

Maximum: 5.4° Today 05:50 PM SUNRISE Minmum : -7.6° Humidity: 91%





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C Quote!

The most complicated skill is to be simple.

— Dejan Stojanovic

NEWS DIGEST

Car Used By J&K **House In Delhi Stolen**

NEW DELHI: A car used by the Jammu and Kashmir House in Delhi was allegedly stolen from outside Prem Nagar market here, police said on Thursday.

The car was stolen on Tuesday when the driver parked the vehicle outside the market, they said. A case has been registered in

this regard at the Kotla Mubarakpur Police Station, said Atul Kumar Thakur, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South). The car's bonnet had govern-

ment vehicle' printed on it, police said, adding that CCTV cameras are being scanned to identify the accused and trace the vehicle.

PM Greets Soldiers On Army Day

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday greeted soldiers on Army Day and praised the Indian Army, saying it is strong, brave and resolute.

In a tweet, he said Indian soldiers have made the country proud as he wished them on behalf of the people.

"Our army is strong, courageous and determined, which has always raised the head of the country with pride. I salute the Indian Army on behalf of all the countrymen," PM Modi tweeted in Hindi. Army Day is celebrated to mark

the first Indian general taking over the command of the Indian Army from a British officer in 1949.

Sarjan Barkati Released

SRINAGAR: Religious preacher Sarjan Barkati was released on Friday, a day after he was detained in Zainpora area of Shopain by police. Barkati was released on Friday afternoon, a day after he was rounded up by police from his residence in Reban area of Shopain on Thursday, news agency GNS reported while quoting official sources.

Barkati was released on October 28 last, four years after he was arrested during unrest in the aftermath of the killing of Hizb commander Burhan Wani in 2016.

Soon after his arrest, he was subsequently booked under Public Safety Act for organising anti-government rallies.

The cleric had earned the sobriquets like "pied piper • More On P6

5 Passengers Hurt As Minibus Overturns

SRINAGAR: Five passengers were injured when a minibus they were travelling in turned turtle in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday.

Around 8:40 am Friday, a minibus (JK02V-8466) was on its way from Mandi towards Poonch when it met with an accident at Chandak near Christ School, resulting in minor injuries to five passengers, local news agency GNS reported. The injured identified as Ashaq Hussain, Mohammad Javaid, Wali Mohammad, Mohammad Igbal and Mohammad Shabir were shifted to district hospital Poonch for treatment.

Hideout 'Busted' In Lolab Forest

SRINAGAR: The government forces on Friday busted a militant hideout and recovered arms and ammunition from it during a search operation in Lolab area of Kupwara district, reports said. A joint team of Army's 28 RR, Special Operations Group (SOG)

of police and the personnel of CRPF162 Battalion launched a cordon and search operation (CASO) after receiving inputs about suspicious movement in Nawabehak Kawari forest area of Lolab, news agency GNS reported

while quoting official sources During searches, the team, as per the official sources recovered a cache of arms and ammunitions in the dense forests.

More On P6

Vaccination Drive To Roll Out Today



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India is all set to roll out the world's biggest vaccination programme on

Saturday with over 3 lakh healthcare workers to be inoculated on the first day of the much-anticipated **drive.** • More On P6

Covishield Shots At 40 Vaccination Sites In J&K

The Jammu and Kashmir administration is all set to kickstart the Covid-19 vaccination drive on Saturday, days after the Union Territory received the first shipment • More On P6

Delivers **Vaccine** In Gurez

Div Com Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, PK Pole on Friday visited snowbound Gurez Valley for two day marathon camp to deliver COVID-19 vaccine and also to have first-hand appraisal of winter preparedness and snow clearance efforts.

More On P6

COVID-19

5 Deaths Reported In J&K

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Friday five more coronavirus deaths, including two middle-aged women, even as 144 fresh cases were detected across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

Among the victims, officials said, three were from Jammu division and two from the Valley– a 55-year-old woman from Kulgam and a 50-year from Beerwah in Budgam district. The victims from Jammu division included a 75-year-old man from Gadigarh, a 67-year-old man • More On P6

Trial Run On Bailey Bridge Today

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The trial run on Bailey bridge along the Srinagar-Jammu highway in Ramban district will be conducted on Saturday before opening it up for traffic, officials said Friday.

This was stated by Deputy Commissioner (DC), Ramban, Nazim Zai Khan after inspecting the progress of construction work of Bailey bridge besides repair work of damaged concrete bridge, at Kela Morh Ramban on Friday, an official spokesperson said. Chief Engineer BRO, Brigadier IK Jaggi, Additional Deputy Commissioner, • More On P6



SDRF men break ice inside Srinagar's Dal Lake on Friday to prevent people from walking over its frozen surface. KO photo, Abid Bhat

....Kashmir Valley Shivers

Cold Wave Refuses To Relent

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Kashmir reeled under intense cold wave conditions on Friday as mercury stayed several degrees below the freezing point.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 7.6 degrees Celsius which is around five degrees below normal for this time of the year, MET department officials said.

The city had recorded a low of minus 8.4 degrees Celsius on Thursday, which was the lowest temperature in Srinagar since 1991.

THE SURFACE OF DALLAKE HAS **FROZEN** due to the bone chilling cold,

prompting authorities to issue an advisory against walking on the ice.

Srinagar had recorded minus 8.3 degrees Celsius in 1995. The temperature has fallen to minus 11.3 degrees Celsius in 1991.

The lowest temperature ever recorded in Srinagar was minus 14.4 degrees Celsius in 1893. The rest of the valley was also reeling

under intense cold. Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 8.6 degrees Celsius up from the previous night's minus 11.1 degrees Celsius. The minimum temperature in Gulmarg tourist resort settled at minus 5.5 degrees Celsius up from • More On P6

Govt Relaxes Upper Age Limit For CCE Exams

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Government on Friday announced "one-time" relaxation in the upper age limit for the ensuing Jammu and Kashmir Combined Competitive Examination (JKCCE).

made by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Šinha keeping in view the demands from aspirants and several delegations.

"In view of demand of several delegations/ aspirants, the J&K government for the last time granted one- time relaxation in upper age limit • More On P6

Biden Team Picks 2nd Kashmiri Origin Member parents Sameera was director

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: President elect loe Biden has picked another Kashmiri origin expert in his core team as he prepares to roll out his initial proposal for pandemic ief later Thursday

Sameera Fazili will be a deputy director of the National Economic Council focused on manufacturing, innovation and domestic competition. Born to Kashmiri

of engagement for the community and economic development department of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

This is the second appointment of a Kashmir-origin expert in the Biden administration. Farlier Biden selected a young Kashmir-American Aisha Shah, as one of the main functionaries in the Digital Strategy Team of the White House.

While Sameera Fazili will be a deputy director of the National Economic Council focused on • More On P6

Govt Forms Panel To Check Fraud Appointments In SDD

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governorled dispensation has ordered for re-constitution of Fact Finding Committee to examine 'fraudulent appointments in Skill Development Department.'

"In suspension of Covern Order No. 578-GAD of 2019 dated 11.05.2019, it is hereby ordered that the Fact Finding Committee constituted in terms of aforesaid Government order for looking into 'fraudulent appointments made between 2010-2018' in the Skill Development Department Autonomous

Corporations/Organizations under its Administrative Control shall comprise of; Principal Secretary to Government, Housing & Urban Development Department as Chairman besides Secretary to the Government, Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction and Secretary to the Government, Tribal Affairs Department as members," reads an order issued by the government in this regard. The Committee, as per the order, shall identify those responsible for fraudulent appointments, if any, and submit its report by 15.02.2021. (GNS)

Army Chief's Message To China

'Don't Make Mistake **Of Testing Patience'**

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: In a clear message to China, Chief of Army Staff Gen MM Naravane on Friday said no one should make any mistake of testing India's patience though it is committed to resolve the border standoff along the northern frontier through talks and political efforts.

In an address at the Army Day parade, Gen Naravane said a "befitting response" was given to

TALKING **POINT**



the "conspiracy" to make unilateral changes on the border and that the sacrifice of the Galwan heroes in eastern Ladakh will not go waste. • More On P6

Top Journalist Who Became News Herself Quit NDTV For Teaching At Harvard Says Job Offer Was Fake

SRINAGAR: Job scams in India are rampant and countless victims have fallen for them. But it is perhaps for the first time in India a prominent personality has fallen victim of a spectacular phishing attack.

Six months after a popular TV journalist and new anchor Nidhi Razdan quit her job after a 21 years long stint at NDTV to teach at the prestigious Harvard University, she revealed on Friday that she that she was a victim of a sophisticated phishing attack and that





vealed her resignation from NDTV and her new career path, which will be teaching journalism at the prestigious



Harvard University. "After 21 years at NDTV, I am changing direction and moving on. Later this year, I start as an Associate Professor teaching journalism • More On P6

Recently Held Gram Sabha's Fake: RTIM

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement on Friday claimed that fake gram sabhas were held across many places in Jammu and Kashmir recently to constitute the Forest Rights Committees (FRC's) under the Forest Rights Act 2006 (FRA) which has been rolled out in the Union Territory.

In a statement issued to media, Chairman J&K RTI Movement Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat said that due to cold weather conditions and snowfall not even one percent people attended the Gram Sabha meetings across J&K • More On P6

Police Much Free In Governor Rule: Former Top Cop

Auqib Javeed

nce thought as a leading light of 'opinionated police'—who wanted the media to correct its Kashmir branding-former Director General of Police, SP Vaid is currently using words

as his weapon.

He lately threw his weight behind his parent department's "fake encounter" fact-finding, demanding that the culprits who killed the three innocent boys at Amshipora should be charged with murder.

After hanging up his boots, the tech-savvy ex-cop who presided over an intense anti-militancy campaign in Kashmir is now wondering about the unabated recruitment in the post-abrogated political landscape.

While calling for a study and societal participation to stop boys for heading woods, Vaid in a chat with Kashmir Observer talks about the security situation of the valley in detail.

How do you see the current security situation in Kashmir?



