careful and follow guidelines in letter and spirit. Situation is being closely monitored and fresh guidelines will be issued if the number of cases continues to swell," DHSK Spokesman added.

When asked that Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri recently said that stringent **More on P6**



A group of boys enjoying bicycle ride on a bright sunny afternoon in the interiors of Dal Lake on Thursday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

### 43 Women Injured In Poonch House Collapse

**Srinagar:** At least 43 women mourners were injured after a house they had assembled in to express condolences collapsed in a village on Thursday in Poonch district.

Police said, "The villagers (mostly women) were attending the customary rituals at the house of one Zakir Hussain Shah in Khanetar village near High School in Poonch district to mourn the death of a woman while the male members had gone for the cremation in Poonch district."

Due to paucity of space in the house the mourners gathered on the rooftop which collapsed leaving several injured, mostly women and girls, said police.

Police said that a police party and villagers swung into action and started the rescue operation and evacuated the injured.

The injured have been identified as Hameeda Begum (60); Shahnaz Bibi (30); Tasveer Begum (40); Misra Khatoon (55); Gulshaid Begum (45); Ameer Fatima (65); Shakeela Kazmi (40); Ruksana Bukhari (50); Naiz Kazmi (40); Ameen Jaan (55); Tabassum Kazmi (28); Javed Akhter (45); Shamshad Fatima (42); Zanib Noor (45); **More on P6**

## Ram Madhav Sends Legal Notice To Ex-J&K Guv Malik Seeks Public Apology Within 48 Hours

Agencies

**New Delhi:** Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's (RSS) Ram Madhav on Thursday sent a legal notice to former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satyapal Malik, who alleged that he (Ram Madhav) was involved in corruption.

Madhav through legal notice stated, "Malik made untrue and defamatory statements to stay relevant in a political circle"

Ram Madhav, Rashtriya Karyakarini Sadasya of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh

(RSS) in legal notice stated, "You the addressee are well known in the political circles, however, lately owing your fading popularity and relevance, and to stay relevant in the social life of this country, for the sake of gathering public attention through sensationalism you have made certain untrue, defamatory, and incriminating statements on the said YouTube channel in an interview on 08.04.2023 in conspiracy with the interviewer of a Youtube channel." Madhav **More on P6**

### SMART CITY CONSTRUCTION WORK

## Ahead Of Eid, Srinagar Small Businesses Say Losses Mounting

Press Trust Of India

**Srinagar:** Ahead of Eid ul Fitr, several traders in Kashmir's commercial hub of Lal Chowk and adjoining areas alleged they are counting losses as business has slumped due to the ongoing construction work in Srinagar under the Smart City Project.

Many businesses were unanimous in their claim that the construction work coupled with the decision by authorities not to allow public transport into Lal Chowk have adversely

affected footfall as people are unable to come.

Earlier, they said, the market used to be teeming with people during Ramzan, especially towards the end of the fasting month.

"Businesses are suffering due to the construction work. With just eight days left for Eid, this place would have been teeming with shoppers, but this year, there is no footfall as people cannot come here," said Aijaz Ahmad, who deals in dry fruits.

Dates and other Ramzan specialties like 'sewaiyyan' used to sell

like hot cakes earlier but this year, sales have been severely affected.

"Ramzan and Eid used to be full of activity. But due to the construction work under the smart city project, businesses has been severely affected as people cannot come to Lal Chowk," Bashir Ahmad, another dry fruit dealer, added.

He said Lal Chowk now looks "deserted". "Health of the shopkeepers here has also taken a hit due to the air pollution caused by the construction," Bashir Ahmad said. **More on P6**

## School Edu Dept Issues Homework Schedule For Students

### No Homework For Students Upto Class-II

Observer News Service

**Srinagar-** Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) Thursday issued "Homework Schedule" as per New Bag Policy-2020, according to which it said there shall be no homework for students upto second standard even as mandating a maximum of ten to twelve hours classwork for the secondary and higher secondary students each week.

"Heavy homework is an issue, which makes both students and parents stressed because as a general practice it needs to be



completed by night and reported in the school next morning. This practice snatches the play time of child, parents' quality time with child, activities leading to socialization with the family," reads a circular in this regard.

This practice, it remarked, mars student's **More on P6**

### SHORT TAKES

#### LG Greets People On Baisakhi

The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday greeted the people on the eve of Baisakhi. In a message, the Lt Governor said: On the joyous occasion of Baisakhi, I convey my warmest felicitations and good wishes to all. "Baisakhi marks the beginning of the harvest season heralding happiness and prosperity. It is also an occasion to remember with gratitude about the contribution of our farmers to the progress of the nation," the Lt Governor observed. May this festival **More on P6**

#### Pak Drone With Cash, Ammo Shot Down

A Pakistani drone was brought down by security forces as it crossed the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district, and a massive search operation has been launched in the area, officials said on Thursday. They said five magazines of AK-47 rifle, 131 rounds of fire, Rs 2 lakh in cash and other items have been recovered from the packet attached to the drone. Sources said they suspect some other drones might have dropped weapons, explosives or such items and the search has been launched to recover them. **More on P6**

