

## Kashmir In Grip Of Fog, Cold Wave

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Kashmir Valley continued to reel under intense cold as dense fog disrupted early morning life for the third consecutive day in the region on Wednesday, officials said here.

A dense layer of fog engulfed Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, and visibility in the city was less than 50 metres, they said.

The transport department has issued an extensive advisory for motorists in the city driving through what they termed as one of the worst foggy conditions in recent memory.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 2.6 degrees Celsius on Tuesday night, a slight increase from the previous night's minus 3.0 degrees Celsius, they said.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district recorded a minimum | [More on P6](#)

## 'Army Must Win Hearts, Avoid Mistakes': Rajnath Tells Troops



Press Trust Of India Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said he had full faith in the Indian Army that | [More on P6](#)

Says He Is Confident Army Will Wipe Out Terrorism From J&K

### Reviews Security Situation Along LoC

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday visited the border areas of Jammu and Kashmir and reviewed the security situation along the Line of Control (LoC), officials said. Singh also carried out a firsthand | [More on P6](#)

### Assures Justice To Families Of 3 Slain Civilians

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday assured justice to the families of three civilians who were found dead last week after being allegedly picked up by the Army following an ambush on | [More on P6](#)

### Fresh Searches Underway Along IB, LoC

Fresh searches were launched along the border with Pakistan in Samba and Poonch even as cordon and search operations continued for the seventh straight day on Wednesday | [More on P6](#)

**6 THE INDIAN ARMY IS NOT CONSIDERED AN ORDINARY FORCE IN THE WORLD.** The people accept that the Army is much more powerful than ever and also well-equipped compared to the past. You are the guardians of the nation but alongside protecting the country, you need to win the hearts of the citizens. It is a big responsibility on your shoulders."

## 18 Lakh Indians Performed Umrah In 2023

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: A total of 18 lakh Indian Muslims performed Umrah in 2023 -- the third highest in the world, Saudi Arabia government officials said on Wednesday.

The officials said they anticipate a yearly increment in the number, according to an official statement issued by the country.

Umrah is an Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca that can be undertaken any time of the year.

Indian Muslim Umrah performers ranked third highest among countries, reaching 18 lakh visitors, the officials said.

They did not mention the names of the top two countries accounting for the highest Umrah performers.

Highlighting the significance of India in the | [More on P6](#)

## Govt Grants Amnesty To Settle Tax Arrears Of Pre-GST Regime



Observer News Service

Jammu: In a major relief to taxpayers, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday granted amnesty for the settlement of tax arrears pertaining to the pre-GST regime in the Union Territory.

The decision in this regard was taken by the Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, an official spokesperson said. The Finance Department had proposed the grand amnesty scheme.

"This step is going to provide relief to

the taxpayers in the form of waiver of interest and penalty besides recovery of the blocked revenue to the Government," the spokesperson said.

"Earlier all dealers could not take benefit of the erstwhile amnesty scheme issued vide Govt. order no. 39-FD of 2018 dated 05/02/2018 due to various reasons including Covid-19 pandemic," he added.

As such, the spokesperson said, a large number of representations were received from the trade and industry sector for granting a one-time opportunity to the dealers for settlement of the outstanding arrears under the pre-GST | [More on P6](#)

## Kashmir Inc Welcomes Move

The Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) and the Kashmir Trade Alliance (KTA) on Wednesday expressed gratitude to the Union Territory administration for settlement of assessed and reassessed demands raised against industrial units for the period under VAT regime. In a statement, the President FCIK Shahid Kamili thanked the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and other members of the Administrative | [More on P6](#)

### PROXY PROBLEM

## Govt Schools Directed To Display Pictures Of Teachers

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir School Education Department has directed all the government educational institutes to display photographs of teachers to 'prevent the practice of teaching staff by sending proxies on their behalf'.

Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) notified this in a communiqué to Chief Education Officers (CEOs) of the region.

An official at DSEK said, "As per the orders, it seems that there may be some teachers in the department who are sending proxies on

their behalf. The concerned authorities may have accordingly issued the orders to curb such practices."

"The third Chief Secretaries Conference is proposed to be held on December 27-29. The theme identified for this conference is 'Promoting Ease of Living' with a special focus on 'Ease of Schooling' to enhance access to schools and ensure quality of service delivered," it reads.

The communiqué further reads, "One of the key action points identified for the matter is 'proxy teachers'—displaying of photographs of teachers | [More on P6](#)

## Govt Bans Masarat Alam's Muslim League

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: A faction of Muslim League Jammu Kashmir, led by separatist leader Masarat Alam Bhat, was on Wednesday declared a banned organisation by the government under the stringent anti-terror law.

The ban comes as a response to the outfit's involvement in anti-national and secessionist activities in Jammu and Kashmir, with the intent to create a reign of terror in the country, the Union Home Ministry said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, while announcing the ban under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, emphasised that the Modi | [More on P6](#)

## No Person Can Be Detained Under PSA On 'Vague' Allegations': HC

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Wednesday held that a person cannot be detained under preventive detention on the basis of "totally vague and unsubstantiated allegations".

A bench of Justice Sanjeev Kumar made the observations while quashing detention order under Public Safety Act against one Bashir Ahmad Koka, 49, of Achabal Anantnag passed by the Deputy Commissioner of the south Kashmir district in June last year.

Interestingly, the detaining authority had "primarily" detained Koka on the basis of allegations contained in FIR No. 11 of 2004 in which he was ultimately

acquitted by long back. He had been earlier booked under PSA on the same allegations and the court had already quashed the earlier detention order in 2021.

"It is on the basis of this FIR, as also the general allegations that because of his allegiance with proscribed terrorist organisation, there was apprehension that petitioner would disturb Holy Shri Amarnath Ji Yara, a detention order was passed against the petitioner on 19th October, 2021. This order of detention ..... was quashed..." the court said, adding, "There is nothing on record, more particularly in the order of detention, that after the petitioner (Koka) was released pursuant to the order of this Court dated 19th April, 2022, the | [More on P6](#)

ATTENTION TAXPAYERS  
**DON'T FORGET THIS DATE!**  
Last date to file ITR for A.Y. 2023-24 is



**DECEMBER, 2023**  
e-file immediately!

**Hurry!**  
Avoid any delay. Complete it today!

### Revised Returns

Revised IT returns u/s 139 (5) of the Income Tax Act 1961 for AY 2023-24 may be e-filed by 31st December 2023 without late fee, if there is any omission or wrong statement in original ITR filed on or before due date

### Belated Returns

Belated Income Tax Returns u/s 139 (4) of the Income Tax Act 1961 for A. Y. 2023-24 may be e-filed by 31st December 2023 along with late fee

Log on to the e-filing portal at [www.incometax.gov.in](http://www.incometax.gov.in) to file your Income Tax Return, easily and securely.



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Over 12 Lakh Patients Visit SKIMS Soura In 2023

Observer News Service
Srinagar: Sheri Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Soura, a premier medical institution in J&K, witnessed a huge influx of patients, with over 12 lakh individuals visiting the Out Patient Department (OPD), including Accident and Emergency (A&E), in the past year.

and Obstetrics admissions, totaling 89,973 admissions. Hospital performance indicators revealed an average daily admission of 246, with a bed occupancy rate of 81 percent. The gross death rate was reported at 3.8 percent, while the net death rate stood at 1.83 percent.



Boatmen rowing a shikara through semi-frozen water in the interiors of Dal Lake amid below freezing temperature on Wednesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Shalimar Canal Project Advancing Under SSC Initiative: CEO SSCL

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Executive Officer, Athar Aamir Khan of Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) provided an update on Wednesday regarding the progress of the Shalimar Canal project, a noteworthy undertaking within the broader scope of the Srinagar Smart City initiative. Khan conveyed that the project is currently advancing at a vigorous pace, expressing optimism about its timely completion.

the new Northern Lake Front.

