

## Wikipedia now has over 6 million articles in English

**SAN FRANCISCO** : The world's largest online multilingual encyclopedia, Wikipedia, has now crossed the milestone of having more than six million articles in English language.

The feat, which comes roughly 19 years after the website was founded, is a testament of "what humans can do together," said Ryan Merkley, chief of staff at Wikimedia, the nonprofit organisation that operates the omnipresent online encyclopedia, TechCrunch reported on Friday.

The six millionth article is about Maria Elise Turner Lauder, a 19th-century Canadian school teacher, travel writer and fiction writer.

Wikipedia is available in several languages, but its English version has the most number of articles.

Following the English edition, which hit the five million-mark in late 2015, are the German version with about 2.3 million articles, and the French version, which has about 2.1 million articles, the report added.

## Google to test more desktop Search design after backlash

**SAN FRANCISCO** : After facing backlash from its users, Google announced on Twitter that it will test more variations and changes to the desktop search results.

Last week, Google introduced a new design for desktop Search that adds site favicons" to every result which did not go well with users.

A "favicon", also known as a shortcut icon, website icon, tab icon, URL icon, or bookmark icon, is a file containing one or more small icons, associated with a particular website or web page.

In a tweet, Google said it has heard the feedback from users.

"Last week we updated the look of Search on desktop to mirror what's been on mobile for months. We've heard your feedback about the update. We always want to make Search better, so we're going to experiment with new placements for favicons," the tech company tweeted late Friday.

"Our experimenting will begin today. Over the coming weeks, while we test, some might not see favicons while some might see them in different placements as we look to bring a modern look to desktop Search," Google added.

Not just SEOs and SEMs but a wider set of searchers and Google users criticized the desktop Search changes.



# Lt Governor Leads 10th National Voters' Day Celebrations Across J&K

## Calls for establishing Electoral Literacy Clubs across all educational institutions

Observer News Service

**JAMMU**: Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu today led the 10th National Voters' Day celebrations across J&K by being part of a Voter's Day awareness program organized by Election Department at the Convention Centre, Jammu.

Sh. Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor; Sh. BVR Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary; Sh. Arun Kumar Mehta, Financial Commissioner, Finance; Sh. Navin Kumar Choudhary, Principal Secretary to Government, Education department; Sh. Shailendra Kumar, Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu and Kashmir; Sh. Sanjeev Verma, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Ms. Sushma Chauhan, Deputy Commissioner Jammu and other senior and sectoral officers besides large number of young students and people from all walks of life were present on the occasion.

During his address, the Lt Governor observed that the main purpose of celebrating the Na-

tional Voters' Day is to encourage the new eligible young voters to get them registered in the electoral rolls and also to popularise electoral practices through Systematic Voter Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP).

He emphasized that in line with this year's theme of the 10th National Voters' Day - "Electoral Literacy for a Stronger Democracy", there is a need to set up Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs) in Schools and all other Educational Institutions to educate the youth about the electoral process. He said that the aim of mainstreaming of electoral literacy is to involve the young voters in electoral process, besides to spread the awareness among them so that they can cast their votes with responsibility and participate in the development of the country.

The Lt Governor observed that voting is the elemental concept for any democratic set up. It is the most fundamental right in our democracy and when we elect our representatives collectively through the process of voting, it

affirms the belief that we govern ourselves by our own free will. He further outlined that voters are the lifeblood of a healthy and blooming democracy and exercising the right to vote is the expression of one's opinion, which holds high value in a representative democracy like ours and as such there is not only the need to encourage the eligible young voters to get themselves registered in the electoral rolls but also to popularise the electoral practices, stimulate informed debates and deliberations among the stakeholders thereby underscoring focus on making the citizens fully informed and helping them in making political judgments based on rationality and with a vision of taking the country forward. The Lt Governor congratulated the Election Department for adding more than 4.35 lakh new voters to the electoral rolls of the Union Territory in Special Summary Revision-2019. He also felicitated the Electoral Officers with Union Territory Awards for Best Electoral Practices. Dr. Piyush Singla, DEO Udhampur and

Sh. Anshul Garg, DEO Kupwara were bestowed with Best District Election Officer Award while Sh. Mohd Ahsaan Mir and Sh. Zameer Ahmed Rishu bagged the Best Electoral Registration Officer awards. Best BLO Award was bagged by Sh. Naresh Kumar, Sh. Mohd Shafi Paswal, Sh. Yaseer Rashid, Sh. Jahangir Latief and Sh. Farooq Ahmed.

