# KASHVIR OBSERVER

Tuesday 09 March | 24 Rajab | 1442 Hijri | Vol:24 | Issue: 56 | Pages:12 | Price: ₹3

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P3 CITY

**COMMISSIONER SMC REVIEWS ENFORCEMENT OF SMC ADMINISTRATIVE WARDS** 

Commissioner SMC Athar Aamir Khan Monday took a detailed ward-wise review of building activities and enforcement at central office Karan Nagar. Amir reviewed all the 35 SMC administrative...



WHY WE NEED TO STOP **JUSTIFYING ISLAM THROUGH SECULAR PARADIGMS** 

Toni Morrison famously cites racism's greatest achievement as distraction. Like the resonating tones of a standing bell, this quote only appears to ..



P11 SPORTS

**REAL KASHMIR CAPTAIN MASON ROBERTSON APPEALS TO AIFF TO REVOKE BAN** 

Real Kashmir FC (RKFC) captain Mason Robertson on Monday appealed to the All India Football Federation (AIFF) for an immediate revocation of his four-match ban and..



## Quote!

A Penny Saved is a **Penny Earned** 

— Benjamin Franklin

#### NEWS **DIGEST**

#### **J&K Reports One More Corona Death Observer Monitoring Desk**

SRINAGAR: Coronavirus claimed the life of one more person in Jammu and Kashmir, while 70 fresh cases of Covid-19, including twenty-one travellers were detected across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. The death caused by coronavirus has been reported from Jammu division, taking • More On P10

#### **Soldier 'Commits Suicide' Along LoC**

SRINAGAR: An army man allegedly committed suicide along the Line of Control (LoC) in Keran sector of Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, reports said Monday. Triverd Prakash of army's 6 RR committed suicide by shooting himself death with his service rifle at Shakti post in Keran sector around 2145 hours Sunday, news agency GNS reported while quoting an unnamed official. "It was not • More On P10

#### **Misfire Injures Cop In Jammu**

SRINAGAR: A policeman on Monday was injured when his service rifle went off in Bhalwal area of the Jammu city outskirts. Constable Abid Ahmad was performing his duty inside the sentry post of seventh battalion headquarters of Jammu and Kashmir armed police in Balwal area when his Insas rifle went off injuring his hand, reports said. A resident of More On P10

#### **20 Shops Gutted In Midnight Blaze**

SRINAGAR: At least 20 shops were damaged in a massive midnight blaze in the Watergam area of Rafiabad in Baramulla district. Fire broke out in a two-storey shopping complex in the Watergam area during the intervening night of March 7-8 leaving goods worth lakhs completely damaged, an official said. The fire, he said, broke out in one of the shops before spreading to others inside the complex. 

More On P10

#### **Cattle Thief Nabbed In Kulgam: Police**

SRINAGAR: Police on Monday claimed to have solved a cattle theft case by arresting a man from south Kashmir's Kulgam district. Acting on several complaints of cattle theft, police filed a case FIR No. 27/2021 under relevant sections of law and constituted a special investigation team to investigate the matter, a police spokesperson said Monday. During the course of investigation using • More On P10

# 80% Students Qualify 12th Exam, Girls Outshine Boys



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Girls dominated top positions in all four streams as 80 percent students passed 12th class examinations, the results of which were declared by the I&K Board of School Education on Monday.

In all 46987 out of 58397

students who appeared in the examination have been declared successful, said a BOSE official.

Among the total students who appeared included 30960 boys and 27437 girls. Of these, 24291 boys and 22696 girls passed the examinations with overall pass percentage of 80.46%.

In all 155 students have secured

top ten positions in all fours streams—Science, Commerce, Arts and Home Science and of them 125 have been bagged by

the girls and 30 by the boys. The results of the examinations held last year amid covid-19 pandemic were declared by the Board this morning. The first • More On P10

# **Snowfall In Upper Reaches, Rains In Plains**

**Press Trust Of India** 

SRINAGAR: Snowfall in upper reaches and rains in plains of the Kashmir Valley on Monday brought a fresh cold wave as the mercury slipped seven degrees below the normal temperature for this part of the year, officials said.

Gulmarg tourist destination in north Kashmir received nearly two feet of fresh snow since Sunday night while many other hilly areas of Kashmir received • More On P10

#### **Stranded Traffic** To Ply On **Highway Today**

SRINAGAR: The Jammu-Srinagar highway, the only surface link connecting Kashmir valley with the outside world, shall remain open for stranded vehicles on the thoroughfare on Tuesday, officials said.

"In view of inclement weather prediction issued by the MeT department for the next few days, there are chances of blockade of the highway. Peoples are advised to avoid journeys on the thoroughfare," the traffic authorities said. 

More On P10

# J&K Govt Amends **Warrant Of Precedence**

DDC Chairpersons Given Status Of Admin Secretaries/IGPs

**Agencies** 

SRINAGAR: The administration in Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory on Monday amended its warrant of precedence, placing chairpersons of district development councils equal to administrative secretaries and inspector generals of police.

According to the warrant of precedence issued by J&K's Hospitality and Protocol department, DDC chairpersons have been placed at serial number 26.

They have been placed alongside administrative secretaries, divisional commissioners, IGPs, joint secretaries to the Government of India and officers of equivalent rank, officers of the rank of Major-General or equivalent rank. Their deputies, who figure

at serial number 27 in the revised warrant of precedence, will have protocol equivalent to the vice -chancellors of universities within the state/UT. The DDC members have

been placed at the bottom

The government amended the warrant of precedence nearly two weeks after the constitution of district development councils in all 20 districts of the UT.

rank and office.

Meanwhile, sources said that the government has also finalized honorarium for DDC chairpersons, vicechairpersons and members.

in the warrant of precedence

and have protocol equivalent

to the block development

council chairpersons, presi-

dents of municipal councils

and municipalities, district

magistrates, officers of the

rank of brigadier and equiva-

lent, major head of depart-

ments and district and ses-

sions judges. They figure at

The warrant of precedence

serial number 28 in the list.

of J&K UT is the protocol list

(hierarchy of important posi-

tions) in which the function-

aries, dignitaries and officials

are listed according to their

According to them, chairperson will get honorarium of Rs 35000 per • More On P10

# **LGAnnounces Super-75 Scholarship Scheme For Poor Girls**



Rs 5L Under Tejaswini Scheme

**Observer News Service** 

government on Monday announced

port education of meritorious girls belonging to poor families while a financial Assistance Scheme of Rs 5 lakh under 'Mission Youth' to girls from 18 **SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir years to 35 years to start their business Keeping in view of this • More On P10

## **HC Notice To MEA, CID On** Mehbooba's Passport Plea

Says Police Not Barred To 'Expedite Verification' While Petition Is Pending Before It

**Agencies** 

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Monday issued



notice returnable by two weeks on a petition filed • More On P10

Farooq's **Plea Listed** 

Jammu and Kashmir High Court Monday heard and listed on March 18 again a petition filed by National Conference president Farooq Abdullah's against an Enforcement Directorate's order For March 18 attaching his properties in a case of alleged • More On P10

# **Bukhari Threatens Stir Over Statehood**

**Agencies** 

**SRINAGAR:** Stating that Article 370 can be restored only by the parliament, J&K Apni Party chief Syed Altaf Bukhari Monday said that they will not hesitate to hit the streets, if New Delhi fails to restore the Statehood to J&K UT.

Addressing reporters on the occasion of the first foundation day anniversary of the party, J&K Apni party chief said that much was promised in 1947, but nothing was given back.

"We have to fight for the restoration of statehood to J&K. Our demand also is to hold Assembly elections as soon as possible," Bukhari said, adding that "This is the pledge Apni Party is taking on the eve of first

foundation of the party." J&K Apni Party was floated on



March 08, 2020. He said the agenda framed by the Apni Party on the day of its birth was pursued in letter and spirit but certain things like prolonged shutdown in the wake of Article 370 revocation ● More On P10

#### 5 Bank ACs Of 'Drug **Cartel' Frozen: ANTF**

**Press Trust Of India** 

JAMMU: The Anti Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) on Monday froze five bank accounts amounting to over Rs 54.27 lakh of a drug cartel in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

"We have got five bank accounts frozen by a drug cartel in Kashmir. The head of this cartel is Masood Ahmed Dar of Bijbehara of Anantnag," Superintendent of Police (ANTF) Jammu Vinay Sharma told reporters here.

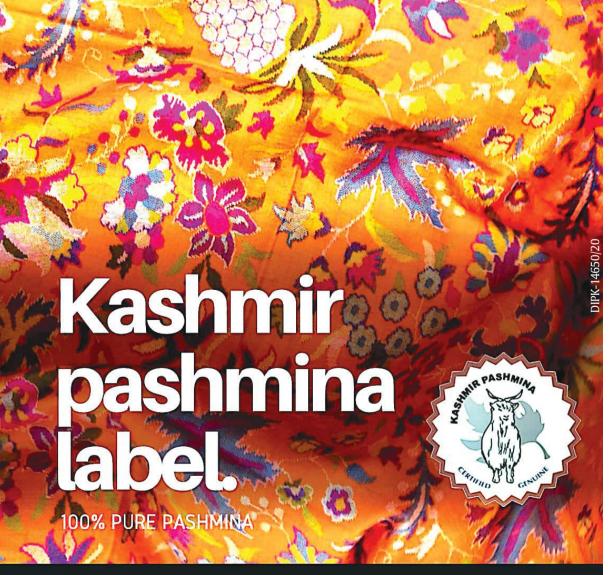
Three cases have been registered against him, he said.

"The total amount of these accounts is Rs 54.27 lakh. All the amount has been proven to be proceeds of the narcotics," he said.

These orders are a first of its kind in which bank accounts have been frozen by the • More On P10

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# School-based dental programme linked to reduced cavities

**Agencies** 

school-based dental programme may reduce cavities, says a ⊾new study.

The findings published in the Journal of the American Dental Association, showed that after six visits, the prevalence of untreated cavities decreased by more than 50 per cent.

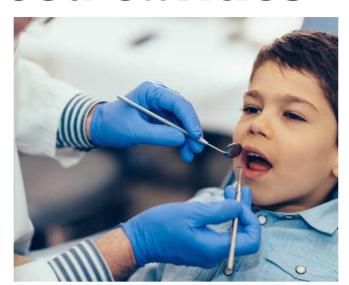
The widespread implementation of oral health programs in schools could increase the reach of traditional dental practices and improve children's oral health—all while reducing health disparities and the cost of care," said researcher Richard Niederman from the New York University.

Dental cavities are the most common chronic disease in children, and one in five elementary school children have at least one untreated cavity.

While cavities can be prevented with dental visits and good at-home oral hygiene, some families experience barriers to seeing a dentist, including cost and parents having to take time off of work.

For the study, the team included nearly 7,000 elementary school students. The services were provided at no cost to fami-

Twice-yearly visits involved dental examinations followed by cavity prevention and treatment, including fluoride var-



nish, sealants, and minimally invasive fillings to stabilize cavities without drilling.

Students also received oral hygiene instructions, toothbrushes, and fluoride toothpaste to take home. If more complex care was required, students were referred to local dentists.

Notably, the procedures used do not create aerosols, which limits the risk of transmitting viruses through the air.

In one group of schools cavities were reduced from a baseline of 39 per cent to 18 per cent, and in a second group, cavities decreased from 28 per cent to 10 per cent. The prevention programme reduced cavities in both baby and permanent teeth.

#### **Public Notice**

I have lost the RC of my vehicle bearing Regd No: JK05G-8636. Now I am applying for the duplicat of the same if anybody haiving any objjection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of hte Regional Transport Officer Sopore within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertaiend.

Asif Ahamd War S/O Mohd Akbar War R/O Ogmuna Tangmarg

rako

#### **Public Notice**

It is to inform to all that my name is wrongly entered as Yasmeena Akhter instead Yasmeena Kounsar in my met life policy no 20483296 which is due to withdrawal. So In this connection I am going to withdraw money, If any body having any objection in this regard can contact PNB Metlife, 3 Hadika Complex Baghat Barzulla Srinagar withn a weeks time. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Salfia Islamic Educational Institute Aarath Budgam (Kashmir)

**Got Recognized** 

Sub List of members of managing committee

Bashir Ahamd Gh Mohi-ud- Aarath

din Rather

Gh Moham-

Yasmeena Kounsar

Ref No: SIEIA/31/21

Rather

Aiaz Hussain

S. No Name

SULT\_r

Dated: 08-03-2021

Designa-

Chairman

Secretary

Treasurer

Principal

Teacher

**CHAIRMAN** 

Qual

10+2

B.Ed

Matric Parent

Matric Parent

Matric Member

# 'Unstable work life leads to future mental health problems in youth'

**Agencies** 

new study has found that a precarious, unstable initiation by young people to working life is associated with poorer future mental health. The study was conducted by researchers from the Center for Research in Occu-pational Health (CISAL, a joint group of UPF and the Hospital del Mar Medical Research Institute) in Barcelona, Spain.

Amaya Ayala-Garcia, Laura Serra, and Monica Ubalde-Lopez are the authors of the study, which has been published in the

journal BMJ Open. Since the 1990s, Spain has been among the European countries with the lowest employment rates, which are accentuated in the young active population. Moreover, in 2017, Spain had the highest proportion of temporary contracts and one of the highest rates of precariousness. Previous studies show that unemployment, temporary employment, and job insecurity are related to a higher incidence of mental disorders.

This study evaluated the relationship between the various possible pathways at the start of working life with future absenteesample of salaried workers. The cohort study is based on employees aged between 18 and 28 years, residents in Catalonia, who presented at least one episode of absenteeism as a result of mental disorders between 2012 and 2014.

"It is a novel approach that evaluates how transitions between types of contracts, situations of employment/unemployment and periods without social security coverage can affect the evolution of mental health in the younger working population entering the labour market. It also investigates the possible effect of the public or private ownership of the companies in which the subjects have begun their working life", said Monica Ubalde-Lopez, study coordinator, currently a

researcher at the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal), a centre driven by the "la Caixa" Foundation.

Amaya Ayala-Garcia, the first author of the article, said that "to evaluate job stability, we apply a statistical technique that has allowed us to take an initial photo of the previous 10 years of working life, in which we identified four different patterns of participation in the labour market".

These four patterns are a stable, permanent job, increasing stability (a decrease in the number of transitions between temporary contracts and lack of social security coverage towards permanent contracts), unstable employment with varying types of contracts, and finally, a fourth pattern characterized by later entry to the job market.

'To approach the severity of mental disorders, we measured the cumulative days of absenteeism due to mental disorders over three years. Thus, we detected a more or less favourable evolution over time", she added.

The authors of the article noted that people with a more stable working life, for example increasing job stability, tended to have a more favourable future of accumulation of days absent due to mental disorders (fewer days accumulated) than people who had a more unstable working life. They also noted that having worked in large companies at the start of



To evaluate iob stability, we apply a statistical technique that has allowed us to take an initial photo of the previous 10 years of working life, in which we identified four different patterns of participation in the labour market

their working life was associated with better mental health later

"Job insecurity among young people can be seen in rates of temporarity and unemployment, which have also greatly increased with covid. Our results show that a precarious labour market may be shaping the future mental health of the young working population. Therefore, future public health policies should address this problem in order to prevent long-term absenteeism", the authors concluded.

|                          |                                  | از نیابت ماگام بااجلاس جن  |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| لوجر ساكنه موضع ما گام   |                                  | عنوان: مضمون درخواست   |
|                          | SRO294 ==                        | بمراد عطا مِلَّى ST سرُّفيكيك تح   |
| . عام                    | ر بمراد آگای برخاص و             | اشتهار   |
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|                          |                                  | پین کی ہے۔ جو کہ فتر ہذا ؟   |
|                          |                                  | بذیل افتراد پر مشتل ہے   |
| 70 مال                   | عمر ريسده                        | تاجدين ولد كريم كوجر   |
| 39                       | مزدوري                           | نذبر احمد ولد تاجدين   |
| 35                       | تحميليو كام                      | شكيله بيكم زوجهنذبر احمر   |
| 18                       | زیر تعلیم<br>زیر تعلیم           | رحبه وختر نذبي   |
| 16                       | زرتعليم                          | شبنم اختر وختر   |
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| 12                       | زرتعليم                          | مسكان وختر   |
| 10                       | زريتعليم                         | عاول احدم پسر  |
| 07                       | زبرتعليم                         | انشاء دختر   |
| ر زرلع 7500 ہے سرتھیکیٹ  | ، مهانه آمدنی زریع و غیر         | اسکے علاوہ عمیہ کے   |
| ) عذر يا اعتراض هو تو وه | سی مخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی          | زر بحث اوا کرنے میں اگر  |
| میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی  | کے اندر پیش کریں۔                | اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ یوم  |
|                          | ر موگاه۔                         | عذر يا اعتراض قابلِ قبول نهر   |
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عنوان: مضمون درخواست ريئس احمد \_ عامر احمد ، عمر فاروق و نيلوفر فاروق اولادان فاروق احدم گنائی ساکنه موضع کیگام بمراد عطا یگی RBA تحت SRO294 اشتهار بمراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخوست سائل دفتر بذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نقوالات ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سرعمال ہوتا ہے کہ سائل ° سائلہ مرضع کرگام کا سکونیت دار كمبية كي سالانه آمدني مبلغ 42000روپي تك ب-كمبية بزيل افراد پرمشتل ب فاروق احمد گنائی ولد ستار گنائی سرکاری ملازم فيرده بيكم زوجه فاروق احمه ریئس احد گنائی پسر عافر احمه گنائی پسر عمر فاروق گنائی پسر نيلو فر فاروق دختر اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کمیہ نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے سر نفیکیٹ زیر بحث دا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص ما اشخاص کو کوئی عذر ما اعتراض ہو تو وہ اینا عذر ما

اعتراض ساتھ یوم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذریا اعتراض قابل قبول نهن ہو گاہ۔

**SUTL** 

#### mad Dar Gh Moham-Mohd Magmad Rather bool Rather Mohd Ashraf Aarath Ab Rahman Bashir Ahamd Ab. Star Wani Aarath Ab Ahad Ayaz Ahamd Aarath Wani Ab Rashid Habibullah Rakhi Malla Malla Aarath A Samad Ab Rashid Note: Anybody having any objection, shall report within seven days after the publication of this lits. No claim will be accepted afterwords نائب تحصيلدار ماكام Salafia Islamic Educ. Institute

The Jammu And Kashmir State **Board Of School Education, BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM** The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost

the Migration ceertificate under Below mentioned particulars Shakir Manzoor Rather

S/O Manzoor Ahamd Rathe R/o Archanderhamd Roll No: (12TH): 2406249

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Migration Cer-

tificate. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the some before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Sd/ Assistant Secretary

Sub Office Magam

از دفتر نائب تحصيلدار ديالگام بااجلاس جاويداح دهيم صاحب ورخواست منجانب: عمران شفيج ولد محشفيج نجارساكن كام وتخصيل وضلع اعت ناك بغرض حصول سوشل اشتهار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام

عامله مندرجه عنوان الصدريين سائل صدر نے ايك درخواست بغرض حصول سوشل كاسٹ سرٹفكيٺ دفتر ز ہ میں پیش کیا ہے حسب رپورٹ پٹواری حلقہ تفصیل افراد کنبیہ بذیل درج ہے:۔

اسکےعلاوہ اورکوئی فروکنبہ میں موجودنہیں ہےسائل کا کنبہ پچھلے پندرہ سالوں سے دھ ہازہ میں ریائیشپز رہے در سائل کی کنبہ کی ماہانہ آمدانی6500 تک ہےاس حوالے سے اگر کشی شخص یا اشخاص کو مزکورہ سر ٹفکیٹ اجرا ر نے میں کوئی عذر بیا عتراض ہوتو وہ سات دن کے اندرا ندرا پنااعتراض دفتر ہازہ میں پیش کریں۔معیاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تحريرالصدرنا ئب تحصيلدار ديالگام