#### Labourer Slips To Death

In a tragic incident, a worker fell to death at a stone quarry in the Safapora area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Thursday. An official said that a worker Gulzar Ahmad Mir, son of Ghulam Mohammad Mir, a resident of Kondbal Safapora, who was working at a stone quarry lost his balance and fell from a high cliff, resulting in his death on the spot. Police were immediately informed and a team from the local police station was dispatched to the site, the official said, adding that the police have started **More on P6**

#### Margan Top Opens After Winter Halt

After a long winter halt, the Margan Top Road in district Kishtwar has finally been opened, officials said Thursday. The road connects the remote regions of Marwah and Warwan with the rest of Jammu and Kashmir. The road was cleared of snow with the tireless efforts of the Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Projects of Marwah (Kishtwar) and Vailoo (Anantnag). The road's opening is a significant achievement that will bring much-needed relief to the people by easing mobility and **More on P6**

#### Nepalese National Found Dead

The body of a Nepalese national was found in Nallah Sindh in central Kashmir's Kangan area on Thursday, officials said. An official said that the body that was recovered from Nallah Sindh was identified as Chabi Lal Vishwakarma, a Nepalese national and son of Nar Singh, resident of Karnali Nepal. "The body was spotted by locals during evening hours and was immediately reported to the authorities. Upon arriving at the scene, the police launched an investigation and **More on P6**

#### Youth Killed In Lightning Strike

A youth was killed while another sustained critical injuries after lightning struck them in Rajouri district of Jammu region. Locals said that on Thursday evening, lightning struck the Patli forest area of Kotranka sub-division in which two men fell unconscious with critical injuries. Both were taken to the Community Health Center Kandi, they said. An official said that 28-year-old Zafar Iqbal, son of Mohammad Bashir, a resident of Panjnara was brought dead to the hospital. Meanwhile, **More on P6**



Lightning Strike Leads To Discovery Of New Phosphorus Material

Press Trust Of India

Following a lightning strike to a tree in a New Port Richey neighbourhood in Florida, US, a university professor discovered that the strike led to the formation of a new phosphorus material.



The material, found in a rock and in solid form for the first time on Earth, could represent a member of a new mineral group, said the geoscientist Matthew Pasek from University of Florida.

Pasek examined in a study how high-energy events, such as lightning, can cause unique chemical reactions and, in this instance, result in a new material which is transitional between space minerals and those found on Earth.

"We have never seen this material occur naturally on Earth - minerals similar to it can be found in meteorites and space, but we've never seen this exact material anywhere," said geoscientist Matthew Pasek.

"When lightning strikes a tree, the ground typically explodes out and the surrounding grass dies, forming a scar and sending electric discharge through nearby rock, soil and sand, forming fulgurites, also known as 'fossilized lightning'," said Pasek.

Pasek purchased the fulgurite from the New Port Richey hometown-

gurite that looked like a metal 'glob'. Inside the fulgurite, a colorful, crystal-like matter revealed a material never before discovered.

Co-principal investigator Tian Feng, a graduate of University of South Florida's geology program, attempted to remake the material in a lab.

The experiment, having been unsuccessful, indicated that the material likely formed quickly under precise conditions, and if heated too long, would turn into the mineral found in meteorites.

Feng said that while previous research indicated lightning reduction of phosphate to have been a widespread phenomenon on the early Earth, there is an environmental phosphite reservoir issue in Earth that these solid phosphite materials are hard to restore.

Feng said this research may reveal other forms of reduced minerals are plausible and many could have been important in the development of life on Earth.

Given the rarity of the mineral occurring naturally, Pasek said that it's unlikely this material could be mined for uses similar to other phosphates, such as fertilizer.

However, Pasek and Bindi plan to further investigate the material to determine if it could be officially declared a mineral and bring additional awareness to the scientific community.

Public Notice

We are going to register our Mohalla Committee under the name and style of KARBALAYE 72 SERVING HUMANITY, with its Head Office at Lashkari Mohalla, Foreshore Road, Srinagar in the office of Registrar of societies J&K UT Jammu/Srinagar under Societies Registration Act 1998 (1941 AD). In case any body having any kind of objection shall file his/their objection in the office of Registrar Societies J&K UT Jammu/Srinagar within the period of 7 days, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

President Karbalaye Lalashakari Mohalla Roreshore Road Sgr inf

Subject:- Grant of Registration of the proposed Travel unit under the name & style "M/s The Hasten Tour And Travels" Situated at Nadiyar Rainawari

Public Notice

Whereas, I Umar Dar S/O Ghulam Mohammad Dar R/O Jogi Lanker Rainawari Srinagar, Kashmir intends to apply in the department of Tourism for Registration of my proposed Travel Unit under the name and style "M/s The Hasten Tour And Travels" Situated at Nadiyar Rainawari, Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, I will submit State Subject/Domicile Certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan Card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years), Character Certificate (Police Department), Bank Statement (Minimum Balance 10000), Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by Sub-Registrar, Printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting Card), Photograph of the Unit (Indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size Photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before my case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/Bank/Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration (e-mail id:- ddtreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspapers of the Valley. No objections beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my name has wrongly been entered as Farooq Ahmad Wali s/o Ghulam Nabi Wali instead of Peer Farooq Ahmad Wali s/o. Peer Ghulam Nabi Wali in my passport issued vide No. K1877261 date of issue 01-11-2011 and date of expiry 31-10-2021. Now I have applied for a new passport and want the necessary corrections be made in my new passport. Any objection in this regard shall be filed in the office of Passport Authority at Srinagar within a period of seven days. No objection will be acceptable thereafter.