Special Awards were given to Sh. Swayam Prakash Pani, IPS; Sh. Rahul Yadav DEO Poonch; Sh. Anil Salgotra, Joint Chief Electoral Officer; Sh. Baiju Ubbott, Scientist-D, NIC; Sh. Rajan Sharma, I/c GM SICOP and Sh. Riaz Ahmed Butt, State Nodal Officer, SVEEP.

The Lt Governor administered Voters' Pledge to the participants and also issued new Electoral Photo Identity Cards (EPICs) to the newly registered voters including a couple of specially abled voters on the sidelines of the function. Local artists presented a play outlining the value of voting and captivated the audience with their performances.

## SHORT TAKES

### Team of doctors conduct health checkup of Geelani

**SRINAGAR**: A team of doctors visited Hyderabad based residence of ailing Senior Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Geelani who is under house arrest from past many years to check his health status.

Sources said that a team of doctors led by Dr Naveed Nazir arrived at the residence of Syed Ali Geelani for his health checkup. Geelani is not keeping well from past two months. Recently, an aide of Geelani had appealed people organise special prayers with regard to the health of ailing leader.

Last month Geelani was put on Oxygen after he developed acute chest disease called Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).

Syed Ali Geelani is 90 years old and is facing house detention from past many years. (KNT)

### DIC Pulwama holds Mehfil-e-Mushaira

**PULWAMA**: District Information Centre, Pulwama in collaboration with Gazi Cultural Forum today organized a Mehfil-e-Mushairain which many eminent poets recited their poetry.

Poets including Javid Kalmi, Nadeem Shouqji, Jala Din Dilnawaz, Bilal Kashif, Jameela Ji, Majaz Rajpuri, Ab Majeed, Haji Gh Mohammad Dilshad, Taj Un Nisa, Syed Shabnam, Gazi Khurshid, Mohammad Akbar Dard-baz, Aajiz Farooq and Gh Nabi Dilshad participated in the Mushaira.

### J-K: 1,700 kg poppy straw seized from Punjab-bound truck, two held

**JAMMU** : The Jammu and Kashmir Police seized 1,700 kilogram of poppy straw from a Punjab-bound truck here and arrested its driver and conductor, officials said on Saturday.

The truck, coming from the Kashmir valley, was intercepted on the highway near Channi on the outskirts of Jammu Friday evening, leading to the seizure of the huge quantity of the contraband which was concealed in 193 apple boxes, a police spokesman said.

He said the driver of the truck, Deedar Singh, and his helper, Manpreet, both residents of Ludhiana, were arrested for trying to smuggle the poppy straw from the valley to Punjab.

They were booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, he added. In a separate case, the spokesman said, an alleged drug peddler, Mohammad Naseer, a resident of Thana Mandi, was arrested after 4.8 gram of heroin was seized from him during vehicle checking at Potha in Poonch district on Friday. A case under the NDPS Act was registered against the arrested peddler and investigation started to ascertain the source and other persons involved in smuggling of the narcotic substance, he said.

## 71ST R-DAY

# Remain non-violent when fighting for a cause: President tells countrymen

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI**: President Ram Nath Kovind on Saturday urged people, particularly the youth, to remain non-violent when fighting for a cause and stressed on the need to "hold fast to constitutional methods" of achieving social and economic objectives.

His remarks come in the backdrop of protests against the new citizenship law although he made no reference to them.