ازعدالت ایگزیکٹیومجسٹریٹ درجہاول ( نائب تحصیلداراننت ناگ ) بااجلاس نزیراحمد شخ صاحب۔ درخواست منجانب: ـ عامراحمه صوفی ولدمنظوراحمه صوفی ساکنه صوفی گندٌ بگاگندٌ بغرض اجرائی تاریخ پیدائیش سر لفكيك بنام زائره جان دختر عامراحمرصوفي \_

اشتہار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل/سائلہ مذکورہ بالانے عدالت منزامیں ایک درخواست حلفی بیان پیش کیا ہے سائل کے دختر کا تاریخ پیدائیش10/01/202 ہے اس ختمن میں سرٹفکیٹ پیدائیش نکالنے کا خواہ ہے لہذا سر ' 'لفکیٹ ندکورہ کوا جراءکرنے میں اگر سی شخص کوکوئی بھی عذریااعتراض ہوتو وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندراندردوران دفتری اوقات میں پیش کر بے بصورت دیگر کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

ا گَیز یکٹیومجسٹریٹ درجہاول

ازعدالت ایگزیکیٹیومجسٹریٹ درجہاول (نائب تحصیلدارائنت ناگ)بااجلاس نزیراحمد شخصاحب۔ درخواست منجانب: ۔ عبدالرشیدموجی ولدعبدالرحیم موجی ساکندفوراه انت ناگ بغرض اجرائی تاریخ پیدائیش سر لفکیٹ بنام رومان حسین موجی ولدعبدالرشیدموجی۔

اشتہار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام۔

محامله مندرجه عنوان الصدر میں سائل/ سائلہ مذکورہ ہالانے عدالت بذا میں ایک درخواست حلفی بیان پیش کیا ہے سائل کے پسر کا تاریخ پیدائیش 14/12/2016 ہےاں ضمن میں سرٹفکیٹ پیدائیش نکا لنے کا خواہ ہے لہذا سر نفکیے نہ کورہ کوا جراء کرنے میں اگر کشی مخص کوکوئی بھی عذریا اعتراض ہوتو وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندراندردوران دفتری اوقات میں پیش کر بے بصورت دیگر کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ ا يَكِّز يَكِتْيُومِ عِسْرِيثِ درجِهِ اول

ازنيابت سمبل ضمون كاغذات درخواست بلال احدرائقر ولدمرحوم غلام محمد رائقرسا كنهسرائ دُانگر يورهُخْصيل سوناوار ئي بمرادعطا ئيگي ليگل هيرسرُ نفکيٺ بايت بينگُ

اشتها ربمراد آگاهی هر خاص و عام معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر ھذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے ؑ اس سلسلے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمولہ ریکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیان ہے کہ سائل کا والد مسمی غلام محمد راتھ ولد محمد صدایق راتھر ساکنہ سرائے ڈانگر پورہ مدید 2012-10-00،فید بروچکی ہے۔ کمہ مذکل افراد رمشتل ہے۔

| عمل ہے۔<br>- سمل ہے۔ | , بذیل افراد پر | ملی ہے کہ   | بورخه 2019-10-99وفوت موه <sup>ب</sup> |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|
|                      | عمر             | يبيثه       | نام سربراه كنبه وتفصيل افراد كنبه     |
|                      | 55سال           | گھر بلو کام | مسات رفيق بيكم بيوه متوفى             |
|                      | 37سال           | مزدوری      | عبدل مجيدراتقر پسر                    |
|                      | 35              | گھر بلو کام | محمدامين رائقر                        |
|                      | 33              | زمینداری    | شنراده بیگم                           |
|                      | 31              | ز رتعلیم    | ارشاداحمد راقفر                       |
|                      | 26              | ز رتعلیم    | بلال احدراتفر                         |
|                      | 23              | ز رتعلیم    | شبروزه راتهر                          |
|                      | 20              | ز رتعلیم    | عشرت جان                              |
|                      |                 |             |                                       |
| ا تني                | _               | / L         | 2 / 1 / /                             |

اس کےعلاوہ کوئی افراد کمبہ نہیں ہےاورسرٹفکیٹ زیر بحث اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کو ئی اعتراض وغیر ہ ہوتو وہ دفتر ھذا میں اندرسات یوم پیش کریں بعد معیا د گذر کو ئی**ا** عتراض وغيره قبول نه ہوگا۔

ازنیابت نائب تحصیلدار ما گام مضمون كاغذات درخوات منجانب بلال احمدلون ولدغلام محمدلون ساكنة موضع ما گام بمرادعطا كي بيكوار دُايراسرُ فيكيك تحتُ 294

اشتهار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام معامله مندجه عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر بذامین زیرکاروئی ہے اس سلسلے مین پڑواری حلقہ ے رپورٹ بشولدر یکارڈ طلب کیا گیاہ جس عیاں ہے کسائل موضع ما گام میں رہایش

یذیرہےاور کمبہ بذیل افردیر مشتمل ہے غلام محمدلون ولدمحمه جمال لون ماله بيكم زوجه غلام محمدلون گھر بلوکام اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کمہ نہیں ہے سائل کے کمبہ کی ماہوارہ آمدنی 8750 ہے سڑ فلیکیٹ اجرا لرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کی عذریااعتراض ہوتو وہ اپناعذریااعتراض ساتھ یوم اندردفتر مذامیں پیش کرے معيادگرنے بعد کوئی بھی عذر یااعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصيلدا

ازنیابت نائب تحصیلدار ما گام مضمون كاغذات درخوات منجانب عبدالعزيز للوجر ولدولي محمد گوجرفوندًا ساكنة موضع ما گام بمرادعطا يكي ST سرففيكيك تحت SRO 294 اشتهار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام معامله مندجه عنوان الصدر مين درخواست سائل دفتر مذامين زير كاروئي ہےاس سلسلے مين پيواري حلقه د پورٹ بشمولدر اکارڈ طلب کیا گیاہے جس عیاں ہے کہ سائل موضع ما گام میں رہایش

پذریہاور کمبہ بذیل افر د پر شمل ہے عبدالعزيز گوجرولدولی محمد گوجرفونڈا مزدوری گھر بلوکام نسيمه بيكم زوجه عبدالعزيز 50سال اشتياق احمه كوجرفونڈا 25-بال 20سال 16سال شازبه بإنو 14سال ں کےعلاوہ کوئی افراد کمہ نہیں ہے سائل کے کمیہ کی ماہوارہ آمد نی 6200 ہے سرٹفیکیٹ اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کی عذریااعتراض ہوتو وہ اپناعذریااعتراض ساتھ یوم اندر دفتر ہذامیں پیش کرے معیا دگر نے بعد کوئی بھی عذریااعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا نائب تحصيلدار

#### **Distribution Of Vegetable Seedlings Kick-start At Lalmandi**

**Observer News Service** 

RINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, P. K. Pole Monday kick-started the sale of Hybrid and open pollinated seedlings of different varieties (Cauliflower, Cabbage, Knol-Khol, Saag, Broccoli) at Kitchen Garden Lalmandi, here.

Director Agriculture Kashmir Mohammad Iqbal Chowdhary, Seed Production Officer besides a large gathering of kitchen garden lovers of Srinagar and adjoining areas were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Divisional Commissioner stressed upon the officers to promote the Kitchen Garden in such a way that growers get more and more benefits. He said that vegetable production has a potential to contribute to the daily consumption of the population besides it can also be adopted for commercial purposes He directed Director Ag-

riculture Kashmir to promote Kitchen Garden activities in both rural and urban areas.

The Div Com on the occa sion inspected various sections at Kitchen Garden regarding raising of vegetable seedlings under controlled conditions.

The Director Agriculture said that the department is committed to promote the Kitchen Garden Scheme and contemplating on providing nearly 60 lakh seedlings of different vegetables throughout the valley during year 2021 for which the department has already prepared a comprehensive plan out of which 50 lakh seedlings will be distributed from Kitchen Garden Lalmandi and rest from other districts.

On the occasion Seed Production Officer Manzoor Ahmad Shah said that during the first phase 10 lakh seedlings will be distributed among the growers at Kitchen Garden Lalmandi.

#### **Erring Traders Booked, Fine Of** Rs 5.06 Lakh Recovered

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: The field executives of Legal Metrology Department (LMD) has booked 202 erring traders for violation of Legal Metrology laws and recovered a sum of Rs 5.06 lakh as fine during intensified market inspections in the valley conducted during the month of February 2021.

During this period, the LMD conducted 3468 inspections in which 202 traders were booked for use of un-verified weights and measures, over-charging on pre-packaged products, offering for sale the products without mandatory declarations of MRP, packing date, Net-contents etc and short-deliveries on petrol -pumps. A compounding

Dar-ul-Khair

Incident

**Observer News Service** 

**Expresses Anguish** 

**Over Nowhatta Fire** 

Srinagar: Dar-ul-Khair Mirwaiz Man-

zil Monday expressed anguish over

the loss of property in a fire incident at

Pandan Nowhatta area of Srinagar city

in which three residential houses were

gutted. In a statement it expressed

heartfelt solidarity and sympathy with

the affected families and stressed for

their immediate rehabilitation in view

led by Mufti Ghulam Rasool Samoon

visited the affected families of Pandan

Nowhatta and distributed rice, at-

taa, blankets, kitchen kits and other

items of basic necessity among them.

The delegation also expressed solidar-

ity with them on behalf of the Darul

Khair and its incarcerated patron

said that since its inception, this wel-

fare organisation has been providing

monetary as well as material support

The Darul Khair Mirwaiz Manzil

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq.'

"A delegation of the organisation

of the bone chilling harsh winter.

sum of Rs 5. 06 lakhs was collected from the defaulters. The Department also received 32 complaints of which 29 were pertaining to the department. Moreover, the rate of refill LPG Cylinders (Domestic type 14.2Kg) with effect from 1st of March 2021 for the district Srinagar, Budgam, Pulwama, Anantnag, Kulgam, Bandipora. Ganderbal has been fixed at 935/- by Oil Marketing Companies (OMC).

For places Baramulla, Pahalgam the refill rate of cooking gas is Rs 943.50 and for district Kupwara, it is Rs 952/

Meanwhile, the consumers are informed to lodge the genuine complaints on the toll free No. 1800-180-7114 during



# **Commissioner SMC Reviews Functioning Of SMC Administrative Wards**

**Observer News Service** 

Sringgar Commissioner SMC Athar Aamir Khan Monday took a detailed ward-wise review of building activities and enforcement at central office Karan Nagar. Amir, according to an SMC statement, reviewed all the 35 SMC administrative wards and took stock of permissions being approved, demolition drives being taken up with regard to illegal construction, complaints regarding violation of building norms including conversion of nature of building permissions from residential to commercial ones, redressal of grievances and legal action taken thereof, the SMC statement said. Commissioner in the meet-

ing passed directions that no violations in sanctioned building plans will be tolerated and the number of permissions issued in every ward needs to be kept constantly under watch from the initial level of structure getting upraised so that all the deviations are regularly monitored and not allowed to come up right from the plinth level.

On the occasion, he directed ward officers that all the building activities with regard to building permissions, illegal constructions, and the major deviations in sanctioned plans shall be dealt with under act/rules.

Athar further said that the motive of the meeting is to get acquainted with the present status of each ward regarding the various ongoing buildingrelated activities and the role of enforcement in reinforcement before he would personally visit every ward and review the activities on the ground.

'A strong action for any erring official found involved in facilitating illegal constructions will be taken under the law.'

Besides Joint Commissioner Admin Syed Abdul Qasim, Joint Commissioner Works Ishtiyaq Ahmed Shah, Joint Commissioner Planning Ghulam Hassan Chief Enforcement Officer, all the Ward officers along with building inspectors attended the meeting.

Athar reiterated to take timely action of complaints regarding illegal constructions and keep monitoring the permis-

sions that stand issued whether they are coming up as per the permitted plan or have got completed under various norms.

For improvisation and efficiency of Ward officers and Building Inspectors in carrying effective building activities out on the ground, Joint Commissioner Planning has been directed to conduct a day-long capacity building program in two phases to all ward officers and Building inspectors this coming Sunday in which ATPs will also be involved, so that the Ward Officers and Building Inspectors are well versed with the rules envisaged in Master plan to have a better understanding of norms before its proper implementation on the ground in letter and spirit.

Meanwhile, he also instructed the concerned to give weekly reminders to the line departments for submitting NOC's of the building permissions cases to ease out the people's movement and to forward a copy of building permissions to the applicants through email so as to save their time till the hard copy is being received from the applicant's end.

Sale Of Conifer

PC Depot

Observer News Service

J&K Drive, 2020-21.

department.

**Plants Begins At** 

SRINAGAR: The Principal Chief

Conservator of Forests and HOFF,

of Conifer plants to the general

The plants are being made

planting stock available in forest

nurseries. These plants will be

planted by the people during the

to achieve the objectives of Green

provided at carnival cost (Subsi-

dised) of Rs. 13.50 per plant which

have been raised in poly pot and

tor Forests, HOFF also flagged off

a vehicle for making such plants

available to the public at their door-

steps. Such vehicles will be plying

in all the territorial divisions of the

Meanwhile, the Conifer plant sale is

also being conducted at Headquar-

Sheikh Bagh, Srinagar throughout

ters of the Forest Department at

the planting season.

valley for providing this facility.

maintained for 3 years by the forest

The Principal Chief Conserva-

The conifer plants are being

current spring season, in order

available to the people from quality

public at PC Depot, Srinagar.

J&K, Monday, inaugurated the sale

#### **DIAL-EMMA**

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



PDD: 0194-2450213 FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488,2452222,2452155

CAPD: 18001807011 SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

#### **AIRPORTS**

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



#### **RAILWAYS**

SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259 ANANTNAG: 01932-228243

PATTAN: 01954-293507

QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

BARAMULLA: 0194-102029 BIJBHERA: 01932-228243 PAMPORE: 01933-294132

#### **HIGHWAY STATUS**



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



#### **PRAYERS FAJR** 5:29 **ZUHR** 12: 43 **ASR** 4:52 Magrib 6:36 **ISHA** 7:56

### **This Day In History**

- 1862 USS Monitor and CSS Merrimack battle in Hampton Roads 1889 - Battle at Gallabat (Metema): Mahdi's beat Abyssinian em-
- peror John IV.
- 1891 Great 1891 - Great Blizzard of 1891 begins in England (lasts until 13th March;
- 200 people and 6,000 animals killed). 1893 - Congo cannibals killed thousands of Arabs
- 1907 1st involuntary sterilization law enacted. Indiana 1916 - Germany declares war against Portugal.
- 1925 Pink's War, the first RAF operation conducted independently of the Army or Navy, begins.
  - 1935 Adolf Hitler announces the creation of a new air force. 1942 - Construction of the Alaska Highway began
- 1945 334 US B-29 Superfortresses attack Tokyo with 120,000 fire 1945 - Japanese proclaim "independence" of Indo-China.
- 1961 Soviet flight Sputnik 9 carries and returns a dog named Chernushka (Blackie), frogs and a guinea pig from orbit
- 1962 Egyptian Pres Nasser declares Gaza belongs to Palestinians 1962 - US advisors in South-Vietnam join the fight
- 1975 Construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System begins. 1986 - NASA announces searchers found remains of Challenger astro-
- 1986 Soviet probe Vega 2 flies by Halley's Comet at 8,030 km
- 1989 Soviet Union officially submits to jurisdiction of the World
- 1991- US 70th manned space mission STS 39 (Discovery 12) launches 1994 - IRA launch 1st of 3 mortar attacks on London's Heathrow Air-
- port. 2006 Liquid water is discovered on Enceladus, the sixth largest
- moon of Saturn. 2007 - The US Justice Department releases an internal audit that found that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had acted illegally in
- its use of the USA Patriot Act to secretly obtain personal information about US citizens 2011 - Space Shuttle Discovery makes its final landing after 39 flights.

2013 - 19 people are killed in two suicide bombings in Kabul, Afghanistan

# From KO Archives

## Srinagar- Muzaffarabad Bus: All Exempted From Visa

Agencies

slamabad - Pakistan Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri has said that any national,' Indian or Pakistani, travelling on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service will use special documents for travelling purposes.

Kasuri while speaking to media during Pakistan Foreign Office Spokesman Masood Khan's farewell said that as per the agreement between India and Pakistan the travellers will use special documents and not visa.

He said that the bus service would in all probability start from April 7, and preparations for the same were in full swing and both sides were working out the travel documents issue.

He further added that Islamabad had not attached any condition on travel on the bus service with exception that nobody would be permitted to travel on international passport or Visa

Army, BRO racing against time to start bus Racing against time to meet the April 17 deadline of running the bus service from here to Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, Army and Border Roads Organisation are engaged in the process of demining and improving the stretch of road close to the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir.

Army is also involved in establishing the initial check post coming at LoC between Uri and Chakoti on PaK side, defence spokesman Col R K Sen told PTI. The repair and strengthening of the existing

piers and abutments of the bridge over Khalias-de-Khan Nallah is being carried out by the army engineers, he said adding army has stage-forwarded the requisite stores for construction of the bridge.

The BRO is also putting in an all-out effort for improving road from Uri to the Line of Control which was in a state of disuse, Col Sen said. They are 'working to increase the head room, of

the existing red bridge and constructing a causeway to divert the traffic temporarily,' the spokesman said. He said army is assisting the civil administration in setting up requisite communication facilities for

the initial check post complex. (Kashmir Observer, 09 March, 2005)

# Pakistani Brides Reiterate **Demands For Travel Documents**

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Pakistani brides of former Kashmiri militants Monday reiterated their demands asking the administration to either provide them

the travel documents or

Addressing a press conference in Srinagar, they said despite repeated pleas and protests for demanding travel documents the authorities have shown no concern to their plights.

"If ceasefire like initiative was taken, why the Government of India is not listening to our concerns. We were brought here in the name of rehabilitation but later cases were filed against us," said Saira, a one of the brides.

"What is our fault," she asked, the state and central Governments promised us rehabilitation but other than grief and sorrow "we haven't seen anything". "Is that the rehabilitation policy Government of India promised us," she questioned?

demands respect and dignity for women which we have been demanding for years now," she said.

The women said they want the Government of India to confirm their



identity

"If we are Indians then give passports to us and our children, and if we are not Indians then send us back along with our children," they said. "We are living prisoner lives here, and are facing a magnitude of issues. We want the Government of India to confirm our identity. The future of our children is at stake." (With inputs

#### to those affected by the natural calamities irrespective of caste, creed and She said today the world is celebratreligion. It also ensures the proper ing International Women's Day, but rehabilitation of such affected people. we have never celebrated it. This day from agencies)

'Stereotyping And Conflict Push Women Out Of Newsrooms'

**Observer News Service** 

rinagar: The Media Education Research Centre (MERC), Kashmir University organised a webinar Monday, where the speakers discussed the role of Women in Media.

The webinar was celebrated in the backdrop of International Women's Day Celebrations.

Prominent female media professionals, Anuradha Bhasin, Rukhsana Jabeen, Dr Surbhi Dahiya and Shahana Butt shared their experiences.

Listing the challenges women in media face while discharging their duties. Executive Editor of The Kashmir Times, Anuradha Bhasin discussed



**MERC** Celebrates International Women's Day

the changing face of journalism particularly in the context of Jammu and Kashmir. "The stereotyping and conflict has pushed women out of newsrooms", she remarked.

"However, arrival of newly trained professionals is helping women to reclaim their space in the news rooms", she added.

"Women in journalism not only bring their perspective

but also help in mainstreaming gender related stories. Women face more scrutiny and have to be prove their credentials to be treated at par with men," she observed. Acknowledging the contri-

bution of MERC in the field of journalism, she said, "MERC has given finest journalists to the media industry.'

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Surbhi Dahiya, Director of English Journalism at Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), New Delhi, recalled her journey from a working journalist to an academic.

Rukhsana Jabeen, former Director of the then Radio Kashmir, presently AIR Srinagar, while sharing her experiences

said, "Radio gave me an identity. I received a lot of appreciation from the audiences. About her initial years, she

said "I struggled a lot to convince my family regarding my career choice. "Times have changed now. Women now get more support

from their families to make

their career choices", she said Shahana Butt, correspondent of the Press TV talked about lack of opportunities for women journalists in the valley. "We need more women broadcast professionals in the valley", she said

While highlighting the issues faced by working women at various levels, she suggested, "Women need to support women.