He expressed satisfaction with the ongoing pace of construction, affirming that the project is advancing at full throttle. "The Shalimar Canal project is a vital component of our commitment to enhance the urban infrastructure of Srinagar under the Smart City initiative. This canal will not only serve as a picturesque waterway but will also bolster connectivity between two iconic locations, Shalimar Garden and Dal Lake."

grate seamlessly with the existing landscape, preserving the natural beauty of the surroundings. Our focus is not just on completing the project efficiently but also on creating a lasting asset that adds value to the city and its residents," Khan explained.

Regarding the timeline for completion, CEO Athar Khan conveyed optimism, stating, "Our teams are working diligently, and I am pleased to announce that we are on track to finish the Shalimar Canal project within the next couple of months. This is a testament to the dedication and collaborative effort of everyone involved in this venture."

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS
SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
ANANTNAG: 01932-228243

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

Table with 2 columns: Prayer Name (FAJR, ZUHR, ASR, Magrib, ISHA) and Time (6:06, 12:32, 3:51, 5:33, 6:58).

This Day In History

- 418- St Boniface I begins his reign as Catholic Pope
457- Roman armies proclaim Majorian Emperor of the Western Roman Empire
801- Louis the Vrome occupies Barcelona

NORTHERN RAILWAY Tender Notice
Tender No. 354 & 355-2023-24-SrDEN-C-FZR
Date : 22.12.2023

Office of the Executive Engineer, Trans, Line Maintt. Division-7
JKPTCL Bemina Srinagar- 190010
Ph. No: 0194-3516481 E-mail: tlmd7.jkptcl@gmail.com

Portrait of a man with text: WE SURELY BELONG TO ALLAH AND TO HIM WE SHALL RETURN. Rasm-e-Chaharum

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB)
CPO Chowk, Panjirthi, Jammu/ Zarnam Complex, Rambagh, Srinagar.

Subject: Document Verification of candidates falling under consideration zone for the post of Sub Inspector, Home Department - Supplementary Document Verification thereof.

NOTIFICATION
All such candidates (Jammu Centre Based) who are falling under consideration zone and were called for Document Verification for the post of Sub Inspector, Home Department (UT Cadre), advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 06 of 2021, under Item No. 668, vide this office Notification No. JKSSB-COEEXAM(UT)/54/2022-03 (7057013) dated: 19-12-2023...

Public Notice regarding 220kV Double Circuit Alusteng-Mirbazara Power Transmission Line. Issued by Executive Engineer TLMD-7 Srinagar.

Public Notice for Raja Bano and Mymoona Manzoor. Includes details about their families and contact information.

Public Notice for Sharmeema Akhter and Mrs Dilshada Bano. Includes details about their families and contact information.

KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

Thursday | 28-12-2023

## Curb Canine Population

**T**he escalating crisis of stray dog attacks in Kashmir, particularly in Srinagar, demands immediate and comprehensive action from authorities. The statistics paint a grim picture: a staggering 4695 reported cases of canine bites in the valley last year, with Srinagar alone accounting for 3448 cases, indicating an alarming surge in incidents.

According to data compiled by the Anti-Rabies Clinic at SMHS Hospital, the numbers are distressingly consistent month after month, underscoring the persistent threat faced by the residents. Civil society groups have emphasized the unrelenting nature of this menace, lamenting the toll it takes on innocent lives. The risk of fatal rabies looms large, with victims enduring excruciating pain and often succumbing to this deadly disease.

Over the past decade, Anti-Rabies Clinic SMHS has registered an overwhelming 60,000 dog bite cases, a staggering testament to the gravity of the issue. The proliferation of stray dogs, primarily attributed to open garbage dumping sites, compounds this crisis. Srinagar's daily generation of 450 metric tons of garbage, lacking proper segregation and scientific disposal, significantly contributes to the burgeoning population of strays.

The failure of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) to initiate a large-scale sterilization program has exacerbated the problem. Conservative estimates suggest an alarming count of over one lakh stray dogs within Srinagar alone, intensifying the frequency of dog bites and attacks.

Tragically, these incidents have not just caused injuries but claimed lives as well. In June, a case involved the tragic death of a 10-year-old boy mauled by stray dogs in Pattan, Baramulla district, sparking justified outrage among locals. The documented cases, including the fatal attack on a lawyer at Dewanbagh Baramulla, underline the severity of these encounters, leading to multi-organ failure and, in some instances, coma and eventual demise.

The psychological trauma inflicted on victims cannot be overstated. The lived experiences of those bitten by dogs evoke feelings of psychological and emotional instability. The attacks not only pose physical threats but also lead to significant economic repercussions, including loss of wages and out-of-pocket expenses for medical care.

The urgency of addressing this issue cannot be overstated. The directives from the High Court of J&K and Ladakh earlier this year to the Srinagar Municipality Corporation underline the pressing need for immediate action. SMC's commitment to initiating a sterilization process on a larger scale, aiming to eradicate the stray dog population within six to seven years, is a step in the right direction. However, criticisms of the government's tepid efforts and the decade-long struggle to implement effective sterilization programs demand immediate rectification.

It's imperative for policymakers to prioritize the lived experiences of dog bite victims, providing comprehensive support through education, counseling, and the implementation of cost-effective mass dog vaccination programs. The onus is on the authorities to urgently address this escalating public health crisis and prevent further loss of life and wellbeing due to unchecked stray dog attacks.

### OTHER OPINION

## Debt debate

**T**he Finance Ministry, last Friday, issued a statement titled 'Factual position vis-à-vis IMF's Article IV consultations with India'. For context, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), under its Articles of Agreement, holds bilateral discussions with members, usually every year. IMF staffers collect economic and financial information, and discuss policies with top officials, before preparing a report that is discussed by the Fund's executive board. The Ministry statement, four days after the IMF released its latest India consultation details, noted that "certain presumptions have been made taking into account possible scenarios that does not reflect factual position". In particular, the Ministry was referring to an IMF view that adverse shocks could lift India's general government debt to, or beyond 100% of GDP in the medium-term (by 2027-28). The Ministry asserted this was only a worst-case scenario and not a fait accompli, and emphasised that other IMF country reports show much higher extreme 'worst-case' scenarios, for instance, at 160%, 140% and 200% of GDP, for the U.S., the U.K. and China, respectively.

The combined debt of central and State governments stood at 81% of GDP in 2022-23, from 88% in 2020-21. Under favourable circumstances, the IMF reckons this could even go down to 70% by 2027-28. The shocks faced by India so far in this century were global, and affected the entire world economy, be it the 2008 financial crisis or the pandemic, the Ministry pointed out. Reacting to initial news flashes, it further clarified its statement was not a rebuttal to the IMF but "an effort to arrest misinterpretation or misuse" of its comments to imply that General Government debt would exceed 100% of GDP in the medium term. Semantics experts may argue whether the communiqué was confrontational or clarificatory. India's Director on the IMF Board had already placed on record reservations about its staff's conclusions on debt risks ["sounds extreme"], and some other aspects of the economy. In the broader picture, IMF staff's perceptions of India's fiscal position have actually improved over the past year. From arguing in 2022 that India's fiscal space is at risk, they now believe sovereign stress risks are moderate. This is in no small part due to the ability of the Centre, whose debt levels were about 57% of GDP last year, to meet fiscal deficit targets in recent times. Reducing debt and spends to stay the course on its commitment to bring the deficit to 4.5% of GDP by 2025-26 from an estimated 5.9% this year, is critical. While reacting to an adverse detail in a report sometimes ends up drawing more attention to it, actions tend to always speak louder than words.

