



Coronavirus in India: Wagah beating retreat ceremony suspended

NEW DELHI: Coronavirus scare in India has led to the suspension of the famous beating retreat ceremony at Wagah border near Amritsar and the joint retreat ceremony near Bangladesh border in West Bengal after two new positive cases of infection surfaced in Amritsar on Saturday.

Punjab Police installed barricades 2-km ahead of Attari-Wagah border to stop tourists heading to witness the beating the retreat ceremony on Saturday.

"Beating retreat ceremony at the Attari-Wagah border has been suspended till further orders, in view of coronavirus in Punjab," Attari police post in-charge Narain Jeet was quoted as saying by ANI in Amritsar.

The restrictions were enforced after two residents of Punjab's Hoshiarpur district tested positive for the virus in a preliminary test according to civil surgeon Dr. Prabhdeep Kaur Johal.

The infected men had returned from Italy on March 3 and were admitted to the isolation ward of Guru Nanak Dev Hospital in Amritsar after they showed symptoms on their arrival at the Amritsar International airport. Final confirmation on their status will be available by the evening after test results of their samples arrive from NIV Pune, said officials.

"Their samples have been sent for the second confirmation test, the results of which will be out by Saturday evening. This is done to cross-check the preliminary findings," Dr Johal added.

Another tourist hotspot in Amritsar, Jallianwala Bagh is already closed till April 12 due to ongoing renovation of the complex, however, the adjoining heritage area was teeming with holidaymakers and tourists on Saturday. In West Bengal, the Border Security Force (BSF), North Bengal Frontier put out notices on Saturday announcing restriction on civilians watching the joint retreat between the BSF and the Bangladesh Guards Bangladesh (BGB) at the Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Fulbari. "Entry is prohibited for the visitor to watch the ICP parade due to Corona Virus," the notice writing in Bengali and English said.

The Punjab Government had clarified on Friday night that the situation was under control and coronavirus had not been declared an epidemic in the state.

As many as 52 testing labs have been commissioned across India, including two in Delhi to test for coronavirus.

Coronavirus: Google CEO lists efforts made by Youtube, Search and other teams for end-users

NEW DELHI: With the ever-rising concerns about COVID-19 (coronavirus) on a global level, Google has announced some steps it is taking to make people more aware about it. The announcement comes directly from the CEO of Google and its parent company Alphabet, Sundar Pichai via a blog post. Pichai talks about the number of measures that Google's Maps, YouTube, Search and other teams are taking in order to keep them updated with the latest information, related videos and eliminate fake news around COVID-19.

ty team, as Pichai says, "has been working around the clock and across the globe to safeguard our users from phishing, conspiracy theories, malware and misinformation, and we are constantly on the lookout for new threats."

Pichai says that Google is also blocking all the ads that are exploiting on coronavirus. The firm has already blocked thousands of ads over the few weeks. "We are also helping WHO and government organizations run PSA ads," adds the Pichai.

Google has already started rolling out free



Pichai says that Google's SOS Alert in Search is giving up to date information on coronavirus with safety tips and latest news directly from the World Health Organisation. The firm is also said to be expanding its Knowledge Panels for health conditions to include a COVID-19 panel.

The Google CEO adds that YouTube will also be using its homepage to direct users to WHO or local authoritative organisations. It will also be donating ad inventory to governments and NGOs in the regions that are impacted. The firm is also removing any content that is claiming to prevent coronavirus in place of seeking medical treatment.

Google's Trust and Safe-

access to advanced Hangouts Meet video-conferencing ability to all the G Suite and G Suite for Education customers. This will go on until July 1 this year.

Pichai says that within Google, some of the offices have shifted to a work-from-home status so the employees stay safe and it doesn't impact the business as well.

It is worth adding that Google recently announced that it is cancelling the annual developer's conference - Google IO this year due to coronavirus concerns. The company also said that all the participants who had purchased the tickets for its upcoming event would receive a full refund by March 13.

J&K Law Commission recommends blanket ban on alienation of migrant property in Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir Law Commission has recommended a blanket ban on alienation (sale) of migrant property in Kashmir.

In its report, the panel headed by former High Court judge, M.K. Hanjura has recommended that "a blanket ban may be imposed on the alienation of property belonging to such class of people till further orders."

