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BOOK APPOINTMENT

Winter Fires In Kashmir

Lost Homes, Shattered Dreams & A Bitter Winter Ahead

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: On a quiet wintry morning in Rainawari's Abi Gulpura, 27 families huddled in government-provided tents, each marked with their names, staring blankly at the ruins of their lives. The devastating fire that swept through their neighborhood left nothing but ashes where their homes once stood, destroying 18 residential

structures in minutes. Raja Begum, a fish seller, sits outside her temporary shelter, clutching her granddaughter Toyiba. Her voice trembled as she recounted her tragedy. "I had gone to Baramulla to seek treatment for my granddaughter, she cannot stand or function properly." "When I returned, my six-room house, Rs 12 lakh in cash, and all our belongings were



66
WHILE GOVERNMENT RELIEF AND NGO INTERVENTIONS PROVIDE SOME SOLACE,
 the larger question remains: is it enough to rebuild lives after such devastating losses? "

gone. Everything, even the copper utensils and gold, is lost." The money, painstakingly saved over years, was meant to buy land adjacent to her home. "I was supposed to pay the landowner the next day. Now, it's all gone," she said. Her husband, Mohammad Shaban Dar, worries about the approaching winter. "One of my daughters-in-law is pregnant. If it snows, | More on P6

Light Snowfall Expected Till Sunday: MeT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With the Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recording the coldest night of the season, a feeble Western Disturbance (WD) is set to affect the Union Territory from tomorrow, which may result in light snowfall over the higher reaches and also the rain showers in the plains till November 24.

The night temperature improved at multiple places, but the coldest night of the season at minus 1.2 degree Celsius was recorded in Srinagar in the intervening night of Thursday-Friday.

As per the details, several areas across Kashmir recorded the sub-zero temperatures for the third consecutive night.

The details reveal that Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 1.4 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam recorded the coldest temperature in the Valley at minus 2.3 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, recorded a low of minus 0.6 degree while Kupwara recorded minus 0.8 degree in the intervening night of Thursday-Friday.

Meanwhile, a weak Western Disturbance would affect Jammu and Kashmir from tomorrow and under its influence light snowfall and rains are expected at isolated places of the Union Territory.

"There is a possibility of snowfall in the higher reaches and also the rain showers in the plains of Kashmir on Saturday and Sunday," | More on P6

At 32%, J&K Tops India In Unemployment

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu & Kashmir stands at the top of the country's unemployment charts, with an alarming 32 percent unemployment rate among jobseekers aged 15-29 in urban areas, as revealed by the latest quarterly Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS).

Female job seekers face an even bleaker reality, with the urban female unemployment rate soaring to 53.6 percent, the highest in the nation.

These figures position J&K above Odisha (30.4 percent), while states like Delhi and Gujarat boast significantly lower rates at 4.3 percent and 8.3 percent, respectively.

The survey, covering the

July-September quarter, revealed that the overall unemployment rate for youth aged 15-29 in urban areas was 15.9 percent down from 16.8 percent in the April-June period. The unemployment rate across all age groups in urban areas fell to 6.4 percent in the July-September quarter from

6.6 percent in the previous quarter. The job market has gradually improved since the COVID-19 pandemic, supported by economic reopening.

The PLFS data measures unemployment in urban areas under the Current Weekly Status (CWS).

Among females, the unemployment rate in the July-September quarter was highest in Jammu & Kashmir at 53.6 percent, followed | More on P6



FEMALE JOB SEEKERS FACE AN EVEN BLEAKER REALITY, with the urban female unemployment rate soaring to 53.6 percent, the highest in the nation.

Release Of Political Prisoners Once J&K Gets Statehood: CM

» Says Congress Not Part Of J&K Govt » 'Special Status Resolution Passed In LA Not Rejected, Doors Still Open'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday said the resolution of special status passed in the Legislative Assembly recently has not been rejected and that the door was still open.

He, however, said as far as the release of political prisoners, the government has to wait for the restoration of



statehood first.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of an event at Polo View, Srinagar, Omar while replying to a query about the fate of special status resolution said, "The resolution was passed by the majority of members in the Legislative Assembly. Congress members were also present in the House. It is alive and has not been | More on P6

'Transparent Probe Into Kishtwar Army Torture Allegations'

J&K's New Reservation Policy Sparks Political Firestorm

Will Sit Outside CM's Residence If Policy Not Reviewed By Dec 22: Ruhullah

Agencies

Srinagar: The new reservation policy in Jammu and Kashmir has triggered a heated political debate, with opposition parties criticizing the policy and demanding its limitation to 50%. The policy, introduced after the region's reorganization, includes reservations for Other Backward Classes (OBC) for the first time and grants Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to hill and other tribal communities. Notably, the new framework

The alleged torture of five civilians by Army personnel in Kishtwar has triggered angry reactions from various political parties in Jammu and Kashmir, notably from Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who has demanded a transparent investigation

and court martial for those found guilty. The controversy erupted following the Nagrota-based XV Corps' announcement of an inquiry into claims of brutal torture inflicted on five residents of Kuath village in the region. Disturbing footage circulating | More on P6



has expanded reservations from 43% to nearly 60%, reducing opportunities for the general category to 40%. While the government

defends the policy as a step toward social empowerment, parties like the National Conference (NC) and People's Democratic Party (PDP) argue that it compromises the representation of general category candidates in jobs and educational institutions.

NC MP Aga Syed Ruhullah has issued an ultimatum to the state government, warning of a sit-in outside the Chief Minister's residence if the policy isn't reviewed by December 22. PDP | More on P6

Resumption Of Telephone Facility In Custody Delhi HC Issues Notice On Shabir Shah's Plea

Agencies

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Friday issued notice on the plea of Kashmiri separatist leader Shabir Ahmad Shah who is lodged in Tihar jail in a terror funding case lodged by the NIA. He has challenged a circular requiring an NOC from the investigating agency for availing telephone and E-Mulaqat facility in Tihar Jail.



Justice Jasmeet Singh issued notice on the plea and directed authorities to file a reply within four weeks.

The matter has been listed on February 13. Shabir Ahmad Shah has approached the High Court for resumption of telephone facility and E-Mulaqat facility which has been stopped in view of a circular requiring an NOC from the prosecuting agency. | More on P6

MAHARASHTRA, JHARKHAND POLLS All Set For Counting Of Votes

Agencies

Mumbai: The counting of votes for the recently concluded Assembly elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand will begin at 8 am on Saturday.

"Counting of postal ballots will start at 8 am, and trends will start coming from 9-9:15 am," officials said.

In Maharashtra, all eyes will be on the outcome of the battle between the ruling BJP-led Mahayuti coalition and the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance, which is seeking to make a comeback.

The final turnout in the Maharashtra Assembly polls, held on November 20, was 66.05 per cent, up from 61.1 per cent in 2019, election officials said. Counting of | More on P6

Defaced Currency Notes In J&K SC Grants Centre Last Opportunity To File Response

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday granted a last opportunity to the Centre to file its response on a PIL seeking CBI probe into the RBI exchanging defaced currency notes worth Rs 30 crore allegedly belonging to a Kashmiri separatist group.

While noting enough time had been given to the Union of India to file its reply, a bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan granted four more weeks "in the interest of justice".

The top court was hearing a PIL filed by one Satish Bhardwaj, who alleged in 2013 the Jammu

branch of RBI exchanged the currency notes amounting to Rs 30 crore allegedly belonging to a separatist group called "Kashmir Graffiti".

Bhardwaj's plea said, "The act of the Jammu branch of Reserve Bank of India to exchange the defaced/imperfect Indian currency notes worth Rs 30 crore — that too done by a separatist group of Kashmir with the main aim of destabilising peace and harmony in the region of Jammu and Kashmir and to create an environment of tension and terror in the minds of common residents of the region — is illegal and worth the interference of this court." | More on P6



Will US Charges Against Adani Lead to Arrest Warrants, Extradition?

Press Trust of India

New York: With the US filing civil and criminal charges against billionaire Gautam Adani and seven others over a multi-million-dollar bribery scheme, a prominent attorney here has said that the case could escalate significantly, potentially leading to arrest warrants and even extradition attempts.

Adani, India's second-richest man, and seven others, including his nephew Sagar Adani, have been charged by the US Department of Justice with paying bribes to unidentified officials of state governments in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha to buy expensive solar power, potentially earning more than US\$ 2 billion in profit over 20 years.



Adani Group, however, denied the charges saying the allegations by US prosecutors are "baseless" and the conglomerate is "compliant with all laws". "US Attorney Breon Peace has the right to get arrest warrants issued against Adani

and seven others indicted and serve them on the nations where they reside," Indian-American attorney Ravi Batra told PTI on Thursday.

He further said, "If that nation, as India does, has an extradition treaty then according to the bilateral contract between sovereign nations, the resident nation must turn over the person extradited by the United States. There is a process that the resident nation must comply with, consistent with its laws." Batra noted that ultimately, extradition occurs "absent the rarest of circumstances", as in the case of former Chilean president Augusto Pinochet. The United Kingdom did not extradite him solely on humanitarian grounds. "It's hard to see the Pinochet | More on P6

Rates For PET Scans In Govt Hospitals Notified

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a significant step towards improving access to advanced medical care services in Jammu and Kashmir, Government today announced the official rates for PET scans and CBCT machine charges for all government run hospitals and health institutions of Health and Medical Education department except SKIMS.

As per the government order issued by Health and Medical Education department, the rates per scan/test for PET Scan Whole Body will be Rs. 10,000, for PET scan Cardiac metabolism is Rs. 4000, for PET guided Biopsy is Rs. 1200, for PET scan review from outside is Rs. 600 and for CBCT machine charges is Rs. 1200. This significant | More on P6



OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Sub: Application of Ameena Begum W/o Late Nazir Ahmad Lone R/o Puthar Reshpura seeking issuance of Dependent certificate.

NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, in this context. As per the death certificate and report submitted by the patwari concerned Nazir Ahmad Lone S/o Ghulam, Rasool Lone R/o Puthar Reshpura has passed away on 28/08/2024. The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has following dependents.

S.NO	NAME OF DEPENDENT	RELATION WITH DECEASED	AGE	OCCUPATION
1	Ameena Begum	Wife	45	H/W
2	Saima Nazir	Daughter	26	H/w
3	Tanveer Ahmad Lone	Son	25	Labour

The applicant has applied for issuance of Dependent certificate. As such the instant matter is published through news paper, if any one is having any kind of objection may approach this office within 7 days (Seven Days) of the publication of this notice after passing of stipulated time of 7 days (Seven Days), no objections will be entertained. fko

NOTICE

I Tanveer Ahmad Mir S/o Bashir Ahmad Mir R/o 33-Baghi Roop Khanyar, Have Lost My Driving License, Bearing DL no. JK01 20180003148. Now i Wants to Duplicate. In This Regard, If any person should have any objection he/she may file the same to the RTO Office Sgr Within a week at the Most, after that no objection will Be entertained. **Media Line Ads**

AI Predicts Mood Swings, Detects Bipolar Episodes Through Sleep Patterns

Press Trust Of India

Researchers have developed an AI-based tool that can predict episodes of mood disorder in patients using only sleep-wake data recorded by wearable devices such as smartwatches. People suffering from mood disorders, including bipolar disorder, experience long periods of sadness, depression, joy or mania. Mood disorders are closely linked with sleep-wake rhythms with disturbances potentially triggering a mood episode. The team of researchers, including from the Institute for Basic Science in South Korea, said the growing popularity of wearable devices has made collecting health data much easier. "By developing a model that predicts mood episodes based solely on sleep-wake pattern data, we have reduced the cost



of data collection and significantly improved clinical applicability. "This study offers new possibilities for cost-effective diagnosis and treatment of mood disorder patients," lead researcher Kim Jae Kyoung said. For the study, published in the journal 'npj Digital Medicine', the researchers analysed 429 days' worth of data from 168 mood disorder patients. Thirty-six sleep-wake, or circadian, rhythms were extracted,

which were used for training machine learning algorithms. A form of artificial intelligence (AI), a machine learning algorithm learns to detect patterns in the data it is trained on to make predictions about the future. The AI model that the team developed was thus able to predict depressive, manic, and hypomanic episodes with an accuracy of 80 per cent, 98 per cent and 95 per cent, respectively.