The Hindu

# No Trash Talk

S.Sarwar.Malik

**W**aste-generating-population is on the increase and so is the sale of the harmful polythene, in spite of the ban. Need for adequate waste disposal facilities is being felt strongly in every district of J&K, nowadays.

It is true that the generation of waste matter is unavoidable. Wherever man sets his foot, stinking- garbage surfaces like wild mushrooms (-better say like Shingles) and so do packs of stray dogs, swarms of insects and the nuisance value thereof.

Our streets, leading from any habitation, any market, any institution, speak a tell tale sign; Tourist places being no exception; including places of pilgrimage. On the banks or even on the surface/ in the bowels of our water bodies, we leave the ugly signs of our visit; even on the highest mountain Mount Everest; that ultimately harms our ecology & environment, impacting our very life negatively.

True, packed food and bottled water is an almost inseparable part of modern living but that should not be complacent to give us justification of license. Efforts are needed for minimizing it. Also its proper disposal after treatment is to be ensured.

Achen (: phonetically I prefer dashes between syllables e.g ...A-ts-hen ; but play of words interests me not, this moment) - the infamous garbage dumping site of district Srinagar, is widely known ; surrounding-residents whereof are often heard cursing their stars, administrators and politicians for their "sanoo kee" attitude but conveniently forget what havoc is created by building houses or facilities in un-planned manner or by our lack of civic sense, that is galore.

If we have to do anything for waste disposal it is to be done on this earth; not on some distant planet. If not in A-ts-hen, then suggest where? Provide a viable alternative. Finding fault is easy. Giving a solution alone is true citizenry. We are the generators of tons of garbage but we don't contribute even an iota towards good governance but go on complaining & waiting endlessly for the government to act, even for small steps that can be taken if social responsibility is realized by all.

Lot of heat is generated when authorities try to take some step in driving home civic sense. Though Srinagar Municipal Corporation has pressed into service scores of vans for collecting garbage from door steps, daily, at a publicized time, against nominal monthly charges; besides hundreds of hard working sweepers but hard-to-mend people still litter streets & roads; of course some feet away from their own door. Selfishness galore! Keeping our house clean is good but why can't each household keep three different buckets for storing different types of the waste generated in home and why NGOs who thrive on our money, can not adopt different areas or for that matter why Citizen Councils/ Mohalla Committees of each Electoral segment can not participate meaningfully in good governance in this era of decentralization? Let these apolitical councils also help the Municipal / Town area committees, in identifying suitable garbage dumping sites; treatment plants, in sharing innovative ideas about recycling reusable portion, in running various drives on self-help-basis, or at least let us appreciate the excellent cleaning drives that are being carried by Srinagar Municipal Corporation, segment-wise, on every Sunday. Just see the fleet of Trucks that make rounds from the designated dumps to the final disposal plant, day & night and at least acknowledge the great contribution of the man power involved in this work who toil, braving sun or snow, up in pre-dawn hours, on dusty, stinky spots that can be perilous for their health; that makes our environ clean & livable.

Segregation at the source point would enable revenue generation through sale of recycle-able waste (paper, plastic, tin, iron, rags etc) to dealers. Dry waste could be used as fuel. Compost could be made out of wet waste-like vegetable/ fruit peelings, leftover food, etc



“  
Finding fault is easy. Giving a solution alone is true citizenry. We are the generators of tons of garbage but we don't contribute even an iota towards good governance but go on complaining and waiting endlessly for the government to act, even for small steps that can be taken if social responsibility is realized by all

in small pits or organic-manure out of Lake-weeds etc.

During the annual Haj pilgrimage when over 20 lakh muslims visit Mecca & Medina for nearly 40 days, the Saudi government manages to keep these holy cities extremely clean because they have with passage of time mastered the art. Of course thousands of sweepers, mostly hailing this sub continent, supplement the machinery put in service, and the mega-disposal plants.

Thankfully gone are the days when humans used to carry night soil tins, at least in Srinagar city . This menial job did not behoove human dignity. Even from the past 5-6 years poor non kashmiri garbage pickers/ sorters keep their body & soul together by

doing the job for which we owe gratitude to them because otherwise our Firdous ba rooye zameen would turn into a stinking Jahnum in a few days.

This reminds me of a sardar teacher, whom I saw seated dejectedly in the parking lot of SKICC, in 2002, (-at the time a mega-event was going on there) with a small 'self invented indigenously fabricated machine (portable-model)' that he had brought all the way from Tral where in, he claimed, macadam like tiles (+ sulphuric acid as byproduct) could be made by mixing sand with the molten used-polythene-carry bags; about which we all are so worried for its ill effects. If that gentleman happens to read these lines, I am sure THIS NEWSPAPER would welcome and publicize his invention, after demonstration, if the Science & Technology department clears it. ///

Tail-piece

Few lines from my poem, OF DOTS, DASHES & SLASHES, are hereby presented, dear reader.

See what they litter on the scalded street, // When innards of their house spill outwards: // Gutter scum, stinky refuses, crumbs left over // Filth, shit and rags in black poly bags //

scattered and strewn on the street // Reminding of ugly negatives // Like: vanity, triviality, deceit, bigotry, // Craft, stupidity, prejudice, hatred, // Violence, greed ...: // The stuff people are made of ...//

Parting Shot / in Lighter Vein:

An acquaintance of mine, barged in where, we- a couple of friends, were conversing, and announced a 'news', in all seriousness:

"Listen guys! Government has prepared a directory of 'Animal Lovers & Animal Rights Activists of J&K' and by April 2nd, 2024, all stray dogs will be apportioned for adoption among them, as per their individual vocal chord-decibel-rating, with regular free supply of poultry waste to them, as bonus".

Acknowledge your gift-parcel , please.

The author is a penman & Columnist, who contributes to various English Dailies, from two decades



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## Work Life Imbalance

**I**nfosys co-founder Narayana Murthy's recent suggestion for "70-hours-work-a-week" among Indian youngsters will no doubt boost productivity, but it will certainly affect the balance of work-life approach, which is equally important. Unsurprisingly Mr. Murthy's comments have evoked a nationwide controversy, with many have

criticised his idea. In fact, a Bengaluru-based Cardiologist wrote in his X (formerly Twitter) account saying, "such an inhumane working hours can create a whole generation with a host of heart-related comorbidities." The Cardiologist's comment gains prominence, as WHO says that India accounts for at least one-fifth of the 17.9 million cardiovascular disease-

related deaths globally, especially in the younger generation. Currently, India's labour codes mandate that workers put in 8-hours of work a day, capping the weekly work hours at 48. Despite this, global data shows that India ranks fifth in the world among countries with long working hours. Research has revealed that productivity falls sharply after 50 hours per

week, and drops off a cliff after 55 hours. Rather than extended working hours, a streamlined approach with set working hours will work for large enterprises that have plentiful resources.

Ranganathan Sivakumar

# The Beauty in Suffering: How Adversity Spurs Creativity

Aijaz Ahmad Mir

Creativity is often considered the outcome of joy, happiness, and sound physical and mental health. However, this is not always the case; creativity can be born out of suffering and misery. We have heard that suffering forces people to commit suicide, but it is also true that suffering has produced the best minds and personalities in the world throughout history since the dawn of human civilization. The great prophets, philosophers, theologians, and scientists suffered extreme suffering and pain. It was through this pain and agony that humankind received the best teachings and insights regarding morality, society, values, inventions, and discoveries. Sufferings help the sufferer to open up to new perspectives and ideas. It was through pain and suffering that some best pieces of art were produced. The idea of turning suffering into something constructive is applicable in all fields. Some of the thought-provoking philosophies emerged when a philosopher went through agony and pain. Suffering played a significant role in shaping the philosophy of the ancient Greek philosopher Plato, who believed that suffering helps us in gaining wisdom and knowledge. Plato believed that suffering was the result of a lack of knowledge and ignorance about the nature of reality. However, he believed suffering acts as a catalyst for gaining knowledge and true wisdom. Socrates, the well-known philosopher and the teacher of Plato, believed that suffering was a part of life and a means for personal growth and self-discovery. Socrates believed that suffering could help a person to question their fixed beliefs and assumptions and can help in better understanding themselves and the world around them. And sufferings assist us in becoming compassionate and empathetic towards other people.