The situation seems to be under control. You can hardly see any disruption of law and order. But infiltration attempts

are still made by militants in Jammu and Kashmir.

Despite hundreds of militants killed during your unabated. Has the counterinsurgent offensive failed as a strategy to curb militancy?

tenure, recruitment is still

Yes, it remains the fact that militant recruitments haven't stopped. That is why I am saying we need to find out why local youth are joining the militant ranks and what drives them towards it.

The youth are leaving their homes, bright careers and near and dear ones, despite knowing that they will be killed within months.

We need to know, because they are after all our boys. By whatever means it will happen, we've to stop them from joining militancy.

During your tenure you repeatedly maintained that Pakistan is instigating youth through social media. And yet, 2020 saw 167 youths from Kashmir joining militant groups, despite restrictions imposed on the internet?

See, I agree, ● More On P6





3 Reasons A Negative Test Doesn't Necessarily Mean You're Not Infected

Marisa Iati, The Washington Post

ampant community transmission of the coronavirus and a crippled vaccine rollout have boxed people into a corner: Many are relying on negative test results, inherently limited in usefulness, as a certificate of clearance to see family and friends.

While testing is critical to containing the outbreak, a negative test result is not a free pass to forgo social distancing, mask-wearing and large gatherings. Here are a few reminders about what a negative coronavirus test means and

The tests still have varying degrees of

Coronavirus testing in the United States has ramped up significantly in recent months, with the daily test count hovering around 1.5 million in January. There are two categories of tests: PCR (polymerase chain reaction) tests - considered the "gold standard" - and less-accurate antigen tests.

PCR tests use a molecular process and are processed in a lab. Faster and cheaper antigen tests detect proteins on the virus's surface. Most rapid home tests, estimated to be about 90% accurate, use the antigen technology.

PCR tests are your best bet for getting a sense of whether you're infected, even though those results take longer than antigen results. Still, PCR tests can result in false

That's in part because the giant cotton swabs used in many of those tests may not pick up all traces of the virus deep in your nasal cavity. The virus may have moved from your nose to your lungs or somewhere else, or the swab may not have been inserted far enough.

But nasopharyngeal swabs, which collect samples from the back of your nose and throat, are still more reliable than less invasive throat swabs and nasal swabs.

A test may not be able to detect the virus early in its course

Early in an infection, the virus may not have reproduced enough to be detectable. The false negative rate of PCR tests on the day of exposure is 100%, but falls to about 38% five days later as symptoms usually set in, according to an analysis published in



the Annals of Internal Medicine. The rate decreases further, to about 20%, after three more days.

We don't yet understand exactly when a person who's infected will start testing positive for the virus," Muge Cevik, a clinical lecturer in infectious diseases and medical virology at the University of St. Andrews, told The Washington Post in December. "So there are situations when a person could

test negative, but they could still be contagious.'

If you think you've been exposed to the coronavirus but receive a negative test result, you may want to get tested again in a few days. You should also selfquarantine while you're waiting for results.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggests quarantining for 14 days but considers 10 days acceptable if you haven't experienced symptoms. The agency also says it's probably safe to leave your home after seven days if you have no symptoms and have received a negative test result.

You could test negative and become infected soon afterward

On top of the other limitations, a coronavirus test captures just one moment in time. You could walk out of a testing center and immediately contract the virus. The test you just took is not going to reflect your new infection.

This constraint is particularly important to keep in mind if you plan to travel after you learn the outcome of your test. A crowded airport terminal or rest-stop restroom could expose you to the virus after you've concluded that a negative test means you're not infected.

Gathering indoors is inherently risky, and a negative test result doesn't tell the full story.

Psychiatric disorders lead to brain seizures: Study

study led by investigators of Vanderbilt University Medical Center have claimed that sudden and uncontrolled electrical disturbance in the brain is associated with psychiatric disorders.

Functional seizures are sudden attacks or spasms that look like epileptic seizures but do not have the aberrant brain electrical patterns of

The research team, headed by Lea Davis, PhD, associate professor of Medicine and an investigator in the Vanderbilt Genetics Institute. confirmed associations between functional seizures and psychiatric disorders including posttraumatic stress disorder, anxiety and depression as well as sexual assault

They also discovered a novel association between functional seizures and cerebrovascular disease, including stroke.

The findings were reported in

the journal JAMA Network Open.

eizAlso known as psychogenic nonepileptic seizures, functional sures have been historically understudied. Patients often experience a long delay -- on average seven years before they receive an accurate diagnosis.

About 80 per cent of patients experiencing functional seizures are initially misdiagnosed with epilepsy and treated with anti-epileptic drugs, said Slavina Goleva, a graduate student in Molecular Physiology and Biophysics and first author of the study. An accurate diagnosis requires assessment with video electroencephalogram (EEG).

Davis got interested in functional seizures after hearing an NPR story several years ago.

The story gave the n spective on these seizures -- the stigma that patients felt and the difficulties they experienced in the medical system. I felt like studies within electronic health records could po-

tentially be really impactful for this community," Davis recalled.

Working with Kevin Haas, MD, PhD, associate professor of Neurology, the researchers developed an algorithm to identify people with functional seizures in the VUMC-EHR system.

'We initially recognized that finding these patients within the EHR would be a challenge because the ICD (International Classification of Diseases) codes are not as specific as they are for a lot of diseases," Goleva said.

In addition to ICD codes, the researchers included Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes and used natural language processing to search within the records for a list of keywords.

Goleva and viewed charts to confirm that the algorithm correctly identified patients with functional seizures.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Mechanical Hospital & Central **Heating Division, Srinagar**

(Phone No: 0194-2496089, www.medkmr.org, e-mail id: xenmhchdk@yahoo.in)

Subject: Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 2-Post Hydraulic Lifts and Pneumatic guns along with allied fittings at Regional Workshop at State Motor Garages Department, Bemina, Srinagar.

References: This office NIT no: MHCHD/TS /2020-21/175/e-tenderingdt: 22.10.2020

CANCELLATION

In view of technical reasons, the above referred workis here by cancelled and shall be tendered afresh shortly.

DIPK-11735/20

No: MHCHD/TS/8586-90

Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar

Dated:14-01-2021

Killing cancer by unleashing the body's own immune system

University of Missouri researcher might have found a new way to help the body's immune system get past that deception and de-

"Normally, your body's immune cells are constantly on patrol to identify and destroy foreign entities in the body," said Yves Chabu, an assistant professor in the Division of Biological Sciences.

"Normal cells put up a 'don'teat-me' molecular flag that is recognized by immune cells, thereby preventing the destruction of normal tissues. But some cancers have also developed the ability to mimic normal cells and produce this 'don't eat me' signal. As a consequence, the immune system fails to recognise cancer as a defective tissue and leaves it alone, which is bad news for the patient," added Chabu.

Immunotherapies are cancer drugs that essentially block the "don't-eat-me" signal coming from cancer and allow the immune system to kill it

Chabu, whose appointment is in the College of Arts and Science, said while these immunotherapies work for certain types of cancers, prostate cancer is highly immunosuppressive, meaning the cancer's physical and molecular environments simply overpower the body's immune system.

But Chabu might have unlocked a solution with help from a more than 50-year-old strain of bacteria.

"Cancers are different in one individual to the next, even when they affect the same tissue. These interpersonal differences contribute to whether or not a particular therapy will effectively kill the cancer and help the patient. The bacteria itself is genetically pliable, therefore it can be genetically modified to over-



come patient-specific therapeutic limits," Chabu said.

"Imagine a patient whose cancer isn't responding to traditional therapies and has no other treatment options. One can envision genetically modifying the bacteria such that it can unload therapeutics that specifically exploit that cancer's unique vulnerabilities and kill

it." added Chabu. In a previous study, scientists at the Cancer Research Center and the University of Missouri developed a genetically distinct and non-toxic strain of salmonella called CRC2631

to select and kill cancer cells. CRC2631 was derived from anothstored at room temperature for more than half a century. Now, scientists like Chabu are demonstrating the ability for CRC2631, which enthusiastically targets cancerous tumours, to be used to unleash the body's immune system against prostate cancer.

> "Because CRC2631 preferentially colonises tumour cells, the effect is mainly localized to the tumour. The use of CRC2631 to design and deliver patient-tailored therapeutics foretells potential in precision medicine, or the ability to tailor a treatment to a specific patient," Chabu said.

Highlighting the promise of personalised health care and the impact of large-scale interdisciplinary collaboration, the University of Missouri System's NextGen Preci-

sion Health initiative is bringing together innovators from across the system's four research universities in pursuit of life-changing precision health advancements.

It's a collaborative effort to leverage the strengths of Mizzou and entire UM System toward a better future for Missouri's health. An important part of the initiative is the construction of the new NextGen Precision Health building, which will expand collaboration between researchers, clinicians and industry leaders in a state-of-the-art research facility.

Agencies

DIPK-11729/20

OFFICE OF THE TREASURY OFFICER DANGIWACHA

SHORT TERM QUOTATION

Short term quotations are invited from reputed dealers for purchase of One No. 200 MAH Tubular Battery for use in office. The quotations affixed with Rs2 revenue stamp should reach this office within 7 days from the date of publication of notice in the newspaper.

DIPK-11664/20

Treasury Officer Dangiwacha

Sd/-

AUTHORIZED OFFICER (DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER) KAMRAJ FOREST DIVISION ZANGLI KUPWARA

PUBLIC NOTICE

The confiscation proceedings under section-52 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 in respect of below mentioned seized vehicles are pending disposal before this forum and next date of hearing has been fixed on 25/01/2021 at 11:00 AM.