# **Pope Francis Departs Iraq After Historic Trip**



n his packed three full days in Iraq, the Pope made more than a half-dozen speeches in nearly as many cities

Pope Francis concluded on Monday the first-ever papal trip to Iraq, which went off without a hitch despite security worries and a second wave of coronavirus cases in the country.

The 84-year-old pontiff covered more than 1,400 kilometres inside the country, bringing encouragement to its diminished Christian community and extending a hand to Shia Muslims by meeting top cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani.

"In my time among you, I have heard voices of sorrow and loss, but also voices of hope and consolation," Francis said on Sunday, concluding his last public event.

"Now the time draws near for my return to Rome. Yet Iraq will al-

ways remain with me, in my heart." In his packed three full days in Iraq, the Pope made more than a half-dozen speeches in nearly as many cities, repeatedly evoking hope and fraternity.

În Baghdad on Friday, he called for an end to violence and extremism and urged officials to do more to fight corruption.

Francis called the minority Yazidis "innocent victims of senseless and brutal atrocities," following the Islamic State group's rampage against their esoteric community in 2014.

He also met members of Irag's other minorities in a moving interfaith ceremony at Ur, where the Prophet Abraham is thought to have been born.

On Saturday, he held an extraordinary meeting with the reclusive but highly respected Sistani, who afterwards said Irag's Christians should have the right to live in "peace."

Francis' full day in Iraq's warbattered north on Sunday embodied a cause close to his heart -supporting traumatised Christians.

There, he said the "tragic" exodus of Christians "does incalculable harm not just to the individuals and communities concerned, but also to the society they leave behind."

#### **Tibet Official Urges China To Start Construction On Brahmaputra Dam Within Year**

**Agenceis** 

hina should aim to begin construction of a controversial hydropower project on the Brahmaputra river within the year, a senior Tibetan Communist Party official said in comments published on Monday.

Comprehensive planning and environmental impact assessments for the project should be completed as soon as possible, Che Dalha, chairman of the Tibetan Autonomous Region, said in a delegation briefing issued by China's parliament.

Tibet should "strive to launch con-

struction within this year," he said. China's plans for a giant hydropower project on the river, known in Tibet as the Yarlung Tsangbo, have stirred fears in India it could disrupt downstream river flows, worsen water shortages and even cause flash floods.

The river flows for about 2,900km through Tibet, India and Bangladesh into the Bay of Bengal. The "Yarlung Tsangbo downstream hydropower base" was listed in China's new five-year plan

last week as one of the country's

major energy development proj-

ects for the 2021-2025 period. China could build up to 60 gigawatts (GW) of generation capacity on the river, state media have reported, which would make it the world's biggest hydropower project, overtaking China's 22.5 GW Three Gorges Dam.'A Chinese diplomat said late last year the project was at a "preliminary planning and

demonstration" stage. India is considering plans to build its own dam on the river to increase its water storage capacity and counteract the impact of the Chinese

According to Tibet's five-year plan proposals published in January, the region aims to "research and promote" the project and begin related engineering work as soon as possible.

# Freedom House: No South **Asian Country Fully Free**

Tuesday | 09.03.2021

Agenceis

fghanistan found to be 'not free' in the annual report by the US-based watchdog A recent report by an independent freedom watchdog has ranked most countries in South Asia as "partly free."

In its report, Democracy under Siege, US-based political freedom and human rights watchdog Freedom House ranked only Afghanistan as "not free" in South Asia with a score of 27.

India, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives were ranked "partly free," but they all scored more than Bangladesh.

Mentioning India, Freedom House said the world's largest democracy had dropped from "Free' to "Partly Free" status in its latest reports due to the decline in civil liberties after the BJP-led government came to power in 2014.

The report said since 2014, India had witnessed an increase in pressure on human rights organizations, intimidation of



journalists and activists, and a spate of attacks, especially those against Muslims, which led to a deterioration of political and civil liberties in the country.

It said that the crackdown against those protesting against the Citizenship Amendment Act, a bill which offers amnesty to non-Muslim illegal immigrants from three neighbouring countries, had contributed to India's decline in the ratings.

India's overall score dropped to

67 out of 100, compared to 71 in 2019. The report also ranked India 34 out of 40 for political rights and 33 out of 60 for civil liberties.

Meanwhile, Pakistan scored 37 out of 100, slipping just one step from last year. It scored 15 out of 40 for political rights and 22 out of 60 for civil liberties.

Bhutan scored better than last vear, climbing to 61, up from 58. It scored 30 out of 40 for political rights and 31 out of 60 for civil liberties.

Sri Lanka scored 56 out of 100, same as last year. It scored 23 out of 40 for political rights and 33 out of 60 for civil liberties.

Nepal scored 56 out of 100, with no change from last year. However, it scored higher than Pakistan and Sri Lanka in political rights with 25 out of 40 and 31 out of 60 for civil liberties.

Maldives scored 40 out of 100, same as last year. However, it scored 19 out of 40 for political rights and 21 out of 60 for civil liberties. Topping the list, Finland, Norway and Sweden scored a perfect 100 in the latest report.

# Yemen's Huthis Target Saudi Oil Facilities In **New Escalation**



Agenceis

The escalation comes as Washington resumes efforts for a resolution to the grinding conflict. A missile and drone attack targeted the heart of Saudi Arabia's oil industry on Sunday in an assault claimed by Yemen's Huthi rebels, a new escalation in the six-year conflict.

The attack on energy giant Aramco's facilities came as the Saudi-led military coalition bombed Yemen's Huthi-controlled capital Sanaa after intercepting a separate flurry of cross-border Huthi drones and missiles. The rising hostilities underscore a dangerous intensification of Yemen's conflict between the coalitionbacked Yemeni government and the Iran-backed Huthis, despite a renewed US push to end the war.

The Saudi defence ministry said it had intercepted a drone targeting a petroleum storage yard at Ras Tanura -- one of the world's biggest oil ports -- and a ballistic missile aimed at Aramco facilities in Dhahran city in eastern Saudi Arabia. Shrapnel from the missile fell close to an Aramco residential compound in the city, which is home to thousands of company employees and their families, the energy ministry said.

The attacks did not result in any casualties or damage, it added, without specifying who was behind them. The Huthi rebels claimed on Twitter they had fired drones and missiles at Ras Tanura and military targets in the area of Dammam, which is close to Dhahran.

The kingdom's oil-rich eastern region is home to most of Aramco's production and export facilities. In 2019, aerial assaults on two Aramco facilities in the eastern region temporarily knocked out half of the kingdom's crude production, underscoring the vulnerability of Saudi Arabia's oil infrastructure.

The defence ministry said Sunday's attacks targeted "the backbone of the world economy, oil supplies and global energy security."

'Red line'

Earlier Sunday, the coalition said it pummelled Yemen's Huthi-controlled capital Sanaa with air strikes, with AFP correspondents on the ground reporting huge explosions that sent plumes of smoke rising in the sky.

"The military operation targets Huthi military capabilities in Sanaa and a number of other

provinces," the coalition said in a statement on Saudi state media.

That came after the coalition said it had intercepted a total of 12 drones and two ballistic missiles launched by the rebels, in a sharp uptick in cross-border attacks on the kingdom.

The coalition said the drones were aimed at "civilian" targets in Saudi Arabia, SPA reported, without specifying the locations.

The two intercepted missiles targeted the southern city of Jizan, the coalition added, without stating whether there were any casualties or damage.

The rebels on Twitter claimed they attacked military targets in the southern cities of Iizan and Asir.

The Huthis have stepped up attacks on Saudi Arabia in recent weeks as they escalate an offensive closer to home, to seize the Yemeni government's last northern stronghold of Marib.

In a statement after its strikes, the coalition said that targeting civilians in the kingdom was a "red line." adding that the Huthis' actions "will not lead to an imposition of a political settlement.

#### **Escalation in fighting**

The escalation comes as Washington resumes efforts for a resolution to the grinding conflict, which has claimed tens of thousands of lives and displaced millions, according to international organizations.

The United States last month delisted the Huthis as terrorists and stepped up efforts to resolve the six-year war.

The terror designation, imposed in the final days of the Trump administration, had been widely criticized by aid groups who warned it would hamper efforts to alleviate a humanitarian crisis in Yemen.

The coalition said the Huthis had interpreted their removal from the list "in a hostile way," adding that coalition "victories" in Marib had prompted the rebels to step up their attacks inside the kingdom.

On Saturday, Yemeni government sources said fierce fighting between pro-government forces and the rebels in oil-rich Marib had killed at least 90 fighters on both sides over 24 hours

Years of bombing have failed to shake the rebels' hold on Sanaa, and they have steadily expanded their reach in the country's north.

# **Unicef: 10M Additional Girls At Risk** Of Child Marriage Due To Covid-19

7ith 25 million child marriages averted in the last decade, Unicef issues warning on International Women's Day that these gains are now under serious threat

The outsized impact Covid-19 has had on women in some countries could result in an additional 10 million child marriages in this decade, according to a new analysis released on Monday by Unicef.

"School closures, economic stress, service disruptions, pregnancy and parental deaths due to the pandemic are putting the most vulnerable girls at increased risk of child marriage," said a study titled "Covid-19: A threat to progress against child marriage."

That trend, if confirmed, would represent a serious retreat from recent years of progress against child marriage.

In the last 10 years, according to the study, the proportion of young women globally who were married as children had declined by 15%, from nearly one in four to one in five, the equivalent of some 25 million marriages averted, a gain that is now under threat. That progress "is now under threat. the study, released on International Women's Day.

"Covid-19 has made an al-



ready difficult situation for millions of girls even worse," said Unicef executive director Henrietta Fore.

"Shuttered schools, isolation from friends and support networks, and rising poverty have added fuel to a fire the world was already struggling to put out.

Girls who marry in child-hood, the study said, are more likely to experience domestic violence and less likely to remain in school. They face an increased risk of early and unplanned pregnancy, and maternal complications and mortality. Isolation from family and

friends can take "a heavy toll on their mental health." Meantime, pandemic-reated travel restrictions and physical distancing have made

it harder for girls "to access

the health care, social services

Diana died in a high-speed car

crash in a Paris tunnel in August

1997 having been stripped of her

funeral, the monarchy was rocked

by an unprecedented outpouring of

grief for the popular "people's prin-

Anger mounted at the silence of

Newspapers, furious that the

Union Jack flag was not flying at half-

mast over Buckingham Palace, called

on the queen to address her subjects.

Within days she had paid homage

senior royals, who were on holiday

at the queen's Balmoral estate in

For the week leading up to her

royal status.

northeast Scotland.

while making it more likely that they drop out of school. In addition, families facing economic hardship may seek to marry off their daughters to ease financial burdens. The report estimates that

and community support that

protect them from child mar-

riage, unwanted pregnancy

and gender-based violence,'

650 million girls and women alive today were married in childhood, about half of them in Bangladesh, Brazil, Ethiopia, India or Nigeria.

Fore called for countries to reopen schools, implement legal reforms, ensure access to health and social services while providing measures to protect families. By doing so, she

can significantly reduce a girl's risk of having her childhood stolen through child marriage.'

# NEWS MAKERS Sex, Death And Racism: UK's Royal Scandals

Agenceis

LONDON: Prince Harry and his mixed-race wife Meghan have claimed that the British royals were worried how dark their son's skin might be, during a potentially damaging US TV interview in which she also said she had suicidal thoughts after being hounded by the press.

It came after Meghan accused Buckingham Palace of peddling lies about her. It is the latest instalment in a long-running royal soap opera.

#### Love over country

The abdication of Edward VIII, 326 days into his reign in 1936, remains the biggest scandal in modern royal history.

It was over another American divorcee -- socialite Wallis Simpson -- who he stepped down to marry, sparking a constitutional crisis. Their union was deemed impos-

sible while Edward was monarch and head of the Church of England, which at the time refused to remarry divorcees while their former spouse was still alive. Edward was the first monarch in

the 1,000-year history of the British Crown to give up the throne of his own free will.

His brother King George VI replaced him and Edward was ostracised by the royal family until the late 1960s. He died in 1972.

#### Margaret's heartbreak

Queen Elizabeth II's fun-loving younger sister Princess Margaret also sparked a firestorm with her choice of husband.

In 1952, the then 22-year-old



began a romance with her late father's divorced aide, former Royal

Air Force officer Peter Townsend. Their wish to marry prompted a battle between the disapproving government and the public -- which was seen to be sympathetic to the union --

with the queen caught in the middle. Margaret was eventually persuaded to abandon the relationship and instead married photographer Antony Armstrong-Jones in 1960. They divorced in 1978.

#### A horrible year

The queen memorably described 1992 as an "annus horribilis" after three of her children's marriages crumbled and a fire devastated her Windsor Castle home.

Heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles' split from Princess Diana after 11 years of marriage caused a media sensation.

She then rocked the monarchy by leaking shocking details of palace life to author Andrew Morton for his 1992 book "Diana: Her True Story -In Her Own Words".

Prince Andrew separated from wife Sarah Ferguson. Meanwhile Princess Anne, her

Then the queen's second son

only daughter, divorced her first husband Mark Phillips.

Diana's death

to her former daughter-in-law in a televised speech. She also publicly bowed before Diana's coffin.

### **Prince Andrew scandal**

Prince Andrew has been dogged by allegations he had sex with one of the teenage victims of deceased US sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

The prince, often referred to as the queen's "favourite son", attempted to clear his name in a disastrous BBC interview in November 2019.

He was forced to "step back from public duties" but remains under pressure to cooperate with US prosecutors and faces fresh scrutiny after the arrest of Ghislaine Maxwell, Epstein's former partner.

Harry and Meghan walk away Prince Harry sent the royal family into another spin when he and his American actress wife, Meghan, stepped backed from royal duties in

2020 and moved to North America. Their departure -- dubbed "Megxit" in the British press, which has often been hostile to her -- came after an apparent falling out with Harry's older brother William and his wife Kate.

Last month, the palace ordered the couple to relinquish their honorary titles and patronages.

Relations dived further after the pair gave two TV interviews in the US, including one with Oprah Winfrey in which they alleged racism among the royals and a rift with Harry's father, Prince Charles.

Meghan also claims that a famous story that she made Kate cry before her wedding was fabricated. "The reverse happened," she said. It was the Duchess of Cambridge who pushed her to tears over bridesmaid dresses.

### Switzerland 'Burga Ban' Referendum: Voters Opt To Ban Full Face Coverings In Public



Agenceis

Switzerland on Sunday (local time) narrowly voted in favour of banning full facial coverings including the niqab and burqa in almost all public places. As many as 51.21 per cent of voters voted in support of the controversial proposal in the referendum.

According to CNN, the approval by voters means that facial covering will be banned in all publicly accessible places, including on the streets, in public offices, on public transport, in restaurants, shops and in the countryside.

The places where the full facial coverings will be allowed include places of worship and other sacred sites. Besides, it will be allowed for health and safety reasons and also in situations where it is "local custom" such as carnivals.

There will be no additional exceptions, for example for tourists, according to the proposal by the Swiss federal government.

According to CNN, the proposal, put forward by several groups including the right-wing Swiss People's Party, does not mention Islam specifically but has been widely referred to as the "burga ban" in Swiss media.

The proposal has been widely criticised, especially by the Swiss religious organizations, human rights and civic groups and the federal government. According to the Swiss Council

of Religions, which represents all

major religious communities in

Switzerland, has stated the hu-

man right to religious freedom also protects religious practices such as dress codes. The Swiss Federal Council. which serves as the country's federal government, and the Swiss Parliament also rejected the initiative as going

against it. CNN reported. France was the first country in Europe to ban burgas and niqabs in public places in 2011 and the European Court of Human Rights upheld the ban in 2014.

too far and advised people to vote

In Switzerland, the referendum has come after years of debates. Twelve years ago another referendum had come that outlawed the construction of minarets in Switzerland.

# **Worker Dies After** Falling From Railway Bridge in Ramban

**Observer News Service** 

RAMBAN: A 36-year-old man died on the spot while two others were injured after they fell from an under-construction railway bridge in Ramban district of Jammu division.

The government officials said that the incident occurred during the construction of the bridge of Kashmir rail project at Sumbar area of Ramban district.

The injured duo was shifted to Ramban hospital, from where one was referred to Government Medical College (GMC) Hospital in Jammu for further treatment.

Doctors said one was declared brought dead at the hospital while two others were admitted for treat-

ment. Police identified the deceased as Zahoor Ahmad Sohil, a resident of Heewagan in Ramban district. The injured have been identified as Pradeep Kumar, 22, and Faisal Bashir, 20, a resident of Tangmarg in Baramulla district. Meanwhile, locals protested outside the premises of the district hospital in Ramban against railway Construction Company for allegedly not providing ambulance service to the injured.

They claimed that the man died on the way to the district hospital after he was shifted in a Camper pickup vehicle. They alleged that the construction company did not provide an ambulance to the injured, which is "negligence" on the part of the executing agency. (CNS)

# **J&K Bank Celebrates International Women's Day**

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Bank celebrated International Women's Day at its Corporate Headquarters on Monday. The bank's Chairman and Managing Director R K Chhibber was the Chief Guest at the function to celebrate the rich contribution of women during the deadly Covid Pandemic especially in banking sector, a banks statement said. The bank's top management was also present on the occasion.

The CMD hailed the role of women in general and Bank's female staff in particular for their significant contribution towards the development of an inclusive and genderequal society.

He said, "Women are good managers by nature for they play a key role in managing the affairs of not only their homes but add value to their work in offices and every sphere of life in a society. J&K Bank has always provided them equal opportunities to work and excel in this institution and also supported women in their business endeavours. With a spirit of commitment and skills of management, the women have assumed leadership roles and contributed immensely to the growth and development of the institution while as women entrepreneurs supported by the Bank have made a name for themselves in their respective fields.

"I feel happy to be part of this function that celebrates courage, commitment and care of women in general and especially their will to excel in every field of life. Towards such noble objectives, J&K Bank has always been proactive in empowering women to help them realise their dreams and aspirations vis a vis diverse field of activities," the

Congratulating the Bank's female workforce for their professionalism,

President/CFO Rajni Saraf in her inaugural address, echoed CMD's assertion that J&K Bank has always been at the forefront of promoting the idea of women empowerment through various financial interventions.

"Leadership is all about inspiring others with your presence and make them deliver their best. I congratulate all my female colleagues, who form around 25 percent of the J&K Bank staff, for making this campaign a success and I feel very proud to celebrate the occasion amongst you. CMD Sir's presence here is an endorsement of the fact that J&K Bank is a special place for women to work in with human dignity and feminine prestige," said Rajni Saraf.

Vice-President Tabassum Nazir said she was happy to see her female colleagues work so confidently.

"It is so heartening to see women workforce work so enthusiastically and contribute to the overall development of the region. Today we have heard stories of courage and resilience from some of our colleagues and it is so encouraging to learn that they brave adversities to give their best for the greater good of the institution," she said.

Vice-President Manju Gupta pressed for giving equal opportunities to girls without any fear.

"As you know the theme for this year's International Women's Day is "Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world", we at J&K Bank fully recognise the effort and need for inclusiveness in terms of empowering the society," she said. Speaking on the occasion, a few female officers gave an account of their experiences of life in general and working in banking sector in

Meanwhile Women's Day celebrations were also held in Jammu at Zonal Office Central I with Zonal Head/Vice-President Shareesh Sharma as the chief guest on the occasion.

# District Residency Programme To Be Implemented In 12 Rural District Hospitals

**Observer News Service** 

JAMMU: Financial Commissioner, Health & Medical Education, Atal Dulloo, Monday chaired a meeting of UT level Steering Committee for implementation of District Residency Programme (DRP) in Jammu and Kashmir, for the batch of 2020 PG students admitted in various Medical Colleges of the UT.

The meeting was attended by Principal, Govt. Medical College, Jammu, Dr. Shashi Sudan Sharma; Director (Coordination) New Medical Colleges J&K, Dr. Yashpal Sharma; Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr. Samir Mattoo; Director Health Services Jammu, Dr. Renu Sharma and Registrar, the University of Jammu while as Director SKIMS, Srinagar, Principal, Govt. Medical College Srinagar, Registrar Academics, Govt. Medical College Srinagar and Registrar, University of Kashmir attended the meeting through virtual mode.