Peer Farooq Ahmad Wali S/O. Peer Ghulam Nabi Wali R/O. Sheikh Hamzah Colony, Eidgah, Sgr. NJ

Advertisement for 'ازعدالت سبج میڈیکل مجسٹریٹ سربنگر' (Azadlat Sbj Medical Magistrate Srinagar) with details of services and contact information.

Advertisement for 'ازعدالت چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سبج سربنگر' (Azadlat Chief Judicial Magistrate Sbj Srinagar) with details of services and contact information.

Advertisement for 'ازعدالت چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سبج سربنگر' (Azadlat Chief Judicial Magistrate Sbj Srinagar) with details of services and contact information.

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

SUB-OFFICE BANDIPORA The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th session Annual 2008 issued by the board of School Education under Below mentioned particulars

Name : Shaheena Bano D/o: Mohd Maqbool Bhat Roll No: 406744 Year & Session : 2008 Annual

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

Sd/ Assistant Secretary Board Of School Education Sub Office Bandipora

Advertisement for 'Before the Hon'ble Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Srinagar' with details of a legal case regarding a death certificate.

Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Srinagar Mechanical Engineering Department, Kashmir. Advertisement for tendering works.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION SOPORE TENDER NOTICE E-NIT 02 of 04/2023 Dated: 13-04-2023

Advertisement for 'ازعدالت چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سبج سربنگر' (Azadlat Chief Judicial Magistrate Sbj Srinagar) with details of services and contact information.



KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

Friday | 14-04-2023

## Surge in Covid cases

The recent surge in Covid-19 cases in India is a stark reminder that the pandemic is far from over. The country reported 10,158 new cases in the last 24 hours, with the active caseload reaching 44,998. While these numbers may seem small compared to the peak of the second wave, they are still a cause for concern. The Union Health Ministry has reported that on average, India recorded 5,555 Covid-19 daily in the last week, as compared to 3,108 the week before. This shows that the virus is still spreading and people need to take precautions to protect themselves.

The spike in infections is believed to be caused by a new variant called "Arcturus". Over the past month, the number of cases has increased by 13 times, and there are concerns that the Omicron sub-variant XBB.1.16 strain could further worsen the situation. In response, the country's health ministry has conducted mock drills to assess the readiness of hospitals to handle a potential influx of patients.

On the vaccine front, Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla announced that the company has restarted manufacturing of the Covishield vaccine. Poonawalla also stated that the company already has six million booster doses of the Covovax vaccine available, and adults must take the booster shot. It is crucial that people take the vaccine and the booster shot, as it is the most effective way to control the spread of the virus and prevent severe illness and death.

However, it is important to note that the pandemic since it broke out in February 2020, has had a significant impact on the economy. It has hit the most vulnerable sections of society the hardest. According to a media report, between July 2020 and February 2023, just 17.51 percent of the total number of loans in India turned bad or non-performing. While this is a relatively low number, it is still a cause for concern, as it shows that many people are struggling to repay their loans due to the economic impact of the pandemic.

The recent surge in Covid-19 cases is a reminder that the pandemic is far from over. People must continue to take precautions to protect themselves and those around them. In Kashmir too, there are signs that the infection is spreading again. But people are far from observing the Standard Operating Procedure. Masks have been abandoned long time ago. But given the highly transmissible nature of the new strain, it is time people take to observing Covid protocol again. We shouldn't allow the virus a gestation period before it once again blows up in our face.

OTHER OPINION

## The Scourge of Poverty

Peer Faizan Bashir

Countless people are dying as a consequence of poverty; the future of children, being devastated by the same factor, and there is hardly a facet of life that is left untouched by this scourge. We, in the modern era, must find solutions for the overwhelming number of people that face such a situation in life and are in need of help. It is both our religious and ethical duty to come forward and help people to mitigate the effects of this plight, if not eradicate it entirely.

The following vignette/episode might offer a glimpse into this scourge.

A couple of days ago, I had some guests coming home and I had to go out and buy some things from the market. It was an exhausting day, and I stopped by a bakery shop to satiate my hunger. Before I could fill my belly, a small child with winsome, bright eyes; brimmed with tears, beautiful face; thick with grime, passed by. Her gait described everything, and she came closer to me seeking alms (money) to buy something to eat. I lost my appetite and I felt powerless.