Schopenhauer also believed that suffering is inherent in humans, and it is through suffering that one can understand the true nature of reality. Schopenhauer himself suffered from different physical and emotional ailments throughout his life. He, like Gautam Buddha, also believed that suffering was the product of our desires. Friedrich Nietzsche, a German post-modernist philosopher also influenced by the philosophy of Schopenhauer, had also gone through immense physical and mental suffering. He believed suffering is integral in human lives, and it is through it that one learns to become stronger and more resilient. He said that one could not escape suffering but could confront it. Suffering leads to self-awareness and provides the opportunity to build inner strength. It was during his mental suffering



that Nietzsche was able to create some masterpieces, such as "Thus Spoke Zarathustra" and "Beyond Good and Evil", among other writings. Similarly, other philosophers such as Rousseau, Immanuel Kant, and Martin Heidegger have suffered throughout their lives. But this suffering acts as a catalyst for their artistic expression and creativity.

Some of the western religious figures have found suffering a catalyst for change. Suffering has played a significant part in the life and theology of Saint Augustine. As a young man, he felt spiritual emptiness and experienced personal suffering, forcing him to turn to God and find solace in Christianity. Saint Augustine has two views regarding suffering; the first is that suffering is the punishment for our sins, and secondly, suffering can act as a medicine that helps us to learn humility and compassion. Thomas Aquinas, who was influenced by the teachings of Saint Augustine, believed that suffering is part of human existence and it serves several different goals. Suffering can lead us to a deeper appreciation of the valuable things in life, such as health, wealth, and relationships. Suffering can make us humble and can cultivate a feeling of gratitude in us. Thomas Aquinas also believed suffering could make us virtuous and bring us closer to God. In a nutshell, suffering assists us in increasing wisdom, faith, and virtue.

**THE IDEA OF TURNING SUFFERING INTO SOMETHING CONSTRUCTIVE IS APPLICABLE IN ALL FIELDS. Some of the thought-provoking philosophies emerged when a philosopher went through agony and pain**

In the eastern tradition of philosophy, many philosophers suffered. Gautam Buddha suffered immensely before achieving enlightenment. He was born into a wealthy family, but he abandoned his privileges and riches and started a journey to seek the truth about suffering. Buddha believed one could end suffering through the Four Noble Truths and by following the Eightfold Path. Jalaluddin Rumi, a great Persian Sufi mystic and poet, experienced great suffering after the death of his mentor Shams Tabrizi. This suffering and loss inspired him to write some great works which explore and revolve around the themes of love, grief, and the search for meaning in life. Confucius was a great Chinese philosopher who lived during a time of great political and social unrest. He saw the collapse of Zhou Dynasty and the emergence of various opposing states. This political turmoil

and social unrest motivated Confucius to write about the importance of social harmony, good governance, and ethical leadership in China. Al-Farabi, a 9th-century Muslim philosopher, also went through immense suffering. He was regarded as the famous philosophical authority after Aristotle in the Muslim world. His own personal sufferings and his experiences with illness and poverty contributed to the development of his philosophy and ideas related to the relationship between reason and revelation. Al-Ghazali was an 11th-century Muslim theologian, philosopher, and mystic. He is considered one of the important intellectual figures in Islam. He endured a unique kind of suffering and went through a "spiritual crisis," and he felt a deep sense of dissatisfaction with his intellectual pursuits and studies. He even quit his job as a professor at Madrasa Nizamiya and

lived in seclusion for four years in order to examine Islamic injunctions from the Sufi perspective. Finally, he was able to overcome his sufferings by merging himself deep into Sufism. Thus, suffering has shaped the ideas and philosophy of Al-Ghazali throughout his life.

Suffering has been a great source of inspiration for various poets throughout history. It helps them to articulate and share their emotions and experiences. It gives them a meaning to write and express themselves in a beautiful way that resonates with the people. Romantic poets such as William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge often wrote about their suffering, loneliness, depression, and alienation. It was in this state of great suffering that William Wordsworth produced a masterpiece, namely "Ode: Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood," which explores the relationship between childhood, the natural world, mortality, and the human condition. He states that the particular association of childhood with nature has lost forever, but the subconscious memories of those associations are still a source of wisdom and knowledge. Emily Dickinson, a prolific American poet, wrote over a thousand poems. Her poems often explored the themes of grief, loss, death, and mortality. It is said that she suffered from mood swings and undiagnosed depression. Simi-

larly, poets like Sylvia Plath, Langston Hughes, and Maya Angelou wrote about their experiences of suffering.

There were many natural scientists who experienced pain and suffering in their lives. Some of them include the great physicist Stephen Hawking, Merrie Curie, Rosalind Franklin, and Richard Feynman. Stephen Hawking went through immense suffering when he was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), which made his whole body paralyzed. Despite this suffering, he communicated his precious knowledge regarding the universe, the big bang, and black holes. Marie Curie was another famous scientist who endured suffering and discrimination throughout her career. Being a woman, she faced additional bias and prejudice. She lost her husband unexpectedly in a tragic accident. Despite all these odds, she didn't give up and became the first woman to win the Nobel prize in physics and chemistry. Her contributions helped the world to understand radioactivity.

Rosalind Franklin is a well-known British scientist who is known for her immense contribution in the discovery of DNA. She also contributed and told about the structure of viruses that laid the foundations of structural virology. She, as a woman and as a Jew, faced discrimination from her colleagues. Richard Feynman was a great American physicist who suffered from abdominal cancer. Despite his struggles with cancer, he contributed immensely in the field of quantum mechanics and electrodynamics. In 1965, Feynman shared the 1965 Nobel prize in physics with Julian Schwinger and Shin'ichir Tomonaga.

Suffering has acted as a catalyst for inventions and discoveries throughout the history of the world. The pain and suffering experienced by people motivated scientists to produce painkiller medications. The suffering and pains caused by injuries and neurological diseases led to the establishment of medical imaging. The agony and suffering caused by infectious diseases helped scientists develop the germ theory to understand the causes of diseases spread by bacteria and viruses. And the suffering caused by natural disasters drove scientists to explore space and mitigate the causes of these disasters.

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

*The author is pursuing his Ph.D. in Political Science from Maulana Azad National Urdu University Hyderabad Telangana*

## What to Know About the New Covid Variants

Dana G. Smith

For the past year, Covid-19 variants have circulated in a sort of alphabet soup. Right now, two variants, JN.1 and HV.1, comprise more than half of Covid cases in the United States.

JN.1 accounted for 44 percent of cases as of late December, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. On Dec. 18, the World Health Organization named it as the latest "variant of interest," meaning it has genetic changes that give it an advantage and that its prevalence is growing globally.

The second leading variant, HV.1, emerged in the United States at the end of the summer and was the most prevalent variant for much of the fall. By late December, it accounted for 22 percent of cases. Both HV.1 and JN.1 are distantly related to the original Omicron strain that emerged at the end of 2021.

Here's what to know about JN.1, HV.1 and the variants they emerged from, which also continue to circulate.

### EG.5 & HV.1

The first notable variant of the fall was EG.5, which became dominant in the United States in August. Its numbers have slowly declined after peaking in September, and are now down to about 5 percent.