Speaking during the meeting, Atal Dulloo said that this programme will be a game-changer in Medical Education as the PG students will get benefitted from rural postings and the patient care in Rural districts will be improved.

Dr. Yashpal Sharma on the occa-



sion gave a detailed power point presentation regarding the implementation of the programme. He informed the meeting that all post-graduate students pursuing MD/MS in broad specialties (Clinical / Non-clinical) shall have to undergo a compulsory residential rotation of three months in District Hospitals as a part of the course curriculum. He added that the rotation shall take place in the 3rd, 4th and 5th semester of the PG programme.

The meeting decided that the District Residency Programme shall be implemented in twelve rural district

hospitals with more than 100 beds capacity and availability of the concerned specialists.

The Financial Commissioner directed the Principals of Medical Colleges and Director SKIMS to provide the details of PG students admitted in the academic year 2020 besides Director Health Services Jammu and Kashmir were directed to intimate the availability of specialists and facilities in the District Hospitals so as to start the District Residency Programme at the earliest.

Atal Dulloo further stressed on them to ensure the availability of accommodation, transport facilities and the security for the District Residents during the stay at the respective Districts.

Pertinently, the Board of Governors in Supersession of Medical Council of India amended the Post Graduate Medical Education Regulations 2000, by incorporating District Residency Programme. This programme will expose the post graduate student to District Health System and involve them in health care services being provided at the District Hospitals for learning while serving. Notably, the DRP shall be implemented from the month of June, 2021 across Jammu and Kashmir

# **Three Day International Women's Day Celebrations Begin at IUST**



**Observer News Service** 

AWANTIPORA: Celebrating the excellence of Women in various fields, Islamic University of Science and Technology started three days celebrations from Monday on the theme 'Women in leadership" while observing International Women's Day 2021.

Speaking at the inaugural function, Registrar IUST, Prof. Naseer Iqbal congratulated female students for their splendid academic performance as was reflected in the recently held convocation of IUST wherein around 70% of the gold medalists were girls.

Dr. Muneja Khan, Head, Department of English Language and Literature while recognising the strides women have made so far, urged them not to feel complacent and move forward with equal zeal and zest. Dr. Fozia Qazi, Head Department of Mathematical Sciences, citing various data from national and international sources sensitized the audience about the abysmal presence of women at leadership positions and the need for change.

The event is based on a number of activities including seminars, mental health sessions, painting competitions, poetry competitions and many more.

# **CUK VC Attends Bar Council Meet**



**Observer News Service** 

**NEW DELHI:** Central University of Kashmir (CUK) Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir attended a meeting convened by the Bar Council of India to discuss various issues pertaining to Legal Education, L.L.B, L.L.M. programmes, teachers and professional skill development programmes, nomination to Committees of Bar Council of India here.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir spoke on Legal education and Legal profession in the country. He spoke with critical analysis, the role of the Bar Council of India and its operational issues, Prof. Mehrai ud Din discussed threadbare the issue about the BCI role and as to whether one LL.M course should be scrapped.

He said the standard of legal education has direct bearing on the standard of Legal Profession. Universities/institutions make provisions for obtaining an LL.M. Degree in a most casual manner; without even having any requirement of attending regular classes, and in some places even without having any classes, and without having duly qualified Teachers/PG Faculty/PG Council, (Associate Professors or Professors) and proper infrastructure and degrees are doled out so conveniently," he remarked.

The event was attended by Senior Advocates, Judges, VC's of the Law Universities in India and many other professionals from the field.

# Shab-e-Mehraj: Div Com Stresses On **Ensuring Hassle-free Arrangements**

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole Monday convened a meeting of officers to review arrangements for celebrations of ensuing Shab-i-Meraj and Maha Shivratri festivals.

The meeting among others was attended by CEO Waqf Board, Chief Engineers from, R&B, PDD, PHE, Director FCS&CA Kashmir, Regional Transport Officer Kashmir, SP Rural Traffic and representatives of other concerned departments. The Deputy Commissioners also attended the meeting through videoconferencing.

The Div Com stressed on ensuring all arrangements are put in place across all the places where gatherings are held during the celebrations of Shab-I-Mehraj.

The CEO Waqf Board apprised the chair that no night prayers shall be held in wake of the Covid-19 while only small gatherings shall be held during the display of holy relic at Dargah and other reli-

The Div Com directed the conrerned to establish a joint control



people coming to all places follow covid SOPs strictly.

SMC authorities were instructed to deploy additional safai karamcharis at all required places to ensure proper cleaning of all religious places. Besides, mobile toilets facility is also made available to the devotees. He also emphasised on unin-

terrupted power and water supply with additional water tankers and gensets are stationed at all required spots during the festivals. The Div Com stressed on making

fool-proof security arrangements including proper frisking and proper deployment at all venues.

FCS&CA authorities were asked to ensure availability of essential commodities across room at Hazratbal and ensure besides timely supply of rations

The concerned were directed to ensure availability of mutton and the same is sold as per the government rates while as sale centre of fish, walnut and Lotus stem are set up in all Pandit Community areas. In order to curb black market-

ing, the Div Com called for rigorous market checking.

He also stressed on smooth arrangements of transport, separate parking and proper route plan is formulated for the hassle-free to and fro movement of vehicles.

Health authorities were asked to ensure deployment of doctors, paramedics along with ambulances and screening teams at all shrines and religious places during the gatherings.

# **Thakur Assures Early Resolution Of Industrial Issues**



**Observer News Service** 

JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce (I&C) Department, Ranjan Prakash Thakur Monday held a series of interactions with various Industrial Associations at Udyog Bhawan here in order to get an insight into the issues being faced by them.

Lalit Mahajan of Bari Brahmana Industries Association (BBIA) requested for compensating the erosion of competitive edge due to abolition of Toll by extending the benefit of incoming freight reimbursement along with suitable

Turnover based incentive. Mahajan also raised the issue of non-applicability of GST Linked Incentive for existing units undertaking substantial expansion with the Principal Secretary and sought early redressal of the same.

The representatives also raised issues like imposition of Bottling Fee, Export duty on Indian Manufactured Foreign Liquor (IMFL) Units, Contract Manufacturing, rationalisation of fees regarding Change in constitution of units, purchase price preference to local units and changing of water usage charges by J&K State Water Resources Regulatory with the Principal Secretary and sought his early intervention for

redressing the same. A delegation from Laghu Udvog Bharati also met Principal Secretary and sought free hold rights of leased land for local entreprenurs. They demanded preference for local manufactured products on the GeM portal in projects under implementation in the Union Territory of J&K. A delegation of office bearers from

Association of Industries, Gangyal and Birpur Industries Association led by Rattan Dogra also meet the Principal Secretary and sought his intervention for effective implementation of local filter on GeM portal for the benefit of local enterprises.

President of Association of Industries also met the Principal Secretary and raised the issue of local labour stipulation for disbursement of incentives. The Principal Secretary gave a patient hearing to all the issues raised by the delegations and assured that due care shall be taken during implementation of different policies here. He added that concrete steps will be taken so that not only existing units survive but also flourish and contribute to the economy of J&K.

RP Thakur acknowledged the issues being faced by Industries in J&K and assured them that they will be looked into meticulously for their early resolution.

Director Industries & Commerce Jammu, Anoo Malhotra along with other officers of the Department were also present during the interactions.

# **India Should Abide By UN Charter To Deal With** Rohingya Crisis: Dr Farooq

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Monday said he does not have time to campaign for the Trinamool Congress in the upcoming West Bengal assembly elections.

He also asserted that India should abide by the United Nations charter on refugees in dealing with the Rohingya crisis. "I do not have time for cam-

paigning," Abdullah told reporters when asked if he would join West Bengal chief minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee during the campaigning for the upcoming state polls.

Responding to another question about a major drive launched by the government against illegally settled Rohingya Muslims in Jammu, the NC leader underlined. "We know the situation in their land... India is a signatory to the UN charter on refugees and we should abide by it and work on humanitarian grounds".

The Jammu and Kashmir administration had on Saturday sent 168 Rohingyas to a jail in Kathua district after they were found living illegally in Jammu city during a verification drive.

Speaking at another function at his party headquarters to mark the International Women's Day, Abdullah said nobody can come to the country without the approval of the Government of India. "Nobody can settle here with-

out the Government of India's permission," he said, urging party workers to remain cautious against any false propaganda on the issue. His remarks come in the



backdrop of the BJP accusing the National Conference (NC) and the Congress of settling foreign refugees, including Rohingyas and Bangladeshi nationals, in Jammu city.

The Rohingyas are a Bengalidialect speaking Muslim minority in Myanmar. Following persecution in their country, many of them entered India illegally through Bangladesh and took shelter in Jammu and other parts of the country.

Many political parties and social organisations in Jammu have urged the Centre to take immediate steps for the deportation of Rohingyas and Bangladeshi nationals, alleging that their presence is a "conspiracy to alter the demographic character" in the region and a "threat to peace".

More than 13,700 foreigners, including Rohingya Muslims and Bangladeshi nationals, are settled in Jammu and Samba districts of Jammu and Kashmir, where their population has increased by over 6,000 between 2008 and 2016, according to government data.







# KASHMIR

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the

Kashmir Observer LLP

Published from: #5-Boulevard, Srinagar-190001

Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Ind Area, Srinagar.

RNI Registration No: 69503/98

Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16

Editor-in-Chief: Sajjad Haider

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#### KO VIEW

# Changing tack on Kashmir

he General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the 15 Corps in Srinagar Lt Gen BS Raju has in a recent interview to News18 said that the number of militants in Kashmir was lowest in a decade. According to him there are over 125 local militants and 90 foreign militants. "We will like to keep it that way or reduce it further for peace to prosper in the Valley," said Lt Gen Raju. The Army commander who is set to take over as the next Director General of Military Operations was speaking in the wake of the re-affirmation of the 2003 ceasefire agreement along the Line of Control by India and Pakistan. The agreement, the GOC said, will contribute to peace along the LoC and also in Kashmir.

True, there's hope that the ceasefire agreement and likely resumption of dialogue between the two countries could go some way to reduce the violence in Kashmir. More so, when there's already a precedent for this when the LoC ceasefire agreement was first signed. The 2003-07 peace process between the neighbours not only came close to resolving Kashmir issue but also for the first time since its beginning in 1989, militancy went through a progressive decline. According to the South Asia Terrorism Portal, from 2,542 militancy related fatalities in 2003, the number went down to 777 by 2007. A similar history can very well repeat itself. The talks and the progress towards resolution of the issues between the two countries will go a long to positively impact the situation in Kashmir.

But things can go awry too. As far as the number of militants there are over 200 active militants in J&K if we go by the estimate of the Lt Gen Raju. This has been more or less the annual number of militants over the past four years. And there's little hope there will be marked decline in the near future. The simultaneous recruitment of the local youth in the militant ranks and the infiltration from across the border invariably replenishes the shortfall caused by the killings of the militants. And it will continue to do so unless the dynamic that animates the militancy is addressed. And this redressal is not in the killing of the militants but in a meaningful political outreach to the people of J&K and also in a dialogue between India and Pakistan. But this outreach and the bilateral talks with Pakistan have been more or less absent over the past six years. The LoC truce has generated fresh hope on this score. Here's hoping it's followed by a sustainable dialogue.

#### OTHER OPINON

# Dissent vs Sedition

ejecting a petition that sought action against former Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) chief minister and one of the country's senior-most leaders, Farooq Abdullah, for his comments opposing the Centre's changes in the erstwhile state, a two-judge Supreme Court (SC) bench on Wednesday said that dissent cannot be considered sedition. The bench said that "the expression of a view which is a dissent from a decision taken by the Central government itself cannot be said to be seditious". This is an important judicial intervention and merits unequivocal support. And it comes soon after a Delhi court, while granting bail to activist Disha Ravi, who too was charged with sedition, had said that offence of sedition could not be invoked to minister to "the wounded vanity of governments"

Any State must carefully defend its sovereignty, territorial integrity, and security interests. But this cannot be the basis to undermine the equally cherished constitutional tenets of freedom and the political structure of democracy and deny citizens their fundamental rights. Unfortunately, the executive has shown an increasing tendency to use the framework of sedition in recent years. The ministry of home affairs informed the Rajya Sabha that out of the 96 people arrested for sedition in 2019, only two were convicted. There was a 25% increase in sedition cases in 2019, which resulted in a spike in arrests, but the abysmal conviction record suggests that the cases are often not grounded in adequate evidence.

There is a larger principle involved here. India's legal architecture has enough room to charge those whose statements or actions are meant to stir up violence against the State. Sedition, a colonial-era law, often used to implicate citizens who are exercising democratic rights of dissent, should have no space in the Constitution

Hindustan Times

# Pope in Iraq

Pope's historical Iraq visit underlined his commitment to interfaith dialogue, tolerance and coexistence, and their necessity in today's world

Asad Mirza

-Though symbolic, this sort of messaging carries enough weight and support amongst people, many of whom are guided by such spiritual and kind-hearted initiatives by their religious leaders



he Head of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis arrived in Iraq, last Friday, 5 March, to a red carpet and military-band reception, at the beginning of the first-ever papal visit to Iraq. He went with a plea for the country to protect its centuries-old diversity, urging Muslims to embrace their Christian neighbours and asking the embattled Christian community -- "though small like a mustard

seed" -- to persevere. The aim of the trip was to encourage Iraq's dwindling Christian communities, which have faced violent persecution by the now defunct Islamic State group, to stop fleeing Iraq and to promote greater dialogue with Iraq's Shiite majority.

The visit was marred by controversy due to Pope's decision to travel during the continuing pandemic, but the Vatican defended his decision, saying all health care precautions had been taken and that the trip was an "act of love for this land, for its people and for its Christians.

During his meeting in Baghdad with Iraqi President Barham Salih, Pope Francis said Christians and other minorities in Iraq deserve the same rights and protections as the Shiite Muslim maiority. He said that the religious, cultural and ethnic diversity that has been a hallmark of Iraqi society for millennia is a precious resource on which to draw, not an obstacle to eliminate, and urged ly in the Middle East, that diversity, instead of giving rise to conflict, should lead to harmonious co-operation in society.

President Salih, belonging to ethnic Kurdish minority, echoed his call. He was of the view that the East cannot be imagined without Christians and the continued migration of Christians from the countries of the east will have dire consequences for the region in future.

In his long and momentous meeting with Iraq's Grand Ayatollah Ali Al Sistani, the most influential Shiite cleric, in the holy city of Najaf, the Pope urged Muslims to embrace Iraq's beleaguered Christian minority. On his part, the Shiite cleric affirmed his concern for Christians and said that they should live like all Iragis in peace and security, and with their full constitutional rights. He also said that religious authorities have a role in protecting Iraq's Christians.

The Vatican said Francis thanked Al Sistani for having "raised his voice in defence of the

weakest and most persecuted" during some of the most violent times in Iraq's recent history. The Pope further said that Al Sistani's message of peace affirmed "the sacredness of human life and the importance of the unity of the Iraqi people".

#### Cradle of Civilisation

The Pope later visited the ruins of ancient Ur in southern Iraq, revered as the birthplace of Prophet Abraham, father of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, to reinforce his message of interreligious tolerance and fraternity.

In his speech, Pope urged Iraq's Muslim and Christian religious leaders to put aside animosities and work together for peace and unity. He underlined that hostility, extremism and violence are not born of a religious heart. He also urged Iraq's Muslim and Christian religious leaders to put aside animosities and work together for peace and unity during an interfaith meeting in the traditional birthplace of Prophet Abraham.

In Irbil, the head of Iraq's Kurdistan region, Nechirvan Barzani, welcomed him. He then travelled by helicopter on to Mosul where he visited Church Square to pray for the victims of a war which left thousands of civilians dead.

Referring to the historic re gion of Mesopotamia, which covered much of modern Iraq including Mosul, Pope Francis wondered aloud how cruel it is that this country, the cradle of civilisation, should have been afflicted by so barbarous a blow, with ancient places of worship destroyed and many thousands of people - Muslims, Christians, Yazidis and others - forcibly displaced or killed.

#### **Christian-Muslim Relations**

Pope's Iraq visit was in keeping with Francis' long-standing efforts to improve relations with the Muslim world, which have been augmented in recent years with his friendship with the leading Sunni cleric, Sheikh Ahmed Al Tayeb. Sheikh is an imam and academic at the Al Azhar University in Cairo and he signed a landmark document on February 4 in Abu Dhabi, with the Pope.

The document calls for greater mutual understanding and solidarity to confront the problems facing the world. With the backing of the United Arab Emirates, the initiative has gone on to create a high-level commission to spread the message and plans are under way to build a centre in Abu Dhabi with a synagogue, mosque and church to demonstrate the feasibility of interfaith coexistence and sharing.

#### Christians in Iraq

In Iraq, the pontiff brought his call for tolerance to a country rich in ethnic and religious diversity but one which has been intercepted by problems. After the invasion of the country by the US in 2003, it has seen vicious sectarian violence between Shiites and Sunni Muslims, clashes and rising tensions between Arabs and Kurds, and militant atrocities against minorities like Christians and Yazidis.

In Iraq, Christian presence goes back nearly to the time of Christ. They subscribe to a number of rites and denominations, of which the Chaldean Catholic is the largest sect, along with Syriac Catholics, Assyrians and several Orthodox churches. They once constituted a sizable minority in Iraq. estimated at around 1.4 million. But their numbers began to fall rapidly.

#### Pope's call for Tolerance and Coexistence

Pope Francis's efforts to promote tolerance and coexistence amongst faiths and particularly between Christians and Muslims are nothing new. His efforts have earlier seen endorsing partnership with Sheikh Tayeb in the recent past and the messaging. which he conveyed in Iraq.

Though symbolic, this sort of messaging carries enough weight and support amongst people, many of whom are guided by such spiritual and kind-hearted initiatives by their religious leaders. Such gestures and meetings become the cornerstone of long lasting partnership among faiths, which has been a hallmark of Iraq particularly, which is often described as the cradle of civilisation and has seen co-existence of Christians, Jews and Muslims together in a tolerant manner, each paying tribute to other's faith and holding all faiths as equal.

Pope's Iraq visit underlined his commitment to interfaith dialogue, tolerance and coexistence and it is need of the hour to promote these sentiments amongst the masses and the political leadership too, particularly in the backdrop of the continuing pandemic, when each can help the other with sensitivity and sympathy, and in countries where these values were the hallmark of their secular setup but are now being eroded due to narrow interests.

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



**OBSERVER** 

All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, spaceand accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

#### MAIL YOUR LETTERS

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# **Kudos to Kashmir Observer**

belong to a category of people, who still don't prefer to have breakfast before having a brief glimpse of newspapers just to know about the daily happenings in and around the globe. From the past few years, newspaper content has become the casualty after the muzzling of genuine voices of journalists by regimes In power, that has led to decreasing readership of newspapers, infact some of my known friends who happened to be avid readers of

newspapers have stopped reading newspapers altogether. This is because impartial and unbiased reporting with good editorial policy seems to have become the thing of the past. But some newspapers have converted this adversity into an opportunity and kept the flame of professional iournalism alive.

I am writing this from the deep depths of my heart: Kashmir Observer belongs to that category of newspaper whose content is food for thought

for avid newspaper readers like me.I love to read editorials, features and op-ed articles on KO. The bottom line report especially is always carrying something unique and path breaking which often leads to a creation of narrative among the masses to know further about it.

Last but not the least, Kashmir Observer's multimedia team is doing a very good job. Unlike other multimedia videos,KO's are a treat to

I am hopeful the Kashmir Observer news media team will keep on getting better and better to serve its readers with impartial and unbiased news reports without carrying an agenda. I would like to take this opportunity to suggest everyone to read Kashmir Observer and recommend it to friends as well.