Her condition was evidence of a tragic story, a story that landed her in such a state of being. I gave her a 50 rupee note and the little girl continued seeking alms from others while showing some documents. But, unfortunately they didn't bother listening, some even disparaged her and shunned her off. On that day, I realized that we can't be a civilized society, and the vital core values of our humanity have been hollowed out.

Whilst observing the poor child I saw something strange happen. She was writing something on a wall outside. As I tried to decipher the scribbles, I found that she had scratched the wall with alphabets and words I could hardly comprehend.

Eventually, I went home. After serving the guests, and as my thoughts returned, I began asking myself: Who was she? Why was she begging at such a young age? Why was she scribbling something on the wall? Why didn't anyone bother to listen to her? Whatever the question, one thing was clear; it was poverty that had brought her onto the streets.

Helping the poor should be our practical, moral and religious duty. It is important to keep in mind that were all humans. Apart from the failure of our leaders, it is also a collective failure of our society and people who have turned a blind eye to these issues. We have been drained of empathy and all that matters is our own wellbeing.

A loaf of bread or some cash might temporarily help a destitute, but an organized, organic and well thought plan could help thousands and eventually eradicate this scourge.

# How Shift in Geopolitics is Changing Map of West Asia



Mohamad Hasan Sweidan

Great-power competition has the potential to significantly impact the future of Israel. As a key player in West Asia, Israel is likely to be affected by the actions and strategies of major powers such as the US, China, and Russia.

The US has historically been a strong ally of Israel, providing significant military and economic aid. However, Washington's current strategy of thwarting growing Chinese and Russian political and economic influence around the world may lead to increased pressure on Israel, a western-creation, to align with US interests in the region.

At the same time, China and Russia are rapidly expanding their stakes in West Asia, which may set back Israel's recent rapprochement progress with neighboring states. In the past few years, Tel Aviv has offered itself to Arab states as a strong regional replacement for waning US presence, and a buffer against Iran's rise.

But Beijing's key role in brokering an agreement between Saudi Arabia and Iran is likely to impact Israel's dealings with both of those countries – and other Arab states. Will they need that Israeli military buffer if global power China – or Russia – can troubleshoot conflict and usher in peace?

Furthermore, as great-power competition intensifies, Israel, like other small states, will come under pressure to align with one side. This could impact Israel's ability to maintain its independence and pursue its own interests in the region.

Great Power competition: a heavy burden on Israel

In recent years, Israel has developed multifaceted relationships with both China and Russia, which have reaped both economic and political benefits for Tel Aviv. China has been one of the top global investors in West Asia and North Africa, with Israel ranking eighth on the list of beneficiary states since 2005 and receiving just over \$12 billion in Chinese investments since 2010. In the past, Washington has given Israel some leeway in its foreign policy initiatives, but since the Ukraine conflict, US flexibility has been abruptly halted.

Senior analyst on Israeli affairs at Al-Akhar newspaper, Ali Haidar, told The Cradle that "Israel has a specific margin to preserve its interests. This is something that the United States understands and considers."

"At the same time, there are red lines that Israel cannot cross, but it can, through its relations and contacts with the US administration and influential parties, contribute to adapting and circumventing them to some extent."

As the competition between the US, on the one hand, and Moscow and Beijing on the other, intensifies, Israel's ability to maneuver is becoming increasingly limited, and Washington's pressure is mounting. This pressure demands that Tel Aviv take positions more aligned with US interests, which in turn constrain cooperation between Israel and Russia, and China.

According to Manuel Trajtenberg, director of Israel's National Security Institute:

"The increasing pressure on Israel to pivot in this context presents it with weighty dilemmas, and a policy change in the wake of that could significantly reduce its space for political-security maneuvering."

This was exemplified by Israel's attempts to mediate the conflict in Ukraine, which were quickly abandoned under coercion from Washington to take a clear position in support of the west and against Moscow.

This US pressure was also reflected in Israel's military aggressions against Syria. In March 2022, the number of Israeli strikes targeting Syria decreased to only one strike from four the month before, suggesting that Tel Aviv was apprehensive of a Russian reaction. As a result, any imbalance in the relationship between Israel and Russia may have direct consequences for Israel's interests – if Moscow decides to take action.

China's presence in West Asia and North Africa

In the early 2010s, China began to expand its presence in the West Asia-North Africa (WANA) regions. One of the major milestones of China's modern foreign policy was the announcement of its ambitious, multi-continent Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2013. To date, at least 17 countries from the region have joined the initiative.

China also signed bilateral partnership agreements with 13 countries in the region between 2014 and 2022. Notably, Israel has not entered into any association agreement with China and has not joined the BRI.

By brokering the Iran-Saudi deal in the aftermath of high-profile visits to Tehran and Riyadh by Chinese President Xi Jinping, Beijing has now signaled that it intends to play a more active role in resolving conflicts and disputes in the region, much to Washington's alarm. US reaction to this game-changing agreement has been hyper-focused on the geopolitical ramifications of China bringing the two parties to the table, rather than discussion about the agreement itself.