"Using mathematical modelling to longitudinal data from 168 patients, we derived 36 sleep and circadian rhythm features. These features enabled accurate next-day predictions for depressive, manic, and hypomanic episodes," the authors wrote. The researchers found that daily changes in circadian rhythms are a key predictor of mood episodes. Specifically, delayed circadian rhythms, falling asleep and waking up later in the day, increase the risk of depressive episodes. On the other hand, advanced circadian rhythms -- sleeping and waking up earlier in the day, increase the risk of manic episodes, the researchers said. "Notably, daily circadian phase shifts were the most significant predictors: delays linked to depressive episodes and advances to manic episodes," the authors of the study added.

PUBLIC NOTICE
INVITATION FOR OBJECTIONS TO
RE-REGISTRATION OF NON-PROFITABLE SOCIETY

Notice is hereby given under Section 6 of the Societies Registration Act, 1860, that an application has been made to the Registrar of Societies, J&K, for the re-registration of a society which was already registered under Registration No. 6628-S of 2014. The Name of the Society is "SWIFT FOUNDATION". The application seeks to re-register the society under the same name and style with following persons as:

- TANVEER AHMAD MIR CHAIRMAN
- JUNAID ALAM KHAN VICE-CHAIRMAN
- TABIDA YASEEN GENERAL SECRETARY
- SAKEENA WANI SECRETARY
- MUHAMMAD YASEEN RATHER TREASURER
- ADIL AHMAD MIR MEDIA SECRETARY
- MEEMA AKTHER EXECUTIVE MEMBER

Any person objecting to the re-registration of the society may lodge a written objection with the Registrar of Societies, J&K, Srinagar within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice. The objection if any should early state the grounds on which the objection is made. Dated 21.11.2024.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to transfer the Electricity Connection bearing C.I.D NO: 0206030006567 from Abdul Samad Dar S/o Abdul Qadir Dar to Mohammad Ramzan Dar S/o Abdul Samad Dar. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the PDD Sub Division Beerwah within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohammad Ramzan Dar
 S/o Abdul Samad Dar
 R/o Pethmakhama **BMG**

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my DOB certificate namely Mehraj-Ud-Din Mogray son of Ali Mohammad Mogray (Mothers Name Waheeda Begum) resident of Tilgam Pattan and DOB is 13-01-2006. Now I am applying for its duplicate. Anybody having any objection may contact registrar Births and Deaths SMC Srinagar a week at the most.

Mehraj-Ud-Din Mogray
 S/o Ali Mohammad Mogray
 R/o Tilgam Pattan Baramulla **fko**

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan
 Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Adil Riyaz S/o Riyaz Ahmad Shah R/o Nehalpora Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 02-04-2007 occurred at Home

In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained. **Executive Magistrate 1st Class Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko**

اطلاع عام

میں غلام مجید بن بیروالدی ولد عبدالرحمن صاحب ساکنہ گاؤں مٹھلہ ماگام شعلہ بڈگام پتھکنہ منٹھر کی دختر غنڈراؤ ہرا کی پیدائش گھر میں ہوئی ہے اور 11-05-2014 کو پیدائشی ہوئی ہے۔ حال میں منٹھر نے پیدائشی سرٹیفکیٹ میں غلطی کی ہے اور پیدائشی مڈکوہ کی پیدائشی سرٹیفکیٹ کھینے مڈکوہ کے رجوع کیا ہے۔ اگر کسی شخص کو اس بارے میں کوئی غلطی یا اعتراض ہے تو سات دن کے اندر اندر منٹھر کے محلہ میں اعتراض پیش کریں۔ معیار گزارنے بعد کوئی غلطی قابل قبول نہ ہوگا۔ **BMG**

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on <https://www.reps.gov.in> against Tender Notice no. 433-Sig-T-31-24-25 Closing Date/Time 16.12.2024 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Contract Type	Works
Name of Work	(i) Provision of dual detection for block working on PTK-JAT & SNL-JUC sections of Firozpur division. (ii) Sectional Signal maintenance Contract (SSMC) for the sections of DSTE/ASR for one year. (iii) Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of Station make Integrated Power Supply (IPS) system installed under the jurisdiction of Sr. DSTE/FZR over Firozpur division for Three (03) years. (iv) Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of M/S G.G. Tronics make Digital Axle Counters Over Firozpur Division for Three (03) Years.
Tender Closing Date Time	16.12.2024
Date Time of Uploading Tender	21.11.2024 18:29
Advertised Value (Rs.)	(i) 16665073.74 (ii) 11988558.32 (iii) 6796178.64 (iv) 7969610.88
Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	02.12.2024
Earnest Money (Rs.)	(i) 233300.00 (ii) 210000.00 (iii) 135900.00 (iv) 159400.00
Period of Completion	(i) 09 Months (ii) 12 Months (iii) 36 Months (iv) 36 Months
Tender Notice No: 433-Sig-T-31-24-25	Date:- 22.11.2024, Closing Date/Time : 16.12.2024 15:00 3591/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

The Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited,
Branch Office : Amira Kadal Srinagar-190001

POSSESSION NOTICE
Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas the undersigned being an Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 04.11.2023 to Mr. Mohammad Iqbal Paloo as the Borrowers / Mortgagers, thereby calling upon the said Borrowers and mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the said notices being Rs 22,55,067.51 (Rupees Twenty Two Lac Fifty Five Thousand Sixty Seven and Paise fifty one only) within sixty days from the date of receipt of the said Notices.

The said borrower and mortgagor having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower and mortgagor in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken Symbolic possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this day, the 19.11.2024.

The said borrowers and mortgagor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Business Unit Amira Kadal Srinagar thereon, for Rs 24,61,038.51 (Rupees Twenty Four Lac Sixty One Thousand Thirty Eight and and Paise fifty one only) and further interest thereon from 31.10.2023

Description of the Immovable Property (Mortgaged)
 Equitable Mortgage of Land alongwith building over a piece of land measuring 02 Marlas, 4 Sirsai and 2 inches falling under Khasra no 884 mm, Khata no 925 and Khewat no 292 situated at Mouza Sangin Darwaza Tehsil Khanyar District Srinagar in the name of Mr. Mohammad Iqbal Paloo S/O Abdul Samad Paloo R/O Mureedpora Sazgaripora Hawal Srinagar.

Authorized Officer
 Dated: 19.11.2024
 Place: Srinagar **ab**

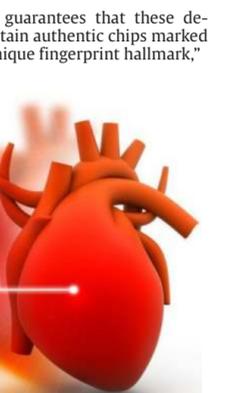
IIT-Indore Develops Technology To Enhance Safety Of ECG Machines, Pacemakers; Gets Patent

Press Trust Of India

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore has developed a technology to enhance the safety of electrocardiogram (ECG) machines and pacemakers used in the treatment of heart diseases, an official said on Wednesday. This technology, developed under the leadership of Prof Anirban Sengupta of IIT-Indore, has been granted a patent by the country's patent office. According to the official, the new technology developed by the IIT-Indore team was designed to create safe and secure chips for these ECG devices and pacemakers. It includes a crucial feature that distinguishes between genuine and counterfeit ECG detector chips before they are manu-

factured or integrated into devices. This capability is vital for ensuring the reliability of ECG devices and cardiac pacemakers, minimising the risks of misdiagnosis and errors that can lead to inadequate treatment. Currently, many ECG devices and pacemakers encounter reliability challenges, which can sometimes lead to errors in medical diagnoses that may go unnoticed, potentially affecting patient outcomes. "This technology not only secures the chips used in ECG devices

but also guarantees that these devices contain authentic chips marked with a unique fingerprint hallmark,"



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JAVAIID NEWS AGENCY	AWANTIPORA
LONE NEW/ADVT AGENCY	RATNIPORA, PULWAMA
BOOZE NEWS AGNECY	AWANTIPORA
3 WAY TRAL NEWS AGENCY	TRAL
SYED MAQBOOL NEWS AGNECY	TRAL
DAR NEWS AGENCY	PULWAMA
SHAFI NEWS AGENCY	RAJPORA
REYZ NEWS AGENCY	PAMPOR
QUDOOS NEWS AGENCY	SHOPIAN
TURRAY NEWS AGENCY	SHOPIAN
FAROOQ NEWS AGENCY	KAKAPORA PULWAMA
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NISAR NEWS AGENCY	BANIHAL

FOR ANY QUERY, CALL CIRCULATION DEPTT. : 0194-2502327

CM Inaugurates Outreach Office At Gupkar

Agencies

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday inaugurated a public services and outreach office here to ensure efficient grievance redressal, informed decision-making through data-driven monitoring, and strategic communication.

The chief minister was accompanied by his adviser Nasir Aslam Wani.

Abdullah inaugurated the 'CM's Public Services and Outreach Office' at the Gupkar Road here, marking a significant step toward transparent, citizen-centric governance, an official spokesperson said.

The office, designed as a single-window platform, aims to ensure efficient grievance redressal, and informed decision-making through data-driven monitoring and strategic communication, he said.

The grievance redressal system under the office, aptly named Raabta (connection), serves as a bridge between citizens and the government, combining robust digital systems with on-ground engagement to ensure timely service delivery and responsive governance.

During his maiden visit, the chief minister toured the facility, re-

The grievance redressal system under the office, aptly named Raabta (connection), serves as a bridge between citizens and the government, combining robust digital systems with on-ground engagement to ensure timely service delivery and responsive governance.

viewed its operations, and interacted with officers.

Commending the initiative, the chief minister emphasised the importance of citizen engagement and directed officers to ensure timely grievance resolution and proactive communication with the public, the spokesperson said.

Abdullah was informed that the office will adopt a hybrid communication approach, including an online grievance portal, dedicated helpline, and periodic in-person interactive sessions to cater to all citizens effectively, the spokesperson said.

This innovative initiative underscores the government's dedication to fostering public trust and ensuring a seamless interface between the administration and citizens, he added.



TILTED TROUBLE: Years on, a leaning streetlight at Badamwari, Old City, continues to pose a hazard for commuters. KO Photo Syed Mohammad Burhan

SKIMS Gets Approval To Start DM Critical Care Medicine Program

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) has announced the launch of its DM Critical Care Medicine program, a significant milestone in advancing healthcare delivery in Jammu and Kashmir.

Director SKIMS / EOSG Prof. M. Ashraf Ganie termed it a major accomplishment for the Institute. He said the Department of Critical Care Medicine at SKIMS is the only separate and approved Department in the Union Territory, catering to critically ill patients from major hospitals across J&K and national institutions. Equipped with state-of-the-art ventilators and life-saving

support systems, the department operates at 100% bed occupancy, underscoring the urgent need for expanded critical care facilities.

Prof. Ashraf Ganie underscored the need to have 200 bedded Critical Care Block at SKIMS and underlined that the demand for critical care facilities is increasing. "There is a need to increase the number of Critical Care beds not only in our Institution but also in other Institutions of the UT of J&K. The administration at SKIMS will make every possible effort and work out a detailed plan for 200 bedded Critical Care blocks and submit them to the govt. for consideration, he added.

Dean Medical Faculty SKIMS Prof. Shariq R.

Masoodi, overwhelmed over the significant achievement, said that following a rigorous evaluation, the National Medical Commission has granted permission for the DM Critical Care Medicine program with an initial intake of two seats for the academic year 2024-25. This academic initiative will elevate quality care for critically ill patients, Strengthen healthcare infrastructure, Enhance emergency preparedness, Contribute to societal well-being, Provide skilled manpower for J&K and the country.

The Department of Critical Care Medicine SKIMS headed by Dr. Mohamad Akbar Shah expressed their gratitude to Director SKIMS, Dean Medical Faculty,

Head NMC Section Prof. Fazal Q. Parray, Additional Director, Medical Superintendent and Academic Registrar for their tireless efforts in making this program a reality".

Dr. Mohamad Akbar while reflecting on the DM program said that the team of Critical care is highly grateful to Director SKIMS and EOSG, for his support for this to happen. We are indebted to Dean Medical faculty for his all time guidance and help, last but not least we appreciate the all hard work and timely communication and the deliberations and vigorous follow up with NMC made it possible. We are really grateful to the NMC head Prof. Fazal Q. Parry and his team for their tireless efforts.