> Malik Javid malikjavid86@gmail.com

# Why We Need to Stop Justifying Islam Through Secular Paradigms

MARIYA BINT REHAN

With age, the rage incited by the kind of open, shameless bigotry often levelled against Islam tends to loose its impassioned sheen, leaving a jaded and hardened shell of emotion devoid of any motivating impulse that might render it productive

oni Morrison famously cites racism's greatest achievement as distraction. Like the resonating tones of a standing bell, this quote only appears to reverberate within my consciousness, renewing and deepening my understanding of it with time.

And so it was, as I unwound from another day of emergency covid home schooling, that the viral clip of Zara Mohammed on BBC Woman's Hour reared its infuriating head on my Twitter feed. I tend to refrain from survey ing mainstream news outtakes that are doing the rounds on Muslim Twitter with all the ease of a veteran. With age, the rage incited by the kind of open, shameless bigotry often levelled against Islam tends to loose its impassioned sheen, leaving a jaded and hardened shell of emotion devoid of any motivating impulse that might render it productive.

Unfortunately the justified optimism I felt at Zara's appointment as the youngest, and first female leader of MCB (Muslim Council of Britain) meant I let my guard down and pressed play expectantly. The bitter taste it left in my mouth distracted me from the rest of the evenings planned activities. The emotional muscle memory threw me off course from the communal, celebratory sentiment of this moment in British Muslim history. It jettisoned the next few minutes of mindless internet browsing in exchange for several hastily drafted, and soon deleted, messages to friends to pent out the frustrations it gave rise to. And ultimately it's led to me sitting here typing out this riposte, despite my best intentions not to.

I fully acknowledge the well worn argument that Muslim women's energy is wasted responding to the rippling impacts of bigotry and false stereotype.

The 'Inception' levels of irony that I sit here wasting time and energy responding to an incident in which another Muslim woman's time and energy were wasted, is not in any way lost on me. But what prompts the response is, similarly, what I feel occurred during that barely one-minute long excerpt: an inability for us as Muslims, and Britons, to address what I feel is the true matter at hand, a kind of restrictive cultural straight-jacket which prevents us from being able to have anywhere near a meaningful dialogue concerning difference.

There is no doubt that Zara behaved with composure and grace throughout the interview, and maintained every level of grace despite the unabashed levels of arrogance and paternalism displayed in that now infamous clip. And contrary to what either side of the debate said – I believe Mohammed was more statesmanlike than many of today's seasoned politicians, I believe she responded to the confrontation in the only way it could have been, given the circumstances.

It is clear she was well appointed, and my optimism doesn't wane in the slightest in light of the events that unfolded under the obviously performative outrage of the show's host. Conversely, I also don't blame Barnett personally for the glaring misgivings exhibited in the clip any more than I blame her for showing bias against any other guest that may not align with her own strategic political positioning. The illusion of impartiality in broadcast journalism no longer exists



for me. And I do buy into the argument that Muslim leaders should be held to account in the same way that other political or cultural figures are, while simultaneously acknowledging that, like most BBC broadcasters, Barnett will shrewdly choose whether or not to give a guest a run for their proverbial, or actual, money.

What angered me about the clip, and the specific reason the presenter, Emma Barnett, was able to get away with the charade of mock outrage in this instance, has less to do with what was said, and more to do with what was left unsaid.

It exposed the parameters of public debate in such an acute and jarring way, that it left me with all the frustration of an unvoiced truth, of a topic that, due to social conditioning, language appears to be inadequate for. The presenter has Zara in a rhetorical headlock, knowing full well the power imbalance was in her favour and not the Muslim guest's, because there are certain issues that Muslim public figures simply cannot address, and some tropes concerning Islam that are so entrenched in popular consciousness that we appear to have to forbear them. There is a brick wall when it comes to public conversation that encloses Islam and presents certain topics as off limits outside of the incendiary, mainstream narratives that have come to define them

I don't believe that the BBC Women's Hour team is obtuse enough to be entirely ignorant to the fact that Islamic institutions and structures are not analogous to those of Christianity or Judaism.

I'm sure even if she was unaware that Islam has no system of clergy, that she would at least know that our practice of worship is so starkly different that the very role of an Imam has no comparison outside of Islam from which to draw a parallel. I am sure she might even be able to stretch her mind

enough to encompass the fact that these may not be hierarchical structures in Islamic thought. Yet she continued her line of interrogation knowing full well that the well ingrained asymmetry of gender relations in secular patriarchy, constantly imposed on Islam, meant there was absolutely no way to have anything other than a polemic debate on the issue. An issue which I think it would be insulting to say requires nuance because, frankly, it's discourteous to human intellect to continually imply that anything beyond the forged and farcical black and white, Islamophobic narrative requires additional

By now, 1442 years on, we as a human race should surely have moved past the idea that Islam is a shadowed inversion of liberal humanism or the equally fallacious notion of Judeo-Christian values.

Emma Barnett's self-positioning as a paragon of liberal virtue meant she was able to probe and interrogate Zara on issues of gender in Islam with the absolute impunity granted of someone from a non-Muslilm, whitepassing background. She was able to impose her very singular, privileged idea of gender equality onto the rich tradition of Islam, and use that as a measure of objective worth. We as an audience have become so accustomed to accepting that anything other than secular, liberal endeavours toward gender parity fall short of a universal standard of fairness and equality. Islam is so marred in public imagination and political discourse that there is simply no rhetorical space to pursue anything other than a secular standard of gender equality. Therefore there was no way a meaningful discussion regarding the role of religious leadership could be had.

At this point, the rest of the interview may as well have been done in full clown make-up to match the sheer pretence and rehashed nature of this

farcical, mime of a performance, the physical and ideological posturing, as though you might actually expect a response to a question as politically loaded and condemning as 'How many female Imams are there in Britain' - a question which I would expect to see misspelled on the placard of a disoriented participant of an EDL march. So direct is the line between so-called sophisticated political discourse and racist yob culture. This cat and mouse game was one that, politically speaking, left no room for dialogue or debate. Any response other than diverting the question would have overshadowed more than the interview and Zara's appointment, and for that reason alone, I commend her for so expertly doing so, and not falling into the trap of incrimination. And it was this air of resignation that rang through the interview, and which felt almost palpable.

Islam in Britain is currently relegated to playing a catch-up game to the tune of modern, liberal culture, which starves it of its own language and value system. We are so distracted by this constant effort to justify and qualify our belief system we often lose sight of it entirely.

While it needn't be said, given its glaring omission in dominant narratives; female leadership has a long and healthy tradition in Islamic law and scholarship. The issue of leading prayer, for the majority of Muslims who follow the orthodox position on this, is not nuanced, or complicated. It follows an illustrious tradition leading back to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), in which men are instructed to lead mixed-gender prayers. And a fact that would unite Muslims on either end of the liberal/orthodox spectrum is that either way, this does not lessen the benefit or reward for women.

In perennially justifying Islamic practices through secular paradigms, we lose sight of the fact that worship and prayer are done entirely for Allah alone, and despite the imposition of man-made structures of value, these acts are judged by Allah solely.

Female prayer is no less valuable in the sight of Allah depending on its physical positioning, relative to men, on earth.

The male standard is not what we judge ourselves by.

The worth of our prayer as women is not diminished by the nature of our gender.

We need not inherit hang-ups from a very reductive notion of feminism, and allow our religious identity to be the site for projected social anxieties; this is not our battle. And until we begin to normalise this, first in our own minds, and then through public debate and expression, we will continue to have these false 'gotcha!' moments that privilege a singular way of seeing, and which create an unspoken subtext to every debate, tying ourselves up in rhetorical knots and distracting us from the very nature and purpose of our creation. Therefore, while I commend Zara Mohammed, while not particularly caring for or condemning Emma Barnett, I do feel an abiding sense of sorrow for this protracted distraction which, as Toni Morrison says, is one of racism's greatest achievements.

Amalaliah.com

heard wonderful news that coronavirus has disappeared from India and people are going to shopping malls and visiting hairdressing salons once again

One woman with a toddler told a newspaper reporter that she was fed up sitting at home and did what most people do when they have "cabin fever" — she went to one of the biggest malls in India, just outside Delhi.

(According to medicalnews.com, 'cabin fever' is a feeling of restlessness and irritability that happens to people when they cannot interact with other people and are confined in their homes).

The woman from Delhi also said she flew to two local destinations for holidays. She said initially she was scared of crowds and afraid of getting infected. Now, she sees the infection rates dropping drometically in India.

ping dramatically in India.

Our neighbour also had flown to the north-east to "sit and watch the mountain" from her hotel and meditate and destress. She returned home and then again disappeared, and from her Facebook posts, she is in Kerala and enjoying the lush vegetation and the calm atmosphere at a hill resort, that is dubbed the Kashmir of south India.

# Could coronavirus have vanished from India?

I was fined for not wearing a mask when travelling in my own car, with my wife and kids

Mahmood Saberi

Scientists seemed to be puzzled that while some countries are facing second and third waves, India seems to have learnt to live with the virus. Some say it is because of the youthful population, while others say it because of exposure to viruses over the years.

For one full year I have been trying to learn what the difference is between the virus with a crown and the common flu. Doctors have said both the coronavirus infection and the common flu have similar symptoms. "If you sneeze to the left, it is flu. If you also have fever, just stay at home, dummy," scientists and doctors had said.

Scientists seemed to be puzzled that while some countries are facing second and third waves, India seems to have learnt to live with the virus. Some say it is because of the youthful population, while others say it because of exposure to viruses over the years.

Sometimes, scientists do not have all the answers, unlike my algebra teacher who always got the equation right. The CDC (Centres for Disease Control and Prevention) in US initially told people there was no need to wear a mask, then the WHO said, yes there is a need to wear a mask. Now, we are told it is better to wear two masks.

Why was I confused by the science guys who could not make up their minds whether I should stay one foot away from my fellow beings, or six feet away. I was also told that I could travel in a packed plane as it is safe because the air in the closed metal cabin is freshened up every

now and then, but just not to eat anything during the flight.

#### Back seat driving

I wish to know why I was fined for not wearing a mask when travelling in my own car, with my own wife and my own children? I can understand not smoking with children in the car, but have you tried putting a mask on a wife in a car who loves to do back seat driving?

Finally, just when scientists perfected the vaccine against the infection and just when I was primed up to receiving the 'jab', I was told that I had to wait until after the front-line workers, who are at the forefront of the fight against the pandemic, and who are risking their lives every day to save people, are vaccinated.

A while later I was told it is now the turn of the essential service providers such as the food delivery guys and online retail delivery persons who are an essential part of the economy.

Anyway, the other good news is that I may have herd immunity and that is why I am immune to the virus. Herd immunity FYI, happens when a lot of people go for shopping together.

Gulf News



Agencies

esearchers during a recent study found that eating about five daily servings, two of which were fruits and three vegetables, is likely the optimal amount needed in order to sustain longer life.

The study representing nearly two million adults worldwide was published in the American Heart Association's flagship journal Circulation.

Diets rich in fruits and vegetables help reduce the risk for numerous chronic health conditions that are leading causes of death, including cardiovascular disease and cancer. Yet, only about one in 10 adults eat enough fruits or vegetables, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"While groups like the American Heart Association recommend four to five servings each of fruits and vegetables daily, consumers likely get inconsistent messages about what defines optimal daily intake of fruits and vegetables such as the recommended amount, and which foods to include and avoid," said lead study author Dong D. Wang, M.D., Sc.D., an epidemiologist, nutritionist and a member of the medical faculty at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

Wang and colleagues analyzed data from the Nurses' Health Study and the Health Professionals Follow-Up Study, two studies including more than 100,000 adults who were followed for up to 30 years. Both datasets included detailed dietary information repeatedly collected every two to four years. For this analysis, researchers also pooled data on fruit and vegetable intake and death from 26 studies that included about 1.9 million participants from 29 countries and territories in North and South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia.

Analysis of all studies, with a composite of more than two million participants,

evealed:

-Intake of about five servings of fruits

and vegetables daily was associated with the lowest risk of death. Eating more than five servings was not associated with an additional benefit.

-Eating about two servings daily of fruits and three servings daily of vegetables was associated with the greatest longevity.

-Compared to those who consumed two servings of fruit and vegetables per day, participants who consumed five servings a day of fruits and vegetable had a 13% lower risk of death from all causes; a 12 per cent lower risk of death from cardiovascular disease, including heart disease and stroke; a 10 per cent lower risk of death from cancer; and a 35 per cent lower risk of death from respiratory diseases, such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

-Not all foods that one might consider to be fruits and vegetables offered the same benefits. For example, Starchy vegetables, such as peas and corn, fruit juices and potatoes were not associated with reduced risk of death from all causes or specific chronic diseases. On the other hand, green leafy vegetables, including spinach, lettuce and kale, and fruit and vegetables rich in beta carotene and vitamin C, such as citrus fruits, berries, and carrots, showed benefits.

"Our analysis in the two cohorts of U.S. men and women yielded results similar to those from 26 cohorts around the world, which supports the biological plausibility of our findings and suggests these findings can be applied to broader populations," Wang said.

Wang said this study identifies an optimal intake level of fruits and vegetables and supports the evidence-based, succinct public health message of '5-a-day,' meaning people should ideally consume five servings of fruit and vegetable each day.

"This amount likely offers the most benefit in terms of prevention of major chronic disease and is a relatively achievable intake for the general public," he said.

"We also found that not all fruits and vegetables offer the same degree of benefit, even though current dietary recommenda-

tions generally treat all types of fruits and vegetables, including starchy vegetables, fruit juices and potatoes, the same," added

A limitation of the research is that it is observational, showing an association between fruit and vegetable consumption and risk of death; it does not confer a direct cause-and-effect relationship.

"The American Heart Association recommends filling at least half your plate with fruits and vegetables at each meal," said Anne Thorndike, M.D., M.P.H., chair of the American Heart Association's nutrition committee and an associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School in Boston.

"This research provides strong evidence for the lifelong benefits of eating fruits and vegetables and suggests a goal amount to consume daily for ideal health. Fruits and vegetables are naturally packaged sources of nutrients that can be included in most meals and snacks, and they are essential for keeping our hearts and bodies healthy," added Thorndike.

# Greenhouse gas emissions associated with dietary guidelines vary between countries: Study

Agencies

reenhouse gas emissions associated with national dietary guidelines advocating a healthy diet vary greatly between countries, with US guidelines having the largest carbon footprint and India having the smallest, according to a study involving seven countries.

The study was published in the open-access Nutrition Journal. The variations result from differences in recommendations for and consumptions of individual foods within the six main food groups - protein foods, dairy, grains, fruits, vegetables, and oils/fats.

Diego Rose, the corresponding author said, "Many countries provide recommendations about foods that people should eat for a healthy diet and previous simulations have shown that if the public were to eat according to their government's recommendations, their diets would be both healthier and have a lower carbon footprint."

Rose added, "However, for the US the opposite has been shown; greenhouse gas emissions were simulated to go up if people followed dietary guidelines. This anomaly prompted us to investigate how dietary guidelines vary between countries and the consequent implications for greenhouse gas emissions."

To investigate differences in greenhouse gas emissions associated with different dietary guidelines, a team of researchers at Tulane University compared the dietary guidelines and food consumption patterns of seven countries: Germany, India, the Netherlands, Oman, Thailand, Uruguay, and the United States.

The authors found that the carbon footprint of India's dietary guidelines was compar-



However, for the US the opposite has been shown; greenhouse gas emissions were simulated to go up if people followed dietary guidelines. This anomaly prompted us to investigate how dietary guidelines vary between countries and the consequent implications for greenhouse gas emissions

atively low, with the recommended diet associated with the equivalent of 0.86 kg CO2 per day, compared to the US's with 3.83 kg CO2 per day. The carbon footprint of

the US dietary guidelines was found to be about 1.2 times that of the Netherlands (equivalent to 2.86 kg CO2 per day) and about 1.5 times that of Germany (equivalent to 2.25 kg CO2 per day). The US vegetarian dietary guideline, while much lower than the main US guideline in terms of greenhouse gas emissions (equivalent to 1.80 kg CO2 per day), was still over twice that of India's largely due to the high US dairy recommendation.

The authors also found that the principal difference between the dietary guidelines of the various countries was the wide range of daily recommended amounts for each food group, particularly protein and dairy foods. Daily recommended amounts of dairy foods ranged from 118ml per day for Oman to 710ml per day for the US. The greenhouse gas emissions associated with

these two recommendations were equivalent to 0.17 and 1.10 kg CO2 per day, respectively. The greenhouse gas emissions associated with the protein food recommendations ranged 0.03 kg CO2 per day in India to 1.84 kg CO2 in the US, for recommended amounts of 75g per day and 156g per day, respectively.

Guidelines also varied in terms of which foods were included in each food group. Protein food recommendations in Germany and Uruguay only included animal proteins, the US and Thailand recommended a full spectrum of plant and animal protein foods, whereas India recommended just plant proteins. The US vegetarian guideline recommended plant proteins, accurately and animal proteins, accordingly and animal proteins.

as well as dairy and eggs.

Brittany Kovacs, the lead author said, "As there is great variation in the global warming impacts of these individual foods, which foods people consume and how much of them has an impact on the carbon footprint of dietary guidelines.

For example, consumption

of beef, mutton, and lamb in Uruguay accounts for 31 per cent of protein foods, whereas in Germany it is only 16 per cent. Thus, our calculated greenhouse gas emissions for Uruguay's protein food recommendation is 53 per cent higher than Germany's, despite the fact that both countries' quantity recommendations for protein foods as a food group are about the same."

Rose added, "The US Vegetarian guideline is almost identical in recommendations to the main US guideline, except for the protein group which recommends legumes, soy, nuts, and seeds, as well as eggs - resulting in an overall carbon footprint that is less than half."

The authors caution that the study only considers a single environmental impact of diets, greenhouse gas emissions. Other environmental impacts, such as land and water use, should be considered when evaluating the overall impact of a diet. The study is restricted to the daily quanrecommendations titative of seven countries' dietary guidelines, which may limit its generalizability to other countries.

Kovacs said, "These findings hold insights for future development of dietary guidelines and highlight the importance of including sustainability considerations, such as reductions of protein food and dairy recommendations and/or the inclusion of more plant-based substitutions for animal-based products. By including more sustainable, yet still healthbased, considerations into dietary recommendations, it is possible to influence the environmental impacts of the larger food and agriculture sector in various countries and worldwide.'

# **Future iPhones may arrive with Smart Magnetic Connectors**

Agencies

Apple has patented different types of Magnetic Smart Connector systems that might be used in the company's iPads and iPhones.

According to a Patently-Apple report, the Cupertinobased giant has patented various styles of smart connectors. The US Patent and Trademark Office granted the smartphone manufacturer a patent that details various smart connectors for chargers and smart accessories.

The patent application was filed on April 10, 2018. The patent is titled 'Magnetic surface contacts' and covers a range of appli-

cations relating to magnetic

smart connectors.

Most of Apple's portable electronics product lineup has shifted to wireless charging right from the Apple Watch to the iPhone,



with some devices being MagSafe compatible.

Meanwhile, Apple is reportedly working on two MagSafe battery pack models for iPhone 12 and one version of the battery pack is expected to feature reverse charging support.

With reverse charging, the battery pack will be able to charge an iPhone 12 while also charging Air-Pods from the other side at the same time.

A US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) filing published after the iPhone 12 series debuted last year revealed Apple's MagSafe protocol supports bilateral charging.

# 'Wildfire smoke more harmful than other pollution sources'

ine particles in wildfire smoke can be several times more harmful to human respiratory health than particulate matter from other sources such as car exhaust, say researchers.

While this distinction has been previously identified in laboratory experiments, the new study, published in the journal Nature Communications, confirms it at the population level.

This study reveals the risks of tiny airborne particles with diameters of up to 2.5 microns, about one-20th that of a human hair.

nat of a human hair.

These particles – termed

PM2.5 – are the main component of wildfire smoke and can penetrate the human respiratory tract, enter the bloodstream and impair vital organs.

"There is a daily threshold for the amount of PM2.5 in the air that is considered acceptable by the county and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)," said researcher Rosana Aguilera from University of California - San Diego.

"The problem with this standard is that it doesn't account for different sources of emission of PM2.5," Aguilera added.