S.No.	Registration of the seized vehicle	Date/Location of seizure	Details of seized forest produce
01	JK01G/0297	05-05-2020/Mundji Sopore	Deodar/Kail Sawn = 15.04 Cfts
02	JK02C/4841	Intervening night of 14-15 April, 2019/ Sangri Sopore	Deodar Sawn = 21.32 Cfts
03	JK09/8549	26-04-2020/ Shartpora Kupwara	Deodar Sawn = 05.70 Cfts
04	JK09/3214	Intervening night of 14-15 Oct, 2019/ Kupwara	Deodar Round = 26 Cfts
05	JK01V/7806	Intervening night of 13-14 July, 2019/ Dardpora Lolab	Deodar Round/Sawn = 30.47 Cfts
06	JK05C/8301	Intervening night of 09-10 April, 2019/ Harvan Sopore	Kail Sawn = 20.53 Cfts
07	JK02BA/3662	Intervening night of 19-20 May, 2019/ Rampora Sopore	Deodar Sawn = 49.14 Cfts
08	JK01D/5323	27-05-2017/ Seelu Sopore	Deodar Sawn = 13.12 Cfts
09	JK05/5295	03-04-2017/ Bomai Sopore	Deodar/Kail Sawn = 36.32 Cfts
10	JK05/3404	22-09-2019/ Tujar Sopore	Deodar/Kail Sawn = 08.25 Cfts
11	Maximo without Reg. Number	11-07-2020/ Gutlipora Kupwara	Deodar Round = 14 Cfts
12	JK09A/6808	Intervening night of 12-13 May, 2019/ Kupwara	Deodar Sawn = 38.15 Cfts

In this connection, any person/persons having any interest with the seized property is/are directed through the medium of this pubic notice to appear before this forum in person on scheduled date and time, failing which this court shall be constrained to pass appropriate orders in ex-parte under law.

> (Authorized Officer) Divisional Forest Officer, Kamraj Forest Division, Zangli Kupwara.

Coaching Centres Asked Not To Engage Govt Teachers

SRINAGAR: Government has instructed all the heads of private Coaching Centres here in Kashmir capital Srinagar not to engage any government teacher in their teaching faculty warning them of strict action in case they ignore the directive.

Chief Education Officer Srinagar has issued a circular vide number CEO/Sgr/IMW/650-53 in this regard.

teaching activity, failing which and disciplinary action under the action as warranted under rules provisions of law shall be initiated when complaints are pouring in that shall be initiated against the erragainst the management. ing teaching personnel."



Quoting Right of Children to the heads of private coaching cen- of the Chief Education Officer Sri-Free and Compulsory Education ters are hereby put under strict in- nagar that none of the teaching Act-2009 CEO said no teacher shall structions not to allow any govern-faculty under their control is inengage himself or herself in private ment teaching personnel as teaching volved in private tuition or private tuition or private teaching activity. faculty of the coaching center, failing teaching activity. The DDOs are "Government teaching person- which the registration of the coach- advised to seek a similar undernel are hereby directed not to en- ing center shall be withdrawn or gage in private tuition or private suspended with immediate effect ing faculty," it reads.

The circular further reads that all submit certificates to the office nel for the teaching purposes.

taking from the concerned teach-

some private Coaching Centres have "All the DDOs are directed to hired government teaching person-

JK Tourism Participates Icicles Removed From Jehangir Chowk Flyover **In India Travel Mart**

LUCKNOW: After the success- the significance and positive ful conduct of a series of events impact of domestic tourism back home to revive the tour- and the need to tap and furism sector in the wake of Cov- ther promote it. id-19 pandemic, the J&K Tourism Department has started marked the presentation of focusing on promotional ac- short films prepared by J&K tivities and road shows outside the Union Territory.

In this regard the Department of Tourism has been participating in the India Tourism Mart which started here today. The three day B2B tourism event is also being attended by states like Uttar Pradesh, Uttrakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat be- erators and potential tourists sides some renowned travel brands across the country.

The event was inaugurated by Principal Secretary, Tourism & Culture, Uttar Pradesh, Mukesh Kumar Meshram.

Notable representatives of tour and travel industry including National Advisor, Indian Association of Travel &

Tourism Experts (IATTE), Subash Verma, Chairman, Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) UP & UK Chapter, Prateek Hira, President Travel Trade Association of Uttar Pradesh (TTAUP), Vivek Pandey and Secretary, Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI), Swati Dimri also ad-

tices have brought into focus aspects of J&K's tourism

The inaugural session Tourism Department. The short films on varied tourism potential of J&K including Leisure, Nature, Pilgrimage, heritage, Adventure were deeply appreciated by the audience.

The J&K stall also witnessed a good activity with visitors particularly tour opevincing keen interest in the tourism infrastructure, logistic details and packages.

Dy Director, Tourism, Kashmir, Mr. Ahsanul Haq Chishti and Deputy General Manager, IKTDC, Mr. Ashwini Gupta are representing the Department at the ITM.

Earlier also, the Tourism Department had made an outreach to the tourist market of Kolkata, Maharashtra, Guiarat and other states for revival of the sector and in coming days the outreach shall be expanded further.

The aim has been to boost and amplify the confidence among the tourists, invite dressed the inaugural function. them while practicing all Speakers on the occasion COVID-19 protocols and proobserved that the covid prac- moting the varied and diverse

Govt Sanctions Appointment Of District Judges On Ad-Hoc Basis

trict Judges on ad-hoc basis. Mehraj-ud-Din

issued in this regard, the Prakash Bhagat, Manjeet sanction has been accorded Singh Manhas, Naushad in terms of Rule 20 of the Ahmed Khan, Som Lal, Jammu and Kashmir High- Mohammad Ashraf Bhat er Judicial Service Rules and Pradeep Kumar. 2009, as recommended by the J&K High Court.

ed Abdul Nasir, Surinder regular selection/appoint-Singh, Javid Ahmed Gilani, ment is made, whichever Mohammad Amin Mir, would be earlier.

JAMMU: The government Ajay Kumar Gupta, Sudof Jammu and Kashmir hir Kumar Khajuria, Om today sanctioned appoint- Prakash Thakur, Gowher ment of Sub Judges as Dis- Majid Dalai, Javed Alam, According to an order Surjeet Singh Bali, Om

These ad-hoc appointments shall be for a peri-Those promoted includ- od of six months or till the

Bukhari, Kargil Delegation Call On LG

Executive Councilor, La- and pending GP Fund of dakh Autonomous Hill employees of Ladakh. Development Council (LAHDC) Kargil; former man/CEC LAHDC Kargil that Ministers, former Legis- the genuine issues put forth lator and DDC Member by him would be looked called on Lieutenant Gov- into meticulously for their ernor, Manoj Sinha today redressal at the earliest.

at Raj Bhavan here. Chairman/Chief ecutive Councilor, Ladakh leader, Syed Altaf Bukhari Autonomous Hill Devel- met the Lt Governor and opment Council (LAHDC) put forth various issues of Kargil, Feroz Ahmed Khan public importance includsubmitted a memorandum ing speeding up of the resof issues and demands to toration work of Srinagarthe Lt Governor pertaining Jammu Highway. to reservation of seats in SKAUST Jammu/Kashmir the former Minister, the and in other Universities LG said that the men and of I&K for the students of machinery have been Kargil & Leh; reservation pressed into services to in admissions in Para- restore the Srinagar-Jam-Medical Colleges of J&K, mu Highway for traffic

JAMMU: Chairman/Chief dents of Kargil at Srinagar

LG assured the Chair-

Meanwhile, former Ex- Minister and senior JKAP

While interacting with Boys/Girl Hostel for Stu- movement.

Srinagar: Srinagar Municipal ersby when these come Corporation workers Friday removed icicles from Ram Bagh-Jahangir Chowk Flyover a day after a man sustained injuries when an icicle from the overbridge fell on him.

Pointed pieces Icicles were formed all over Ram Bagh-Jahangir Chowk Flyover due to intense cold wave gripping Kashmir. "These could cause damage to vehicles plying on roads below and even cause injuries to pass-

down crashing with the rise in the temperatures.'

Sources in Srinagar Municipal Corporation said that on the directions of Commissioner SMC, Ghazanfar Ali a team was constituted that was equipped with long wooden rods. The team removed all the dangling icicles from the fly-over.

Kashmir is in the grip of cold while Srinagar city last night witnessed a temperature of minus 8.4 Degree Celsius.

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER KASHMIR

NOTICE



Where as an application for transfer of Ahmad Khan S/O Mohd Magbool Khan R/o Bemina Srinagar (Transferor) of M/ Car bearing registration No. JK01AH- 4553 chasis No: 429392 Engine No: 14600138 Model 2018 in favour of Bashir Ah Bhat S/o Gh Rasool Bhat R/o

Nawakadal Srinagar (Transferee). Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general public that representation/Objection, if any in connection with proposed transfer will be received within 7 days from the date

of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer to the address of undersigned. No, representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the aforesaid period.

Dated: 15/01/2021 Regional Transport Office, Kashmir

ازنیابت اوڈی بااجلاص تخصیلداراوڈی ا يگزيكييومجسٹريٺ درجهاول مضمون كاغذات درخوات منجانب وقارا كرم ولدمحمدا كرم بث ساكنة موضع اوڈی بمرادعطا یکی بیک وارڈ ایریا تحت 294SRO اشتهار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام

معامله مندجه عنوان الصدر مين ورخواست سائل وفتر بدامين زيكارونى باسطيط مين بنوارى علقد ر پورٹ بشمولدر بھار وطلب کیا حمیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل موضع او و کی میں ربایش پذر ہے اور کمبہ بذیل افرد پر مشتل ہے JL60 رفيقنه بيجم بيوه محمدا كرم JL30 نتجارت وتيم أكر ولد محمدا كرم محمريلوكام 30سال رحانه بيكم زوجه وتيم اكرم

تجارت وحيداكرم ولدمحمراكرم JL26 اس كاده كوكى افراد كميشين بسائل كمهكى ماجواره آمدنى 25330 ب سرافيكيك اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی محض کو کئی عذر یا اعتراض ہوتو وہ اپناعذر یا اعتراض ساتھ یوم اندر دفتر ہذامیں چیش کرے معیاد گرتے بعد کوئی بھی عذریا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

ازنيابت اوذى بااجلاص صبيب للدمير المكريكييوم بحسريث ورجداول مضمون کاغذات درخوات منجانب نصیراحدشاه ولدشاه ولی شخ ساکنه موضع نامیله او ڈی بمرادعطا یکی پہاڈی اسپیکنگ سرٹھیکیٹ اشتهار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام

معامله مندجه عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر بدامین زیرکار دئی ہے اس سلسلے مین پواری علقہ سے ر پورے بشولدر یکار وطلب کیا میا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کسائل موضع نامیلہ اوڈی میں ر ہایش پذیر ہے اور سمید بذیل افرد پر شمتل ہے شاه و لى ولدجلالدين شخ JV55 زميندار سكهريلوكام مردوری 34سال رخسانه بانو دختر شاه ولى يخ 25مال محمر بلوكام اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کھ منہیں ہے سائل کے کمید کی ما جوارہ آمد فی 14000 ہے سرفھیکیٹ اجرا سرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی عذر یااعتراض ہوتو وہ اپناعذریا اعتراض ساتھ یوم اندر دفتر بذامیں چیش کرے معیاد کرنے بعد کوئی ہمی عذریا اعتراض قابل قبول بیں ہوگا

ازنيابت كلوارى لرودن بااجلاص الكيزيكييومجسٹريث درجه اول مضمون کاغذات درخوات منجانب نصیراحمدود اکر احمد پسران منگا گوجر کرنشی ساکنه موضع ند بامنخصیل تر برگام ضلع کپورره بمرادعطا یگی

اشتهار بمرادآ گابی هرخاص وعام معامله مندجه عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر نباہیں زیرکاروئی باس ملط مین پنواری حالت ب رپورٹ بشولدر ایکارڈ طلب کیا گیاہے جس سے میاں ہے کہ سائل موشع ند بامد تحصیل ترجگام میں

ربایش پذیر ہاور سمبہ بذیل افرو پر مشتل ہے منك كوجر ولدفس الدين كوجر كرفتى مزدوري JU50 سكمر يلوكاس غانونه پیم زوجه منگتا گوجر کرنشی JL-48 زرتعليم JL20 نصيراحمه پسر ذاكراحمه يسر JL-16 14سال زرتعليم اس كعلاده كوئى افراد كمينيس بسائل كميكى ما بواره آمد في __ ب مرفقيك اجراكر في اگر کسی مخض کو کئی عذریااعتراض ہوتو و وا پناعذریااعتراض ساتھ یوم اندر دفتر ہذامیں بیش کرے معیا دگرنے بعد كوئى بھى عذريا اعتراض قابل قبول نبيس ہوگا

ازنيابت كلوارى لرودن بااجلاص الكيزيكيطومجستريث درجهاول مضمون كاغذات درخوات منجانب شاهسين احمد ومنيراحمد يسران غلام حسين گوجر گھٹانه ساكنة موضع جمكنده مخصيل تر برگام ضلع كيورره بمرادعطا مِلَى ALC تحت 294SRO اشتهار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام

اس كے علاوہ كوئى افراد كمينيس بيسائل كے كميدكى ما بوارة آمدنى 8000 ب سرلتمكيك اجراكرنے

میں اگر کسی صحفی کوئی عذر بااعتراض ہوتو وہ اپناعذر بااعتراض ساتھ یوم اندر دفتر بذامیں چیش کرے معیاد گرنے

معامله مندجه عنوان الصدر بين ورخواست سائل وفتر بذائين زيكاروني بياس سلسط بين پنواري حاقة ب رپورت بشوادر ايكارة طلب كياكياب جس عيان بيكسائل موضع جمكنده تحسيل ترجگام يس ربايش پذي جاور حميه بذيل افرويم شتل ب غلام حسين ولدمحد يوسف وجركمناند مزدوري محمر يلوكام JL43 ز و ندز وجه غلام حسین گو جر کھٹا نہ JL22 18- ال ز رتعلیم منيراحمد يسر 16 JL13 اس سے علاوہ کوئی افراد کھ شہیں ہے سائل کے کمید کی ماہوارہ آمدنی 5000 ہے سرٹھیکیٹ اجراکر نے میں اگر کسی فخف کوئی عذریا اعتراض موتو وہ اپناعذریا اعتراض ساتھ یوم اندر دفتر ہذامیں پیش کرے معیا دگرنے

Govt Pursuing GI Regn DIAL-EMMA Of New Crafts: Dwivedi

'Quality Assurance Shall Boost Marketing Of Products In

National, Overseas Markets, Stem Sale Of Fake Products'

JAMMU: Following the registration of seven world-famous

handicrafts of Jammu & Kashmir

under Geographical Indication of

Goods (GI) Act, the Government

is now actively pursuing GI reg-

istration of five more crafts for

quality assurance so that their

marketing in the national and

international market receives

This information was given out

in a meeting and video conference

chaired by the Commissioner/

Secretary, Industries & Commerce,

The meeting was attended by

Director Handicrafts & Hand-

loom, Kashmir, Mussarat Islam,

Director, Handicrafts & Hand-

loom, Jammu, Vikas Gupta and

registration include Basohli Pashmina & Painting, Tweed fabric,

Loi blankets from Kishtwar and

Chikri craft from Rajouri district.

While Craft Development In-

stitute is the Nodal Agency for

GI registration of Loi blankets &

Tweed, NABARD shall facilitate GI

registration of Basohli Painting &

With the objective to restore

handicrafts glory of Jammu &

Kashmir and ensure substantial

remuneration for artisans and

weavers, the Commissioner/ Sec-

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Father name of my wards has been wrongly written in

school records as Aijaz Ahmad Banday While the correct name

is Ajaz Ahamd Banday which needs immediate correction . If

anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file hi/

her objection in the office of the Principal Igbal Memorial Treb-

gam Kupwara whithin a period of seven days from the date of

publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be en-

Ajaz Ahamd Banday F/o Rahil Ajaz , Aamina Ajaz ,

Razwan Ajaz

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my driving lincese bearing DL No: 38684K someow-

here. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody

having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objec-

tion in the office of the Regional transport officer Sopore within a

period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

Sanaulla Untoo

ازنيابت اودى بااجلاص تخصيلداراودى

ا مَكِّز يكيبومجسٹريث درجهاول

مضمون كاغذات درخوات منجانب يتمحمد راشدولدسا كوجريجى ساكنه

موضع گولنه اوڈی بمرادعطا کی ST تحت 294SRO

اشتہار بمرادآ گا ہی ہرخاص وعام معالم مندجہ عنوان العدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر بندائیں دریکا دوئی ہاں سلط بین بنواری طاقدے رپورٹ جوراد بکارظ طلب کیا گیاہے جس عمیاں ہے کہ سائل موضع سے کولند اوڈی میں

JU40

JL17

JL14

10 سال

JL06

محمر يلوكام

اس علاوہ کوئی افراد کمد تیں ہے سائل کے کمید کی ماجوارہ آمدنی ہے سرافیکیٹ اجراکر نے میں اگر

سى هخص كوكى عذر يااعتراض بوتو وه اپناعذر يااعتراض ساتھ يوم اندروفتر بندايس بيش كرے معيا وكرنے بعد

ازنيابت بااجلاص چود برى مشاق احمد الكيزيكيلي مجسريك درجهاول

مضمون كاغذات درخوات منجانب نواز احمد واشفاق و پرویز احمد پسران عبدالرشید میرسلریه ساكنه موضع جبله بمرادعطایگی

اشتهار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام

معامله مندجه عنوان الصدر مين ورخواست ساكل وفتر بدامين زيركاروني باسليل من بنوارى علقد

ا51

JL49

JL22

16 سال

14- ال

السال

تحمر يلوكام

زميندار

رپورے بشمولدر يكارة طلب كيا كيا ہے جس عياں بكسائل موضع جبله اور ى يں

نائب تخصيلدار

ربایش پذیر ہاور سمب بذیل افرو پر شتل ہے

كوئى بهى عذر بإاعتراض قابل قبول نبيس موگا

ر بایش پذیرے اور سمبہ بذیل افرد پر شمل ہے

عبدالرشيدمير سلربيه ولدعبدالطيف

ظريفه في زوج عبدل الرشيدمير سلريه

راشدهبانوه فتزعبدل الرشيدمير سلربيه

اشفاق احديسرعبدل الرشيدمير سلريه

برويزاحد يسرعبدل الرشيدمير سلربيه

بعد كوئي بهي عذريا اعتراض قابل قبول نبيس موكا

بعدكونى بيمي عذريااعتراض قابل قبول نبيس موكا

نوازاحد ميرسلر بيولدعبدل الرشيدمير سلربيه

اخلاق احدولدعبدل الرشيدمير سلربيه

ساولد دين کوجر پچې

شربت بيكم زوجه مأكوجر وحجى

محدرشيد ولد سأكوجر يجى

تنوبراحمه ولد سأتوجر پیچی

نازىيە بانودخز ساكوجرچى

S/o Ghualm Nabi Untoo R/o Sopore AMS

After that no objection shall be entertained

Pashmina and Chikri crafts.

SK

The crafts shortlisted for GI

Director IICT, Zubair Ahmad.

Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, today.

considerable fillip.

retary informed the meeting that

GI registration followed by certi-

fication and labelling shall enable

quality assurance of these prod-

ucts and the right to use the indi-

cation to prevent its misuse by a

third party or unauthorized user

whose product does not conform

to the applicable standards. GI la-

bel, he added, shall also be used

on products that have a specific

geographical origin and possess

qualities or reputation that are

bringing more and more indig-

enous crafts within the ambit of

GI tagging, Mr. Dwivedi directed

all the concerned officers to

take necessary steps to expedite

completion of requisite formali-

ties so that the crafts exclusive

to Jammu and Kashmir are em-

According to an official press

release issued by the Indus-

tries & Commerce Department;

Pashmina & Kani shawls, Carpet,

Wood Carving, Sozni & Crewel

embroidery and Khatamband

have already been GI registered

for which the proprietary rights

lie with Tahafuz & Meeras Soci-

eties. The famous Kashmir Saf-

fron was also recently GI regis-

tered which shall go a long way

in protecting its counter brand-

ing by other countries.

paneled with GI Registry.

While emphasising upon

due to that origin.