IDE Boot Camp Of PM Schools Held

Observer News Service

Srinagar: An IDE Boot camp for principals and teachers of PM Shri schools was organized by the Department of School Education and Literacy in collaboration with Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell (MIC), AICTE, CBSE and NCERT at Kashmir College of Engineering and Technology (KCET) Narabal, Srinagar.

The camp was virtually inaugurated by Dr. Abhay Jere, Vice-Chairman AICTE, while Prof. Khur-

shid Ahmad Bhat, Dean College Development Council was chief guest at the event.

More than 200 delegates from various PM Shri schools of the UT are participating in the Boot camp.

Resource personnel for the programme were Dr. Irfana Rashid and Dr. Aashiq Hussain.

The camp was virtually addressed by Vice Chairman AICTE, Director NCERT and CBSE. They stressed on the participants to inculcate a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship among the students.

From Office of the Advocate M.A Sofi

In the case of Gh Hassan yatoo Son of mohd ishaq yatoo R/o sultanpora pattan District Baramulla

V/s Public at large

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap- peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seek in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irrepa- rable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

FKO Sd/advocate

SAD DEMISE



With Profound Grief and Sorrow, it is to Inform the Sad Demise of Waheeda Showkat, W/o Late Showkat Ahmad Gilkar R/o Natipora Iqbal Colony House no. 124, Srinagar, Who Left For Heavenly Abode On Friday (Today). Kindly Pray For the Departed Soul and the Bereaved Family. In this Regard the Congregational Fateh Khawani will be Held at our Ancestral Graveyard Situated at Malkha Srinagar At 10:30am (Sunday) 24/11/2024.

Note: "Taziyat Will Be 03 Days Only"

(BEREAVED)

Firdous Ahmad (+91 9149948927)
Saqib (+91 9797384540)
Faheem (+91 7006318054)

inf

OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDER

8 WEEK FREE GROUP THERAPY

I did wash my hand ... but.... did I clean it enough? ?Wash it again? is it clean now?

It's not just RECURRENT HANDWASHING AND CHECKING BUT UNSEEN PAIN myths and stigma associated with OCD

KASHMER / Kashmir American Society of Healthcare,
Medical Education & Research
in collaboration with
HPVT / Help Poor Voluntary Trust!
is initiating a **free 8 weeks Group therapy** for the individuals suffering with OCD by a team of counselling clinical psychologists led by leading consultant clinical psychologist of J&K.

If you or some one you know is experiencing symptoms of OCD, seeking professional help is crucial.

You do not have to fight your battles alone.

There is no need for referral, simply call us for registration.

Happy & Healthy minds Office, HPVT Building (First Floor), Daresh Kadal Chowk, Srinagar

9070806160

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS
SHEIK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

<p>HIJRI CALENDAR 20 Jumada al-Awwal 1446</p>	PRAYERS
	FAJR 5: 42
	ZUHR 12:14
	ASR 3: 50
	Magrib 5:30
	ISHA 6: 50

This Day In History

- 602- Byzantine senate elects army officer Phocas Emperor in a mutiny against the reigning Emperor Maurice (who is then killed along with all his family)
- 800- Charlemagne arrives in Rome to investigate the alleged crimes of Pope Leo III
- 1165 - Pope Alexander III returns from exile to Rome
- 1499 - Flemish pretender to the English throne Perkin Warbeck hanged for reportedly attempting to escape from Tower of London. Invaded England in 1497, claiming to be the lost son of King Edward IV
- 1556 - King Philip II confers with Dutch financial experts
- 1654 - French mathematician, scientist, and religious philosopher Blaise Pascal experiences an intense, mystical vision that marks him for life.
- 1700 - Cardinal Francesco Albani elected Pope Clemens XI
- 1832 - French take Antwerp in liberation of Belgium
- 1844 - Independence of the Duke of Schleswig-Holstein from Denmark.
- 1863 - Battle of Chattanooga & Orchard Knob, TN, begins
- 1863 - Patent granted for a process of making color photographs
- 1864 - Battle at Ball's Ferry Georgia (30 casualties)
- 1892 - Battle of Lomani Congo: Belgian unit beats Arabs, 1000-3000 killed
- 1899 - Battle at Belmont, Cape colony: general Methuen beats Farmers
- 1914 - The US Army withdraws from Mexico.
- 1915 - On the Tigris River in Mesopotamia, the Battle of Ctesiphon between Allied and Turkish forces enters its second day
- 1940 - Romania signs Tripartite Pact
- 1941 - German troops conquer Klin, at NW of Moscow
- 1942 - 3rd & 5th Romanian army corps surrenders
- 1942 - US Coast Guard Woman's Auxiliary (SPARS) authorized
- 1942 - German 4th & 6th Army surrounded at Stalingrad
- 1942 - Japanese bombing of Port Darwin, Australia
- 1943 - 1st printing of illegal "Warheid"
- 1943 - British Forces Broadcasting Service begins operations
- 1943 - US forces take control of Tarawa, Gilbert Island & Makin from Japanese
- 1944 - US 7th army under General Alexander Patch conquers Straatsburg
- 1945 - Most US wartime rationing of foods, including meat & butter, ends
- 1946 - French Navy fire in Haiphong Vietnam, kills 6,000.
- 1971 - China People's Republic seated in UN Security Council.
- 1973 - Arab summit conference adopts open and secret resolutions on the use of the oil weapons; embargo extended to Portugal, Rhodesia, and South Africa.
- 1983 - Soyuz T-9 lands.
- 1983 - USSR leave weapon disarmament talks.
- 1996 - The Republic of Angola officially joins the World Trade Organization.
- 2011 - Arab Spring: After 11 months of protests in Yemen, The Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh Signs a deal to transfer power to the vice president, in exchange for legal immunity.
- 2014 - A suicide bomber kills 40 people at a volleyball tournament in eastern Afghanistan.
- 2015 - President Yahya Jammeh of Gambia bans "Khatna", the Islamic ritual practice of genital mutilation of young girls
- 2017- Brazilian footballer Robinho sentenced to nine years in prison for rape in Italy
- 2018- Phil Mickelson claims \$9m winner-takes-all prize in dramatic matchplay golf duel with Tiger Woods, finishing under floodlights in Las Vegas; match goes to 22nd hole before Mickelson sinks 4-foot putt for rich victory
- 2020- AstraZeneca is the third drugmaker to report an effective vaccine for COVID-19 (62% or 90% effective depending on how it is given) and easy-to make and distribute



The arguments that advocate for the importance of assembly elections are equally valid for student elections. It is time for Abdullah to direct university authorities to reinstate the Kashmir University Students Union



J&K Assembly Elections Are Over

When Will Kashmir University Students Union Elections Happen?

Ummar Jamal

Student politics forms an essential part of university life. It is important for honing leadership, advocacy, and democratic engagement skills among students. Across the globe and nationally also, student unions have played a pivotal role in shaping leaders. Many of India's best leaders are products of campus politics.

Prominent figures like Subhas Chandra Bose gained recognition as a dynamic student leader during his time at Presidency College, from which he was expelled for his role in a student strike. Jayaprakash Narayan, who later spearheaded the anti-Emergency movement, was actively involved in student activism during his college days in the United States and later in India. Leaders like Chandrashekhar, who became India's Prime Minister, also began as a fiery student leader during the JP Movement. Similarly, many contemporary Indian politicians, such as Arun Jaitley and Nitish Kumar, started their political journeys through student unions, particularly during the Emergency period of the 1970s. These leaders typify how student activism has often served as a springboard for significant roles in Indian politics.

Through participation in student politics, young minds learn to address injustices. It equips them to engage in societal dynamics, and uphold the rule of law. It trains students with practical experience in public speaking, representation, and community building, while instilling a deeper sense of responsibility.

However, at Kashmir University, students are bereft of such benisons of campus life. Students face a glaring void of an official student union. This absence not only stifles student voices but also curtails oppor-

tunities for meaningful participation in campus life.

A History of Student Politics in Kashmir

Student politics in Kashmir, particularly at Kashmir University, has had a chequered past. The Kashmir University Students Union (KUSU), established in 2007 after significant efforts, was a critical platform for student engagement. However, in the wake of the 2008 unrest, the state tightened its grip on political activities, leading to the closure of KUSU's office in 2009 and its demolition in 2010.

Interestingly, in response to an RTI query in 2017, Kashmir University admitted that no formal ban or circular had ever been issued against KUSU. Yet, soon after, the administration released an order explicitly barring political and religious discussions on campus, cementing the unofficial ban on student union activities.

This ban has suppressed a vital platform for students to voice concerns and contribute to a vibrant campus culture. While student politics in Kashmir might historically have faced ups and downs, outright prohibition undermines the democratic values universities are meant to uphold.

Why Campus Politics Matters

Universities are not merely academic institutions; they are microcosms of society where students encounter diverse perspectives and ideas. Student politics offers a space for students to engage with

these differences. These roles prepare students for future challenges. It instils values of negotiation, teamwork, and conflict resolution.

Dwight D. Eisenhower (the 34th US President) once said, "Politics ought to be the part-time profession of every citizen who would protect the rights and privileges of free people and who would preserve what is good and fruitful in our national heritage".

In functioning student unions, leaders take up critical issues that students face at the campus. By acting as a bridge between students and the administration, campus politics ensures that the voices of the student community are heard and acted upon. Without a union, students often feel disconnected, unable to voice grievances or seek redress effectively.

Campus politics is vital in addressing student issues, creating a platform for collective advocacy and problem-solving. For instance, in 2019, students at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in India protested against a proposed fee hike, leading the administration to roll back several charges after intense negotiations. Similarly, in 2022, student representatives at Delhi University campaigned for better hostel facilities, prompting the university to allocate funds for renovations. These examples show how campus politics directly impacts the quality of student life by addressing pressing concerns like affordability and infrastructure.

Moreover, a vibrant democracy relies on informed citizens who value dialogue and dissent. Stu-

dent unions nurture these qualities, offering a safe space for debate and discussion. Through campus politics, students learn to appreciate differing perspectives, engage respectfully with opposing views, and develop nuanced understandings of ideologies.

The lack of a student union at Kashmir University represents a missed opportunity to instill these values. Suppressing student voices risks creating apathy and disengagement. Encouraging student politics does not mean endorsing chaos; it means fostering a platform where students can express themselves responsibly and negotiate disagreements.

Addressing Concerns Around Campus Politics

Many people often point to the disruptions caused by student politics, such as ideological clashes, law and order problems or confrontations with administration. While these concerns are valid, they do not warrant a blanket ban on student unions. Instead, they underscore the need for structured and constructive engagement.

Kashmir University can establish guidelines to ensure that student politics remains confined to purely student issues and doesn't drag in unrelated political issues unnecessarily. The university should turn student politics into a positive force, empowering students to contribute meaningfully to campus life.

The Case for Reinstating KUSU

Reinstating the Kashmir University Students Union would have far-reaching benefits. Beyond empowering students to actively participate in campus life, it would strengthen the region's democratic culture. A student union could become a model for responsible activism, demonstrating how young people can channel their energies toward constructive advocacy.

Omar Abdullah, the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, has consistently championed elections as the bedrock of democracy, particularly since 2019 when assembly elections were delayed. He has argued passionately for the democratic rights of the people of J&K. Now that he is in office and assembly elections have been held, the same principles should apply to campus politics.

There is no justification for maintaining an unofficial ban on student unions at Kashmir University. The arguments that advocate for the importance of assembly elections are equally valid for student elections. It is time for Abdullah to direct university authorities to reinstate the Kashmir University Students Union.

Conclusion

The reinstatement of the Kashmir University Students Union is not merely a call for a student body—it is a call for a democratic, inclusive, and engaged campus environment. Student politics is integral to university life. It prepares young minds for leadership while fostering values of dialogue, diversity, and dissent.

Kashmir University has the opportunity to nurture these ideals by allowing students to organize and advocate within a democratic framework. By doing so, it can inspire a generation of leaders committed to creating a better society. Now is the time to reinstate KUSU and reimagine campus politics as a force for positive change.

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

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Is AI Ignoring Consent And Harming Users?