To isolate wildfireproduced PM2.5 from other sources of particulate pollution, the researchers defined exposure to wildfire PM2.5 as exposure to strong Santa Ana winds with fire upwind. A second measure of exposure involved smoke plume data from NOAA's Hazard Mapping System.

A 10 microgram-per-cubic meter increase in PM2.5 attributed to sources other than wildfire smoke was estimated to increase respiratory hospital admissions by 1 per cent. The same increase, when attributed to wildfire smoke, caused between a 1.3 to 10 per cent increase in respiratory admissions.

Agencies

## **More Than 81% Women Have Benefited From Stand Up India Scheme: Finmin**



**Agenceis** 

he Finance Ministry released figures of women participation in various schemes on the occasion of International Women's Day highlighting the gradual shift in the socio-economic conditions of women.

It stated that women have been the majority beneficiaries of several schemes launched by the Centre. The specific focus on the women population has also translated in silent but dedicated voters for the Narendra Modi-led NDA government in several elections.

"The Ministry of Finance, in the past seven years, has launched various schemes which have special provisions for empowerment of women. These schemes have financially empowered women to lead a better life and chase their dreams of being an entrepreneur," the ministry said in a statement.

Under the Stand Up India scheme formulated to promote entrepreneurship at grass root level, over 81 per cent of the beneficiaries are women. The Stand Up India scheme launched on April 5, 2016 was to reach out to the under-served sector of people such as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and women entrepreneurs. The objective of this scheme was

to facilitate bank loans between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore to at least one SC/ST borrower and at least one woman borrower per bank branch for setting up a greenfield enterprise. As on February 26, more than 81 per cent 91,109 accounts with an amount of Rs. 20,749 crore have been sanctioned to women entrepreneurs.

In case of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), launched on April 8, 2015 for providing loans up to 10 lakh to the non-corporate, non-farm small/micro enterprises. In last six years, about 68 per cent 19.04 crore accounts with an amount of Rs. 6.36 lakh crore have been sanctioned to women entrepreneurs under MU-DRA scheme since inception.

The Modi government's flagship Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana, launched on August 28, 2014, had brought large chunk of population into the finance literacy, access to credit and insurance benefits. By February 26, 23.21 crore accounts, out of the total 41.93 crore accounts opened under the scheme belonged to women.

The encouraging participation in government financial schemes meant they would be capable of managing their finances confidently and encouraged to take



# Rise In Fuel Prices Triggers Uproar In Rajya Sabha

**Press Trust of India** 

ajya Sabha proceedings were adjourned again till 1pm on Monday amid uproar by opposition members seeking a discussion on the issue of frequent increase in fuel prices. Minutes after the House met

at 11am after the first adjournment, Congress members again demanded the discussion on rising fuel prices in the country.

Leader of the opposition Mallikarjun Kharge sought a discussion on the matter. He said it was important to discuss the matter as people were suffering due to the frequent increase in fuel prices.

Kharge said the legislative business could be taken up later. "This is very important issue and it is a burning subject. Throughout the country, people are agitated," Kharge said. The senior Congress leader said petrol prices have touched nearly Rs 100 a litre while diesel rates are more than Rs 80 per litre and LPG prices have also increased.

Kharge said the government has collected Rs 21 lakh crore by putting excise duty and cess on petroleum products. He said farmers and people are suffering because of rise in prices.

However, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh did not allow the discussion as he noted that the decision of the chairman cannot be reopened. Earlier Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu had not allowed the discussion, saving the issue can be debated later.

As the chair decided to continue with the legislative business, opposition members started shouting slogans, forcing the deputy chairman to adjourn the House till 1 pm. The second part of the Budget

## **Will Support 1 Million Women Entrepreneurs In** Rural India: Sundar Pichai

**Agenceis** 

ech giant Google is launching a global Google.org Impact Challenge for Women and Girls. Under this effort, it will provide \$25 million in overall funding to nonprofits and social organizations in India and around the world that are working to advance women and girls' economic empowerment and create pathways to prosperity.

Google also announced supporting 1 million women entrepreneurs in rural India. Based on learnings from the Internet Saathi programme, Google is introducing a new Women Will web platform. The aim is to continue to support women in rural India to pursue their ambitions

him one thing that could make the biggest difference in their village and their response was Wi-Fi. They showed him different searches they were doing, using their phones, from finding You-Tube videos on stitching to using pesticide to improve crop yields. Another person shared how her life had changed by being able to video call her son, who was a migrant worker.

These stories were powerful reminders about how technology can help transform lives for the better. And in turn, these women helped to make our products better," said Pichai. "For example, they showed how the voice search confused Puri, the food with a place, which inspired us to make improvements.'



and improve their livelihoods through entrepreneurship. This will be complemented by community support, mentorship, and accelerator programs for rural women entrepreneurs.

"The success of the Internet Saathi programme has shown how digital literacy and access can help women to reach their full potential and improve their livelihoods," said Sundar Pichai, CEO, Google and Alphabet at the virtual edition of Google for India event called Women Will. "Based on this success, we are announcing to help 1 million women in rural villages become entrepreneurs through business tutorials, tools and mentorship."

Available in English and Hindi, the Women Will platform is designed especially for women aspiring to explore entrepreneurship. Through a "how to" curriculum on turning an interest into a business, managing an enterprise, and promoting it for growth, the platform will provide guidance and support to women who want to convert an existing hobby or talent such as tailoring, beauty services, home tuition and food processing into some income. To begin with, the platform would work with 2,000 Internet Saathis to help other women gain from this resource and start on eir entrepreneurial iournev

"We always believe the best ways to expand opportunity for everyone is to get technology into the hands of women," said Pichai. "Not only will they use it to make their lives better but (also) for their families and their communities."

An alumnus of IIT-Kharagpur and a native of Tamil Nadu, Pichai observed this firsthand when his mother would invite neighbours to use the rotary phone.

"Sometimes it felt like the whole neighbourhood was in our living room, swapping stories and connecting with the loved ones, who lived far away," said Pichai.

Many years later, in 2017, he met other women in a small rural village outside, Kharagpur making an impact. This time with mobile phones. He was there on a visit as part of the Internet Saathi programme, which trained women living in rural Indian villages to use the Internet.

These women, then travelled to other villages to train more women. He asked them to tell

Internet Saathi is helping narrow the digital gender divide in India. In its six-year journey, this joint effort with Tata Trusts has had a cascading impact benefitting over 30 million women across rural India and contributed to narrowing the digital gender gap in India. The programme was designed to impart digital literacy training to women across 300,000 villages in India. Google said it took the courage and non-stop efforts of over 80,000 women trainers called Internet Saathis to make this possible.

Ratan Tata, chairman of Tata Trusts said it gives him great satisfaction when he sees the success of the joint effort between Google and Tata Trusts in providing education and livelihood to women in rural India. "I appreciate Mr Pichai for acknowledging what we have achieved. I wish to thank him for recognising the tremendous outreach and faith that Google has displayed in this initiative with Tata Trusts."

Pichai said empowering women entrepreneurs could create hundreds of millions of jobs and help more people benefit from India's growing digital economy. Because when women have equal access to opportunity, everyone benefits from their perspectives, creativover the world. Yet, when it comes to accessing opportunity, deep inequalities persist," said Pichai.

For example, Pichai said women are almost twice as likely to lose their jobs during the pandemic and millions of girls are at the risk of not returning to school. "We have the opportunity to build a future that is more equal and inclusive and we must take it."

The \$25 million Google.org Global Impact Challenge for Women & Girls, would support such efforts. Google said it is very conscious that the disruption of 2020 has widened the gender equity gap globally. Post-Covid-19, a future of all-round prosperity is anchored in the guarantee of gender equity, and this requires concerted but bold efforts.

"We would provide \$25 million in grants to non-profits and social enterprises doing important work to help women and girls address systemic barriers, the economic inequality, pursue entrepreneurship and build financial independence," said Pichai.

# 25 Million New Jobs In Indian **Retail Sector By 2030: Study**

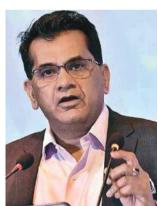
**Agencies** 

round 25 million new jobs will be created by the In-Adian retail sector by 2030, as per Retail 4.0 Report released by Nasscom in partnership with Technopak.

According to the study, Retail 4.0 will result in a significant rise in the size of the domestic market, job creation, and exports. The changing demand and supply drivers are likely to accelerate the growth momentum, with the India retail market reaching up-to \$1.5 trillion by FY2030.

"As India leaps forward to beome a digitally transformed nation, the country's retail sector has emerged as one of the most dynamically-evolving, rapidly digitising sectors, with the second-largest consumer base in the world, from 5th largest in 2020," found the study.

Over the last decade, as per the study, the Indian retail market size has witnessed a massive growth of 3X, accounting for \$800 billion, contributing 10% to India's GDP In FY 2019-20 and 8% to the total workforce with more than 35 million employees.



by sustained digital transformaion. The COVID -19 pandemic has proved to be a catalyst in the evolution of Retail from the 3.0 Era into a more digitally-enabled and collaborative Retail 4.0 era," the study observed.

Speaking at the launch of the report, Amitabh Kant, CEO, Niti Aayog said, the union government was in process of formulating the National Retail Trade Policy which not only would create a conducive environment for retail trade but would also simplify policies hindering the growth of the sector in

### Rupee Falls 14 Paise to 73.16 **Against U.S. Dollar In Early Trade**



**Agenceis** 

The Indian rupee slumped 14 paise to 73.16 against the U.S. dollar in opening trade on March 8, as rising crude oil prices and strengthening of the American currency in the overseas market weighed on investor sentiment. At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 73.13 against the U.S. dollar, then fell further to 73.16 against the American currency, registering a decline of 14 paise over its previous close.

On March 5, the rupee had settled at 73.02 against the American currency.

Meanwhile, the dollar index. which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.07% to 92.04.

"Brent crude has firmed over \$70/barrel, while U.S. 10-year benchmark continues to harden this Monday and could weigh on sentiments," Reliance Securities said in a research note.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 2% to \$70.75 per barrel. However, foreign fund inflows into the equity markets, along with corporate dollar flows could cap depreciation bias, the note added.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex was trading 544.62 points higher at 50,949.94, and the broader NSE Nifty advanced 159.25 points to 15,097.35.

Foreign institutional investors were net sellers in the capital market as they offloaded shares worth 2,014.16 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

# Oil Prices Surge After Attack On Saudi Oil Site

**BANGKOK:** Oil prices pressed higher Monday after strikes on major oil facilities in Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, shook energy markets already rattled by a decision by oil producers last week to not lift output.

Brent crude, the international standard, surpassed \$70 per barrel for the first time in over a year, gaining \$1.14 to \$70.47 a barrel. It surged \$2.62 on Friday.

Benchmark U.S. crude oil added \$1.10 to \$67.19 per barrel, up 1.7%, falling back from bigger gains earlier in the day. It jumped \$2.26 to \$66.09 per barrel on Friday.

Prices have been recovering in ne nast few months after plunging last year with the onset of the pandemic. The devastating winter freeze that hit Texas and other parts of the southern United States last month knocked out production of roughly 4 million barrels per day of U.S. oil, pushing

prices above \$60 a barrel. Last week, with oil prices rising, some observers were expecting the OPEC cartel and its allies to lift more restrictions and let the oil flow more freely. But OPEC agreed to leave most restrictions

in place, despite growing demand. The strikes on Saudi sites have increased in frequency and precision in recent weeks, raising concerns about Saudi Arabia's air defenses and the expanding capabilities of the Iran-backed rebels across the border in Yemen.

A Saudi-led coalition launched an air campaign on war-torn Yemen's capital and on other provinces Sunday in retaliation for missile and drone attacks on Saudi Arabia that were claimed by the Iranian-backed rebels.

The official Saudi Press Agency



quoted an anonymous official in the Ministry of Energy as saying that a drone flew in from the sea and struck an oil storage site in Ras Tunura, the port run by Saudi Arabia's state oil company, Aramco.

It claimed the strike did not nuse any damage Saudi Aramco the kingdom's oil giant that now has a sliver of its worth traded publicly on the stock market, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Ministry of Energy denounced the strike as "an act of sabotage" targeting not only Saudi Arabia "but also the security and stability of energy supplies to the world."

When key oil facilities in Saudi Arabia were attacked in 2019, global energy prices soared 14% the next day. But that prior attack disrupted more than half of its daily exports, halting 5% of world crude oil output.

Costlier oil pushes energy costs higher. That would add to inflation at a time when investors have been focusing on the potential for rising prices to cause central banks to raise interest rates that have been taken to record low levels to support economies battered by the pandemic.

"The last thing anyone wants in a recovering global economy is higher oil prices, and we are likely nearing a point when higher oil

prices become a negative rather than a positive influence over risk assets," Stephen Innes of Axi said in a report Monday. Rising prices are a boon, however, for the oil industry, which has lost billions of dollars during the pandemic.

Oil prices crashed as millions of people stayed home and avoided traveling, hoping to avoid infection. Oil futures briefly traded below \$0 a barrel last spring before settling around \$40 a barrel for months, well below what most producers needed to survive. Many U.S. producers cut production dramatically, others filed for bankruptcy protection. Workers lost jobs by the thousands.

Eventually, prices began to recover as demand trickled back. In January, after Saudi Arabia announced it would cut production by 1 million barrels per day on top of cuts the kingdom already made through its agreement with the OPEC cartel, prices for U.S. benchmark crude pushed above \$50 a barrel. The upswing continued through February, when Saudi Arabia's cuts went into effect.

Natural resources consultancy Wood Mackenzie reports it is forecasting that oil prices will trade in the \$70-\$75 range in April and that global demand will increase in 2021 by 6.3 million barrels a day from a year earlier.

#### NEWS MAKERS

# Nita Ambani Launches Social Media Platform 'Her Circle' For Women

eliance Foundation chairperson Nita Mukesh Ambani on Sunday launched a social media platform 'Her Circle' aimed at empowering women.

Her Circle is envisioned to be a one-stop destination to provide women-related content that is engaging and upliftment-oriented even as it connects women through a social platform.

"I am delighted that we can create such a circle of support and solidarity for millions of women through HerCircle.in, a digital platform that invites every woman to join and make her own.'

"With the Digital Revolution enabling round the clock global networking and collaboration, Her Circle welcomes ideas and initia-



tives of women from all cultures, communities and countries. We make sisterhood and equality our touchpoints on this platform," Ambani said in a statement.

Her Circle subscribers will be able to watch videos, read articles with solution-oriented life strategies covering living, wellness, finance,

work, personality development, community service, beauty, fashion, entertainment, creative self-expression and active participation in public life through women-led NGOs

and other organisations.

Ambani said that when women lean on women, incredible things happen. "All my life I have been surrounded

by strong women from whom I have learnt compassion, resilience, and positivity and in return, I have strived to pass on my learnings to others." "As a daughter who grew up in a

family of 11 girls, I was taught to believe in myself. From my daughter Isha, I have received unconditional love and confidence to continue to follow my dreams. From my daughter-in-law Shloka. I have learnt empathy and patience," Ambani said.

Her Circle will also provide women with answers from Reliance's panel of experts on health, wellness, education, entrepreneurship, finance, philanthropy, mentorship and leadership. The section on upskilling and jobs will help her find new professional skills as well as get job opportunities suited to her profile, the statement said. It will give access to master-classes from the best in the business or avail complimentary digital courses.

Her Circle will provide space for women to share their life stories of success-through-struggle, which can provide inspiration, hope and resilience to others, according to the statement.

"Whether it is the women from Reliance Foundation or the national and international women leaders that I have worked with, our shared experiences show me that in the end our struggles and triumphs resonate with each other," Ambani said.

Registration on Her Circle is free. It has been launched in English and will subsequently be expanded in other languages.

# Strongly Repudiate Any Unsubstantiated Allegations: Iran On Blast Near Israeli Embassy

**Press Trust of India** 

**NEW DELHI:** Weeks after a blast near the Israeli Embassy here, Iran on Monday termed as "unsubstantiated" the allegations of its involvement in the terror attack and called such charges steps towards realising the "sinister intentions" of the enemies of Iran-India ties.

The assertion by the Iranian Embassy here came after a media report claimed that there was Iranian hand in the terror plot but that the bomb was planted by a local Indian Shia module.

Referring to the "suspicious blast" in New Delhi on January 29, the Iranian Embassy, in a statement, said it "deliberately led to an unfair onslaught and unsubstantiated defamatory accusations against Iran".

The embassy strongly condemned any act which ensues intimidation and fear, disruption of order and security, and jeopardising the lives and property of innocent people.

"While respecting the government and authorities of India in their endeavour to thoroughly investigate and probe into the

above mentioned incident in order to identify the orchestrators of such actions and to bring them to justice, this embassy strongly repudiates any unsubstantiated allegations or irresponsible comments in this regard and considers them as steps towards realising the sinister intentions of the enemies of Iran-India relations, the statement said.

The embassy said Iranian authorities have always expressed their readiness to cooperate with the Indian friends in order to unravel "the wicked intentions of the spoilers of bilateral relations".

"In the current juncture in which the long-standing and cor-dial relations between Iran and India is further being boosted and developed in all domains, including in the form of exchange of the two countries' high rankings political, economic, security and defense delegations, this question deems serious attention whether the said suspicious blast has any benefit for bilateral relations or who would indeed gain from this action?" it said.

Is the presumption that this act must have been conducted by third parties who are angry

and dissatisfied with the progress in relations between the governments of Iran and India, the Iranian embassy asked.

"The culture, civilization, history and also the national and religious beliefs of the government and people of Iran would never allow conduct of any actions which are inhumane, terrorist, barbaric and in contravention with human and divine values and which are done in order to cause fear and destruction to the lives of innocent people and even animals and plants," the statement said.

#### **NIA Takes Over Case Of Explosives-**Laden Vehicle Found Near Ambani Home, Uddhav Says Fishy'

**Press Trust of India** 

**NEW DELHI:** The NIA has taken over the case of a vehicle laden with explosives being found industrialist Ambani's residence in Mumbai, officials said on Monday, a move that Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said showed something was fishy.

A spokesperson of the National Investigation Agency said in a brief statement that the anti-terror agency had taken over the probe following orders from the Union Home Ministry and was in the process of re-registering the case being investigated by the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad and Crime Branch. Besides the recovery of the vehicle, the Central antiterror agency will also probe the mysterious death of Mansukh Hiren, the owner of the stolen vehicle.

A Scorpio, with 20 gelatin sticks inside, was found near Antilia, Ambani's high-rise residence in south Mumbai, on February 25. Police said the vehicle was stolen from Airoli-Mulund Bridge on February 18.

The mystery deepened after Hiren's body was found in Thane district neighbouring

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

#### 80% Students

10 positions in Science stream were shared by 124 students—94 of them girls and 30 boys while in Commerce, the first 10 positions were shared by 23 students, including 17 girls and six boys. 21 students—all of them girls—shared the first 10 positions in Arts stream. In Home Science, 10 girls shared the first 10 positions, the officials said.

In science stream fours students bagged first positions by securing 100 percent marks out of 500. They include Amal Sayeed daughter of Mohammad Sayeed Mir of CANDID Higher Secondary School, Nowgam, Hafsa Malik daughter of Ali Mohammad Malik of Igbal Memorial Institute (Girls Wing) Hr. Sec. School, Bemina, Ishrat Muzafar daughter o Mohmmed Muzafar Malik of Kashmir Harvard HSS Habak Naseem Bagh Srinagar and Zainab Quadri daughter of Abdul Majid Quadri of Salfia Muslim Institute Parray Pora Srinagar. Nine students—six of them girls and 3 of them boys—got second position with 498 (99.6%) marks while six students got 497 marks (99.4%) to grab third position in the Science stream and five of them were girls.

In commerce stream Zeenat Fayaz daughter of Fayaz Ahmad Dar of Government Girls Hr. Sec.School, Nawa Kadal Srinagar bagged first position by securing 493 marks (98.6%) while two students each bagged second (98%) and third (97.6%) positions respectively.

In Home Science, Sabeera Rashid daughter of Hafiz Abdul Rashid of Govt Girls Hr. Sec. School, Kothibagh got 490 (98.0%) marks to grab the first position while those at the second and third position scored 483 and 482 marks respectively.