As China's influence in the region continues to grow, Israel remains constrained by "American concerns," preventing it from deepening its relations with China, while other regional states are lining up to strike deals with Beijing.

Analyst Haidar has noted that "the US's obstruction of Israeli engagement with China will limit Tel Aviv's ability to forge strong economic and political ties with Beijing," adding, "This is a practical example of Israel's commitment to what the United States regards as its vital inter-

national tendencies that affect Israel and its security; the global instability that stems mainly from the conflict between the United States and China will continue and intensify."

Today, Israel faces some momentous challenges to its future, not only from extreme domestic polarization but particularly from the intensification of global conflict and the decline of western hegemony. Iran's growing international engagement, and the solidification of its relations with Asian powers, are unfolding as Tel Aviv's options are shrinking.

There is also a correlation between the strength of US deterrence and influence in the region and Israel's ability to exercise its own deterrence capabilities. As US power weakens, it is likely to have a negative impact on Israel's ability to deter its enemies.

Moreover, the growing number of states "oscillating" between east and west, and maneuvering to take advantage of great-power competition, is another challenge for Israel. Even staunch US allies in the Persian Gulf – once scrambling for room to maneuver with the rising east, as seen with Riyadh's readiness for Chinese mediation in negotiations with Iran.

While Israel may have some margin to distance itself from direct confrontation with China and Russia, the repercussions of the Great Power conflict are likely to buoy the fortunes of the region's Axis of Resistance – in Iran, Syria, Yemen, Lebanon, and Iraq – with any balance of power shift away from US and Israeli hegemony.

In short, Israel's ability to leverage its western connections for geopolitical gain has shrunk considerably while its rivals race ahead to establish themselves comfortably in West Asia's new multipolarity.

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

One significant consequence of the intensifying competition between great powers is China and Russia's efforts to strengthen their cooperation with key states, particularly those that oppose aggressive western hegemony

ests, which Israel is prohibited from crossing."

In 2019, in order to protect Washington's interests, the Israeli government established a committee to evaluate the national security implications of foreign investments – with a specific focus on China.

Furthermore, the US and Israel have agreed to tighten control over the export of advanced technologies to China. That noose will further tighten as the economic competition between Washington and Beijing intensifies, and Israel – a major recipient of US technologies – may well be forced into this confrontation with China.

Iranian cooperation with Russia and China

One significant consequence of the intensifying competition between great powers is China and Russia's efforts to strengthen their cooperation with key states, particularly those that oppose aggressive western hegemony.

Their alignment of interests has led to a palpable warming in relations between Iran, Russia, and China, and some concrete steps forward. The three states are more frequently engaging in joint military exercises, and military cooperation between Moscow and Tehran has thrived over the broader Eurasian-Atlanticist conflict in Ukraine.

Hostile US policies aimed at Russia and China have encouraged them to seek out and establish supportive multilateral institutions such as the BRICS and Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Tehran has, in turn, applied for membership in both organizations, which led to Iran's formal ascension to the SCO last year – making it the organization's ninth member state and its first West Asian participant.

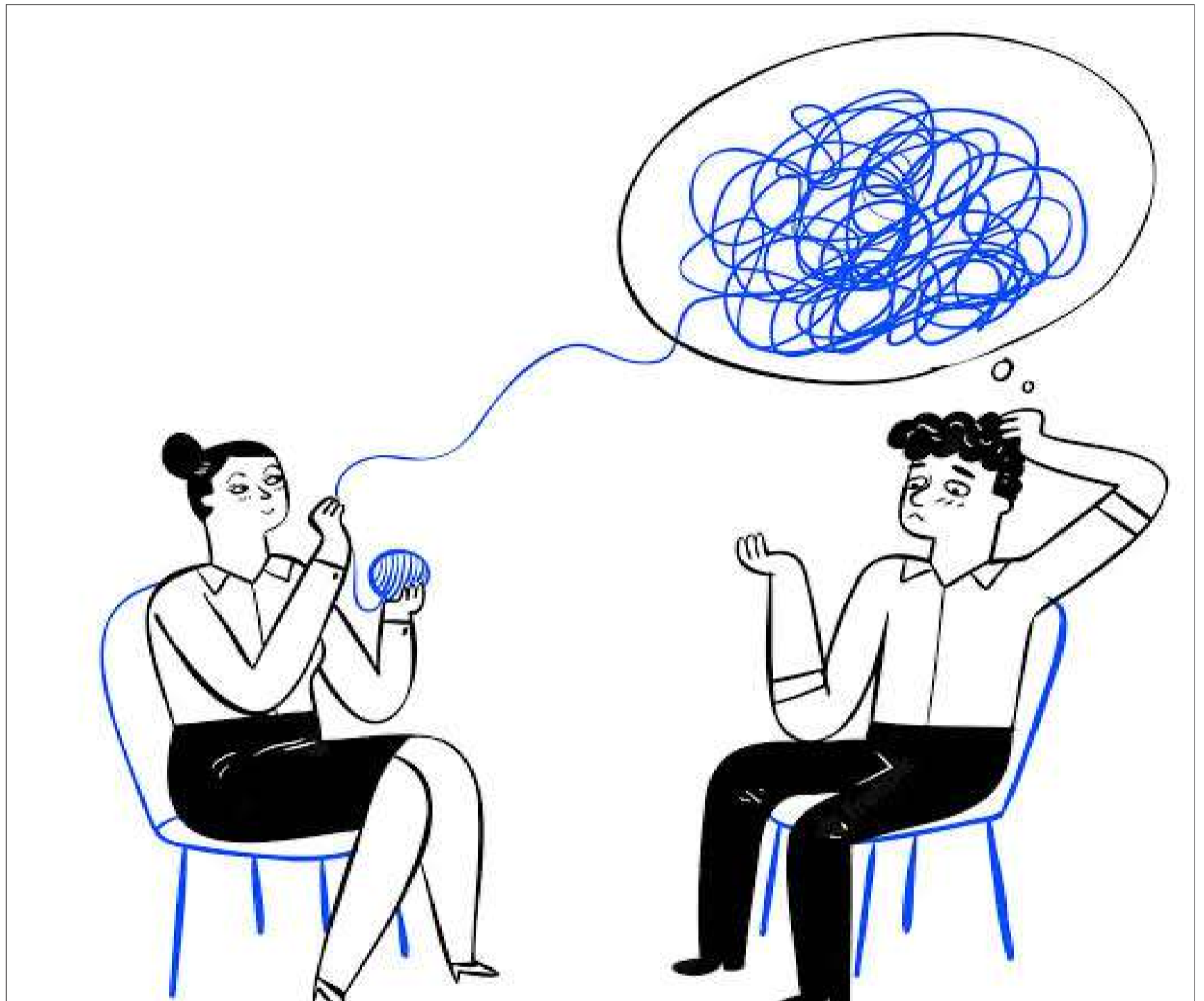
In this context, Haidar points out that "One of the most important concepts that resonate on the tongues of officials and experts in Israel is the seriousness of the repercussions of the intensification of the international conflict on the region and Israel." This, he argued, is "centered on Iran's openness to Asian powers and the implications of that."