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



SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259 ANANTNAG: 01932-228243 BARAMULLA: 0194-102029 · BIJBHERA: 01932-228243

• PAMPORE: 01933-294132 • PATTAN: 01954-293507 · OAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

Sgrr-Jammu highway - (Closed) Mughal Road - (Closed)



This Day in History

· Srinagar- Leh- (Closed)

1929 - WHP-AM in Harrisburg PA begins radio transmissions

1935 - Adolf Hitler orders German rearmament in violation of The Treaty of Versailles

1939 - Germany occupies Czechoslovakia

1939 - Hungary annexes republic of Karpato-Ukraine 1940 - German air raid on British fleet base Scapa Flow 1941 - Blizzard hits North Dakota & Minnesota killing 60

1945 - Allies secure Iwo Jima

1945 - Würzburg, Germany is 90% destroyed, with 5,000 dead, in only 20 minutes by British bombers. 1959 - Iraq & USSR sign economic/technical treaty 1962 - 1st launching of Titan 2-rocket

1962 - US Super-Constellation disappears above Pacific Ocean, kills 167

1966 - Gemini 8 launched with Armstrong & Scott, aborted after 6.5 orbits 1968 - General Motors produces its 100 millionth

automobile, the Oldsmobile Toronado. 1969 - Viasa DC-9 crashes at Maracaibo's Grano de

Oro airport, killing 155

1970 - New English Bible published 1971 - Northern Ireland Prime Minister Chichester-Clark meets with British PM Heath to disucss the security situation in Northern Ireland

1973 - Shah of Iran and Consortium members agree to nationalize all assets immediately in return for an assured 20-year supply of Iranian oil

1973 - OPEC discusses raising prices to offset decline of U.S. dollar value

1976 - British Prime Minister Harold Wilson

announces his resignation 1977 - US president Carter pleads for Palestinian homeland

1978 - Amoco Cadiz spills 223,000 tons of crude oil off French coast 1978 - Soyuz 26 returns to Earth

1978 - US Senate accepts Panama Canal treaty 1984 - South Africa & Mozambique sign non attack treaty

1985 - Associated Press correspondent Terry Anderson taken hostage in Beirut

1988 - US sends 3,000 soldiers to Nicaragua's neighbor Honduras

1994 - Moravcik forms Slovakia government 1995 - Mississippi House of Representatives formally

abolishes slavery & ratifies 13th Amendment. 1995 - World best 7th wkt stand 461 by Bhupinder Singh Jr & P Dharmani

1998 - Pope John Paul II asks God for forgiveness for the inactivity and silence of some Roman Catholics during the Holocaust.

2003 - The largest coordinated worldwide vigil takes

place, as part of the global protests against Iraq war. 2005 - Israel officially hands over Jericho to Palestinian control.

2006 - The United Nations General Assembly votes $overwhelmingly to establish the UN \, Human \, \dot{R}ights \, Council.$ 2012 - Turkish NATO helicopter crashes into a house

killing ten people in the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan 2012 - Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar becomes first cricketer to score 100 international centuries

2012 - George Clooney and other several prominent participants, including Martin Luther King III, are arrested outside the Sundanese Embassy for civil disobedience

From KO Archives

74% POLLING IN PANCHAYAT POLLS: GOVT

JAMMU -: Defying throaty and boycott calls an estimated 74 percent of nearly two and a half lakh voters today cast ballots as the opening day of the first phase of panchayat polls in Jammu and Kashmir passed off peacefully. Polling was held in seven and half blocks of the border districts of Kupwara, Rajouri and Poonch, chief electoral of-ficer (CEO) Pramod Jain said. He said 85 percent polling was recorded at panchayats of Krapora block of Kupwara dis-trict. However, it was only 70 percent each in Tangdhar and Teetwal blocks of the district. Jain said 68 and 65 polling was recorded in Mehdhar and Bala-

kote blocks of Poonch dis-tricts respectively, while it was about 78 percent in three blocks of Rajouri district.

He said counting was in progress and the results were expected by late evening.

Police said, barring one in-cident of altercation between two groups during which some polling boxes were damaged in Aruni

village of Poonch district, polling was peaceful.

A report from Tangdhar block said two women — 120-year-old Tahira Begum and 108-year-old Yakdob Bibi polled at the booth. The polling in the remain-ing blocks of the three districts would be held on January 17 and 19, Jain said, adding over five lakh electorates will decide the fate of 1667 candidates, panchs

and sarpanchs in 125 panchayats. (PTI) (KASHMIR OBSERVER, 16 January, 2001)

CHILD BACK AFTER 12 YEARS

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA -A child who had cross over to the other side of the line of con-trol (LoC) at the age of five has returned to his home at Keranin the border district of Kupwara after turning 17. Identified as Babu Bhat s/o Taj Din Bhat, he crossed the LoC Thursday to the pleas-ant surprise of his grieving family.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 16 January, 2001)



HIJRI

JAMADI -UL-SANI 1442

PRAYERS FAJR

6:08 **ZUHR** 12:38

ASR 4:07

MAGRIB 5:48 **ISHA** 7:12

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KO VIEW

As vaccine arrives

n Wednesday, Jammu and Kashmir received over 80,000 doses of the Oxford Covid-19 vaccine, Covishield, from the Pune-based Serum Institute of India. The inoculation drive will begin on January 16, along with the rest of India. As for the far-off places choppers have been arranged to supply the vaccines. Similarly, the vaccines will also be lifted to snowbound places. In the first phase, three groups of people comprising health workers, and the frontline workers like police personnel, paramilitary forces personnel, and sanitation workers will be covered. The general population will be considered later.

Meanwhile, the number of Covid-19 cases has been progressively declining in J&K. On Wednesday, the union territory did not report any coronavirus deaths and only 121 new positive cases were recorded, 55 of them from Jammu division, taking the number of infected people to 1,22,885. The number of active cases has dropped to 1,629 while 1,19,344 patients have recovered so far. The death toll now stands at 1,912.

Most of the fresh cases were concentrated in Jammu and Srinagar cities – 47 and 35 respectively. Anantnag, Kulgam, Poonch, Ramban, Reasi and Kishtwar did not report any fresh cases. The cases were in single digits in the 12 districts.

The arrival of the vaccine is, however, no reason to be complacent about the safety precautions. On a positive note, the number of infections in India has drastically reduced since the peak of summer when the daily tally had touched around one lakh. Similarly the mortality rate has gone down in the country. Some experts are thus even suggesting that India shouldn't be in a hurry to go for vaccination and wait for the virus to self contain itself as is the case now.

Things from hereon are only expected to look up. While the union government will need to take measures to steer the nation through this crisis, the onus is also on the ordinary people to exercise the safety precautions to ensure the infection is held in check.

With vaccine on the scene, the situation seems to be moving in the positive direction. After initial logistical challenges, the distribution of the vaccine will become progressively easy. This, in.turn, will hopefully enable the return of the old normalcy.

But it will be some time before the vaccine is available to all. So, people will need to continue to exercise caution, something that, sadly, is not the case now. A small number of people uses masks. And with vaccines being administered, the complacency is likely to grow. So, it is important to ensure that the guard is not let down at a time when people have to wait only a few months more before the vaccine is widely available.

OTHER OPINON

To Big Tech

hatsApp, the most popular mobile communication tool in the world, is going to great lengths to explain that its new use policy does not jeopardise the privacy of its users by sending additional data to its parent company, Facebook. The unusual — but not unprecedented — full-page advertisements in newspapers carrying this clarification came after reports indicated that a formidably large number of people may be leaving WhatsApp for rivals such as Signal and Telegram. The company now says that its new policy — a take-it-or-leave-it situation where users will have to delete their accounts if they choose not to abide by it — is valid only for communication with business accounts on WhatsApp. The company believes this is less of a problem since communicating with a business account is optional.

There are two issues here — a seemingly bad faith approach by making the policy mandatory (people are likely to be forced into accepting it because their friends, families and colleagues are all on WhatsApp); and a violation of the principle of purpose limitation. In simpler terms, the latter means data should be collected and processed for only the purposes they are meant for — in WhatsApp's case, this is merely communication. The company is not mandated to follow these principles (and others that could stop it from making such a move) unless it is laid down in law, like it has been in Europe's General Data Protection Regulation. And that is why European users will not be subject to the take-it-or-leave-it new policy that the rest of the world will. The episode is now a strong reminder of why India must expedite work on its own data protection law so that Indians have a right to say to big tech — "We don't agree".

Hindustan Times



Brides in Blood

Our newspapers were recently filed with the news of a lady, Afrooza Bano, being murdered by her husband. Hear this, because she asked him to pay her Mehr.

HIRRA SULTAN

- Women do not simply marry because they are a burden onto their parents or they cannot take care of their own selves. They, like men, are seeking partners. A relationship which harbors love, intimacy and companionship. Not violence and blind submission.

ashmir is considered, especially by Kashmiri's self image as one of the safest places, when it comes to the crime rate especially against women. Yet, our newspapers were recently filed with the news of a lady, Afrooza Bano, being murdered by her husband. Hear this, because she asked him to pay her Mehr.

Afrooza was merely 25 years

Mehr is considered a Sunnah of The Prophet, a gift given to the bride from the husband. It usually depends on the giving capacity of the groom and more importantly on what the bride demands. In the days of the companions, many brides are known to have asked for non-materialistic things as well. Though in current times it has become a necessity to ask for something in terms of money or jewelry because men in the society have become unreliable and this amount acts as a security in case of a divorce, extramarital affairs, polygamy or death. Ideally, Mehr is supposed to be paid at the time of the Nikah even though many people keep it pending, to be offered to the bride at a later point of time. Sometimes to the point of her death. And some other times the men ask their wives to forgo their Mehr as well. As a gesture of goodwill and faith.

That was the case in this murder case too. The Mehr amount was pending even though the wedding was held and the couple lived together. Somehow, the talk of paying Mehr didn't go well with the husband and he killed her.