Aayush Agarwal, Darshil Shah & Pavan Mamidi

Artificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping our digital world, unlocking opportunities while sparking ethical debates. As forms collect data under the guise of "informed" consent, they draw lucrative inferences about our attitudes and behaviours, often without our full understanding. This information asymmetry between users and firms raises questions about the ethics of data hoarding. Furthermore, clever design elements nudge us into sharing more than we realise, leaving us vulnerable to exploitation. The complexities of these issues urge us to take a closer look at the balance between innovation and ethical responsibility.

Is consent really "informed" if users don't know the extent of the inferences drawn by firms? Within AI and digital markets, informed consent is a prerequisite between users and firms that allows firms to extract user data in exchange for the digital service, which is often free, resulting in a non-price transaction with data as currency. Two aspects of legal consent are unique to digital markets: (a) whether users are adequately informed about the amount of their data that firms will collect (if there exists low awareness, the contract is imperfect, and the value derived by one party is greater than the other, resulting in user exploitation); and (b) whether users are informed of the breadth and depth of inferences drawn by digital firms about their users using their data. In (b), if users are unaware that their data will be used outside of the purposes of firms' immediate service, perhaps to gain a competitive advantage in an adjacent market, serious consumer welfare and competition concerns arise. For instance, Netflix has leveraged users' viewing data to enhance the development of Netflix-produced

content. This practice challenges the foundational ethics of data use, as users inadvertently contribute to other markets.

Why are people who are concerned about the privacy of their data doing little to actually protect their privacy? Surveys show that people do not fully comprehend key concepts described in privacy policies. Moreover, they report feeling coerced by on-line platforms into accepting these policies (Bashir et al., 2015). Users do not know enough about what they consent to when using digital services, which goes against major international regulations calling upon digital firms to make it easier for users to make informed decisions. As of 2021, 137 out of 194

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) definition of consent distinguishes "freely given consent" from consent under any form of pressure. Digital platforms like Instagram design user choices, subtly guiding interactions toward profit-centric goals. This persistent nudging compromises user autonomy.

countries had enforced data protection and privacy legislation (UNCTAD, 2021). By creating informational asymmetry and undermining informed consent, digital firms may be not compliant with most of these countries' regulations.

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) definition of consent distinguishes "freely given consent" from consent under any form of pressure. Digital platforms like Instagram design user choices, subtly guiding interactions toward profit-centric goals. This persistent nudging compromises user autonomy.

Digital platforms employ sophisticated design elements to create an illusion of user control over their data while nudging them towards choices

that may not align with their best interests. For example, Facebook and Instagram offer users various privacy settings and controls, giving them the perception of having control over their data. However, these settings may be complex and difficult to navigate, leading users to default to the platform's pre-selected options, which favour data collection and sharing. Moreover, platforms utilise behavioural science techniques to nudge users towards actions that benefit the platform's bottom line. One such technique is confirm-shaming, where users are subtly coerced into accepting data collection policies by framing privacy-conscious choices as inconvenient or socially undesirable.

Navigating these ethical complexities necessitates a pivot not just towards prioritising consumer welfare but redefining it. Upholding user welfare should mean securing consent and ensuring user data isn't exploited for undisclosed, intricate inferences. It involves safeguarding the integrity of user choice and curbing persistent nudges towards profit-driven objectives that distort genuine user experiences. Policy initiatives like the European Union's AI Act and GDPR have set commendable benchmarks in protecting privacy and user data control. The GDPR grants individuals greater control over personal data, requires explicit consent before collecting and using their data, and imposes strict data security measures. However, the ethical

challenges posed by inferred preferences and choice architectures demand a broader conversation.

India has taken steps to safeguard digital consumer welfare with the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023, and the Digital Competition Bill (DCB). The DPDP Act mandates that consent must be free, informed, specific, and clear by enforcing stricter transparency requirements. Similar to the GDPR, it attempts to reduce information asymmetry over data usage between users and firms. The DCB could promote fair competition while addressing monopolistic behaviour like rent-seeking and data hoarding. Both legislations emphasise accountability and transparency from digital firms about their data practices and competitive behaviours. If the DCB is enacted, in conjunction with the DPDP Act, they can foster a more ethical AI ecosystem in India by empowering users with better control over their personal information.

Regulatory agencies like the Competition Commission of India are crucial in enforcing these laws and holding firms accountable for violations. Safeguarding digital consumers requires a multi-faceted approach encompassing legal, regulatory, and enforcement measures.

AI systems delving beyond explicit user consent should mandatorily disclose and seek consent for these extended uses. Simultaneously, crafting digital frameworks that prioritise user autonomy over commercial gains holds significance. Ethical AI development demands user-centric designs that respect users' original objectives, nurturing genuine interactions devoid of coercive nudges towards profit-oriented goals.

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 Financial Express

Preservation of Kashmiri Shawls

Mohammad Hanief

Valued for its warmth, light weight and characteristic buta design, the Kashmir shawl trade inspired the global cashmere industry. The shawl evolved into its high-grade, sartorial use in the 13th century and was used in the 16th century by Mughal and Iranian emperors, both personally and for honouring members of their durbar.

The production of Kashmiri shawls was greatly influenced by the Mughal and Persian cultures that flourished in the region during the 14th and 15th centuries. The Mughals, who were great patrons of the arts, encouraged the production of high-quality textiles, including Kashmiri shawls.

The Persian influence on the design and embroidery techniques of Kashmiri shawls can be seen in the intricate floral and paisley motifs, as well as the use of rich colours and gold thread. The influence of Mughal and Persian culture on Kashmiri shawls is still evident in the designs and patterns used by weavers and embroiderers today.

About Kashmiri shawls it is said "Of all Indian textiles none excels in beauty, colour, texture and design as the famous Kashmir Shawl". Shawls are produced by two techniques, loom woven or kani shawls and the needle embroidered or sozni shawls.

The basic fabric is of the three types - Shah Tush, Pashmina and Raffal. Shah Tush (King of wool) comes from a rare Tibetan antelope living at a height of over 14000 ft in the wilds of the Himalayas. Pashmina is known world over as cashmere wool, it comes from a special goat (Capra hircus) living at an altitude of 12000 to 14000 ft reared by shepherd nomads around famous pongkong lake in close vicinity of western Tibet. Raffal is spun out of marino wool tops and is a popular type of shawl.

The shawls are embroidered in floral motifs, various designs available range from Neemdoor, Doordaar, Paladaar, Baildaar, Jaalis and Jammaas, with the help of needle. Where as Kani shawls are woven on looms with the help of kanis. Kanis are small eyeless bobbins used instead of the shuttle.

In earlier times, shawls were used as a warm protective gar-



PRESERVATION OF KASHMIRI SHAWLS IS ALSO BEING ADDRESSED THROUGH INITIATIVES aimed at educating the public about the cultural and historical significance of these shawls, and the importance of preserving them for future generations

ment against cold weather. By the 13th century, Kashmir shawls had risen in status and quality and were commonly used as fashion statements. Shawls were marketed towards the ruling elite and foreign markets.

Technically the shawl as a garment and as a word comes from 14th century Persia. They were woven rectangles worn over the shoulders and made from Kashmiri goat. That's significant I think because Kashmir was a major trade center.

All these early shawls were woven. They were made in whatever fiber was on hand; silk in the east, cashmere in the near east, wool in the New World. They were square or rectangular in shape and usually large enough to wrap and fold around the body.

Decorative lace shawls seem to have come into fashion in the

early 1800's. The earliest styles were made on tambour or other netting with intricate designed stitched/embroidered on that base fabric. This seems to be when shawls became circular and triangular.

Kashmiri shawls have been an important part as they have been used in traditional ceremonies, weddings, and festivals. Kashmiri shawls have also been popular among the royal families of India and other parts of the world, who have appreciated their beauty and quality.

In terms of fashion, Kashmiri shawls have been embraced by designers worldwide, who have incorporated them into their collections. They have been adapted to suit modern tastes, with contemporary designs and color schemes being introduced. Kashmiri shawls have become a timeless and versatile accessory, that

can add an element of elegance and sophistication to any outfit. They are considered a must-have accessory in many fashion circles and are highly prized by collectors and enthusiasts.

Over time, the production of Kashmiri shawls evolved into an art form, with weavers and embroiderers creating intricate designs and patterns that were highly valued by royalty and the elite. The influence of Mughal and Persian cultures on the design and embroidery techniques of Kashmiri shawls can be seen in the intricate floral and paisley motifs, as well as the use of rich colors and gold thread. The use of fine materials such as pashmina and shahtoosh wool further contributed to the high value and prestige of Kashmiri shawls.

Shahtoosh shawls are even finer and more delicate than pashmina shawls, and are considered

the ultimate luxury item. However, due to the endangered status of the Tibetan antelope, the production of shahtoosh shawls has been banned, and pashmina shawls have once again become the primary material used to make Kashmiri shawls. Today, Kashmiri shawls continue to be made using traditional techniques and materials, ensuring that the art of Kashmiri shawl-making is preserved for generations to come.

Kashmiri shawls are steeped in legends and stories that have been passed down through the generations. One of the most famous legends is that of the Jammawar shawls, which are known for their intricate patterns and designs.

Another famous story is that of the Kani shawl weavers, who were said to have been gifted with supernatural powers. Legend has it that the weavers could see the designs in their minds and weave them into the fabric without the use of a pattern. The Kani shawl weavers were highly respected and were often sought after by royalty and the elite.

Due to the high value placed on these shawls, they often served as heirloom pieces and family

treasures that were passed down through generations. Families would take great care to preserve and protect their Kashmiri shawls, often storing them in special cases and only taking them out on special occasions. These shawls became symbols of family heritage and tradition, and were often viewed as priceless works of art.

In recent years, there has been a growing concern for the preservation of Kashmiri shawls, and the importance of sustainability in their production. The demand for Kashmiri shawls, coupled with the increasing popularity of fast fashion, has led to concerns about overconsumption and the impact on the environment.

To address these concerns, there has been a renewed interest in traditional techniques and sustainable practices in the production of Kashmiri shawls. This includes using natural dyes, sourcing materials from ethical and sustainable sources, and promoting fair trade practices in the industry.

Preservation of Kashmiri shawls is also being addressed through initiatives aimed at educating the public about the cultural and historical significance of these shawls, and the importance of preserving them for future generations. This includes efforts to promote the use of Kashmiri shawls in modern fashion, and to support the livelihoods of local artisans and weavers who continue to practice traditional techniques.

Kashmiri shawls are not just beautiful and luxurious garments, but also represent a rich cultural history and tradition that dates back centuries. They have been treasured by people from all over the world for their exquisite craftsmanship and intricate designs, making them an important symbol of Kashmiri heritage.

The art of Kashmiri shawl making is a delicate and intricate process that requires a great deal of skill and patience, and is often passed down from generation to generation. As such, it is crucial that we take steps to preserve this art form and support the artisans and weavers who practice it.

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Film Review

Wicked: A Movie Done Right

Julian Woolford

The journey from successful stage musical to big-screen adaptation is rarely truly successful. From director Joshua Logan's use of coloured filters in the 1950s adaptation of South Pacific (which looks as if something is wrong) to Tom Hooper's recent mega-mess movie of Cats, there are so many pitfalls to avoid.

The suspension of disbelief we willingly embrace in live performance is disrupted by the naturalism of cinema so that the aggressive ballet of the West Side Story gangs looks prissy and tame when filmed on the realistically gritty streets of New York. Similarly, Nathan Lane's Max Bialystock was hilarious onstage in The Producers, but translates to the film as monstrous over-acting.

Like these musicals, Wicked has proven a remarkable success onstage and is the second highest-grossing musical in the history of New York's Broadway (after The Lion King). Now it arrives on-screen in two parts; the first released this year and the second in 2025. Eyebrows have been raised at the 2 hour 40 minute running time for a movie that covers act one of the musical, which is 90 minutes onstage.

Inspired by figures like Saddam Hussein, Wicked began life in 1995 as a novel by Gregory Maguire who, drawing on L. Frank Baum's

1900 novel The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, wanted to explore how certain figures became demonised in society.

Set in the years before Dorothy crash lands in Oz, the story shows the Wicked Witch to not be evil; she is, in fact, good, becoming radicalised by the broken politics of Oz.

The novel was bought almost immediately by Demi Moore and Universal Studios who struggled to develop a screenplay until composer Stephen Schwartz suggested it became a stage musical.

Working with author Winnie Holzman, they created a female-centric story that jettisoned much of Maguire's politics to concentrate on the "frenemy" relationship between "pretty in pink" Glinda and the green-skinned outsider, Elphaba.