Mindful Fridays

# BREAKING BARRIERS: The Importance of Collaboration between Clinical Psychologists and Medical Professionals for Comprehensive Public Health Services



**TO PROMOTE COLLABORATION BETWEEN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS AND MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS, SEVERAL SOLUTIONS CAN BE IMPLEMENTED.** One solution is to provide education and training for both medical professionals and clinical psychologists about each other's roles and responsibilities. This can help to increase understanding and trust between the two groups and promote better communication and collaboration



Wasim Kakroo

The field of medicine has witnessed a significant transformation in the past few decades, with the focus shifting from a purely biomedical model to a biopsychosocial model. The biopsychosocial model views health as an interplay between biological, psychological, and social factors, thereby highlighting the need for a more collaborative approach to healthcare delivery. In today's article, I, as a licensed clinical psychologist, will discuss the importance of building strong relationships between clinical psychologists and medical professionals from various branches of medicine in providing effective public health services.

## The Role of Clinical Psychologists in Public Health Services

Clinical psychology is a field of psychology that specializes in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of mental health disorders. Clinical psychologists work in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, schools, and private practices, and collaborate with other medical professionals to provide comprehensive healthcare services.

One of the primary roles of clinical psychologists in public health services is the assessment and treatment of mental health disorders. Mental health disorders, such as depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), are prevalent and can have a significant impact on an individual's overall health and well-being. Clinical psychologists work closely with medical professionals (psychiatrists) to identify the symptoms of mental health disorders, provide psychotherapy and counseling, and develop treatment plans tailored to the needs of each patient.

Clinical psychologists also play a crucial role in the prevention of mental health disorders. By iden-

tifying risk factors, such as trauma, stress, and substance abuse, clinical psychologists can work with medical professionals to develop preventive measures and early interventions. Prevention programs may include education and awareness campaigns, stress management techniques, and support groups.

## The Role of Medical Professionals in Public Health Services

Medical professionals play a vital role in public health services by diagnosing and treating physical health disorders. Medical professionals include physicians, nurses, and allied health professionals, such as pharmacists etc. The role of medical professionals extends beyond the treatment of physical health disorders, as they also play a critical role in preventing the spread of infectious diseases and promoting healthy behaviors.

Medical professionals can collaborate with clinical psychologists to provide comprehensive healthcare services. For example, medical professionals may refer patients with mental health disorders to clinical psychologists for assessment and treatment. Conversely, clinical psychologists may refer patients with physical health disorders to medical professionals for diagnosis and treatment.

## The Importance of Collaboration between Clinical Psychologists and Medical Professionals

Collaboration between clinical psychologists and medical professionals is essential for effective public health services. A collaborative approach ensures that patients receive comprehensive care that addresses both their physical and mental health needs. Collaboration also helps to improve patient outcomes by promoting better communication and coordination between health-

care providers.