EG.5 — also called Eris — is a descendant of the Omicron variant XBB.1.9.2 and has one notable mutation that helps it to evade antibodies developed by the immune system in response to earlier variants and vaccines. That mutation meant that more people were susceptible to EG.5 when it emerged, said An-

drew Pekosz, a professor of molecular microbiology and immunology at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health.

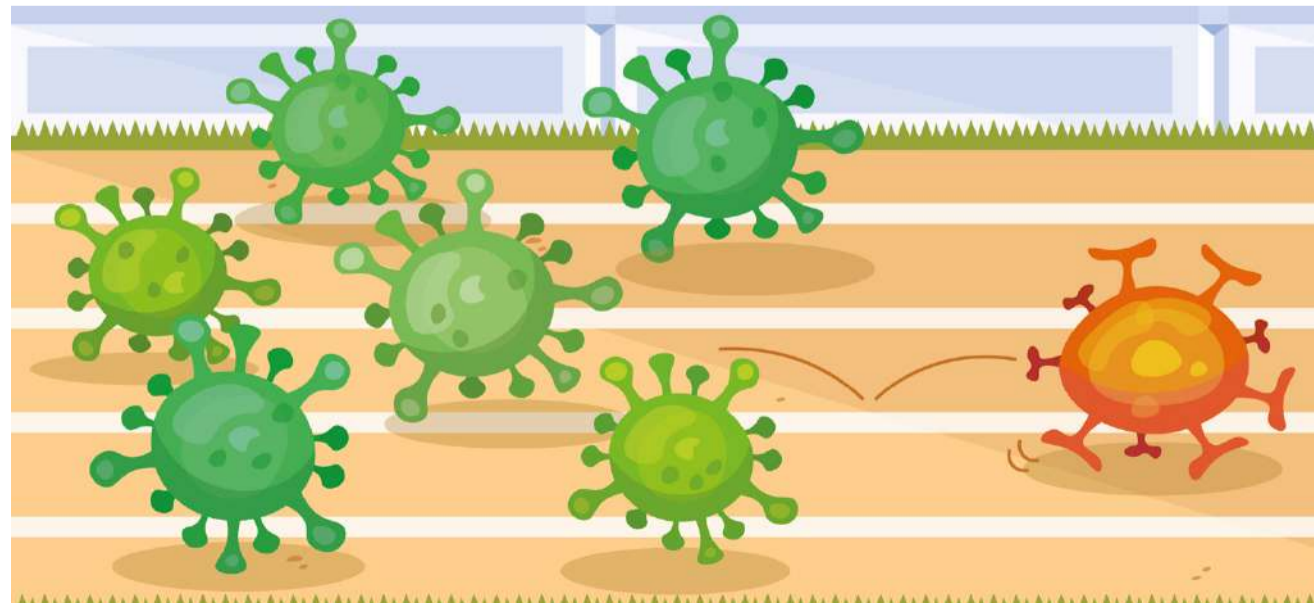
HV.1 is descended from EG.5 and carries the same immune-evading mutation. It was the leading variant in the United States from October until mid-December. Given the overlap between the two variants, it's unclear exactly how HV.1 overtook EG.5, but one of the few

at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston.

Neither EG.5 nor HV.1 appear to be more contagious or more likely to cause severe illness than earlier variants. Diagnostic tests and treatments such as Paxlovid also continue to be effective against them. Perhaps more important, recent research, published as a preprint paper in December, shows that antibodies produced in response to the new vaccines,

nicknamed Pirola. This variant worried experts because of the number of mutations it carries in the spike protein, which is what the virus uses to infect human cells and what our immune systems use to identify it.

According to Jesse Bloom, a professor at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center who specializes in virus evolution, the mutations in BA.2.86's spike protein represent "an evolutionary jump" as big as the dif-



additional mutations in HV.1 likely gave it an edge over its predecessor.

"Whenever a new variant dominates, then by definition it has an advantage," said Dr. Dan Barouch, the head of the Center for Virology and Vaccine Research

which target a related XBB variant, are protective against both EG.5 and HV.1.

### BA.2.86 & JN.1

Another variant that scientists started keeping a close tab on this fall is BA.2.86,

ference between the original coronavirus strain and the first Omicron variant.

Adding to the concern, early data indicated that the new vaccines may not be very effective against BA.2.86. However, evidence has since emerged that

the boosters stimulate a modest number of antibodies that recognize BA.2.86, suggesting that the vaccines do provide some protection. Another study found that BA.2.86 may not be as transmissible as other forms of the virus.

BA.2.86 did not take off like scientists initially feared, but the variant evolved to produce JN.1, which has spread quickly. According to preliminary research released in November, JN.1 carries an additional mutation that gives it extra immune-evading capabilities.

The preprint paper testing how the new vaccines performed against HV.1 also showed that they produced antibodies effective against JN.1, but not as many. "Vaccinations or recent infections decrease but do not fully eliminate the risk" from JN.1, Dr. Bloom said in an email.

It is not yet known whether JN.1 has other evolutionary advantages that might affect its ability to infect people or cause more severe illness, compared to other variants. According to the C.D.C., hospitalizations for Covid are on the rise again, but that may be because infections always increase during the winter months.

More than the risk conferred by any individual variant, it is the rapid rate of virus evolution that is most concerning to Trevor Bedford, a professor in the vaccine and infectious disease division at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center. "No single variant has been that impactful," he said, "but the overall accumulation of these mutations is having significant impact."

*The article was originally published by NYT*



## Magisterial Probe Ordered Into Death Of Man In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** A man died after he was detained by police on the basis of a court warrant in Jammu district following which authorities have ordered a magisterial probe, an official said on Wednesday.

While the relatives of the man raised questions on the circumstances surrounding his death, police denied any foul play.

There is misinformation floating on social media platforms regarding the death of a person in police custody in Police Post Jorian in Jammu, a police spokesman said.

Sunil Kumar alias Sonu of Garhi-Bishnah in Jorian was brought to Jorian police post in compliance with a warrant is-

sued by Additional District Judge Jammu and was to be produced in the court last Friday.

Sources said the case was related to a money dispute.

He was shifted to a community health centre (CHC) at Jorian as he was not responding, where doctors declared him dead, the spokesperson said, adding a magisterial inquiry has been ordered by Deputy Commissioner Jammu.

The post-mortem was conducted by a board of doctors in GMC Jammu in the presence of the magistrate and videography has also been done, the spokesperson said.

Sources said the entire premises including the lockup of police post Jorian, are under CCTV surveillance.



A GROUP OF MEN walk over a railway track in Central Kashmir's Budgam district on a cold and foggy morning. KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

## NBWL Okays Key Tourism Infra Projects In J&K

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** In a significant move, the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has given its go-ahead for three key proposals aimed at upgradation and redevelopment of tourism infrastructure in the Union Territory.

The documents reveal that these proposals for use of land of wildlife sanctuaries at Gulmarg, Jammu and Pahalgam was cleared by the standing committee of NBWL during its meeting held on November 17, 2023 under the chairmanship of Union Minister for Forests, Environment and Climate Change.

As per minutes of the meeting, NBWL has given its green signal for use of 3.2 hectares of land from Gulmarg wildlife sanctuary for upgradation and re-development of hotel Ashok, whose construction work was left midway by the Indian Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC).

The construction work on

Hotel Ashok commenced in the 1980s and was abandoned midway by ITDC after militancy broke out in the region.

Currently, a dilapidated and half-finished civil structure lies on the site. In its justification, the JKTDC has submitted that they intend to award a 60-year concession (via public-private partnership mode) for operating a 75-85 rooms luxury resort on the land.

The NBWL has also recommended the proposal for use of 3.1 hectares of land from Ramnagar wildlife sanctuary for upgradation and re-development of Hotel Ashoka at Jammu.