Killing of one's wife is not new to Kashmir. A lot of brides have been

burnt because they didn't bring enough dowries with them, or because they wouldn't meet the new demands for dowry, because they voiced their opinions, objected to their husband's extramarital affairs, had an argument with mother-in-law and the like. The list is never-ending. The number of domestic violence cases is even higher and is on an increase because of constant lockdowns. economic downfall and the general stress of life. A similar increase in the number of domestic violence cases was seen when the state was shut for some six months after the martyrdom of Burhan Wani

Thanks to patriarchy, the idea of a woman in our society is that of a dumb and mute person, who says nothing, hears nothing, does nothing. Even if the wrong being done directly impacts her. And this idea is not merely limited to Kashmiri society but plagues pretty much the whole of Indian Subcontinent. The idea that all women are damsels in distress and the men are taking pity on them and favoring them by marrying them and hence saving them. From what? Nobody really knows. So when a woman raises her voice for her rights, she meets ends like that of Afrooza

Since men have this idea that their wives are supposed to do anything and everything they ask of her and his only duty towards her was that of marrying her, which he already fulfilled. They consider themselves supreme authority over their wives. Someone their wife should never say no to. Many people simply marry because, "We have nobody at home to cook" or "My mother remains i 1 1 most of the time." People forget that their

> not unpaid maids and

treated them unfairly. realize how they are supposed to treat women, what their responsibilities are towards their wives and how to let go of their conditioning and become good men. Unless that happens we will hear of many more Afrooza's raising their voices for their rights and

> Hirra Sultan is a Srinagar-based author whose work on gender, health and society has appeared in many local publications

many more Shabir's silencing

these voices.

have their rights and needs. Like

because they are a burden onto

care of their own selves. They,

their parents or they cannot take

like men, are seeking partners. A

relationship which harbors love,

intimacy and companionship. Not

As more and more women

rights in a marriage, many young

are getting educated about their

brides are refusing to bend and

mold into the societal idea of

a good wife. They are no more

afraid of a divorce or breaking

mothers and grandmothers. If

something does not go well with

cial independence in the current

financial assistance, they take the

decision of asking for their rights

Without fearing the consequences

of what the society would say or

more importantly who she might

be dependent on if she takes such

violence and murders, also show

how they have a sense of losing

power and can do anything and

everything to have that sense of

control over things. For as long

as possible. Part of the problem

have seen their mothers endur-

wives to exhibit the same kind

of behavior. The same tolerance

our mothers and grandmothers

them up, or their mother-in-law

showed when their husbands beat

Probably, it is time for men to

ing everything. They expect their

is also the fact that most men

The backlash from men, the

a decision.

or even separation more easily.

generation. Since they do not

depend on their husbands for

their core principles, they have

learnt to simply walk away

off engagements. They no longer

want to inherit the silence of their

This is also because of finan-

violence and blind submission.

Women do not simply marry

evervone else.

The views expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer



OBSERVER

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Reopen Anganwadi centers

he Anganwadi Centers were shut due to the Covid-19 pandemic across the country. Recently, The Supreme Court has directed States and Union Territories to take a decision to recommence those centers situated outside containment zones on or before January 31. The Court mentioned that the Union Ministry for Women and Child Development had by its guidance note dated November 11, 2020 "permitted all the States and Union Territories to open Anganwadi Centres" and that it is was now "the responsibility of the States/ Union Territories to take a decision for opening" them. Punjab and Ra-

jasthan have already opened their Anganwadi centers. The Anganwadi Centers provide important services like preschooling, vaccination, medicines, nutritional meals, and have also conducted various awareness programs to ensure the physical and mental well being of pregnant women and children. These services are

playing a vital role in the underprivileged groups of society. The Center and State Governments should initiate to reopen the Anganwadi centers by following all safeguards.

> Amit Singh Kushwaha amitsk68@gmail.com

Why I Bemoan the **Loss of Our Downtown**

Wajahat Qazi

Warped and flawed modernization has led to the demolition of the traditional housing structures of downtown giving way to ugly, concrete,incoherent blobs.

he only redeeming feature of Srinagar city-an extended urban sprawl that has no coherence- is the downtown: a unique constellation of habitats, living spaces and small business establishments. Worldwide , downtowns are places or spaces where vice jostles with virtue and the best and worst of human nature is at display. But, nay, not our downtown. It remains a space that defies conventional or even stereotypical views of downtowns elsewhere.

The reasons appear to be spiritual, sociological and cultural. The city of seven bridges that connect downtown with the rest of Srinagar city is dotted with tombs and shrines of Sufi saints that bought Islam to Kashmir and are revered by most people here.

The denizens of downtown have a firm belief that because of these shrines, there is a vigil over it that keeps the place clean in the spiritual senses. Sociologically and historically, the downtown was a place where, while turfs were zealously and jealously guarded, both for fun and other prosaic reasons, fate kadal wallahs jokingly mocked the zaina kadal wallahs and so on, everyone knew everyone. The scope for vice and mischief is thereby very restricted. Culturally, downtown was and perhaps is a zone and a sphere unto itself perhaps best reflected in the sense of humour of its denizens.

Downtown, as I recall it , was then a large extended family defined by a high level of social capital. While it was a self-contained space economically with Maharaj Gunj as its economic and trading centre of gravity the sense of community was very strong. The Khojas (wealthy business people) owed a sense of responsibility toward the poorer downtown wallahs, neighbours in



downtown looked out for each other: it was a source of embarrassment if a neighbour did not do so.

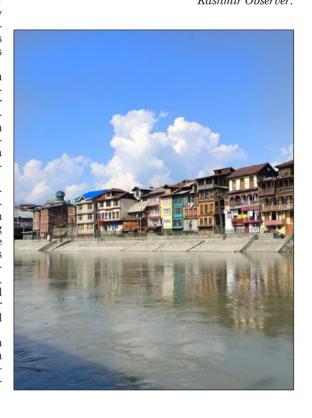
The houses and dwellings of downtown were unique in their shapes, sizes and architecture: most houses were built from what were called maharaj seer(maharaj bricks- small rectangular bricks baked to a hardness in kilns that defied the severest of shocks, the front doors of these dwellings were small(one had to bend to enter), the walls of rooms were splattered with what was called 'bore'- special mud mixed with straw- that staved off the cold of severe Kashmir winters. Many many years ago, the roofs of these houses were covered with clay over which flowers grew. The downtown was connected by small lanes, and by lanes called kochas dotted by cobblestones in a way whose closest analogue remains the arterial system of the human body. Drainage was and remains an issue.

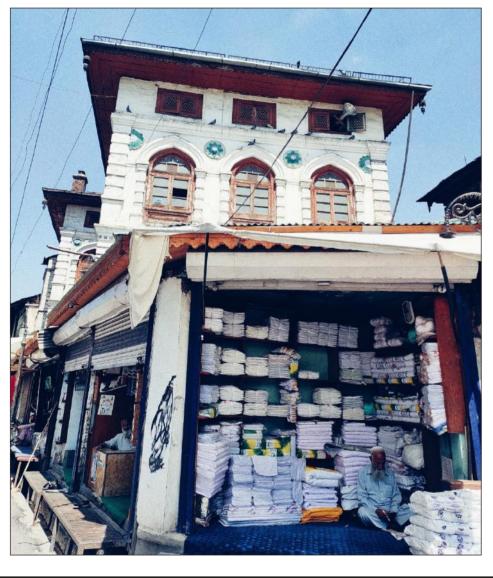
All in all, our downtown was a marvel in its own right-culturally, socially, physically and even economically. But this unique urban space of Kashmir is decaying. In fact, it is losing its character. The reasons, in the main, pertain to the population explosion in Kashmir, the attendant break down of the traditional family structure and concomitant expansion of Srinagar city. The story and saga is also one of neglect and urban decay.

Those who continue to live in the downtown either do so, partly by choice but mostly because of economic reasons. Warped and flawed modernization has led to the demolition of the traditional housing structures of downtown giving way to ugly, concrete , incoherent blobs. Ownership of the motor car has meant that the tonga wallahs(horse driven carriages) are not even a relic; they have gone extinct Businesses have migrated to other urban centres and central business districts like Lal Chowk or other business centres that have mushroomed within and in the boundaries of Srinagar city.

I noticed this as I wandered across, through and around our downtown. Because I am a romantic(hopelessly so), the loss of downtown's special character is a personal loss for me. My wanderings came to a close after days, and as dusk fell on downtown, I peered from the precincts of the Hari parbat fort- a strategic fort built apparently by the Mughal emperor Akbar on a steep hill-, downtown glistened with electricity casting a surreal hue on snow clad Srinagar. The muezzins' call to prayer reverberated through the city. I closed my eyes and said a prayer for my and our downtown!

The author has a Masters with Distinction in International Relations from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland. Worked as the Associate Editor of Kashmir Observer.





WhatsApp: Guarding Privacy On Messaging Services

Change of terms and conditions will affect more than a billion messaging app users

ou might have missed the message that popped up on your screen as you signed into WhatsApp recently — or you might simply have checked 'OK' to the changes to its terms and conditions - but there are repercussions now to the amendments proposed by

By February 8, unless you accept those updated terms and conditions, you may be shut out of the messaging service that is enjoyed by more than a billion users the world over. It's by far the world's most popular messaging system, had some 78 million downloads in November, and in India alone more than 400 million use the service and that number grows by the day.

Given these types of numbers, its ease of use and popularity, any change to terms and conditions is significant — this one more so. Because WhatsApp is owned by Facebook — the social media platform purchased it from founders Brian Acton and Jan Koum in 2014 for \$19 billion (Dh69.7 billion) — the new changes now mean that your personal data could be shared with its

Given what has happened in recent years to

But this also raises a far more basic question about your data and personal details. They are yours and should remain so. Certainly, one of the attractions in signing up to WhatsApp and using it multiple times daily for most people, is that it pledged to keep your details private — that they wouldn't be shared with anyone else. The new terms and conditions raise many questions.

A number of governments and privacy advocates globally have taken issue with Facebook and WhatsApp about this new proposed relationship and rightly so. We all have a basic right to privacy, regardless of the whims of the owners and merger conditions of these technology companies.