The report of the panel has been submitted to Jammu & Kashmir administration. In its observations, the panel has stated that Jammu and Kashmir Migrant Immoveable Property (Preservation, Protection and Restraint on Distress Sales) Act, 1997 has not been implemented in letter and spirit in the past two decades.

"No doubt the Act imposes restrictions on alienation of immoveable property and it provides that district magistrates shall take over the possession of immoveable properties belong-



ing to migrants falling within the limits of their territorial jurisdiction and it also lays down that the unauthorised occupants of any migrant property shall surrender the possession of the migrant property to the competent authority, but the fact of the matter is that this Act has been followed in breach and the obligations cast on the authorities detailed therein do not appear to have been discharged sacredly for the last more than two decades by now," reads the report.

The report claims that "the

district magistrates have failed to take over the possession of the migrant property in their hold as mandated under the Act and it has not been notified anywhere".

"Had the intention of this legislation been to resettle Kashmiri Pandits within the precincts of the valley of Kashmir at any moment of time in that event a blanket ban would have been imposed on the alienation of the migrant property by any mode of transfer which has not been done under the Act," the report

states.

The report underlines the need for a blanket ban on alienation of migrant properties in Kashmir. "In order to protect the left out property of this class of helpless citizens which is too small by now compared to what was it in the year of 1990 when and where after these properties were put to distress sales, a blanket ban on alienation of their property was and continues to be need of hour," the report states.

The panel has recommended to the government to set-up an independent agency which will perform functions assigned to DCs under the law.

It has also recommended that word migrant should be replaced by "internally displaced persons" in the Act.

The recommendation has been made months after Jammu and Kashmir's special status was revoked and the erstwhile state was partitioned into two Union Territories by the BJP-led Central government—(KNO)

Coronavirus scare: Cellular Company Jio begins 'Hello tune Advisory'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In wake of the deadly coronavirus, the cellular company, Jio has started a health tune advisory for its consumers from Saturday to create awareness among its users about the virus. The Bharat Sanchar Nigam (BSNL) Ltd however, decided to send a slew of precautionary measures to its customers through text messages.

According to wire service—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Jio users said that the cellular company has started a 'health tune advisory' with regard to the deadly coronavirus from



this morning. "If you call any jio user, we will be able to get awareness regarding the deadly virus," Jio users said. They said that the hello tune is also giving

a helpline number to its users in case of any flu-like-symptoms.

This initiative by the Cellular Company was appreciated by the people and said the other networks too should contribute in creating awareness among the masses as the deadly virus has already claimed the lives of 3500 people across the globe.

The administration has also said that besides taking precautions, spreading awareness among the people is equally important. It is worth to mention here that the administration has so far screened about 7000 people coming via flights or road to the Valley in just two

days—Thursday and Friday. The recently appointed Nodal Officer, Coronavirus prevention, Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Shafiq Khan had told—KNO that none among the screened people were found positive and they are ensuring that all the people visiting Jammu and Kashmir won't go unscreened.

The administration has also set up isolation ward with general Out Patient Department (OPD) section at Sanant Nagar for the people having flu symptoms and has also appealed the private hospital to establish isolation wards at their respective hospitals—(KNO)

International Women's Day DLSA Sgr organizes program to celebrate the day

SRINAGAR: Principal District and Sessions Judge Srinagar, Abdul Rashid Malik, highlighting essence of the International Women's Day said that Kashmiri women have proven their mettle in every field.

He was speaking on the program organized by District Legal

Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar on the occasion of International Women's Day, here today.

The programme was attended by Secretary DLSA Srinagar, Adnan Syed, Principal Kothi Bagh Higher Secondary School, Nuzhat Bukhari, Advocate Bisma Khan, activists and students.

Malik said that women are treading new paths to achieve socio-political and economic empowerment and we all should not only appreciate their endeavors but also help them in achieving equality in real sense of the term.

With regards to the legal sys-

tem, Malik He said that legal services act as a bridge between women and judiciary and Supreme Court is the front runner to see that women are living a peaceful life. He said that stringent laws have been made to safeguard women at home as well as at workplace.

Apple offering free repairs for 2019 iPad Air units suffering from 'blank screen' issue

NEW DELHI: Apple has started a free repair programme for its third-generation iPad Air. This for iPad Air models suffering from a "blank screen issue" which can render the iPad's display disabled permanently.