According to JKTDC, the Hotel Ashok at Jammu was built in early 1970s as per the then prevailing standards and benchmarks.

In its justification, the JKTDC has submitted that it intends to award a 60-year concession for operating eco luxury resorts with 60-70 rooms with upscale positioning on the same parcel of land.

## Govt Okays Construction Of Nallahs To Plug Pollution In Tawi River

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir administration approved Rs 26.87 crore on Wednesday for the construction of "nallahs" from Peerkho to Dounthling here for abatement of pollution in the Tawi river, an official spokesperson said.

The approval for the project on the right bank of the river, to be funded under the Capex Budget, was given by the administrative council that met here under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, he added.

The spokesperson said the project was prepared in compliance with the instructions given by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for abatement of pollution in the river by diverting the untreated waste water falling into it from storm-water drains and



treating the same before discharging into the river.

"This will ensure a proper drainage and sewerage network for the area and directly benefit the households or local inhabitants, besides ensuring compliance with the directions of the NGT and CPCB regarding abatement of pollution in the Tawi river," the spokesperson said.

## No Expectations From DM's J&K Visit: Dr Farooq

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday said he had no expectations from Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's Jammu and Kashmir visit but hoped that incidents like the civilian deaths in Poonch will not be repeated.

"I have no expectations from his visit. Can he bring back the dead? Does he have that power? But he can do this much that such injustice is not repeated," Abdullah told reporters in Kulgam, 80 kilometres from Srinagar.

Abdullah said Singh was visiting "because our people were killed" and that the minister will "apply balm on the wounds of the affected families." Three civilians were found dead after they were picked up by the Army for questioning following a terrorist ambush on two Army vehicles in Poonch last Thursday that killed four soldiers.

The defence minister has flown to Rajouri to visit ground zero on Wednesday along with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Army chief Manoj Pandey to review the security situation following the terror attack on the Army vehicles. On Congress' Bharat Nyay Yatra that was announced earlier on Wednesday, the NC president said Rahul Gandhi "is trying to unite the country".

"He is trying to remove the mistrust and hatred between communities. We were part of this effort earlier and we will be part of it again," he added.

Asked about his remarks on Kashmir turning into Gaza, a defiant Abdullah hit back and said, "What will happen if the two countries do not find a way for friendly relations? We have terrorism. China is also sitting over our heads. If there is a war here, where will the bombs fall? Will the bombs explode in the air or fall on us?"

## Katra Shuts Down Against Proposed Vaishno Devi Ropeway Project



Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** A complete shutdown was observed on Wednesday against a proposed ropeway project in Katra, the base camp for the pilgrims visiting Shri Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop the Trikuta hills in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district.

Several thousand shopkeepers and other stakeholders also staged a protest rally in the town and dispersed on the assurance of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) that the second meeting will be held with them next month to address their concerns before starting the work on the project.

The pilgrims, meanwhile, had a tough time due to the closure of the market with many of them saying that

they were returning without prasads.

The SMVDSB had approved a Rs 250-crore passenger ropeway project between Tarakote Marg to Sanji Chhat along the 12-km track to the revered shrine.

The shopkeepers and other service providers are apprehensive that the construction of the ropeway will render them jobless. They are also concerned about the ongoing work on the Delhi-Katra Expressway, and said an attempt is being made to connect the road directly to Tarakote and sideline the historic town of Katra.

After taking out a rally in the town, the protesters staged a peaceful sit-in outside the shrine board office and later a group of them met the officials before dispersing off peacefully.

SMVDSB CEO Anshul Garg said the ropeway is meant to facilitate elderly, medically unfit and the physically challenged.

"The ropeway project is a decision of the board to ensure better facilities to the pilgrims due to limited capacity of helicopters and the court's directive to provide alternate facilities on the track. A meeting is proposed with the stakeholders in January after the year-end rush and all their concerns will be addressed to their best satisfaction," he said.

He said the work on the Katra-Delhi Expressway is being undertaken by the National Highway Authority of India and the issue could be discussed with the divisional commissioner, Jammu.

## Secretary Health Inaugurates Vital Healthcare Facilities In Rajouri

Observer News Service

**RAJOURI:** Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department, Bhupinder Kumar, on Wednesday inaugurated vital healthcare facilities during his visit to Rajouri district.

He also took a comprehensive review of patient care services being extended to the ailing in the district.

One of the notable initiatives during the visit was inauguration of blood components centre at GMC and AH Rajouri, aimed at fortifying blood transfusion services within the institution.

Recognizing the importance of community involvement, Secretary directed the Chief Medical Officer to actively promote voluntarily blood donation throughout the district.

Secretary also inaugurated a thalassemia care centre besides launching the District Early Intervention Centre Under Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram.

Bhupinder Kumar also presided over a meeting with fac-

ulty members, delving into a thorough review of patient care facilities. The staff apprised him of the challenges they are facing, receiving assurances that their concerns would be promptly addressed to ensure the delivery of high-quality services to patients.

Secretary lauded the staff for their unwavering dedication and encouraged them to further elevate patient care services, emphasizing the need to meet the expectations of the general public.

Subsequently, Bhupinder Kumar conducted a tour of Government Medical College Rajouri, directing the department to expedite the pending works on the building. He interacted with the staff obtaining valuable insights into the operational aspects of the institution.

## Sonamarg All Set To Host Two-Day New Year Festival

Festival To Commence On 31st December; DC Reviews Arrangements

Observer News Service

**GANDERBAL:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir today convened a meeting of officers and stakeholders to review the arrangements for organizing mega New Year festival at Sonamarg.

At the outset, CEO, Sonamarg Development Authority briefed the DC about the arrangements to be put in place for organizing two-day New Year Festival at Sonamarg.

In the meeting it was revealed that the festival shall start on 31st December during which several activities including winter sports and cultural activities will be held on both the days.

The DC sought the details regarding the arrangements to be put in place including identification and beautification of venue, accommodation, water and power supply, cultural ac-

tivities, health facilities, heating arrangements, transport, parking, operationalization of Z-Morh Tunnel and other related facilities to be put in place for successful conduct of the festival.

While finalizing the arrangements, the DC maintained that we are expecting huge rush of tourists including locals on the new year and said that Collaborative efforts and coordination of all stakeholders is necessary to provide seamless facilities to the tourists who are coming to attend the event.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Mushtaq Ahmad Simmani, CEO, SDA; Joint Director Tourism, Executive Engineers of various wings, representative of Hotelier Association Sonamarg, various Officers/ Officials of District Administration and other stakeholders.

## J&K Bank Opens Extension Counter At Khangral In Kargil

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Carrying forward its ease-of-banking mission to rural areas of Ladakh, J&K Bank on Wednesday opened an Extension Counter of Chiktan branch at Khangral area of Kargil thereby adding one more outlet to its network in the UT.

SDM (Shakar Chiktan) A G Zargar inaugurated the Extension Counter in presence of Councillor (Chiktan) Liyaqat Ali Khachoo, President LBAQ Bodh-kharboo Skarma Dadool amid a gathering of valuable customers and notables from the area besides Zonal Head (Ladakh) Dorje Angchuk, Cluster Head (Kargil) Ishaq Ahmad Hakak and other officials of the Bank.

While hailing the role of J&K Bank in serving the people of Ladakh especially those from rural areas, SDM A G Zargar urged the unemployed youth of

the area to take full advantage of various flagship government programmes aimed at creating increasing number of self-employment ventures. "People also need to inculcate habit of saving with the Bank because the Bank is also lending generously for the overall economic growth of the UT", he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Zonal Head (Ladakh) thanked the distinguished guests and the people of the area in particular for banking with J&K bank and assured that the extension counter will provide best banking facilities along with its responsive and innovative products and services. He said, "The Extension Counter will extend best customer services to the people of the area because they deserve the best."