The issue of personal privacy is compounded by the sheer size of Facebook and its reach globally. It is used daily by a billion people, and has more than 2 billion users. Its ability to shape events too is huge, yet it shuns any responsibility for the spread of false information and fake news.

A good first step now towards curbing the power of Facebook would be for governments and privacy regulators to halt this sharing of information from WhatsApp. Otherwise, the case for breaking up Facebook grows far stronger.

users' data, how it was collected, farmed and used, there are obvious concerns now about this move. Given what has happened in recent years to users' data, how it was collected, farmed and used, there are obvious concerns now about this move. But this also raises a far more basic question about your data and personal details. They are yours and should remain so.



People Living In International Border Areas In JK Provided Development With Dignity: Jitendra Singh

Press Trust of India

IAMMU: Union Minister litendra Singh on Friday said the government has provided development with dignity to the people living along the International Border (IB) and this was visible in the form of individual bunkers and 1,000 modern toilets coming up in these areas.

He also said four per cent reservation has also been provided to the youth living along the IB.

Describing the recently held District Development Council (DDC) election in Jammu and Kashmir as a turning point in the history of the Union Territory, Singh said the new councillors are blessed to be the face of this new chapter of history, which offers them a huge opportunity to perform

and prove themselves. "In the absence of a threetier grassroot democracy, there was a missing link between

the Member of Parliament and the grassroot inhabitants for which an extra effort was required always.

"But now with a systematic arrangement in place, the unattended local issues will also receive attention," said Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel.

Singh called upon the Development District Councillors to work hard with honesty and sincerity.

He said all the public works cannot be accomplished simultaneously but our voter should be convinced that we are working for him selflessly and to the best of our ability and potential and without any selfish interest.

Speaking at a felicitation function to introduce and present mementoes to the party candidates elected from his Lok Sabha Constituency, Singh said Udhampur, Kathua and

Doda has witnessed unprecedented development in the last six years under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which was more than what had been seen in the earlier seven decades.

He said the grassroot development was rewarded by the rural voter in Udhampur-Kathua-Doda Lok Sabha constituency, which had contributed 47 councillors to the overall BJP tally.

Cong Workers Clash With Police During Protest Against Farm Laws In Jammu

Press Trust of India

JAMMU: Congress workers clashed with police on Friday when they were stopped from marching to the Raj Bhawan here as part of a protest called in support of farmers agitating against the Centre's new agri laws.

Police lathi-charged the marchers and briefly detained some of them, an officer said.

Led by Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee

(JKPCC) president Gulam Ahmed Mir, a large number of party workers assembled at the party headquarters at Shahedi Chowk here and began their march to the Raj Bhawan.

A clash ensued as the police tried to stop them from marching to the Rai Bhawan. The Congress observed the day as Kisan Adhikar Diwas in support of the rights of farmers who have been protesting against the Centre's three farm laws. The party is also protesting against hike in fuel prices.

CONTD. FROM **FRONT** PAGE

Vaccination Drive...

which the government said is "probably the beginning of the end" of COVID-19.

A total of 3,006 session sites across all states and union territories will be virtually connected during the launch at 10.30 am by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and around 100 beneficiaries will be vaccinated at each session site.

Jaipur's Sawai Man Singh (SMS) Medical College Principal Sudhir Bhandari will be the first person in Rajasthan to be given the shot, while in Madhya Pradesh, a hospital security guard and an attender will be among the first to get the jab.

Modi said the country on Saturday would enter a "decisive phase" in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

"Tomorrow, January 16, India begins the pan-India rollout of COVID-19 Vaccination drive. The launch will take place at 10:30 AM tomorrow morning," he tweeted.

His office had said this will be the world's largest vaccination programme covering the entire length and breadth of the country and all preparations are in place to initiate it on the principles of 'Jan Bhagidari'.

On the eve of the roll-out, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan reviewed the preparations and visited the dedicated COVID control room set up at the Nirman Bhawan premises of the health ministry.

The vaccination drive has been planned in a phased manner, identifying priority groups. Healthcare workers, both in government and private sectors including ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services) workers, will receive the vaccine during this phase, the health ministry said in a statement.

Vardhan said India's exercise to vaccinate its population against COVID-19 shall be the largest immunisation drive of the world.

He reiterated that both the indigenously manufactured vaccines, Covishield by Serum Institute of India and COVAXIN of Bharat Biotech, have proven safety and immunogenicity records and are the most important tools to contain the

Speaking at a separate programme, he said, "Tomorrow is an important day...it is the last phase of the battle against coronavirus. I say, this is probably the beginning of the end of COVID now which is going to start tomorrow."

He, however, cautioned that even if the vaccination drive is on, there should not be lowering of guard and people must follow COVID-19 appropriate behaviour.

An online digital platform Co-WIN, developed by the health ministry, will be used to drive the

vaccination programme. Adequate doses of both Covishield and Covaxin have already been delivered to all states and

A dedicated 24x7 call centre -- 1075 -- has also been set up for addressing queries related to the COVID-19 pandemic, vaccine roll-out and the Co-WIN software.

According to the government, the shots will be offered first to an estimated one crore healthcare workers, and around two crore frontline workers. and then to persons above 50 years of age, followed by persons younger than 50 years of age with associated comorbidities.

Cost of vaccination of healthcare and frontline workers will be borne by the central government. All states and union territories are geared up for the inoculation programme.

In Delhi, the drive will kick off from the staterun LNJP Hospital with a simple ceremony in the presence of Chief Minister Kejriwal and Health Minister Satvendar Jain

A trio of a doctor, nurse and a sanitation worker will receive COVID-19 vaccine shots in the presence of Kejriwal at LNJP Hospital, sources said.

The 81 sites named in the national capital for administering the jabs include six central government facilities like AIIMS, Safdarjung Hospital, RML Hospital and Kalawati Saran Children Hospital and two ESI hospitals.

Medical superintendents of government hospitals at Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar will be among the first to get the shots in Gujarat, where over 16,000 health workers will be vaccinated during the day, officials said.

In Assam, an estimated 6,500 people of the 1.9 lakh health workers will be vaccinated on the first day. Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal will inaugurate the drive at Assam Medical College Hospital, Dibrugarh and Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma at Gauhati Medical College and Hospital.

Former vice chancellor of Srimanta Sankardeva University of Health Sciences Dr Umesh Chandra Sarma will be the first to receive the initial dose in the state. The other doctors to be vaccinated are Padma Shri awardee and surgeon Dr Ilias Ali, Sahitya Akademi awardee and former principal of Barpeta Medical College and Hospital Dr Dhrubajyoti Borah, GMCH principal Dr Achyut Baishya and its superintendent Dr Abhijeet

Covishield Shots At...

of 1.46 lakh shots of Covishield. Commissioner Health and Medical Education Atal Dulloo said they have received almost 1.46 lakh Covishield doses of covid-19 vaccine for Jammu and Kashmir out of which almost 75.000 vaccine doses have been allocated for Kashmir division.

"There are 40 vaccination sites in Jammu and in Kashmir out of which 20 are in Jammu and 20 are in Kashmir," he said.

Dulloo said the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine will be given to the health workers who have already registered themselves for vaccination, while in the second phase frontline workers will

be vaccinated. Pertinent to mention, over 1.22 lakh people have been infected by the virus in Jammu & Kashmir so far, and 1920 people have died of

Authorities in Kashmir conducted many mock drills in different districts, in preparation for the vaccine rollout to understand the best way to administer the vaccine and plug loopholes in its

logistics and training. State Immunisation Officer, Dr Qazi Haroon said that all arrangements have been put in place and adequate vaccines have been forwarded to all

districts to start vaccination on Saturday. Qazi said that choppers were pressed into service to take vaccines to far off places.

Officials from Jammu division said that they received 67,500 vaccines on Wednesday and accordingly forwarded the vaccines to all the

A top health official from Ladakh said that they received 11,500 doses of Covishield vaccine which were equally distributed between Leh and Kargil

He added that a vaccine will be administered at the primary health centre for which 17 sites in Leh and 23 in Kargil have been created.

Over one crore and 5.27 lakh people have been infected by the virus in India so far, and close to 1.52 lakh deaths reported, the Government of India said around 100 people will receive shots at each of the 3,006 vaccination sites across the country on Saturday.

The first phase of vaccination is likely to be completed in a few months. The vaccines being administered in the first phase will be free.

"The Centre will bear the expenses for vaccinating the 3 crore priority population," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said earlier this week.

PM Modi will launch the Covid-19 vaccination drive on January 16 at 10:30 am. Around 3,006 session sites across all states and UTs will be virtually connected during the launch and around 100 persons will be vaccinated at each session site on the first day.

Dulloo said inauguration ceremonies would be held both in Jammu and Kashmir divisions.

"In Jammu Government Medical College, Lt-Governor Manoj Sinha will be present while at SKIMS Hospital, Soura, in Srinagar, Advisor to LG Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar will inaugurate the proceedings," Dulloo said.

Jammu and Kashmir received the first shipment of 1.46 lakh Covishield doses developed by AstraZeneca and University of Oxford, manufactured by Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII).

Div Com Delivers...

was accompanied Pole Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Dr Owais Ahmad.

As per the official spokesperson, the vaccines were handed over to the concerned health officers to be dispatched to the vaccination centres. He said Divisional Commissioner also conducted a meeting to review the functioning of all the departments of Sub-Division Gurez and took stock of the snow clearance operations, winter preparedness, development works, welfare schemes and work culture in the offices.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate Gurez Dr Mudasir Wani gave a brief about the functioning of the departments and highlighted the achievements and target of various departments.

"Div Com discussed the facilities provided by the health department and gave directions to the health authorities to airlift pregnant ladies before their date of delivery as the valley remains cut off from the rest of the UT owing to heavy snowfall," the official spokesperson said.

The meeting, he said, also discussed arrangements made regarding roll-out of vaccination in the Gurez Valley. The DC, he said, informed the Div Com that they are chalking out a special vaccination plan for this subdivision keeping in view the adverse weather conditions of this region.