In Arts Stream, Khushboo Nazir daughter of Nazir Ahmad Dar of Govt. Girls Hr. Sec. Bijbehara scored the first position by getting 100% marks. Second position holder got 497 marks while three students scored third position with 495 marks.

Of the total students, 23207 got distinction, while 17666, 5670 and 443 secured first, second and third divisions respectively, they said. Meanwhile, Political parties extended congratulatory messages to the successful

"Party president Farooq Abdullah and vice president Omar Abdullah congratulate Class 12 students especially girl students who have bagged nearly 90 percent of top ranks in results declared today. It clearly demonstrates, given a chance, women excel in every field. Happy Women's Day," National Conference spokes-

J-K Congress president Ghulam Ahmad Mir and Apni Party chief Altaf Bukhari were among a host of politicians who congratulated the students for their successes in the examination. (With GNS inputs)

#### **J&K Govt**

month while vice-chairperson and member would respectively get Rs 25000 and Rs 15000 per month."The orders for the same are being issued," they said. KNO

#### **Snowfall In**

moderate to light snowfall, the officials said. They said snow-clearance machines have been pressed into action in the affected areas. Rains lashed the plains of the valley throughout the day, bringing down the day tempera-

ture substantially. A Meteorological (MeT) Department official said Srinagar recorded a maximum of 6.6 de-

grees Celsius, a departure of 7.6 degrees from 14.2 degrees Celsius expected at this time of the vear. Other weather stations also recorded a drop

of four to six degrees in maximum temperature, the official said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 4.8 degrees Celsius against 4.3 degrees Celsius on the previous night and received 1.4mm of rain during the time. The mercury settled at minus 1.4 degrees Celsius against 3.2 degrees Celsius on the earlier night at Pahalgam while the famous resort received 0.6mm rain.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a low of 3.9 degrees Celsius against 3.6 degrees Celsius on the previous night while it received 3.6mm of rain.

The minimum temperature settled at 2.6 degrees Celsius in Kupwara against 5.2 degrees Celsius on the previous night while the north Kashmir district received 0.6mm rain, the official said.

The weatherman has forecast wet weather over the next few days in Kashmir. (With GNS inputs)

### **Stranded Traffic**

However, the officials said that subject to fair weather and better road condition, "only stranded vehicles between Udhampur and Nashree shall be allowed towards Srinagar."

The officials asked security forces not to ply against advisory and traffic plan in view of traffic congestion on the highway. "They may ply from Jammu towards Srinagar after confirming the status of highway," the official said.

Meanwhile, Mughal road, connecting Shopian and Poonch districts, remained closed due to the snow accumulation.

#### **LG Announces**

year's theme of International Women's Dav i.e "Choose to Challenge" and to celebrate Azaadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav- India@75, the Lt Governor announced the launch of Super-75 scholarship scheme to support the education of meritorious girls belonging to poor families, so that they can excel in streams like Medicine, Engineering, ITI and Humanity, and contribute to nation building, an official spokesperson

To strengthen the women entrepreneur ecosystem in J&K, Sinha, he also announced a new scheme - Tejaswini under Mission Youth, to provide financial assistance of Rs 5 lakhs to the girls from 18 years to 35 years to start their

"Mission Youth will provide 10 % of the project cost and will also pay the interest every year," the LG said, as per official spokesperson.

He said that the LG called upon the women entrepreneurs to reap maximum benefit out of this zero interest scheme and spread the word so that other women can also avail of the benefits and take a leap towards their economic empowerment.

"A new era of change and development is ushering in J&K, a change that will provide women their rightful place, a voice, an identity, and individuality. We are making tireless efforts to ensure women's safety, modern education, and economic independence," the LG said.

Acknowledging women's role in economic development of J&K, Sinha, as per the official spokesperson stressed on the need to put more focus on some key areas like creating a positive environment; skill development of women entrepreneurs; facilitating financial assistance; providing global market to women entrepreneurs and connecting them with innovative

"We have to work together to break the barriers for the economic development of women," he added.

As per the official spokesperson, the LG observed that J&K has a long history of women glory to bring social change and breaking new grounds as far as gender equality and professional development is concerned.

"To lay a strong foundation for the girls, no fee will be charged upto 12th standard from 5,89,000 girl students who took admission in different government run schools," the LG said.

The official spokesperson said that the LG bserved that 88 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya and 88 Girls Hostels have been made functional in far flung areas and this would help in filling the gender gap and controlling the girl child dropout rate. The LG further said that to assist the higher education of girls, the Government is also providing 13 different scholarship schemes.

"Jammu & Kashmir is not just about scenic beauty. There are so many strong historical facts that prove the capabilities of our women, their grace, compassion, courage, knowledge, spirituality and wisdom that made it a beautiful paradise," Sinha said, as per official spokesperson.

"I salute the courage and determination of every woman of Jammu & Kashmir. Today is an opportunity to come together and celebrate women's contributions in different fields," he added.

According to the official spokesperson, the LG lauded the young women achievers for making significant contributions to the welfare of society and making J&K proud and made special mention of women achievers like Rabia Altaf Aisha Aziz, Irfana Zargar and asked the others to take inspiration from them who now have become examples of women empowerment.

Speaking on the increasing enrolment of girl students in higher education, the LG, he said, expressed satisfaction on noting that the gross enrolment ratio of girls has been increased to

Highlighting various initiatives taken by the government for the promotion of skill development, the LG said that a few days ago, Mission Youth in collaboration with Bombay Stock Exchange imparted skill development training in banking and financial services in which more than 25 % women participated.

"Mission Youth is soon going to start a digital marketing skill development programme and 50 % girls participation is expected in the said program," Sinha said, adding "I want the ecosystem of women entrepreneur in J&K to be the best across the country, for that, public participation is a must. Every individual has to work collectively for safety, security and economic empowerment of women."

As per the official spokesperson, the LG also lauded the girls for outnumbering boys in the just declared 12th class results of Kashmir "In four streams, girls have bagged gold

medals which itself shows the ability and talent that girls of J&K possess," he added. Later, the Lt Governor interacted with the

women achievers present on the occasion and assured full cooperation and support of the government in their future endeavours.

As per the official spokesperson, the LG also sought suggestions from them for the promotion and development of women entrepreneurship in I&K.

Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, CEO Mission Youth; and G M Dar, Director JKEDI, also spoke on the occasion and extended their greetings on International Women's Day. Women entrepreneurs sponsored by JKEDI from different parts of Kashmir were felicitated on International Women's day.

Principal Government Women's College, MA Road Srinagar, besides staff members and students were also present on the occasion.

The awardees are Anam Siraj, a fashion designer and owner of Closet Cloud; Tamana Imran, proprietor of Dress Code; Sumaira Durrani, owner of a beauty salon and Farhana Zargar, proprietor of Ocean Holidays. All the awardees said that the mantra to success was hard work, dedication, passion and the will to succeed. They advised the young generation to follow their dreams with single-minded devotion and not lose focus halfway through. In total, the government felicitated 23 women achievers on this occasion, the official spokesperson said.

#### **HC Notice To**

by former Chief Minister and PDP President, Mehbooba Mufti, regarding issuance of passport allegedly denied to her for want for police verification.

While issuing the notice to MEA, Regional Passport Officer and Additional Director General Police among others, a bench of Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey made it clear the pendency of plea "shall not form any impediment for the police agency to expedite the verification.'

In her plea, Mehbooba Mufti submits that the passport issued to her was valid till 31st May 2019.

Subsequently, she applied for issuance of a passport before the Regional Passport Officer on 11 December last year.

Former Advocate General and senior lawyer Jahangir Iqbal Ganai, representing her, submitted that as per circular instructions issued by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, the passport of an individual is to be issued within 30 days.

However, he said, in the instant case, despite the lapse of three months, passport has not been issued to Mehbooba

The senior counsel further submitted that Mehbooba while availing the tracking facility on the Passport Officer's website, came to know about the status of the passport as "pending for physical verification at respective Thana under SP office, District Srinagar.'

He submitted that Mehbooba approached the Senior Superintendent of Police on February 13 this year with the request to forward the police report to the passport office but till date, there is no change in the status of the passport on the portal of the passport office Therefore, he said, Mehbooba had no option

but to approach the Court for relief. She has also sought directions declaring the action of officials concerned in not allowing her to travel abroad as illegal and unconstitutional violating her fundamental right to travel abroad as guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution or India.

T.M. Shamsi, ASGI waived notice on behalf of MEA 1 and Passport Officer while B.A. Dar, Senior Additional Advocate General waived the notice on behalf of local government and

"It is made clear the pendency of writ petition shall not form any impediment for the police agency to expedite the verification," the court said.

Meanwhile, the high court while hearing a plea by Mehbooba's mother, issued notice to the concerned on the plea for passport to her

#### **Farooq's Plea**

money laundering. A bench of Justice Dhiraj Singh Thankur heard the plea and ordered its continuation next week after briefly hearing

Last week, Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey had recused from hearing the plea and had posted it for today before a separate bench.

The ED has alleged that Abdullah misused his position as president of the J&K Cricket Association (JKCA) from 2001-2011 and made appointments in the sports body so the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) sponsored funds could be laundered.

The former three-time Chief minister said the list of properties, valued around almost Rs 12 crore, attached by the ED in Kashmir and in Jammu were unrelated to the alleged activity mentioned in the Final Report/FIR.

The 83-year-old parliamentarian has said his ancestral and family properties in Jammu and Kashmir have been illegally attached by ED despite the fact that it had "no jurisdiction to do

"The illegal, excessive and arbitrary

attachment of properties has resulted in grave injustice to the Petitioner, and is a continuing violation of his fundamental rights under Article 14 and Article 21 of the Constitution.' he says in the plea.

In 2012, he submitted that certain allegations regarding the siphoning off of JKCA funds

"As per the Final Report, these discrepancies were noticed by the then Treasurer, Manzoor Ahmed Wazir who brought it to the notice of the President (Farooq) who convened an immediate meeting of the Office Bearers of JKCA and subsequently an FIR No. 27/2012 dated 10.03.2012 under Sections 409, 406, 120B RPC was registered in PS Ram Munshi Bagh naming the erstwhile General Secretary and Treasurer namely Saleem Khan and Ahsan Ahmad Mirza as accused persons.'

He said along with initiating a police investigation regarding these allegations, Faroog submits that he constituted an In-House Probe Committee comprising of independent members of the Working Committee. "This Probe Committee submitted its interim report on 13.05.2012 and confirmed the embezzlement of funds by certain office bearers of the JKCA." He said ED's 18 December 2020 action, attaching his properties, was illegal and arbitrary.

"A bare perusal makes it amply clear that the ED has simply adopted the case of the CBI and the resulting Final Report filed against the Petitioner (Farooq). Barring the recording of a handful of statements under Section 50 PMLA, no independent inquiry has been conducted into the present case, rendering it inherently biased," he said, adding, "Nowhere has the ED satisfactorily offered reasons to believe the (Farooq) is in possession of proceeds of crime, or that such proceeds are likely to be concealed, transferred or dealt with in any manner which may result in frustrating any proceedings under the PMLA, as is required under Section 5 PMLA. Admittedly, the properties attached have no relation to the present case.'

He said that all properties attached by the ED are either ancestral or acquired by him prior to the date of the alleged offences. "The allegations against (Farooq) pertain to the period 2004 to 2009. The attached properties were acquired prior to the alleged commission of the offences, and hence were not involved in any alleged money-laundering or related criminal activity," he said and sought directions to stay the proceedings pending before the Adjudicating Authority in relation to the 'Original Complaint No. 1387 of 2021 during the pendency of the present petition."

#### **Bukhari Threatens**

and slicing of erstwhile state of J&K into two UTs followed by Covid-19 outbreak, "we couldn't pursue our manifesto the way it should have been.'

"Nevertheless, we did our best and didn't sit in our homes. We didn't either show hollow dreams to people of J&K and never promised something that is not achievable," Bukhari said. He was flanked by party leaders Muhammad Ashraf Mir, SMC Mayor Junaid Matoo and others. Asked why he is not demanding restoration of special status, he said that he can't make false promises as it was the Parliament of India that can restore special status to J&K.

"I would like to make it clear that August 5, 2019 was the darkest day in the history of J&K that nobody will forget. We will strive hard for restoration of Statehood to J&K and if Delhi delays it, we will not hesitate to hit the streets," he said.

Bukhari highlighted the Apni Paty's achievements in the past one year and stated that getting the job policy order where youth of J&K were entitled for only Class fourth jobs, reversed, was the party's biggest achievement.

"There are other issues which we are pursuing like 15 years for becoming a domicile of J&K. We are also aware of the ploys as to how J&K Bank was weakened by stripping off its autonomy. This institution is our backbone and we will continue to fight for restoration of its autonomy," he said.

Demanding early Assembly polls, Bukhari said that if the Apni Party is voted to power, it will take historic steps, especially making 25 years mandatory for becoming the domicile of

"We ensured that land policy was amended and today, our 88 percent land is safe which is the outcome of our meeting with the Prime Minister Narendera Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah," he said.

Bukhari lamented on the National Conference's decision of staying away from Delimitation Exercise. "The biggest party could have participated in the process and put forth its point. They choose otherwise and I at times believe, boycotting something is aimed at facilitating the bigger plans. Perhaps, Delhi's plan was to be made successful by staying away," he said, taking a jibe at NC.

Bukhari urged the DC to finish its job as soon as possible stating that the exercise was so simple and not complicated as being projected. Bukhari also took a dig at the J&K administration for not being able to resolve the mutton crisis in Kashmir.

"How strange it is that even after four months of stalemate, the government is not able to resolve the mutton issue in the Valley. Mutton dealers should be taken into confidence and the crisis must end sooner the bet-

Bukhari expressed serious concern over the frequent closure of Srinagar-Jammu highway stating that earlier the highway would remain closed for two days a month and open for 28 days, but today reverse is the case.

"Is this being done deliberately? Is this also a ploy to keep the Kashmir valley cut-off? This needs to be inquired into. Why Mughal Road is not open for the entire year. When Ladakh highway is being re-opened in February and kept open for the remaining year and Mughal Road is kept closed," he said

About the property tax, Bukhari said that Kashmiris have been given away things in the past seven decades and as far the property tax is concerned, the Government should give "us all the facilities, before demanding property tax." Bukhari also lashed out at the bureaucrats for disturbing assets between the two Union Territories (UTs) without taking the stakeholders on board. "What kind of mechanism is this that property is being distributed between brothers, but none of the two is aware," Bukhari asked.

#### **5 Bank ACs**

competent authority, Sharma said.

The process involves proving such accounts to be proceeds of narcotics and the case is heard by Foreign Exchange Manipulation Act (SAFMA) which is the competent authority, he

The case, after full investigation, had gone to the SAFMA which had given orders to freeze the bank accounts, the SP said.

Investigating Officer Parvez Sajjad proved beyond reasonable doubts that all such money is the proceeds of narcotics and the competent authority confirmed the freezing orders of all the accounts, the SP added.

"We have arrested two big suppliers --Salman Khan and Amit Saxena of Delhi and Jehangir of Kashmir," he said. While Salman and Amit were pumping phar-

maceutical drugs into Kashmir, Jehangir was supplying narcotics to rest of the India from Kashmir," he said. Tightening the noose against drug dealers in Jammu and Kashmir, it is the first time that five

such bank accounts have been frozen by the

ANTF, which were directly linked with the drug cartels of Kashmir, he said. This cartel had been running an illicit trade by supplying hashish from Kashmir valley to other parts of the country and also supplying and distributing psychotropic drugs in the

union territory, he added. The ANTF is investigating all aspects of money transactions, including hawala, which cannot be ruled out at this stage, he said.

#### **J&K Reports One**

the total toll to 1963 – 177 in Jammu and 694

in Kashmir, officials said. About the new cases of infection, officials said, 59 were reported from Kashmir Valley while 11 from Jammu thus taking the total case tally to 124280.

Giving district wise details, they said, Srinagar reported 33 cases, Baramulla 6, Budgam 5, Pulwama 7, Kupwara 1, Anantnag 4, Bandipora 1, Ganderbal 2 and Jammu 11. Moreover, they said, 90 more patients have

recovered and were discharged from various hospitals-14 from Jammu and 76 from Kashmir division.

#### **Soldier 'Commits**

immediately know as to why the soldier took the extreme step," the official said, adding "The soldier's death did not occur due to any ceasefire violation,"

#### **Misfire Injures**

Pantha Chowk in Srinagar, Ahmad was taken to government medical college (GMC) Jammu for treatment. His condition is stable, reports

Meanwhile, police have started further investigations in this regard.

#### **20 Shops Gutted**

The official said that fire and emergency services were deputed to the spot to douse off the flames but before the fire was put off, several shops were damaged.

He said that the first floor of the complex suffered extensive damage while the ground floor suffered partial damages.

#### **Cattle Thief**

all the available means, he said, six cows and 2 calves were recovered from the cowshed of accused Mashooq Ahmed Khanday of Tazipora

"He has been arrested and shifted to a police station where he remains in custody. Further investigation in the case is going on and more arrests/recoveries are expected," he added.

## Senior Pakistan Cricket Board **Official Tests Positive For COVID-19, PCB Seals Offices**

**Press Trust of India** 

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board on Monday decided to close down offices at its headquarters in Lahore after a senior official tested positive for CO-VID-19.

The PCB decided to adopt a safety-first approach soon after the official tested positive and asked its employees to work from home.

The COVID-19 case comes just a few days after the PCB was forced to postpone the Pakistan Super League in Karachi after six cricketers and a support staff tested positive for the disease.

Since the postponement, the board has faced stringent criticism about its handling of the bio-secure bubble and its implementation for the teams at the hotel and stadium here.

With many reports emerging of laxity shown by the medical personnel/officials in enforcing the bio-secure bubble, the PCB chairman, Ehsan Mani appointed an independent panel to probe as to what went wrong in the PSL bio-secure arrangements.

Their appointment came after the head of the PCB's medical and sports sciences department, Dr Sohail Saleem had submitted his resignation to the Chairman.

Mani is also due to hold a meeting with the seven franchise owners on Monday with plenty of fireworks expected as the franchises are demanding they be refunded their franchise fees if the future of the remaining PSL 6 matches remains unsure.

To top it all, the PCB few days back had added a force de majure

clause in their contracts with the franchises which basically will safeguard the board if the PSL 6 can't be completed this year.

In the latest COVID-19 case to hit the PCB, a reliable source said the concerned official had not been in Karachi for the PSL but he had visited the training camp set up at the high performance centre in Lahore for Pakistan and bench players.

"The Lahore based players like Azhar Ali and Muhammad Abbas were all going home after the training but now the board has suspended the camp and will announce fresh dates with all players now to undergo fresh COVID tests as the board has also launched contact tracing of the official," he said.

According to reports, major blunders were committed in enforcing the bio-secure bubble with the medical personnel not conducting the COVID-19 test immediately on Australian legspinner Fawad Ahmed despite he reporting about stomach pain and other discomfort.

Also when some other cases came up the medical personnel still didn't carry out proper contact tracing and the PCB also didn't suspend the matches for a few days and went ahead with the schedule after just a oneday suspension of the Islamabad United-Quetta Gladiators match.

Later it emerged that some other players, including Hasan Ali, had also tested positive after a birthday party was held at the hotel for former Pakistan player and bowling coach, Azhar Mahmood by one of the franchises which was attended by players.

# **Shahid Afridi's Daughter To Be Engaged To Pakistan Pacer** Shaheen Shah Afridi



**Press Trust of India** 

KARACHI: Former Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi confirmed via Twitter that his daughter is getting engaged to current national team pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi.

Afridi said Shaheen's family had made a formal approach asking for his daughter's hand in marriage.

"Shaheen's family approached my family for my daughter. Both families are in touch, matches are made in heaven, if Allah wills this match will be made too. My prayers are with Shaheen for his continued success on and off the field." tweeted Afridi.

"Both families have reached a decision and my daughter is going to be engaged to Shaheen," Afridi said, according to PTI.

He added that a formal engagement will be announced soon.

Shaheen's father Ayaz Khan also confirmed that he had sent the proposal to Afridi's family for his son and it has

"We are very happy and both families have been in discussions for the last few months and hopefully now dates will be finalised soon," he said.