In his customary address to the nation on the eve of 71st Republic Day, Kovind cited Mahatma Gandhi's gift of 'Ahimsa' (non-violence) to the humanity and said that his talisman for deciding whether an act is right or wrong "applies to the functioning of our democracy".

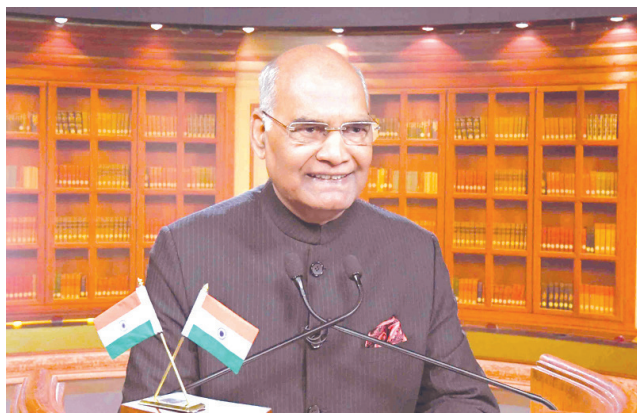
He said modern India comprises three organs - Legislature, Executive and Judiciary - which are necessarily interlinked and interdependent.

"Yet, on ground, the people comprise the State. We the People' are the prime movers of the Republic. With us, the people of India rests the real power to decide our collective future," he said.

Stressing that both the government and the opposition have "important roles to play", the president said "while giving expression to their political ideas both must move forward in tandem to ensure that development of the country and welfare of its people are promoted consistently".

In his televised address, Kovind said Gandhi's ideals remain relevant in the nation-building efforts.

"It should be part of our daily routine to introspect on Gandhi's message of truth and non-violence, which has become all the



## India to show off military might, cultural heritage at Rajpath

**NEW DELHI**: India's rising military might, rich cultural diversity and socio-economic progress will be on full display during the 71st R-Day celebrations at the Rajpath -- the city's centrepiece boulevard -- on Sunday.

Brazilian President Jair Messias Bolsonaro will be the chief guest at the 90-minute celebrations marking the anniversary of the day when India was declared a republic in 1950.

Anti-satellite weapon Shakti, Army's battle tank Bhisma, infantry combat vehicles

and newly inducted Chinook and Apache helicopters of the Indian Air Force will be part of the grand military parade.

The national capital has been brought under a massive ground-to-air security cover, with thousands of police and paramilitary personnel keeping a hawk-eye vigil.

Twenty-two tableaux 16 from States and Union Territories and six from various ministries and departments - depicting the nation's rich cultural heritage and economic progress will also roll down the Rajpath.

more necessary in our times," he said in his speech.

Recalling the importance of January 26, he said that even before 1947, this day was celebrated 'Purna Swaraj Day' (complete independence day) from 1930 to 1947.

Kovind said though the Con-

stitution gave rights to all the citizens of a free democratic nation, but also placed on responsibility to always adhere to the central tenets of the democracy - justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

"It becomes easier for us to follow these constitutional ide-

als, if we keep in mind the life and values of the Father of our Nation. By doing so, we will be adding a meaningful dimension to our celebrations of 150th birth anniversary of Gandhiji," he added.

The president said the present third decade of the 21st century will be "the decade of the rise of New India and a new generation of Indians.

"More and more of those born in this century are participating in the national discourse. With the passage of time, we are

School children will convey age-old message of yoga and spiritual values through dance and music during the parade, the defence ministry said.

The Republic Day Parade ceremony will commence with Prime Minister Narendra Modi visiting the National War Memorial near the India Gate. He will lead the nation in paying tributes to the martyrs by laying a wreath.

This is for the first time that the prime minister will pay homage to martyrs at the National War memorial instead of Amar Jawan Jyoti.

gradually losing living links with our great freedom struggle, but there is no reason to worry about the continuity of the beliefs that guided it," he said.

Kovind said with advances in technology, the young minds of today are better informed and more confident.

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