Collaboration between clinical psychologists and medical professionals can also lead to the development of more effective treatment plans. Mental health disorders often co-occur with physical health disorders, and the treatment of one may impact the treatment of the other. By working together, clinical psychologists and medical professionals can develop treatment plans that address both physical and mental health needs, leading to better patient outcomes.

Stigma associated with mental health disorders may also get reduced due to the collaboration between clinical psychologists and medical professionals from various faculties. Many individuals with mental health disorders are reluctant to seek help due to the stigma associated with mental illness. By working with medical professionals, clinical psychologists can help to educate patients and the public about mental health disorders, reduce stigma, and encourage individuals to seek help when needed.

Collaboration between clinical psychologists and medical professionals is crucial in the treatment of many health conditions. Medical professionals have the knowledge and expertise to diagnose and treat physical illnesses, while clinical psychologists have the training and expertise to diagnose and treat mental health issues. By working together, medical professionals and clinical psychologists can provide patients with a comprehensive treatment plan that addresses both their physical and mental health needs.

It is crucial for general physicians and clinical psychologists to collaborate in treating various health issues. Usually, patients approach general physicians initially and present with diverse physical and psychological symptoms. A comprehensive treat-

ment approach that considers both the physical and mental health needs of patients can be achieved when general physicians and clinical psychologists work together.

For example, a patient may present to their general physician with symptoms of depression, such as fatigue and low mood. The general physician may refer the patient to a clinical psychologist for a psychological assessment and treatment. The clinical psychologist can work with the patient to develop coping strategies to manage their depression, while the general physician can prescribe medication if necessary.

Another example of collaboration between medical professionals and clinical psychologists is in the treatment of patients with cardiovascular disease. Cardiovascular disease is a leading cause of death worldwide, and it has been linked to a number of psychological factors, including stress, anxiety, and depression. Cardiovascular disease can be treated by the physical aspects of cardiovascular disease, such as high blood pressure, while clinical psychologists can help patients cope with the psychological aspects of the disease.

For example, a cardiologist may prescribe medication to lower a patient's blood pressure, while a clinical psychologist may work with the patient to develop coping strategies to manage stress and anxiety. Additionally, clinical psychologists can provide support to patients who have undergone cardiac procedures, such as heart surgery or angioplasty, to help them cope with the emotional impact of these procedures.

A further instance of cooperation between medical experts and clinical psychologists can be seen in the management of patients suffering from skin ailments. Conditions like eczema and psoriasis can adversely affect an individual's life by causing humiliation and guilt. Dermatolo-

gists can address the bodily symptoms like inflammation and itching, whereas clinical psychologists can aid patients in coping with the emotional aspects such as anxiety and depression.

For example, a dermatologist may prescribe medication to reduce inflammation, while a clinical psychologist may work with the patient to develop coping strategies to manage the emotional impact of their condition. Additionally, clinical psychologists can help patients with skin conditions to improve their self-esteem and body image, which can have a positive impact on their overall well-being.

## Challenges to Collaboration between Clinical Psychologists and Medical Professionals

Despite the benefits of collaboration, there are several challenges that can hinder effective collaboration between clinical psychologists and medical professionals. One challenge is the lack of understanding and awareness of each other's roles and responsibilities. Medical professionals may not fully understand the role of clinical psychologists, and vice versa, leading to a lack of trust and collaboration.

Another challenge is the lack of time and resources. Medical professionals and clinical psychologists are often busy with their respective duties, leaving little time for collaboration. Additionally, resources, such as funding and staffing, may be limited, making it difficult to provide comprehensive care.

Another challenge is the differences in communication styles and language used by medical professionals and clinical psychologists. Medical professionals often use medical jargon, which can be difficult for clinical psychologists and patients to understand. Clinical psychologists may also use terminology that is

unfamiliar to medical professionals, leading to miscommunication and misunderstandings.

## Solutions to Promote Collaboration between Clinical Psychologists and Medical Professionals

To promote collaboration between clinical psychologists and medical professionals, several solutions can be implemented. One solution is to provide education and training for both medical professionals and clinical psychologists about each other's roles and responsibilities. This can help to increase understanding and trust between the two groups and promote better communication and collaboration.

Another solution is to create interdisciplinary teams that include medical professionals, clinical psychologists, and other healthcare providers. Interdisciplinary teams can work together to develop comprehensive treatment plans that address both physical and mental health needs. This can also help to ensure that patients receive coordinated care and reduce the risk of miscommunication and misunderstandings.

Another solution is to implement integrated care models that bring together medical and mental health services in one location. Integrated care models can help to reduce stigma, increase access to care, and promote collaboration between medical professionals and clinical psychologists.

*The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar) and works as a consultant clinical psychologist at Centre for Mental Health Services (CMHS) at Rambagh Srinagar. He can be reached at 8825067196*





## IPL 2023: KKR Face SRH, Eye Hat-Trick Of Wins

Press Trust of India

**KOLKATA:** On a high after Rinku Singh's phenomenal knock, Kolkata Knight Riders will be gunning for a hat-trick of victories when they face a resurgent Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League here on Friday.