Director John M Chu's movie takes Wicked back to its political roots. In a time when populist leaders are on the rise, it arrives as a warning of the dangers of modern fascism.

In particular, it expands the storyline of Oz's speaking animals who lose their voices. Unlike onstage, these animals are CGI characters in fully animal form and Chu captures how societies are stunned into silence by outrageous political actions. In doing so, he emphasises the unthinking unkindness of the herd mentality. He also makes the film a paean to the power of goodwill.



Set mostly during the Wicked Witch's schooling years, Shiz University is also more fleshed out. In this section, the movie is in danger of losing its narrative thrust. However, just as we begin to feel trapped in the love child of Mean Girls and Harry Potter, we are whizzed off to the Emerald City.

Here Maguire's backstory to the Grimmerie, the Ozian book of spells, is now musicalized in a new sequence featuring the original stage stars Idina Menzel and Kristin Chenoweth, and topped by a cameo from Stephen Schwartz. Once in the City, Jeff Goldblum's Wizard proves a

scheming huckster too aware of his own limitations.

One of the classic pitfalls of the movie musical is in casting. From Lucille Ball in Mame to Russell Crowe in Les Misérables, missteps here can prove fatal. Thankfully, Wicked is expertly cast.

Ariana Grande captures the over-dramatising spoilt brat Galinda (to become Glinda the Good Witch), with precision vocals. Jonathan Bailey has a ball with the athletic, knowingly objectified heartthrob Fierero, cementing his place as a leading man. Michelle Yeoh and Jeff Goldblum bring sinister gravitas and

reasonable vocals to their respective roles.

However, the casting masterstroke is Cynthia Erivo as Elphaba who brings the quiet dignity to the role that she first revealed onstage in The Color Purple. As a queer black woman, for her, Elphaba's story is one of pride, this is a woman who refuses to be ashamed of who she is and is determined to fulfil her potential.

She has a distinctive singing voice and the confidence to erase memories of Menzel's stylings. Film also brings dimensions to Erivo's talent. The use of close-ups allows an inti-

macy in her relationships that is impossible in a live setting. She is also able to show her ability to convey the pain she is suffering in a simple glance.

The film is a remarkable feat of 2D and 3D design and there are a dazzling array of quotes to other cinematic renderings of the Oz legends, all of which are delivered with a contemporary sensibility. This is a mechanically driven Oz, full of cogs and wheels, which reference the stage design of Wicked and includes a stylish train.

The costume designs reference both the stage show

and the all-black disco musical The Wiz (1978). While the memories of the iconic Judy Garland's 1939 movie are prompted every few minutes. In one scene, for instance, Elphaba transports a (cowardly) lion cub in a bicycle basket reminiscent of Toto's dog-napping.

MGM changed Baum's silver slippers to ruby (and the Wicked Witch's skin to green) to showcase the newly developed Technicolor process. In this film they remain silver but are first presented in a ruby-encrusted box. There's also nods to Baum's original. Notably, the strangeness of the book's Oz is more accurately captured than in any other cinematic version.

The best musical theatre is like experiencing a series of highwire acts in which the performers must flawlessly execute choreography, act convincingly and hit the highnotes eight times a week. Musical films, which can be re-shot and overdubbed, necessarily lack this sense of danger.

If at times Wicked struggles to capture the sheer energy of the stage, it reimagines the work in a spectacular, but also thoughtful fashion, deepening serious themes and emotional connection. I will be back to see it and will undoubtedly see the four-plus hours in one sitting once part two is released next autumn. I only wish Judy Garland could see it.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Fear Grips Pakistan's Kurram District As 50 Killed In Cold Blood

Agencies

Parachinar: Fear gripped Pakistan's northwestern Kurram district on Friday as the death toll from two terror attacks rose to 50, with authorities imposing a curfew and suspending mobile phone services in the remote mountainous region.

Terrorists suspected to be members of Daesh opened fire on vehicles carrying members of Shia Muslim community on Thursday in one of the region's deadliest such attacks in recent years.

The vehicles were traveling in a convoy from Parachinar to Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa when gunmen opened fire, the officials said. The vehicles were ambushed in

Taliban-dominated areas, a local journalist said. Local media reports say that there were over 200 vehicles in the convoy.

Rescue authorities said 50 people, including eight women and five children were killed in the attack. One report said terrorists checked identity cards of the victims before shooting them.

The assault took place in Kurram, a Shia dominated district in Sunni majority Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Kurram has been under relentless attacks by hardline militants for years.

"Total 42 people have been killed and 19 others are injured in the attack," Deputy Commissioner Kurram, Javaid Ullah Mehsud, said on Friday, saying police were yet to file a

report on the incident.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the latest attack, which came a week after authorities reopened a key highway in the region that had been closed for weeks following deadly clashes.

However according to Iftikhar Firdos, a local journalist and analyst, an Islamic State cell active in the region (known as ISKP, which stands for Islamic State Khorasan Province) 'has been trying to exert influence in the area for some time by targeting the Shia population and fomenting sectarian violence'.

A senior administration official told the AFP news agency the situation was "extremely tense" with locals staging a sit-in in Parachinar,

the district's main town.

"A curfew has been imposed on the main road connecting Upper and Lower Kurram, and the bazaar remains completely closed, with all traffic suspended," the official said.

Shop owners in Parachinar had announced a strike on Friday to protest the attack.

Locals described an atmosphere of fear across the district.

"The night was spent in tension," said local youth activist Irfanullah Khan. "People in different villages were guarding their homes ... The region is in grief as the situation is tense. Anything can happen."

Successive governments both in Islamabad and KPK have been accused of not taking any action

against the terrorists except issuing mere statements.

According to Amelia Gill, a human rights activist based in the UK, 'the main cause of these incidents is hate speech that can incite mob violence and religious extremism'.

The activist also accused the state of being absent in some regions of the country: 'What is the state doing, why is it not dealing with these monsters? In fact, the silence of the state is the main reason for all these unpleasant incidents. The citizens of KP and Baluchistan live their lives like hell because the state has failed to control the situation. My question is: is Pakistan a place where innocent citizens can live freely? When will the state protect its

citizens?" he added.

Baqir Haideri, a local Shia leader, denounced the assault and accused local authorities of not providing adequate security for the convoy of more than 100 vehicles despite fears of possible attacks by terrorists.

Majlis Wahdat-i-Muslimeen (MWM) announced nationwide protests and a mourning period against the attack on unarmed civilians.

Addressing a press conference at the National Press Club in Islamabad, Syed Nasir Abbas Shirazi and other party leaders criticised the provincial and federal governments for failing to protect civilians. He particularly criticised Chief Minister Gandapur, federal Minister of Interior Mohsin Naqvi and the inefficiency

of security institutions.

"More than 50 people have been martyred. We condemn the criminal silence of the interior minister," he added. "The rulers want to run this country at the cost of our blood."

"This is not a Shia-Sunni problem. The responsibility for the blood of these innocent passengers lies with law enforcement agencies," he said. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Asif Ali Zardari condemned the attack, and Sharif said those behind the killing of innocent civilians will not go unpunished. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi called the shootings a "terrorist attack".

Shia Muslims make up about 20 percent of the 240 million population of Sunni-majority Pakistan.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Lost Homes, Shattered

where will we go in these tents? How will we survive these harsh nights?"

In another tent, Afroza sits with her two young daughters. Her husband, Bilal Ahmad, who suffers from kidney failure, had painstakingly raised Rs 26 lakh through social media for his treatment. That, too, was lost to the flames.

"I had withdrawn the amount and kept it at home to pay for my next medical procedure," said Bilal. "The doctor in Chandigarh refused online payments, citing tax deductions, and insisted on cash. I had no choice but to withdraw the money, and now it's all gone."

His wife, Afroza, adds tearfully, "We still need Rs 40 lakh for his treatment, but now not only is his treatment uncertain, we also have no roof over our heads. I urge people to help my husband—his life depends on it."

The plight of these families mirrors the experience of many across Kashmir, where fires—especially during winters—turn cherished homes into smoldering ruins. Abi Gurbura is just the latest in a long list of neighborhoods to fall victim to fire incidents in the region.

From January to July 2024, Srinagar alone witnessed over 115 structures going up in flames, according to data from the Fire and Emergency Department. These included 76 residential homes, 12 commercial buildings, and several hotels.

Every few days, news of a fire emerges from different areas of Kashmir. In October this year, nearly the entire village of Mulwarwan, comprising 100 houses, was reduced to ashes in a devastating fire.

It was on October 14 when fire engulfed the entire Mul Warwan village and raised everything to the ground, except a few houses which were in the outer circle at a distance.

People could do nothing but to save their lives by running for safety and whatever they had saved to spend the winters was burnt in the devastating blaze.

On the fateful day, most of the people were out for work and women folk and elders were in their homes when the fire engulfed the village. People were able to react immediately and left the area to save lives.

As most of the houses were made of wood, it didn't take much time for the fire to raze everything to the ground.

People were left helpless to douse the fire as there were no fire tenders available in the entire region. Even tap water wasn't also available due to the absence of pipes which the Jal Shakti department hasn't provided to the people.

"Had there been fire tenders or water available through pipes, people would have been able to save something. They were looking towards their houses being razed to the ground with helpless eyes and all their belongings vanished within no time," said Sheikh Zafarullah, District Development Council member from Marwah.

"Whatever we had stocked up for winter was lost in the fire. We have nothing left now. Yes, relief is coming in, but without proper shelter, where will we go in this harsh winter?" a fire victim from the village had said.

Similarly, on September 9, a fire incident damaged three residential houses in Srinagar's Noorbagh area. At least three residential houses were damaged in an early morning blaze at Noorbagh area of Srinagar city.

This isn't just about statistics—it's about lives upended overnight. Families lose not only their homes but also their sense of security, financial stability, and cherished memories. While government relief and NGO interventions provide some solace, the larger question remains: is it enough to rebuild lives after such devastating losses?

The impact of losing one's home to fire goes far beyond physical displacement. For families like Raja Begum's, it means starting over from scratch, often with little or no resources. The winter season amplifies the struggle,

as temporary shelters fail to provide adequate protection against sub-zero temperatures.

Families often face psychological trauma from the loss of their homes and belongings. Research indicates that most survivors endure life-threatening situations during these disasters, resulting in a heightened prevalence of conditions like depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in the aftermath.

According to the American Psychological Association, losing your home in a fire involves not only the loss of your residence, but also many other things of value such as photo albums, important documents, and treasured objects. "Most importantly, though, the home is your place of security, comfort, and safety. After a fire, this sense of security can also be lost and can significantly disrupt the normality of daily life."

Why Have Fires Become So Common in Kashmir?

Experts point to several factors contributing to the high incidence of fires in Kashmir. According to Aqib Hussain Mir, Deputy Director Fire & Emergency Services, traditional wooden structures, the absence of proper firefighting infrastructure, and narrow access roads in congested neighborhoods contribute to damages during these incidents.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Mir said there is a spike in fire incidents due to the excessive use of heating gadgets negligently.

He explained that gas-operated heating devices, in particular, are prone to fire outbreaks due to gas leakage, which can lead to the accumulation of flammable charges.

Rapid urban growth has outpaced the implementation of fire safety measures, leaving many neighborhoods vulnerable. Mir emphasized that the construction style of residential buildings exacerbates the situation.

"Although concrete is used in construction, aesthetic additions such as wall panelings, khatam band ceilings, and wooden trusses can act as accelerants. When a heating gadget catches fire, these materials help spread it rapidly," he said.

He also pointed out instances of negligence, like leaving traditional wood-burning stoves (bukharis) unattended, as a common reason behind many fire mishaps.

A Call for Better Preparedness

As Kashmir urbanizes, the region urgently needs to adopt modern fire safety measures. Experts stress the importance of enforcing the National Building Code of India, which recommends fire gaps between structures, improved life safety systems, and fire protection protocols.

Mir also urged homeowners to take precautions. "Avoid keeping gas cylinders inside homes, ensure proper ventilation, and never leave bukharis unattended. These small steps can prevent significant losses."

For families like in Abi Gurbura, however, these precautions come too late. As the winter chill intensifies, their focus remains on survival. Temporary shelters offer little respite from the biting cold, and the promise of long-term rehabilitation feels like a distant dream.