Cluster Head (Kargil) presented the vote of thanks on the occasion.

از عدالت ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر  
با اجلاس: اروند شرما  
J&K Bank B/U Khanyar Sgr  
بنام  
Farida  
دعوی وصولی رقم مبلغ / = Rs.1,60,964  
اشتہار بمبراد آگاہی بنام  
Farida W/o Abdul Qayoom Lone R/o Aquilmir  
Khanyar Sgr  
مقدمہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں مدعا علیہ/ مدعا علیہ کی تیل کرانے کی بسیار کوشش کی گئی  
- الا تویہ پتہ جدید پر مدعا علیہ/ مدعا علیہ دستیاب ہوئے اور تہذیبی بذر لیسٹرن تیل لائی  
گئی۔ بدین وجہ حسب استنادی مدعا علیہ/ مدعا علیہ جو بذر لیسٹرن ہذا مطلع کیا جاتا  
ہے کہ آپ کے خلاف مقدمہ بعنوان بالا اجراء بغرض وصولی رقم مبلغ  
/ = Rs 1,60,964 زیر سماعت عدالت ہذا ہے۔  
لہذا آپ کو بذر لیسٹرن ہذا مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ بغرض بیروی ابراء ہذا بعنوان  
بالا مورخہ 28-12-2023 اصالتاً یا کالاتاً بروقت بخیر حاضری حاضر آکر مقدمہ ہذا کی  
بیروی کریں۔ بصورت عدم حاضری حسب ضابطہ کارروائی بعمل لائی جائے گی۔ تحریر  
ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج، بنک مقدمات سرینگر  
nj

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
I want to change the name on electricity bill bearing consumer ID No: 0204020006539 From Nissar Ahmad Wani S/o Mohammad Yousuf Wani R/o Daenbagh Rainwari to Shameema W/o Bashir Ahmad Mattoo R/o Rainawari Srinagar. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the PDD Sub Division Rainawari within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. wq  
Shameema  
W/o Bashir Ahmad Mattoo  
R/o Naid Booni Rainawari Srinagar  
Srinagar

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF PRINCIPAL DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT SRINAGAR.**  
From the office of:-  
Adv Faizan Ul Haq Mattoo  
Adv Imtiaz Aziz Baligh  
Adv Manzoor Sadiq Ganie  
Adv Simwaz Thakur  
IN THE CASE OF:-  
1. Asif Ali Ganie S/O Aii Mohammad Ganie R/O Khalid Bin Waleed Colony Natipora Srinagar (Caveator)  
V/S  
Public at large  
(Non-Caveators)  
IN THE MATTER OF:- Caveat petition in terms of section 148 A cpc.  
The caveator has reason to believe/apprehension that non caveators may file an application /case /revision or any other proceedings before this hon'ble court on the ground of distorted facts /misrepresentation and cooked up story, therefore may succeed in obtaining some relief / order at their back /ex parte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators may suffer an irreparable loss and injury which can't be compensated by any means later on. Therefore it would be proper to put caveators on notice so that an opportunity of being heard is given to the caveators before passing any such relief / order.  
Hence this Caveat application. NJ

Union Territory Of Jammu & Kashmir  
**Office Of The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Department Mechanical Irrigation Division Anantnag, H/Q Awantipora.**  
CANCELLATION  
SUBJECT: Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Submersible Pumping Unit at Tube Well Station Satrimaidan with allied works  
REFERENCE: E NIT NO 55 OF 2022-23 Dated: 29.11.2023  
Due to Poor response, the above referred E Nit is hereby cancelled.  
No MIDA/ 3747-53  
DIPK-14333/23 Date: 27. 12..2023  
sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Jal Shakti Deptt Mech. Irr. Div.,  
Anantnag H.Q. Awantipora

## Elgar Ton Helps SA To 11-Run Lead Vs India

Agencies

**PRETORIA:** An unbeaten century from veteran Dean Elgar and fifty on debut from David Bedingham allowed South Africa to take an 11-run lead with five wickets in hand over India when bad light ended play on the second day of the first test at Centurion on Wednesday.

The 36-year-old Elgar is retiring from international cricket after the two-test series but played one of the best innings of his long career as he scored an emotive 140 not out to help the hosts to 256-5 in reply to India's first innings total of 245.

He will resume on Thursday with Marcio Jansen, who has three, with South Africa seeking to build a substantive lead. Elgar, who took over the captaincy after Temba Bavuma pulled his hamstring fielding on Tuesday, played some unusually flamboyant front foot strokes in a chanceless



innings against a fearsome attack on a track set up for the seamers.

He scored a 14th test century but his first at Centurion, which is his home ground. Elgar brought up his ton in 140 balls and featured in two important partnerships -- first 93 runs for the second wicket with Tony de Zorzi, which set a good foundation, and then 131 with Bedingham for

the fourth wicket.

The 29-year-old Bedingham looked assured and confident on debut as he scored 56 before being bowled by Mohammed Siraj, who finished the day with figures of 2-63. Jasprit Bumrah also took two wickets, squaring up De Zorzi (28) and forcing a thick edge to third slip and then bowling Keegan Petersen for two.

Siraj had taken the first wicket of the innings when Aiden Markram went cheaply for five in the fourth over of South Africa's knock.

Earlier, KL Rahul completed his century before India were dismissed for 245 in their first innings, moving on from 208-8 overnight with play commencing 25 minutes late because of light drizzle.

## Cummins Leads Australia Fightback After Pakistan Take Early Honours

Agencies

**MELBOURNE:** Pakistan threatened to take charge of the second test after dismissing Australia for 318 and were making a good start to their reply on Wednesday but were reduced to 194 for six at stumps after the intervention of home skipper Pat Cummins. The tourists looked in fine shape at 124-1 an hour after tea but will resume on day three of the match 124 runs in arrears with hopes of a first test win in Australia since 1995 to level the series at 1-1 fading fast.

Cummins (3-37) changed the day in two overs, brilliantly catching Abdullah Shafique for 62 off his own bowling and dismissing dangerous Babar Azam for one with a sublime delivery that had the Melbourne Cricket Ground crowd roaring in delight. Off spinner Nathan Lyon also played a leading role in Australia's fightback, breaking an obdurate opening partnership between Imam-ul-Haq and Shafique before returning to remove Shan Masood for 54.

Masood had played a gutsy captain's innings for his eighth test half century but frittered all his good work away when he tried to club the ball back over Lyon's head only to balloon it to Mitch Marsh at point. Josh Hazlewood then chipped in to bowl Saud Shakeel for nine and Cummins returned



late in the session to have Agha Salman caught behind for five.

Mohammad Rizwan was unbeaten on 29 at the close of play with Aamer Jamal two not out from 26 balls at the other end.

The rain which had disrupted the opening day of the Boxing Day test stayed away but conditions still favoured the bowlers and Pakistan were able to wrap up Australia's first innings before lunch. Jamal led the way with 3-64 as the tourists, who have lost 15 successive tests in Australia since 1995, took the last seven wickets at the cost of 131 runs.

Marnus Labuschagne top scored with 63 but the 52 extras Pakistan conceded was a reminder of a sloppiness that Australia were always going to be happy to exploit. Pakistan belied that tendency early in their innings, particularly as Shafique and Masood put on 90 runs for the second wicket with brave and disciplined batting in the face of Australia's world class pace attack.

Australia won the first test by an emphatic 360 runs in Perth two weeks ago. The third and final test will take place in Sydney in the new year.

## JKCA Invites Registrations For Junior Carrom Nationals



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The J&K Carrom Association announced Tuesday that it will be registering players for selection and screening for the J&K Carrom Team to compete at the 48th Junior National Carrom Championship. The tourney will be held from February 10 to 13, 2024, at SRM Engineering College in Madurai, Tamil Nadu.