Both Afridi and Shaheen recently featured in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) which had to be postponed earlier this week due to several COVID-19 cases.

Shaheen, a left-arm pacer, has emerged as an all-format cricketer, representing Pakistan in 15 Tests, 21 ODIs and 22 T20Is picking up 48, 45 and 24 wickets respectively.

# Real Kashmir Captain Mason Robertson Appeals To AIFF To Revoke Ban

Press Trust of India

**KOLKATA:** Real Kashmir FC (RKFC) captain Mason Robertson on Monday appealed to the All India Football Federation (AIFF) for an immediate revocation of his four-match ban and fine of Rs 2 lakh imposed on him on charges of abusing the referee in an I-League match.

Mason, along with his father David Robertson, who is the head coach of the club, were on Saturday suspended for four matches and fined Rs 2 lakh each for abusing the referee in "filthy vulgar languages" during their I-League game against Indian Arrows at Mohun Bagan ground here on February 4.

The four-match ban would mean that Mason, who doubles up as striker and defender, will miss RK-FC's remaining four play-off games.

In a five-page appeal to the Appellate Committee of the AIFF, Mason said he had used that "abusive" comment as a "figure of speech and was not directed to any individual".

Aggrieved by the decision of the AIFF Disciplinary Committee, he said the comment was "misconceived, contrary to law and

Press Trust of India

**SRINAGAR:** Fans of Real Kashmir

Football Club, which has gained a

lot of popularity in Kashmir val-

ley, have expressed their disap-

headquarters of the club here in

solidarity with the team which is

playing I-League in Kolkata and

stands at number four in the table

Robertson, who plays as a centre

back, were on Saturday suspend-

ed for four matches and fined Rs

2 lakh each for allegedly abusing

the referee in their I-League game

Robertson and his son Mason

as of now.

cannot be sustained" and hence should be "revoked immediately"

Detailing out the grounds of his appeal, he said: "Communication between the appellant, being the captain of the team and his coach could not have been subject matter of disciplinary proceedings as the same was not addressed to the match referee or match officials."

Mason also said that the outburst was a result of the huge mental pressure they are suffering from because of the bio-bubble restrictions and pointed out that he "does not have any track record of indiscipline throughout his footballing career."

"The comments made by the appellant to the coach was a figure of speech which is usually a way the people of Scotland speak in order to vent their frustration," it stated.

"The allegations made against the appellant in the show-cause notice does not tantamount to misconduct under the Disciplinary Code of AIFF.

'The decision has not taken into consideration the relevant factors and have decided the issue on irrelevant factors, thereby

**Demonstrate Against Banning Of Coach And Captain** 

against Indian Arrows on March 4.

Real Kashmir, said this was a harsh

decision taken by the committee.

Kaisar Ahmad, a supporter of

"Real Kashmir is the top most

club in Kashmir. It emerged one

ing that such a decision has been

Adnan Ahmad said it is surpris-

ing that the club has four more

matches to be played in the ongo-

ing I-League. "Banning the head

coach and captain is a very un-

fortunate decision. AIFFDC should

reconsider this decision for the

fans of Real Kashmir," he said.

Wearing an RKFC uniform,

taken by AIFFDC," he added.

Fans Of Real Kashmir Gather In Srinagar,

coming to a perverse conclusion... "The punishment imposed by

the Disciplinary Committee is disproportionate to the charges levelled against the appellant. Decision of the Disciplinary Committee otherwise bad in law and cannot be sustained. Considering the present situation, the punishment imposed against the appellant should be revoked immediately."

He has sought an instant stay on the order so as to enable him to play the next few matches for RKFC.

The Snow Leopards, who are the first club from Kashmir to compete in any first division football league in the country, are placed third and yet to open the account in the Championship standings, having lost to Churchill Brothers 1-2 on March 5.

They next face Championship leaders TRAU FC here on March 10. RKFC had finished third behind

Churchill Brothers and Punjab FC in the first phase. Meanwhile, RKFC fans in Sri-

nagar have expressed their solidarity and carried out a demonstration, urging the AIFF to revoke Mason's ban.

# **India Begins T20 World Cup Preparations With Clash Against England**

**Selection Dilemma As** 



**Press Trust of India** 

AHMEDABAD: The Indian team management faces a problem of plenty going into the five T20 Internationals against England, an assignment which marks the beginning of the side's build-up to this year's T20 World Cup at home.

There are 19 players available for selection and with two in contention for each slot, the XI for the five games, starting here on Friday, will be an indication to how head coach Ravi Shastri, captain Virat Kohli and bowling coach Bharat Arun are looking at the next six to seven months for the shortest format.

Will they look for a settled combination to first clinch the series and then experiment or will they field absolute rookies in the squad looking at the bigger picture?

For a team that's so closely followed, the result does matter and that's why one can expect a settled first eleven for the first three games since all matches are at the same venue on similar kind of tracks.

The roaring comeback of Rishabh Pant will lead to a lot of interesting developments at the top of the order.

Pant's inclusion means that KL Rahul, who till a few months back was the first choice keeper-opener, is unlikely to don the big gloves.

Shikhar Dhawan and Rohit Sharma were a settled white ball opening pair till recently but Rahul's emergence as a potent white ball specialist has spiced up the competition.

Dhawan recently had a score of 150 odd in the Vijay Hazare Trophy for Delhi and when it comes to Rohit, there's nothing to be discussed.

So where does the team management fit in Rahul, who has been a successful IPL opener? Will he be slotted in the middleorder as Dhawan's game is not suited to batting lower down?

These are two pertinent questions and in the answer, will be a follow-up question.

With skinner

'I Was Down,' Roger

**Federer Reveals Hard Time** 

6, where does it ideally leave Ra-

The only place he can be slotted is No 4 but Shreyas Iyer and Suryakumar Yadav are also jostling for a place.

If one closely follows the pattern of picking the playing XI, Surya, a sentimental favourite, will have to wait for his turn as Shreyas has done nothing wrong.

But when it comes to a threeway battle between Rahul, Shreyas and Surya, the Karnataka man beats the two Mumbai boys hollow with his repertoire of strokes and ability to shift gears.

Similarly, in the pace department, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, once upon a time India's best white ball exponent, is coming back after a long lay-off and will be engaged in a two-way fight with Deepak Chahar and Shardul Thakur.

For Bhuvneshwar, his experience and being a better bowler at the death compared to Chahar holds him in good stead but he hasn't played a lot of cricket save a few Mushtaq Ali games. Ditto for Chahar, a potent out-

swing bowler but more of a onetrick pony with lack of variations during the back-10.

Shardul is a crafty bowler who can swing it at brisk pace and among the three can use the long handle to the best effect.

Yuzvendra Chahal, Washington Sundar and Axar Patel are the three spinners expected to feature in the playing XI on the sluggish Motera tracks.

In another three-way fight, Thangarasu Natarajan, with his variation of yorkers, stands a better chance to start off compared to Navdeep Saini.

Two players, who will only get a look-in if someone is injured or forcefully rested are Ishan Kishan and Rahul Tewatia as the two simply can't be fitted anywhere.

In all, there are too many good players and very little space to fit all of them with three sure-shot picks-Mohammed Shami, Ravindra Jadeja and Jasprit Bumrah already resting or recuperating

Once they comeback, it will be a bigger selection headache for the management but one that

#### pointment over a decision of the among top clubs within a few "The Committee imposed All India Football Federation's self coming in at No 3 and two years. This decision has left us totions of suspension of four matchdisciplinary committee to ban tally disappointed. It was because es upon Mr David Robertson, the game-changers like Pant and allclub coach David Robertson and of Real Kashmir that so many coach of 'Real Kashmir FC' and his rounder Hardik Pandya expected his son for four matches. children are playing football son Mr Mason Robertson (jersey to play the big shots at Nos 5 and The fans gathered outside the these days in Kashmir. It is shock-

The Real Kashmir management

said they have already appealed

for revocation of the ban. "We

hope AIFFDC would reconsider it

for larger interests of the same,"

the RK management said.

No 3) of 'Real Kashmir FC'...," the Committee said in its judgment. ... both of them are also to pay

a fine of Rs 2 lakh each to be paid forthwith and until such payment in full, both to remain barred as per Article 21 of the Code, notwithstanding four-match suspensions.' The AIFF disciplinary commit-

tee consists of chairman Ushanath Banerjee, Haresh Vora, Madhav Milan Ghosh and Adithya Reddy.

# Man United Win 2-0 To End Man City's 21-Games Unbeaten Run

**MANCHESTER:** Success for Manchester United these days is being the spoiler as Manchester City goes on to eventually claim the league titles.

City manager Pep Guardiola's pursuit of a world-record winning streak ended after United won the derby 2-0 on Sunday. A penalty won after 36 seconds when Gabriel Jesus tripped Antho-

ny Martial was converted by Bruno Fernandes, and Luke Shaw netted five minutes into the second half to end City's 21-match winning run in all competitions. "Scoring in the first minute is perfect," Fernandes said after scor-

ing his 17th penalty in 13 months

at United, "because City have to try a little bit more, we have more space to counter and the big threat we have is the counter.' The complexion of the Premier League has drastically changed since City's last defeat 106 days

earlier at Tottenham left the team in 11th place — eight points behind the London club at the top. After a club-record 28 matches unbeaten, losing now is more a matter of pride for City as well as

missing out on catching the mark of 27 consecutive wins set by Welsh side The New Saints in 2016. City has not only climbed to the summit but built a lead that meant



its second-placed neighbor only trimmed the gap to 11 points with victory at the Etihad Stadium.

"Today we lost and we will be the news, but the news is 21 victories in a row," Guardiola said. "This result is going to help us a lot to understand how difficult it is. We knew it, but sometimes you have to not win one game to realize and

the next one is important." With such a commanding lead and only 10 games remaining, United has probably only just delayed the moment City dethrones Liverpool as champion. Just like three years ago when Jose Mourinho's derby win prevented City sealing the title that April day.

But it's only two months since United harbored ambitions of its own of lifting the trophy – for the first time since 2013 – when it sat in first place. The title challenge has melted away for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side and United will likely be consigned to seeing City crowned champions for the fourth

time since United's name was last etched into the trophy.

"Of course they are too far ahead to think that we could catch them," Solskjaer said. "Last year we caught 15 points on Leicester (for fourth place) but these are a different proposition."

But there is no longer a vast gulf when these two sides meet in the Premier League. United has won three of the last derbies and drawn the other.

It's almost a year to the day since

Trafford, the last time they played in a full stadium or any fans were allowed into a Manchester stadium due to the pandemic.

The emptiness of the stadium allows the sounds from the field to sidelines to be heard like rarely before. City substitute Kyle Walker tried in vain to put off Fernandes yelling "He's saved it!" as the United midfielder stepped up to take the second-minute penalty. City goalkeeper Ederson didn't manage to keep it out.

It was Fernandinho leaping out of his seat shouting "For (expletive)'s sake!" after a foul by United captain Harry Maguire on Gabriel Jesus.

The City bench was getting ready to celebrate when Rodri struck from outside of the penalty area at the start of the second half, only for the ball to clip the crossbar. And soon it was United celebrat-

ing again at the home of its fiercest rival. United goalkeeper Dean Henderson threw the ball out to Shaw, who was gifted time and space to run into the penalty area. After a one-two with Marcus Rashford, the left back scored his first league goal since 2018, putting the ball through Rodri's legs.

"When he goes forward on those runs he is unstoppable," Solskjaer said. "He's improving all the time."

# **Before 2nd Knee Surgery** So we'll see how it goes now. I'm

DOHA: Roger Federer never seriously contemplated retirement while he was away from the tennis tour for more than a year. He did have a hard time dealing with the need for a repeat operation on his bad right knee, though.

"I was down. Obviously I couldn't believe I had to do a second one," Federer said Sunday ahead of his appearance at the Qatar Open.

"This is definitely a moment where you maybe question a little bit more.

The 39-year-old Federer's first match since the 2020 Australian Open will come Wednesday in Doha against Dan Evans or Jeremy Chardv.

Federer's first procedure on his right knee occurred in February 2020. That knee kept swelling up after bike rides or walks with his four children; he announced in June that he had had a second surgery.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion will monitor how this comeback goes over the next several months and then assess things.

"I know it's more on the rare side for almost a 40-year-old to come back after almost a year being out. And I was surprised how long it took. But I took a decision quite early with the team that I wanted to take the time, no rush, to get back onto the tour," he said.

"Important is that I'm injuryfree, pain-free, and I can actually enjoy myself out there on tour.

curious myself to find out."

What seemed clear from Federer's session with reporters on Sunday: Wimbledon is what matters the most to him at this point.

He has won a men's-record eight titles at the All England Club and came oh-so-close to a ninth in the 2019 final there. holding two championship points before eventually losing to Novak Djokovic in a fifth-set tiebreaker.

1945 because of the coronavirus pandemic. It is scheduled to be played

Wimbledon was cancelled

last year for the first time since

June 28 to July 11.

"I know I need to go back to training after here again," said Federer, who pulled out of the Miami Open later this month.

"So from this standpoint, it's still a building up to being stronger, better, fitter, faster and all that stuff. I hope, then, by Wimbledon, I'm going to be 100%, and from then on, then the season really starts for me. Everything until then, it's just 'Let's see how it goes.' He is curious what travel

and tournament life will be like during a pandemic "bubble life, quarantines all around, the whole mask situation" and, most of all, how his repaired knee handles competition. "That's really the only con-

cern I have: Is the knee going to hold up? As of now, I'm not sure," Federer said.

"I did everything I possibly could."





KASHMIR HARVARD EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE

HABBAK NASEEM BAGH SRINAGAR

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# Congratulations!

Kashmir Harvard Hr. Sec. Educational Institute congratulates all the students of Class 12th for their exemplary performance in annual examinations conducted by the Board of School Education(BOSE), and the competent team of teachers for their pure and unrelenting tenacity. We are thankful to all the parents for their unflinching support and steadfast belief in us! We wish our students the very best for all the new ventures, that life has in store for them!



ROLL NO. 38133211



ROLL NO. 38133205



ROLL NO. 38133223



ROLL NO. 38133225



ROLL NO. 38133209



ROLL NO. 38133231



ROLL NO. 38133233

# LIST OF DISTINCTION HOLDERS

|                            | 38133226 | AINIAN NISAR       | 477 |
|----------------------------|----------|--------------------|-----|
|                            | 38133207 | RUQAYAH            | 476 |
|                            | 38133231 | SYED SANIYA        | 476 |
|                            | 38133212 | MEHAK SHIRAZ       | 475 |
|                            | 38133250 | TOIBA SHAFI        | 473 |
|                            | 38133206 | AFSHANA            | 472 |
|                            | 38133222 | AFREEN TAHIR       | 472 |
|                            | 38133204 | AISHA ZAHOOR       | 470 |
|                            | 38133252 | SUZAIN JAHAN       | 470 |
| 5                          | 38133202 | MEHAR MANZOOR      | 468 |
| 762                        | 38162252 | USMAAN             | 467 |
| GREATWAY ADVT.: 7006779743 | 38133230 | UROOSHA SHABIR     | 465 |
| <u> </u>                   | 38133235 | TOIBA ZAHIRA       | 465 |
| <u> </u>                   | 38133247 | RIDHA BAZAZ        | 465 |
| Š                          | 38133255 | ZAINAB SHAH        | 461 |
| >                          | 38162225 | MOMIN REHMAT       | 461 |
| ⋛                          | 38133242 | SAHAR SHAFQAT      | 458 |
| Ä                          | 38133232 | RASIA SHAFI        | 456 |
| <u> </u>                   | 38133214 | MARIA SHABIR       | 455 |
|                            | 38133234 | RUTBA RAFIQI       | 455 |
|                            | 38162201 | MUTEEB BASHIR      | 454 |
|                            | 38133229 | SUNEEM BASHIR      | 453 |
|                            | 38133251 | UROOJ SALEEM       | 453 |
|                            | 38162219 | HABIL HAMID        | 452 |
|                            | 38133213 | SYEEDA TABINDA     | 450 |
|                            | 38133215 | UZMA FAROOQ        | 448 |
|                            | 38162211 | SYED SHAHNAWAZ     | 448 |
|                            | 38162262 | MAROOF BASHIR      | 448 |
|                            | 00400040 | MICA DATIO DAI/TOO | 447 |

**NISA RAFIQ BAKTOO** 

38133249

| 38133246 | FAJAR                         | 445 |
|----------|-------------------------------|-----|
| 38133210 | ZARAFSHAN                     | 443 |
| 38133220 | ZAINAB GANI                   | 443 |
| 38162256 | NUMAAN NAZIR                  | 443 |
| 38162266 | QAISAR SHABIR                 | 443 |
| 38133217 | MIR SANA JAN                  | 442 |
| 38133245 | SEHRISH SHAFI                 | 439 |
| 38133208 | MARSENA WAFA                  | 438 |
| 38133216 | FAIQA JEELANI                 | 430 |
| 38133236 | DUAA JAVAID                   | 430 |
| 38133243 | BASEERAT BASHIR               | 429 |
| 38162234 | AMAAN AYUB WANI               | 428 |
| 38162244 | SHERAZ AHMAD                  | 428 |
| 38133203 | ATOOFA SHOWKAT                | 426 |
| 38133201 | KAJAL NOORANI                 | 424 |
| 38133221 | SYEDA TUBA                    | 422 |
| 38133256 | HADIYA MAJEED                 | 421 |
| 38162208 | <b>ABDUL HANAN IBNI GHAZI</b> | 418 |
| 38133241 | MARVI                         | 416 |
| 38133224 | FIZA MANZOOR                  | 413 |
| 38162212 | SUHAIB HAMEED                 | 413 |
| 38133238 | HURIYA NAZIR                  | 408 |
| 38133248 | HAFSA ZAHOOR                  | 408 |
| 38162214 | MOHAMMAD ZAID                 | 407 |
| 38162222 | MOHAMMED SALEH                | 405 |
| 38162228 | ARSALAN BASHIR                | 405 |
| 38162269 | SHEIKH FARDEEN                | 405 |
| 38162270 | KAMRAN NISAR                  | 405 |
| 38133257 | SAHILA DANDOO                 | 404 |

| 38162236 | TAWSEEF SHAMIM     | 402 |
|----------|--------------------|-----|
| 38133244 | FARHANA AYOUB      | 400 |
| 38162220 | SAKIB AHMAD DAR    | 400 |
| 38133227 | SAHIBA MUSHTAQ     | 399 |
| 38162230 | SHARIQ NIYAZ       | 396 |
| 38133237 | MEHVISH FAYAZ      | 395 |
| 38162213 | SAMI ULLAH WANI    | 395 |
| 38133228 | FARHAT FAROOQ      | 394 |
| 38162264 | TAHIR GULZAR       | 393 |
| 38162227 | MIR MOHAMMAD IRFAN | 392 |
| 38162233 | SYED MUNEEB        | 389 |
| 38162203 | MOHAMMAD RIZWAN    | 386 |
| 38133240 | BASELA BASEERAT    | 385 |
| 38162254 | RIYAN MUNEER       | 380 |
| 38133254 | SEEMA MEHRAJ       | 379 |
| 38162209 | MOHAMMAD ZAID      | 379 |
| 38133239 | URNAIB BASHIR      | 378 |
| 38162206 | ARSALAN AYOOB      | 378 |
| 38162243 | SHARIQ BASHIR MIR  | 378 |
| 38162255 | ABDUL HANAN        | 378 |
| 38162242 | PEER AALAM         | 377 |
| 38162268 | HASEEB ZAHOOR      | 376 |
| 38162249 | DARIS              | 375 |
| 38162259 | ZAID SHOWKAT       | 375 |
| 38133219 | AFREEN MUSHTAQ     | 374 |
| 38162247 | TASADUQ NAYEEM     | 373 |
| 38162202 | IRFAN UL RASHID    | 371 |
| 38162207 | TALIB SHABIR       | 370 |
|          |                    |     |

TOTAL STUDENTS APPEARED: 128 | NO. OF POSITIONS: 07 | NO. OF DISTINCTIONS: 93

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