In a region where fire incidents claim hundreds of homes every year, the need for proactive measures is more urgent than ever. Until then, for families like Raja Begum's, life in Kashmir's fiery winters will remain a tale of survival amidst ashes.

Light Snowfall

An Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng informed.

However, he said that no major wet spell is expected in the coming days.

The weather is expected to remain mainly cloudy in the plains during the next two days.

A local Meteorological department has predicted generally dry weather conditions from November 25 to November 30.

Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad in a detailed forecast, stated that the minimum temperature would rise to night and tomorrow following which it may plummet by 2-3 degrees Celsius.

The MeT has also said that the

tourists, trekkers and travellers are advised to follow administrative and traffic advisory. (KNO)

At 32%, J&K

by Himachal Pradesh at 43.9 percent and Assam at 39.3 percent. Delhi and Gujarat recorded the lowest rates at 1.8 percent and 5.3 percent, respectively. Nationally, the overall unemployment rate among females stood at 21 percent, down from 23 percent in the previous quarter.

Among males, Odisha recorded the highest unemployment rate at 28.1 percent, followed by Andhra Pradesh at 22.5 percent and Bihar at 21.5 percent. Delhi recorded the lowest unemployment rate among males at 5 percent, followed by Himachal Pradesh at 6 percent.

Release Of Political

rejected. The door is open. Let us get Statehood first, we will pursue the matter further."

In reply to another query about release of political prisoners, Omar said, "Law and Order, Security and policing continues to remain the domain of Centre and LG. Despite this scenario, we have managed to ease the verification procedure. I made a speech in the Legislative Assembly stating that verification has been weaponized. Steps were taken to ease it out and more progress is on cards in this regard."

The Chief Minister said some people criticised the government stating that the resolution had nothing in it. "If there was nothing in the resolution, why Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah talked about it frequently," Omar asked.

Asked why All India Congress Committee (AICC) chief Malikarjun Kharge stated that "what parliament has done shouldn't be discussed," Omar said: "J&K Assembly has passed the resolution with overwhelming majority, that itself is a big thing. Congress is not part of the government, though it has given us outside support. Now the same party is under political assault from BJP."

He said once the J&K gets Statehood, the government will follow the cases of political prisoners and ensure their release.

About today's cabinet meeting, Omar said that the important decision taken in today's meeting was to constitute a cabinet sub-committee comprising three members that would take a holistic view in the backdrop of Supreme Court directives. "The Committee will submit a report to the Cabinet and we will see how far we can go to rationalise the reservation policy," Omar said.

To a query about alleged torture of civilians in Kishtwar, the Chief Minister said that he has seen people dying during tortures in police and security forces camps in the past. "Thank God here, nobody has died. I urge the army to probe the case thoroughly and if any misconduct by the soldiers is found, the guilty should be court-martialed and punished sternly," Omar said.

"There will be cuts in winters for sure. I have directed the Power department to ensure less curtailment in the areas where there is minimum power theft. I am hopeful to see an improved power scenario in Kashmir this winter," Omar said.

'Transparent Probe

online showed the individuals struggling to walk, their faces marked with injuries.

On November 20, the Army initiated operations in the Mughal Maidan area of the district based on intelligence inputs regarding terrorist movements.

The White Knight Corps later acknowledged the reports of mistreatment of civilians, stating, "An investigation is being launched to ascertain the facts. Necessary follow-up action will be ensured."

Abdullah, speaking to reporters, expressed the need for a thorough and transparent investigation.

"If there is evidence against the soldiers involved, they should be court-martialed and punished," he asserted, lamenting the repeated nature of such incidents.

"It is unfortunate that our people

have not learned anything from the past," the chief minister added, recalling previous cases where civilians faced severe consequences.

"This is not the first such incident when people have been called to camps and beaten. I thank God that none of them have lost their precious lives. We have witnessed such incidents in the past where people have been called to police camps and they have lost their precious lives to torture," Abdullah said.

The incident involving the alleged beating of the five civilians has revived memories of a tragic event in which three youths lost their lives after enduring brutal torture in the Poonch area last year.

Mehbooba Mufti, president of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), reiterated the call for swift action against the Army personnel implicated in the alleged ill-treatment.

"The allegations of severe torture from Kishtwar remind us of earlier incidents this year in Baliaz Surankote," she stated on social media.

Mufti identified four of the victims as Sajad Ahmad, Abdul Kabir, Mushtaq Ahmad and Mehraj-ud-Din, claiming that they were summoned to the Army camp for questioning and subjected to extreme physical violence.

She highlighted their dire condition, stating that they had to be carried to a hospital due to their injuries.

In a statement, Mufti urged the Union territory government to conduct an impartial investigation and hold those responsible accountable, emphasising the necessity of protecting civilian safety and dignity.

She also called for civil society's involvement in monitoring the situation to ensure justice is served.

Apni Party leader Altaf Bukhari echoed the concerns, describing the reports of brutal torture as deeply troubling and demanding a thorough investigation and severe punishment for those responsible.

"Such incidents should not be tolerated. My deepest sympathies are with the victims," he stated.

As the investigation unfolds, the focus remains on ensuring accountability and restoring trust in the institutions tasked with protecting civilians in the region.

Govt Sub-Committee

of resolving the issue. Rana said that the government is committed to delivering on its electoral promises and has set a 100-day deadline to implement key commitments, including reforms in the reservation system.

"A lot is being said about reservation. Our youth, especially those belonging to the open category, think they not getting their rights, but there are also those who have been brought into the reservation ambit who do not want any reduction in their rights," Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Friday.

"So, the Cabinet has decided to form a sub-committee, which will include three ministers, and the Cabinet has asked them to take a holistic view of the issue," he added.

Meanwhile, the chief minister-led cabinet on Friday approved Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's speech in the assembly and ministers were directed to start exercises in their respective departments to tackle unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir, minister Javed Rana said.

He said that LG address in the assembly session, which included all issues, was also approved in the meeting today chaired by chief minister Omar Abdullah. He also said that the chief minister emphasised the urgency of addressing unemployment, terming it a "grave issue" that demands immediate action. "The chief minister directed all ministers to initiate measures within their respective departments to tackle unemployment."

We will fulfill everything promised in the election manifesto. It has only been a month since our government took charge. In the next two months, we will ensure visible progress," he said. He said that as part of the government's strategy, job vacancies have already been referred to the Public Service Commission (PSC) and the Service Selection Board (SSB).

J&K's New Reservation

MLA Waheed ur Rehman Para has also called for a practical and equitable policy, stating, "Opportunities for general category people are shrinking. Reservation should be based on population ratio."

The controversy intensified with news of recruitment for 575 lecturer posts in the education department. Of these, only 238 are allocated to the general category, while the rest are distributed among various reserved categories, including SC, ST-1, ST-2, OBC, and others. The policy change has particularly impacted the Gujjar-Bakarwal community, now classified under ST-1, while hill tribes are categorized as ST-2. This division aims to prevent dilution of existing quotas for the Gujjar-Bakarwal population.

The Congress and BJP have largely remained silent on the issue, signalling its sensitivity.

In contrast, NC and PDP have promised to review the policy if voted to power. Syed Amjad Shah, an expert on Jammu and Kashmir affairs, pointed out, "The government is the biggest employer in the region, and reservation has become a critical issue. Missteps could prove politically costly."

Measuring the scale of the policy's impact, Shah highlighted that 69% of Jammu and Kashmir's population falls under the general category, yet their opportunities are shrinking. The regions of Poonch and Rajouri, on the other hand, see a near-total reservation due to the concentration of SC, ST, OBC, and other reserved communities.

The government has urged patience as it works on resolving the matter. NC MP Aga Syed Ruhullah remains firm, stating, "If a decision isn't made by December 22, I will sit on a dharna." Meanwhile, PDP and other parties are pressing for an equitable approach, warning of the implications for equality and social harmony. (KNO)

Delhi HC Issues

A petition has been filed through advocate Prashant Prakash.

Advocate MS Khan argued that earlier the facility was there. However, it was withdrawn after the issuance of the circular. Senior advocate Siddharth Luthra appeared for the NIA and submitted that this issue is not connected with the NIA. It is well connected with the DIG Range prior permission/NOC is required for availing the telephone and E Mulaqat facility.

He urged the court to instruct Commissioner of Police Delhi to act as the party. On the other hand, the Petitioner's counsel argued that the NOC of the prosecuting agency is required, which is NIA in this case. The petitioner has stated that the Delhi Government on April 22, 2024, issued the Circular whereby introducing certain clarifications ostensibly in order to bring uniformity in all prisons of Delhi regarding the extension of phone calls and E-Mulaqat facility to the inmates.

It is further stated that on May 22, 2024, the NIA, issued an Addendum to the Circular of April 22, 2024, with further clarifications, inter alia clarifying that E Mulaqat and Telephone facility on or after April 22, 2024, should be allowed only after receipt of NOC from the Investigating Agency and the prisoners already availing the facility, the said facility will remain in force till NOC from the Investigating Agency is obtained. It is also stated that on May 24, 2024, a reply was given by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) whereby they did not give consent for providing E-Mulaqat and calling facility to the Petitioner. (ANI)

All Set For Counting

votes will also be held for the Nanded Lok Sabha bypoll, where 67.81 per cent voting was recorded on November 20.

A total of 288 counting centres have been set up for the counting of votes on Saturday, including one for the Nanded Lok Sabha bypoll.

In the Mahayuti alliance, the BJP

contested 149 assembly seats, Shiv Sena 81 seats, and the Ait Pawar-led NCP fielded candidates in 59 constituencies.

In the opposition's MVA combine, the Congress fielded 101 candidates, Shiv Sena (UBT) 95, and NCP (SP) put up 86 candidates.

Parties like Bahujan Samaj Party and the All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMM), also contested, with BSP fielding 237 candidates and AIMM putting up 17 candidates.

In Jharkhand, the stage is set for the outcome of the "battle of ballots" on Saturday, as political leaders and parties anxiously await the results that will decide whether the BJP-led NDA or the JMM-led alliance will form the next government in the state.

Counting of postal ballots will start at 8 am, and the trends and results are likely to start trickling in by 9 am.

This time, voter turnout reached a record 67.74 per cent, the highest since the formation of the state on November 15, 2000.

"Preparations are on for the counting day on November 23. Elaborate counting arrangements have been made at all the counting centres and observers have been appointed for each Assembly constituency separately. Each table will be headed by an ARO to ensure fair counting of postal ballots," an Election Commission official said on Friday.

"The entire process will take place in a transparent manner under the full glare of the media and candidates or their agents, who are encouraged to keep a close watch on the process," the official said, adding that strong rooms have been fortified with adequate security and video surveillance to ensure complete transparency in the counting process.

"Counting of postal ballots will start at 8 am, and trends will start coming from 9-9:15 am," the official added.

The elections were held in two phases – November 13 and 20. The first phase covered 43 constituencies out of the total 81 seats, while the second phase saw voting in 38 seats.

The state witnessed a fierce electoral battle between the ruling JMM-led INDIA bloc and the BJP-led NDA, with the former seeking to retain power and the latter attempting to wrest it from the ruling dispensation.

While some exit polls predict that the BJP-led NDA is likely to oust the ruling JMM-led coalition, others forecast the return of the INDIA alliance in Jharkhand. All eyes will be on key seats that will decide the electoral fates of prominent politicians. PTI

SC Grants Centre

He said a separatist group in Kashmir in its statement on Facebook claimed to have stamped separatist slogans on Indian currency worth Rs 30 crore between May and August in 2013.

Bhardwaj, therefore, sought a court-monitored CBI investigation in the case, arguing exchange of currency notes can only be done according to law and no deliberately stamped currency be exchanged as per the rules and regulations of RBI.

Will US Charges

precedent apply to this case involving Adani and seven others," he said. The India-US Extradition Treaty was signed in 1997.

Peace, the US Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, has announced a five-count criminal indictment against 62-year-old Adani, his nephew Sagar, an executive director at the conglomerate's renewable energy arm Adani Green Energy Ltd, and its former CEO Vneet S Jaain.

The indictment charged them with conspiracies to commit securities and wire fraud and substantive securities fraud for their roles in a multi-billion-dollar scheme to obtain funds from US investors and global financial institutions based on false and misleading statements.