The team will be selected by the screening committee of the J&K Sports Council and J&K Carrom Association. The championship is being organised by the All India Carrom Federation and hosted by the Tamil Nadu Carrom Association and Madurai District Carrom Association.

As per JKCA, players born on or after 11.02.2006 can

take part in Junior (Under-18) events, while players born on or after 11.02.2003 may take part in Youth (Under-21) events.

"Entries shall be accepted with valid legal age proof only. Hence players are advised to carry the original age proof during the trails and screening process," the association said in a release.

"In this regard, all the desired players, interested schools, institutions, clubs of J&K are requested to register their players on email jkcarrom@gmail.com for the said championship with the format: Name, Parentage, DOB, Institution, Contact No. & Email ID on or before 10th January 2024, for any information contact Association on 9906767529, 9070000093," it added.

## JKFA To Hold Super League, A-Division Finals On Dec 31

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The J&K Football Association and DFA Srinagar are set to hold the final matches of the Srinagar Super Division League 2023 and the Srinagar A-Division League 2023 on Sunday, December 31, at Synthetic Turf TRC here.

In the A-Division final, Muslimeen United FC will lock horns with Syed Hyder Stars FC. The game will kick off at 1:00 PM.

In the Super Division final, Kashmir Arrows FC are scheduled to take on Northall United FC. The fixture will kick off at 2:30 PM.

The winning teams will be promoted to a higher division, making these games crucial for the football clubs involved.

J&K's professional football scene includes a four-tier league system, with the Srinagar Premier League considered the top state-level league. The Super Division League forms the second-tier of professional football in the region. The A-Division League is the third-ranked tier of pro football, while the B-Division League forming the lowest level.

The leagues are based on the principles of promotion and relegation, with the winning team moving to a higher league, while the lowest performing sides are relegated to a lower league.



2:30 PM.

The winner of the Premier Division League are promoted to I-League 3, the fourth tier of Indian professional football league system, below I-League 2.

## IOA Forms Ad Hoc Committee To Run Affairs Of Suspended WFI

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Wednesday constituted a three-member ad hoc committee to run the day-to-day affairs of the WFI after the sports ministry suspended the wrestling national body for not following the provisions of its own constitution while taking decisions.

Wushu Association of India president Bhopinder Singh Bajwa will be the chairman of the panel with hockey Olympian M M Somaya and former international shuttler Manjusha Kanwar being the other two members.

The Sports Ministry on Sunday suspended the WFI, three days after it elected new office bearers with Brij Bhushan Singh loyalist Sanjay Singh as president, and also asked IOA to constitute an ad-hoc panel to manage the affairs of the sports body.

The IOA said in a release that the newly-elected president and officials of WFI have made arbitrary decisions in violation of their own constitutional provisions and also flouted principles of good governance.

The ad hoc committee was tasked to oversee and supervise WFI's operations, which include athlete selection, submitting entries for athletes to partici-



pate in international events, organizing sports activities, handling bank accounts, managing the website, and other related responsibilities.

Bajwa was also one of the members of the earlier ad hoc committee formed by the IOA in April to run the affairs of WFI and to conduct its elections. After repeated delays due to court cases, elections were finally held on December 21 with Brij Bhushan's close aide Sanjay winning the presidential poll.

Hours after getting elected as WFI President on Thursday, Sanjay had announced that age group national championships will be held from December 28 in Gonda in UP, which is BJP MP Brij Bhushan's constituency.

The government, while suspending the WFI, cited its "hasty announcement" of organising the U-15 and U-20 nationals "without following due procedure and not

giving sufficient notice to wrestlers" for preparations.

The ministry felt the new WFI body was working under the complete control of its former office-bearers, which was not in conformity with the National Sports Code.

Sanjay's election as WFI chief led to Rio Olympics medallist Sakshi Malik announcing her retirement from wrestling as she said she would not continue the sport with a close aide of Brij Bhushan at the helm of the national federation. Tokyo Olympics bronze winner Bajrang Punia also returned his Padma Shri to the government. World Championships medallist Vinesh Phogat followed suit as she returned her Khel Ratna and Arjuna Award.

The trio had led a five-month-long protest of wrestlers at Jantar Mantar, accusing Brij Bhushan of sexually exploiting several women grapplers.

## United Beats Villa In Comeback Delight, While Liverpool Stays Top

Agencies

**MANCHESTER:** Welcome to Manchester United, Jim Ratcliffe.

In the space of 90 minutes, and in front of soon-to-be director Dave Brailsford, Old Trafford witnessed the best and worst of Erik ten Hag's team.

Two days after confirmation that British billionaire Ratcliffe will buy a stake of up to 25% in the club, United trailed by two goals inside 26 minutes against Aston Villa and was booed by the home crowd on Tuesday. Ten Hag's players then produced a spectacular second-half comeback to win 3-2 and spark celebrations rarely seen at its famed stadium during a troubled season so far.

"We said 'Keep going. Believe it, in ourselves.' That is what I demand from the team," Ten Hag said afterward. "We said it before the game and during halftime, 'Keep believing and we will win this game.'"

Going into the game on the back of a run of four matches in all competitions without a win or a goal, United took to the field for the first time since Ratcliffe, one of Britain's richest people, secured an agreement worth around \$1.6 billion to buy into the club he has supported from childhood.

Brailsford is the director of sport for INEOS Sport, which Ratcliffe owns, and on Tuesday it was confirmed he will be a director of United

once the deal is completed.

He got a taste of the sense of frustration among the 20-time league champions' fans -- with United last winning the title in 2013 -- and the animosity toward American owners the Glazer family, who put the club up for sale last year.

Ratcliffe will take charge of soccer operations as part of his investment and Brailsford is expected to play a big part in a new structure.

While it will take more than one win to turn a season around that has already seen United eliminated from the Champions League and the English League Cup, the atmosphere in the second half was a taste of what can be achieved by bringing the good times back to Old Trafford.

"We're looking forward. I think it is positive for the club that they are stepping in. They have a lot of experience in sport at the highest level -- F1, a cycling team, football clubs," Ten Hag said. "They can only help us and support us to get our targets. We are looking forward. They want to work with us and we want to work with them."

Villa went ahead through first-half goals from John McGinn and Leandro Doncker.

Alejandro Garnacho sparked United's revival with two goals in the second half and Rasmus Hojlund scored his first league goal to win the game.

Third-place Villa had been un-



beaten in 10 games going into the match.

"Two weeks ago I was asked if we

were contenders to the title and said no, and was thinking the same as I am now," Villa manager Unai Emery

said. "Today we missed an opportunity to have that consistency against one of the top ten teams. This can

happen."

United moved up to sixth place, three points behind defending champion Manchester City in fifth. City has played two fewer games than United.

**LIVERPOOL LEADS**

Liverpool is back at the top of the league and Darwin Nunez is again among the goals.

Nunez ended a 12-game scoring drought to set up Jurgen Klopp's team for a 2-0 win against Burnley and overtake Arsenal in the standings.

Liverpool moved two points clear of second-place Arsenal, which has a game in hand against West Ham on Thursday.

Nunez curled a shot from distance beyond Burnley goalkeeper James Trafford in the sixth minute at Turf Moor, having failed to find the back of the net for his club since Nov. 1.

Having drawn back-to-back league games against Manchester United and Arsenal, Liverpool failed to make the most of its dominance as it saw two goals disallowed and Mohamed Salah hit the bar.

Substitute Diogo Jota eventually ended any concerns of a Burnley equalizer with a goal in the 90th.

"We've created a lot of chances recently and haven't used an awful lot of them but in the end it's about performing," Liverpool manager Klopp said. "We've played four games in 10 days and you just have to get through it."