Having started off their campaign with a reversal against Punjab Kings at Mohali, KKR found two unlikely heroes in two matches to get their campaign up and running.

First, it was Shardul Thakur's storm with the bat that took a star-studded Royal Challengers Bangalore by surprise as the pace bowling allrounder's 29-ball 68 led KKR to their first win of the season, a dominant 81-run victory.

Then the low-profile Rinku has become the flavour of the season after pulling off the greatest heist in T20 history by scoring 31 runs in the last over to win a match.

KKR defeated the reigning champions Gujarat Titans by three



wickets in their den, the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, courtesy Rinku's astonishing power-hitting.

KKR have tried out different opening combinations in the three matches so far and it is likely to be changed again against SRH, with England opener Jason Roy likely to be included in place of Rahmanul-

lah Gurbaz.

As for SRH, the Aiden Markram-led side looks strong on paper after some big buys like Harry Brook, Mayank Agarwal and Heinrich Klaasen at the auction.

Overflowing with white-ball specialists, SRH, however, have failed to impress in their first two matches. However, a Rahul Tripa-

thi special — 48-ball unbeaten 74 — led them to their first win of the season when they defeated Punjab Kings by eight wickets.

Boosted by the win, the Brian Lara-coached side would look to hold on to their winning momentum and give KKR a strong fight at home.

The high-profile Brook, who has been signed for Rs 13.25 crore, has so far managed scores of 13, 3 and 13.

A member of the England side that won the T20 World Cup last year, Brook has looked out of sorts in the opener's role, and it would not be a bad idea to bring him down the order.

They also have a potent spin attack in Washington Sundar and Mayank Markande, fresh from his 4/15 against Punjab Kings, while the pace attack, led by Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Marco Jansen, will give KKR a tough fight.

A win for KKR, currently placed third, may take them to the top of the table.

## Srinagar Taekwondo Championship Winners Felicitated By DSTA



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** District Srinagar Taekwondo Association (DSTA) organised a prize distribution ceremony at Gindun sports Complex, Rajbagh, on Thursday, for the athletes and coaches who recently participated in the District Srinagar Taekwondo Championships 2022-23.

The championships were organised by DSTA under the aegis of J&K Taekwondo Association.

A number of athletes, coaches and parents took part in the ceremony, which opened with a great demonstration skills of Taekwondo by young male and female athletes by performing the three main aspects of the game, i.e., Kyorugi (Fighting), Poomsae (Pattern) and Ho Sin Sul (Self Defense).

Adv Neelofar Masood (Joint Secretary, JKTA) was chief guest and distributed the prizes among the participants who had clinched various medals in the championship.

## Inter School Sports Competitions Held In Srigufwara

Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** The Department of Youth Services and Sports Anantnag Zone Srigufwara held Inter-School Under-14 and Under-17 Boys and Girls competitions in carrom, chess and table tennis on Wednesday.

The Zonal Physical Education Officer Srigufwara organised these Inter School Zonal Level competitions at two locations. At HSS Srigufwara, the Principal HSS Srigufwara was the chief guest. Almost 300 boys and girls participated in these competitions.

In U-14 Boys Chess, Nice Srigufwara was the winner and Ms Movera came as runner up.

In U-17 Boys Chess, MS Dewhato emerged as winner and HSS Kharim came as runner up. In U-14 boys Carrom, MS Badroo emerged as the winner while Sha-



hine Ps were the runner ups. In U17 Boys Carrom, Allmans School were the winners and HSS Srigufwara came as runner ups.

## AIFF Scouts To Visit Every J&K District: JKFA

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In a significant development, two scouts from the All India Football Federation (AIFF) will visit every district in J&K to identify local talent through selection trials.

The announcement was made on Thursday by Jammu & Kashmir Football Association (JKFA) Election Commission Chairman,


Waseem Aslam, who raised the issue with AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey and Secretary General Shaji Prabhakaran during their recent meetings.

"(AIFF) will prioritize identifying and nurturing young talent in J&K. In this regard, AIFF has proposed a pilot project wherein they will send two scouts from



AIFF to every district who will hold trials and identify young players with potential who will be given advanced training outside

J&K," the JKFA Chairman said. "The AIFF President also revealed that the organization will be holding coach education programs in the 12 most footballing districts of J&K," Waseem Aslam added.



**CANCER SOCIETY OF KASHMIR**  
کینسر سوسائٹی آف کشمیر

**CONDOLENCE**

The management & the staff of the Cancer Society of Kashmir place on record their sense of deep heartfelt grief & sorrow over the sad demise of husband of **Prof. (Dr.) Fir Afroz ( EX. H.O.D. Radiation Oncology SKIMS). Life-Member of Cancer Society of Kashmir.** It is really an irreparable & unbearable loss which we have to share equally. It is unfortunate that death has laid its icy hands on him.

Anyway man is a tool in the hands of destiny. Mysteries are the ways of Almighty Allah. We have to bear them & face them with utter patience because as per Holy Quran **"Innallaha ma sabireen"** May Allah grant him highest place in Janatul-Firdouse & Sabri Jameel to the bereaved family.

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

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