Rates For PET

step has been taken by the government with an aim to provide more affordable diagnostic services to patients, particularly those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

KPDCL Raises Alarm On Spike In DT Damage Rate

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDC), Friday again issued a fervent appeal to its consumers to use electricity judiciously so that locality Distribution Transformers (DTs) are protected from damage and subsequent power outages.

As many as 49 DTs were damaged across Kashmir valley on November 21 alone, indicating a steep rise in unsanctioned heating load across all Divisions of Kashmir valley.

Expressing serious concern over increase in DT damage rate early in winter, a KPDC spokesperson advised domestic consumers to strictly adhere to their sanctioned load and avoid using crude heaters and boilers, which have been banned by the Government. "While 49 DTs were reported damaged on November 21, 32 were damaged on November 20, 37 on November 19 and 40 on November 18," he added.

The spokesman, however, clarified that KPDC's Central Workshop at Pampore and Divisional Workshops are operating in double shifts to reclaim the Buffer Stock by repairing the damaged DTs. "Against 158 DTs damaged across Kashmir valley over the last 4 days, 143 were also repaired and restored during the same period," he stated.

Attributing rising DT damage rate and power outages to rampant use of crude heaters/boilers and illegal hooking on bare conductor in metered areas, the spokesperson stated that KPDC has intensified its inspection and disconnection drives across all Electric Divisions of Kashmir valley to curb power theft.

"As many as 1484 inspection drives were conducted across all 18 Electric Divisions by KPDC on November 21, during which 1396 domestic and 514 commercial installations were disconnected for unauthorised use of power," he said, adding the inspection drives will be further accelerated on daily basis in all districts of Kashmir Division.

Anticipating DT damage in peak winter months, KPDC has maintained a buffer stock of 1554 DTs. "We have also kept a reserve stock of DTs to meet any eventuality on account of higher DT damage," he said, adding Buffer Stock was pegged at 1412 last year.

Reiterating KPDC's commitment to replace the damaged DT within the stipulated timelines, the spokesman, however, clarified that repeat damage of DT by increase in unsanctioned load shall attract longer duration timelines, factoring in limited manpower available at Central Workshop Pampore and Divisional Workshops of KPDC—(KNO)

Srinagar, Anantnag Lead In Rising Head & Neck Cancer Cases In Kashmir

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Head and neck cancers are on the rise in Kashmir, with Srinagar and Anantnag districts showing the highest number of cases, according to experts.

The World Health Organization's Global Cancer Observatory (GLOBOCAN 2022) ranks head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC) as the 7th most common cancer globally, mostly among men. In Kashmir, the incidence of these cancers has been steadily increasing over the past few decades, with thyroid cancer now ranking among the top ten cancers in the region.

Unlike other Indian states, where oral cavity cancers are more common, Kashmir has seen a shift. There is a growing number of thyroid and laryngeal cancers. However, according to experts, most of these cancers are preventable by avoiding modifiable risk factors, and if detected early, 90% of head and neck cancers can be cured.

Dr Aamir Yousuf, Head of the ENT & Head and Neck Surgery Department at GMC Anantnag

said that a study conducted by SKIMS Regional Cancer Centre found that Srinagar and Anantnag have the highest number of head and neck cancer cases in the region. He said that over five years, more than 400 cases were evaluated, diagnosed and managed at GMC Anantnag. "Of these, 65% were thyroid cancers, 17% were laryngeal and hypopharyngeal cancers, and 11% were salivary gland cancers. Other types of cancers included oral, oropharyngeal, nasopharyngeal and sinonasal cancers," he added.

The rising incidence of these cancers calls for increased awareness about the early symptoms and risk factors, Dr Yousuf said. The primary modifiable risk factors for head and neck cancers include tobacco and betel nut chewing, smoking, alcohol use and some occupational hazards such as chronic radiation exposure, he said, adding that other factors include chronic oral infections and nutritional deficiencies.

The doctor said that early warning signs of head and neck cancers can be subtle, and often go unnoticed until

the disease has progressed. "The common early symptoms include continuous oral ulcers, swelling in the neck or mouth, difficulty swallowing or moving the jaw, white or red patches in the mouth or throat, voice changes, trouble breathing, nasal or ear bleeding and continuous pain in the back of the throat radiating to the ear," he said. "In elderly individuals, facial pain or weakness may also indicate the presence of head and neck cancers."

Preventing head and neck cancers is possible through lifestyle changes. Experts recommend avoiding tobacco and alcohol use, maintaining good oral hygiene and protecting oneself from prolonged sun exposure. A healthy diet and the use of protective gear when working with hazardous substances, such as fertilizers and pesticides, can further reduce the risk of these cancers.

Treatment for head and neck cancers requires a multidisciplinary approach, involving surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, targeted therapy, immunotherapy and rehabilitation, doctors said—(KNO)

'More CCTV Cameras To Be Installed Across NH Stretch In Kashmir'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a bid to enhance the road safety and curb traffic violations, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Friday said the administration has planned to install additional CCTV cameras along the highway stretch in Kashmir.

He said the recent Tangpora road accident prompted the administration to adopt a more proactive approach to road safety.

Speaking in Srinagar during the ongoing Heritage Week celebrations, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, VK Bidhuri stressed the importance of safeguarding the future, particularly by ensuring the safety of children.

He described children as "our future" and stressed the necessity of collaboration between locals, traffic police, school administrations, and other stakeholders to create a safer road environment.

Bidhuri added that the newly installed cameras will be crucial not only for road safety but also from a security perspective. "The administration will also make sure non-functional cameras are repaired and monitored regularly," he said.

Addressing concerns regarding the enforcement of traffic laws, the Div Com said that no one will face unnecessary harassment during the traffic drive, as law applies equally to everyone and those who have all the documents will not face any problem.

In the meantime, the Div Com highlighted the proactive measures taken by the administration, stating that the increased number of CCTV cameras would act as a deterrent against reckless driving, contributing to smoother and safer traffic flow across the region.

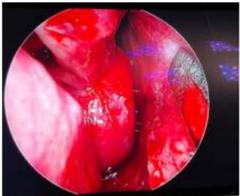
Meanwhile, the move is part of the administration's ongoing efforts to improve traffic management and ensure a safer driving environment for residents.

In A First, Angiofibroma Patient Operated At JLN Hospital

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of ENT JLN Hospital achieved a milestone on Friday by operating a patient of Angiofibroma. Pertinently, Angiofibroma is a bleeding nasal tumor which usually presents as severe recurrent nasal bleeding and nasal obstruction and is operated in tertiary care hospitals.

An official of the JLN hospital said that this is the first of its kind in the department of health where a fish 3A was removed by complete endoscopic clearance. The operating team was headed by Dr Omar Shafi, Dr Mudasir Ul Islam and



Dr Neelam.

The operating team thanked the Director Health Services, Kashmir Dr Jahangir Bakshi, MS JLN Hospital Dr Tariq Jan and Administrative Department for constant support and encouragement. The patient is recovering after the operation.

Tral Residents Demand Long-Awaited Bridge Over Watal Ara Nallah



Agencies

PULWAMA: Residents of various areas in Tral, a hamlet in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, have been urging authorities to construct a bridge over the Watal Ara Nallah near the Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Tral. They said the absence of a permanent bridge has caused hardships for locals, particularly during emergencies.

The residents said that every year makeshift arrangements are made, but these temporary bridges are washed away by floods or heavy rains, leading to ongoing difficulties for people trying to access essential services. They said the nallah serves as the shortest route for several villages to reach the town, making it a vital link for daily commuters.

"Every year, we see temporary bridges being constructed, but they get washed away with

each flood season. This has been going on for years, and people are suffering," said one local resident. "Elderly people, women and children find it especially difficult to cross the nallah, and it is becoming increasingly dangerous."

Abdul Hamid Ganie, another local resident, said they face specific challenges in emergency situations. "During emergencies, it's nearly impossible to get across safely," he said. "The government should focus on building a permanent concrete bridge as a long-term solution instead of wasting resources on makeshift arrangements."

The residents said they have been raising the issue for the past 25 years, but despite numerous appeals to various authorities, no concrete steps have been taken to address the problem. "The government spends lakhs on other works,

but we are still waiting for a bridge here," said Khurshid Ahmad, another resident. "The makeshift bridges are extremely risky, and people from six villages have to take long detours to reach the hospital."

The residents have once again urged the government to prioritise the construction of the bridge so that they can finally have a reliable and safe crossing.

An official from the concerned department said that the government has recently approved the construction of a permanent bridge over the Watal Ara Nallah. "A 1x30 metre span steel bridge will be constructed on the Tral-Pinglish road near SDH, at an estimated cost of Rs 2.5 crore," the official said. "The construction work is expected to begin soon, and we are hopeful that this issue will be resolved once and for all."—(KNO)

Kashmiri Medico Awarded UEMS Accredited Certification In Endocrinology

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmir-based medico cum noted health columnist Dr Tasaduk Hussain Itoo has been awarded with a certificate in Clinical Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism with accreditation from European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME) and European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS).



The certificate was conferred upon Dr Itoo following successfully attending the 34th post-graduate training program in Clinical Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism that was organized by European Society of Endocrinology.

Dr. Itoo has also been awarded with ten European Continuing Medical Education Credits (ECMECs) for attending the program. Pertinently, Dr Itoo is a diabetes expert and member of European Society of Endocrinology (ESE).

'Phea'r': Kashmir's Beloved Winter Delicacy Returns

Agencies

SRINAGAR: With the arrival of winter in the Kashmir Valley, the iconic smoked fish delicacy known as "Phea'r" has once again made its way to local markets, becoming a defining feature of the season.

A much-desired winter delicacy, Phea'r boasts a special place in every Kashmiri household. Prepared through a traditional smoking process, the delicacy not only reflects the region's culinary heritage but also offers warmth and comfort during the harsh winter months.

Local vendors selling this delicacy said this is not just food for us, but it is a connection to our roots.

Bashir Ahmad, a vegetable vendor at Srinagar's Old City Market said that families wait for winters to enjoy Phea'r which is a taste of tradition.

Meanwhile, the vapors of smoked fish also known as Phea'r now flood the air of markets across the Valley-attracting locals keen to savor this seasonal delicacy. Many believe that Phea'r is not a dish but a way to

deal with freezing temperatures that define Kashmir's winters.

Similarly, as the Valley celebrates its early winter chill, Phea'r remains more than a meal, it's a forerunner of togetherness, bringing back memories that are almost like shared warmth and community. "Phea'r is not merely a dish, as it is a reminder of our roots, a taste of home that brings people together in the coldest days of winter," said Shabir Ahmad, a consumer of the delicacy for nearly four decades.

Pertinently, the region's cold and prolonged winters meant food needed preservation for a long time. Smoked fish, or Phea'r, became an important way of preserving fish, especially those from the Valley's numerous rivers and lakes.

Remarkably, in part time, the process of smoking would allow families to keep fish all month, thus offering a reliable source of protein during the harsh winter when fresh food was scarce. Today, the dish is not only a practical food product but also symbolizes the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir—(KNO)

CAT Pronounce ReTs At Par With General Line Teachers

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) has declared Regularized Rehbar-e-Taleem (RReTs) teachers of Jammu and Kashmir as good as the General Line Teachers (GLTs).

The Regularized Rehbar-e-Taleem (RReTs) teachers are considered as Grade-II and Grade-III teachers—depending upon the qualification of the individual.

The recruitment spree of ReT in Jammu and Kashmir was started in 2001 in which more than 35,000 teachers were recruited with a major purpose of enhancing the student enrolment in government-run schools upto upper primary level.

According to the CAT order, it reads that there can be no differential treatment between applicant and the General Line Teacher recruited directly as long as two employees are a part of the same cadre.

"In the present case after completing five years of service as ReT teacher, the

applicant was regularized as General Line Teacher and there can be no differential treatment between applicant and the General Line Teacher recruited directly, as long as two employees are a part of the same cadre," it reads (SIC)

It further reads that the underlying principle is that so long as employees are part of the cadre, their birth mark based on how they joined the cadre is not relevant. "In other words, once the employees are placed in one cadre, the distinction between their sources of appointment disappears." (SIC)

CAT said that the Supreme Court has categorically held that classification of employees based on their recruitment is not permissible under law. "Thus, the impugned orders are discriminatory viz-a-viz the applicants being violative of Articles 14 and 16 of Constitution of India."