Apple announced the free repair programme on its website saying that a limited number of iPad Air (3rd generation) models "may go black permanently". Apple explains that iPad Air models which are affected will show a "brief flicker or flash" just before the display goes permanently blank. Also, this is for those iPad Air models manufactured between March 2019 and October 2019.

iPad Air users who are facing this issue can contact get their devices fixed free of charge at authorized Apple service providers. Users can also make an appointment at

an Apple retail store or contact Apple Support through an email. Apple users in India can head to authorized resellers for getting their affected iPad Air repaired.

Apple advises that users should backup their data before handing over the iPad for repair. Also, this repair programme doesn't cover damages outside the confirmed issue like cracked screens and such. Consumers would have to pay for such repairs. This iPad Air repair programme is valid for two years after the first sale of the device.

Apple upgraded the iPad Air after almost five years in 2019. The 3rd generation iPad Air comes with a 10.5-inch Retina display, A12 Bionic chipset and support for Apple Pencil. The iPad Air has an 8-megapixel rear camera and a 7-megapixel selfie camera. There's a cellular and Wi-Fi only version for the iPad Air.



Amazon is working on a cure for the common cold: Report

NEW DELHI: After disrupting the retail business, Amazon is set to find a cure for common cold that can cause a runny nose, cough, sore throat, sneezing and low-grade fevers, among other symptoms.

The Jeff Bezos-led company has engaged more than 100 people in a top secret effort called "Project Gesundheit" for finding a treatment for common cold, CNBC reported on Friday, citing unnamed people familiar with the effort.

The team which includes scientists and technologists exists under a research and development group called Grand Challenge within Amazon's Cloud division, Amazon Web Services (AWS).

While the focus of the team is on developing a vaccine, it is also exploring several other approaches to the problem of common cold, said the report, adding that the group is run by Babak Parviz, who was earlier associated with Google's parent company Alphabet's research and development effort.

Amazon is yet to publicly acknowledge the Grand Challenge group which is tasked with finding solution to big problems which can have a major impact on humanity, according to CNBC.

But healthcare is not the sole focus of the group, which has sometimes been known by its code-name "1492", said the report.

Developing a vaccine for common cold is not the only health project that Amazon has started. While its Amazon Care team is working on developing a virtual medical clinic for its employees, Amazon has a pharmacy team under PillPack, a start-up that the company bought a couple of years ago.



Twitter celebrates International Women's Day 2020

NEW DELHI: To celebrate International Women's Day 2020, micro-blogging site Twitter on Friday launched a special emoji with the hashtag #EveryWoman.


Globally, there have been 125 million Tweets about feminism and equality over the past three years. Conversations are closely tied to International Women's Day, which is on March 8, the platform said.

"At Twitter, we see incredibly vibrant and diverse voices on our platform, from those engaging in joyful everyday conversations, to strong women who raise awareness about issues that matter," said Maya Hari (@maya_hari), Vice President, Asia Pacific at Twitter.

Through #EveryWoman, we want to highlight every shade and every kind of Indian woman, and honour those who are transforming how we are perceived in the workplace and beyond," Hari added.

According to the social media platform, in the first few months of 2020 there was an 87% growth in conversations in India to do with women's day and women's empowerment when compared to the same months in 2019 (January 1 - February 25).

Top five hashtags for women-related conversations on Twitter in India from 2017 till now, included -- #MeToo/#MeTooIndia, #SareeTwitter, #GirlsWhoDrinkBeer, #LahuKaLagaan and #JhukkTwitter, the company said.



CANCER SOCIETY OF KASHMIR

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TENDER NOTICE

For & on behalf of Chairman Cancer Society of Kashmir sealed quotations affixed with Rs, 10/ Revenue stamp along with Earnest Money Deposit of Rs, One lac in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Cancer Society of Kashmir are invited from manufacturers/Firms/Companies/Stockists/Authorised Distributors for Anticancer Drugs & other supportive drugs etc. by this society for the year 2020-2021.

- The detailed NIT along with list of drugs can be had from the office of the society on all working days during office hours.
- The last date for receipt of tenders is 25th March 2020.
- The approved dealers for the year 2018-2019 & 2019-2020 can quote CDR's / FDR's already lying with CSK.

With Regards,
G.M Mantoo.
Executive Officer.
C.S.K.