"In the facts of the present case and in the backdrop of discussion, when tested on the anvil of Article 14 & 16 of Constitution of India, we are of

the firm opinion that classification made in the impugned clause 3(a) of the Government Order No 22.01.2019 is not permissible under law being arbitrary, unsustainable and consequently, the impugned Government Order dated 25.07.2022 for repatriation of RReTs to their original place of posting, besides, impugned Clause D (30) of Transfer Policy dated 24.04.2023 and Clause A(n) of Notification No. 01 dated 26.04.2023 are also flawed," it reads (SIC)

The CAT said that the net result of the discussion is that impugned clause 3(a) of the Government Order No. 22.01.2019, the Government Order dated 25.07.2022 for repatriation of RReTs to their original place of posting, Clause D (30) of Transfer Policy dated 24.04.2023 and Clause A(n) of Notification No. 01 dated 26.04.2023 are quashed. "The respondents are directed to treat the applicants at par with other General Line Teachers in their respective district cadres for all purposes including their transfers."—(KNO)

'Preservation Of Historical Monuments Vital For Showcasing Rich Cultural Heritage'



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Chowdhury, Friday met a delegation led by Jatinder Singh Lucky, accompanied by members of the District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (DGPC) Kathua and prominent Sikh community leaders.

The delegation included DGPC Kathua Vice President Kuldeep Singh, and Sikh leaders Daljeet Singh, Ajeetpal Singh, Harjeet Singh, Manmohan Singh, Jagjeet Singh, Simranjeet Singh, Gurnam Singh, Mohan Singh Lambardar, and Gurmeet Singh Jimmy, focused their appeal on the historic Gurudwara Charan Kamal Sahib in Bakhtha, Kathua. The Gurudwara, associated with Guru Nanak Dev Ji, holds immense spiritual and historical significance.

The delegation emphasized the

urgent need for revival, restoration, preservation and maintenance of this sacred site. The delegation urged the Deputy Chief Minister to prioritize implementation of restoration schemes for this historical site and assured their full cooperation in the process.

The Deputy Chief Minister, acknowledging the concerns raised by the delegation, assured that the government is committed towards preserving J&K's architectural and cultural legacy. He stated that the government would assess the needs of Gurudwara Charan Kamal Sahib and initiate steps to facilitate its restoration.

The Deputy Chief Minister added that we are dedicated to ensuring that this historic Gurudwara regains its rightful place as a symbol of cultural and spiritual pride.

SKIMS Bans Photography Inside Premises

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Soura has announced a strict ban on photography and videography within hospital premises to safeguard patient confidentiality.

In a post on X it said, "The general public is informed that the Videography / Photography inside hospital premises is strictly prohibited to ensure

patient confidentiality / Privacy. This includes the use of mobile phones or any other device to capture images or videos.

As such the general public is requested to cooperate with Hospital Security while in the Hospital and respect patient privacy and hospital protocol.

This includes the use of mobile phones or any other devices. The hospital urges visitors to cooperate with security and respect privacy protocols.

BGT Day 1: Bumrah Leads India's Bowling Comeback After Batting No-Show

Press Trust of India

PERTH: Skipper Jasprit Bumrah made amends for his debatable toss call to bat first with a mesmerising opening spell that left Australia scurrying for cover at 67 for 7 and helped India make an emphatic comeback after a flop show with the willow on the opening day of the first Test here. The match, which was billed as a battle between two out of form batting units, lived up to the prediction at least on the first day. As many as 17 wickets fell, which is the first time in seven decades for a Test match on Australian soil.

The stand-in India skipper, much to everyone's surprise, opted to bat on a track with a liberal grass cover which generated appreciable seam movement and midriff high bounce. But neither the youngsters nor the seasoned ones in the Indian line-up were up to the task. It was debutant Nitish Reddy's gutsy 41 and Rishabh Pant's 37, including an unbe-



Indian Top-Order Blown Away

But this resurrection was preceded by a horror show with the bat.

Reddy's grit and Pant's brief daredevilry were the only saving grace against a disciplined Australia.

Pant and Reddy had added 48 when rival skipper Cummins, who had dropped a skier, got a fuller delivery to straighten as the southpaw closed his bat face and the thickish leading edge flew to the second slip. Pant and Reddy were the only two players who were intent on a pushback. Among the top-half, KL Rahul (26 off 74 balls) was ready to grind it out before getting a contentious caught behind decision.

Young guns like Yashvir Jaiswal (0) and Devdutt Padikkal (0) looked completely out of place during a brilliant opening spell bowled in tandem by Starc and Josh Hazlewood. Virat Kohli (5) was done in by a short ball from Hazlewood.

lievable sixer, that got India to 150 in 49.4 overs with Josh Hazlewood (4/29), Mitchell Starc (2/14 in 11 overs), Pat Cummins (2/67 in 15.4 overs) and Mitchell Marsh (2/12 in 5 overs) sharing the spoils. On the driver's seat when

they came out to reply, Australia had no answer to Bumrah's (4/17 in 10 overs) quality that was on display. Defending a low first innings total cannot be a one-man show and Mohammed Siraj (2/17 in 9 overs) and debutant Harshit Rana (1/33 in

8 overs) stepped up to support their skipper. The lengths they hit were immaculate, around five metre from the stumps and on the off-stump channel. The live grass did the rest whenever the ball landed on the seam.

J&K Beats Himachal Pradesh 4-1 In Santosh Trophy

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K senior men's football team defeated Himachal Pradesh 4-1 on Friday in a Group A match of the 78th Men's Senior National Football Championship 2024-25 (Santosh Trophy) at GNDU Sports Complex in Amritsar, Punjab. This was the Mehrajuddin Wadoo-coached squad's second win in a row in the national championship after beating hosts Punjab 1-0 in the opener.

The win against Punjab came on the back of a brilliant performance from Adnan Ayub, who scored the lone goal of the game in the 50th minute. Adnan continued his excellent form against Himachal Pradesh to earn his second player of the match award in as many games.

Huzafah Ahmad Dar scored the opening goal on Friday, finding the back of the net in minute 22. An own goal by HP defender Vishal Dogra in minute 25 made it 2-0.



J&K completed the rout by going 3-0 in added time of the first half, as striker Akif Reshi took his chance with aplomb.

The second half saw central defender Vishal Dogra amend for his earlier error in minute 50 to pull one back for Himachal Pradesh. However, J&K midfielder Sahil Rashid Dar thwarted any attempt of a comeback by making it 4-1 in minute 72.

Per SportsKPI, J&K boasted a 66% possession in the game, compared to HP's 34%. The team also had more shots (16), shots on target (8) and corner (7). The HP goalkeeper made three saves in the game, showcasing the dominance J&K showed in the matchup.

The Jammu & Kashmir Football Association applauded the J&K team for its win and praised the players, coaches and management for the win.

"A special thanks to the J&K Sports Council for providing top-notch facilities and unwavering support, which have been pivotal in the team's success," the FA added.

J&K will next take on Ladakh for their Game 3 of the national championship on November 24. Ladakh will enter the game after drawing 1-1 against hosts Punjab on Friday. Mohamad Ilyas scored the equalising goal for Ladakh. They beat Himachal Pradesh 2-1 in the opener and will prove to be a tough challenge for J&K.

68th National School Games In Wushu Begin In Jammu

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Director General, Youth Services and Sports, Rajinder Singh Tara, on Friday declared open the 68th National School Games in Wushu Under-17 Boys and Girls at Indoor Complex Bhagwati Nagar here.

The event is part of the month long series of National School Games in the disciplines of Judo, Fencing, Wushu and Football.

The programme began with the Na-

rya Awardee, Kuldeep Handoo; District Youth Services and Sports Officers and Conveners of various committees namely Sukhdev Raj Sharma, Jaffar Hussain and Harvinder Kaur.

March Past by the athletes and the officials, besides Wushu demonstrations added colour to the programme.

Pertinently, 21 State/UT teams are taking part in this sporting extravaganza including Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigar,



tional Anthem which was followed by lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the Director General Youth Services and Sports along with Joint Director Youth Services and Sports Jammu, Ved Prakash; Deputy Director Youth Services and Sports Central, Jitendra Mishra; Chief Wushu Coach of India and Dronacha-

rya WSO, Delhi, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Vidhya Bharathi and West Bengal.

Weigh-in and Draw of Lots were held on Friday and the bouts will begin at the same venue on Saturday.

Short TAKES

Sony India Secures \$170M Asian Cricket Media Rights

Sony's opens new tab India unit said on Friday it had secured the media rights for all Asian Cricket Council (ACC) tournaments until 2031, which a source with direct knowledge of the matter put the value at \$170 million.

Disney and Reliance (RELI.NS), seen as frontrunners, did not bid for the rights, another source said on condition of anonymity.

The deal comes at a crucial time for the country's media industry, which is going through a consolidation phase after the \$8.5 billion merger of Reliance and Walt Disney's India media assets.

Earlier this year, India's antitrust body raised some concerns about the merged entity's grip over the broadcast of the world's most populous country's favourite sport, Reuters had reported.

The entity currently holds the rights to the matches of the Indian Premier League and International Cricket Council.

The newest deal ensures the coverage of Asian cricket's marquee tournaments across television, digital and audio platforms, Sony India said in a statement.

Rising Lebanese Football Star Left In Coma By Israeli Airstrike

Leading Lebanese footballer Celine Haidar is in a medically-induced coma after she was critically wounded in an Israeli strike near her home in Beirut's southern suburbs - her international championship prospects on hold.

Captain of her club team and already included in the national youth team twice, the 19-year-old refused to allow her training to be interrupted by Israel's bombardment, even as her own family fled to a mountain town east of Beirut.

She convinced her parents to let her return home alone so she could continue training, assuring them she would leave every time the Israeli army issued an evacuation warning for a neighbourhood it was intending to bomb.

But last Saturday, she missed the warning. She was asleep when the Israeli military spokesman posted an evacuation warning for her neighbourhood. Her parents called her and urged her to leave immediately, but time was short.

An Israeli warplane struck as she leapt onto her motorbike. She was hit by shrapnel, which left her with severe brain injuries, including multiple skull fractures and brain bleeding.

She is now in an intensive care unit at Saint George Hospital in Beirut, connected to monitors and a breathing tube, with her head bandaged, according to her coach Samer Barbary.

Spain Drawn Against Netherlands In Nations League Quarter-Finals

European champion Spain was drawn against the Netherlands in the quarter-finals of the Nations League on Friday, while France was paired with Croatia in a rematch of the 2018 World Cup final.

Italy will face Germany and Portugal will play Denmark. Spain is also the defending Nations League champion after winning the tournament last year.

The quarter-finalists advanced by placing first or second in the four Nations League top-tier groups that finished this week.

The two-leg quarter-finals will be played on March 20 and 23. The winners advance to a Final Four mini-tournament scheduled for June 4-8, hosted by one of the teams involved.

The four semi-finalists will not be available to start qualifying games for the 2026 World Cup until September.



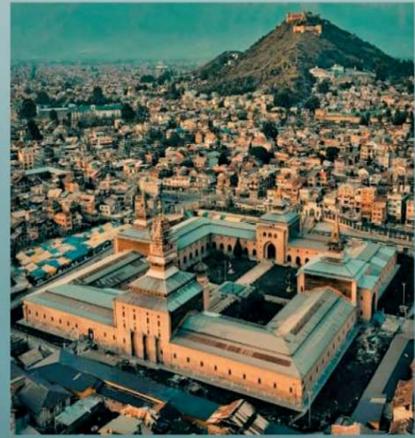

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Celebrating the World Heritage Week 2024

Haft Siin

A Conversation with Ilyas Rizvi

Cultural and Heritage Consultant
Founder EdRAAK



Sunday, 24th November, 2024 | 11:00AM - 01:00PM
At Parsas Sarah City Center, Jehangir Chowk

For Registrations
Call: 9469 037182

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R/o: Illahi Bagh Buchpora Srinagar Diagnosis: Sigmoid Colon Cancer 3rd
B Stage of Adenocarcinoma Cost: 6,00,000. our team visited the patient
& find the need genuine please come forward to help this patient

Patient's Family Message

We have used up all our savings to pay for expenses that amounted to a lot. We can't bear any more expenses and need your help immediately. We need a huge amount to complete the medical procedure. My father is closest to my heart, and I can't see him in this condition.

Please help in this hour of need by kindly contributing towards the treatment. Your contribution is greatly appreciated!



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