Pole, as per the official spokesperson, also stressed on storage of more kerosene, petroleum and rice in abundance for the convenience of the

"Further Snow clearance remained top of agenda. At the end of the review meeting, the Div Com directed all the officers to work with the people neck to neck as this area witnesses heavy snowfall. He impressed upon the officers to address public grievances and solve their genuine problems on priority," he said.

"Later the Div Com interacted with the recently elected BDC chairperson, DDC member and PRI members. He listened to their issues very patientlv and assured the redressal of their grievances. The people from civil society and senior citizens also met Div Com," he added.

While addressing the delegations, the Div Com said that the people of Gurez have always remained true nationalists and never supported communal thinking. He said the welfare of the people of Gurez remains a top priority for the government and due attention will be given towards the issues of this valley.

5 Deaths...

from Iourian and a 65-year-old man from Kathua. So far, 1920 people have succumbed to virus in J&K – 1205 in the Valley and 715 in Jammu

Srinagar district with 453 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (367), Baramulla (172), Budgam (114), Kupwara (94), Pulwama (88), Anantnag (84), Doda (64), Bandipora (61), Udhampur (57), Kulgam (54), Rajouri (55), Kathua (51), Ganderbal (46), Shopian (39), Samba (39), Poonch (24), Ramban (21), Kishtwar(22), and

Meanwhile, eighteen travellers and a CRPF man were among 144 fresh coronavirus cases reported across J&K in the last 24 hours.

Also, the two persons who had flown into Kashmir Valley earlier this month and were found positive for Covid-19 have tested negative for the UK strain of the virus.

"Their samples were sent outside for testing recently and both have tested negative for new UK strain but are 'normal' Covid positive," an official

Giving district-wise details, the officials said, Srinagar reported 40, Baramulla 2, Budgam 2, Pulwama 3, Kupwara 3, Anantnag 6, Bandipora 2, Ganderbal 10, Kulgam 3, Shopian 9, Jammu 46, Udhampur 2, Kathua 1, Samba 9, Poonch 1 and Ramban 5 new cases of Covid-19.

Moreover 179 more patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals-111 from Jammu Division and 68 from Kashmir Valley. The number of active cases has reduced to 1428 in J&K. (With GNS inputs)

Trial Run On

Harbans Lal; Project Director, NHIA, Parshotam Kumar; ASP, Rajni Sharma and several other officers of BRO and the construction agencies were present on the occasion.

As per the official spokesperson, Khan said that construction of Bailey bridge was nearing completion and the trial run would be conducted tomorrow before opening it for traffic. "He said that the construction of the Bailey

bridge is going on round the clock and 50% of the bridge launching work was completed by Friday morning. He said that the perishable supplies have been transhipped and sent to their destinations." he said.

The Chief Engineer BRO, he said, informed that the work is in progress as per plan.

"BRO has put all the resources available for completing the bridge. Work is going on at war footing as all men and machinery have been put to use. Hopefully, by tomorrow evening the Bailey bridge will be completed and ready for traffic"

Meanwhile, Civil QRT Ramban, Banihal, Ramsu and other organizations are helping the pedestrians to by-pass the damaged portion at Kela Morh safely, the official spokesperson added.

Cold Wave Refuses...

minus 7.0 degrees Celsius the night earlier. Qazigund recorded a minimum of 8.3 degrees

in north Kashmir recorded a low of minus 5.7 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag recorded minus 8.4 degrees Celsius. The surface of Dal Lake has frozen due to the

bone chilling cold, prompting authorities to issue an advisory against walking on the ice. SDRF and river police are conducting patrols around the frozen water bodies to ensure safety

of the people. A dense fog also engulfed many parts of the city this morning.

The plunge in the minimum temperature has resulted in freezing of water supply pipes. A thick laver of ice has frozen over several roads in the city and elsewhere in the valley, making it difficult for motorists to drive.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of 'Chillai-Kalan' -- the 40-day harshest winter period when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies including the famous Dal Lake here as well as the water supply lines in several parts of

The chances of snowfall are the most frequent and maximum during this period and most areas, especially in the higher reaches, receive heavy

While 'Chillai-Kalan' which began on December 21 -- will end on January 31, the cold wave continues even after that in Kashmir with a 20-day-long 'Chillai-Khurd' and a 10-day-long 'Chillai-Bachha'

Govt Relaxes...

for JKCCE.37 years for open merit candidate, 39 years for reserve & in -service candidates & 40 years for physically challenged," he said in a tweet. (GNS)

Biden Team...

manufacturing, innovation and domestic competition, Nadiya Beckwith-Stanley will join the NEC as a special assistant to the president for budget and tax policy, the Biden transition said Thursday.

"Delivering results to Americans grappling with the many challenges facing our country will require an experienced, innovative and principled White House team," Biden said in a statement. "The policy leaders announced today are accomplished public servants who are ready to build back better for this country immediately. They will be critical to ensuring that our policy agenda is effective in bringing change for the American

Fazili comes to the White House from the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, where she was director of engagement for the community and economic development department. She previously served in the Obama administration as

a senior adviser at the NEC and at the Treasury Department, where she spent time in the offices of Domestic Finance and International Affairs.

Before serving in the government, Fazili was a clinical lecturer at Yale Law School's community and economic development clinic. Fazili, the mother of three children, is the second-generation American. She was born in Williamsville,

Biden will take over as the next president of the US on January 20.

'Don't Make...

"We are committed to resolve disputes through talks and political efforts but no one should make any mistake of testing our patience," he

"I want to assure the country that the sacrifice of the Galwan heroes will not go waste. Indian Army will not allow any harm to the country's sovereignty and security," he added.

Twenty Indian Army personnel laid down their lives in a fierce hand-to-hand combat on June 15 last year in Galwan Valley, an incident that marked the most serious military conflicts be-

tween the two sides in decades. China is yet to disclose the number of its soldiers killed and injured in the clash though it officially admitted to have suffered casualties. According to an American intelligence report, the

number of casualties on the Chinese side was 35. "We are committed to resolve disputes through talks and political efforts but no one should make any mistake of testing our patience," Gen

Naravane said. He said eight rounds of military talks were held between India and China to bring the situation under control.

the current situation on the basis of mutual and equal security," he said. Referring to cross-border militancy from Pakistan, he said the neighbouring country con-

"Our efforts will continue to find a solution to

tinues to provide a safe haven to militants. "Strong response is being given to the enemy on the other border. Pakistan continues to provide safe haven to militants. In the training camps, across the LoC (Line of Control), around 300-400

militants are ready to infiltrate," he said. "There was an increase of 40 per cent in the ceasefire violations last year which is the proof of Pakistan's sinister plans. There were also attempts to smuggle weapons using drones," he added.

Top Journalist...

as part of Harvard University's Faculty of Arts and Sciences," she posted on the micro blogging

Several prominent journalists and some politicians had also congratulated her on the career change. The former NDTV anchor, who hosted the

programme Left, Right and Centre, in a tweet revealed that she has not officially received a job offer to join Harvard University as Associate Professor of Journalism and that perpetrators of the attack have used careful forgeries and misrepresentation to access her personal data. I had been given to believe that I would be joining the University in September 2020. While I was

making preparations to take up my new assign-

ment in January 2021. Along with these delays, I

began noticing a number of administrative anom-

alies in the process being described to me. At first I had dismissed these anomalies as being reflective of the new normal being dictated by the pandemic, but recently the representations being made to me were of an even more disquieting nature. As a result, I reached out to senior authorities at Harvard University for clarity. Upon their request, I shared some of the correspondence that I believed I had received from

the University. After hearing from the University, I have now learnt that I have been the victim of a sophisti-

cated and coordinated phishing attack. Alarmed at the scale of the cyberattack, Nidhi Razdan has filed a complaint with the police and provided documentary evidence to help the probe

in identifying and prosecuting the criminals. Recently Held...

to elect the village Forest Rights Committees (FRC's). "It has been alleged that in many villages, the people were not even informed and those people who are in actual possession of the forest land for more than 100 years haven't been made part of the FRC's," the statement said.

Bhat had demanded that FRC's be reconstituted by holding fresh Gram Sabha's after weather improves and until then Govt must only take up awareness programmes across J&K

"Before holding Gram Sabha meetings the govt was supposed to issue a gazette notification through I&K Tribal Affairs department wherein they will provide details of villages where people can claim the rights under FRA. People don't know whether the JK Tribal Affairs Department has been made the Nodal Department or not? Most of the FRA workshops and training programmes were organized by the Forest Department at top which goes against the principles of this legislation," Bhat said.

"Government made some people in villages hold closed door meetings which have been labelled as Gram Sabha meetings. There has been resistance from people as well. In these meetings 10 to 15 member Forest Rights Committee (FRC) members have been elected. In the bone chilling cold with 4 to 5 feet snow on ground in most of the forest villages Gram Sabha were hardly held. Have these meetings been held in places like

Tulail, Gurez or Machil which are totally cut off from the rest of J&K?" he added.

Bhat further alleged that in many places not even 5 people were present in the meeting which

elected the 15 member FRC. "I don't blame the officials of the Rural Development Department or members of Panchayat for all this. It is the govt at top which is enforcing this. They seem to be under a confusion that by March 31st govt has to implement FRA

2006 in J&K . This is not the case at all," he said. He further added that FRA was a continuous process and has no time limit. He said as per the FRA guidelines jointly prepared by Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India office in 2015 there is no time limit for receiving FRA

Police Much

during my tenure Pakistan was instigating youth through social media and of course many youth would join militancy from the funeral processions of killed militants but those things aren't happening now.

The administration needs to look into the matter, as what motivates youth to pick up arms? Why did over 160 youth still go into this path? And why are they feeling alienated?

I believe without alienation they would not join because why would a child leave his comfortable life even when he knows he will get killed within months.

I believe since New Delhi directly rules Jammu and Kashmir, the government should initiate a study to know what prompts young people to join militant ranks and identify and eliminate those reasons.

There should be counselling centres where the young people should be counselled. The government should also use psychologists, sociologists, universities and colleges to study what drives vouth to this path.

What do you think about the future of mili-

No one knows the future here. What can I say! You recently told a New Delhi-based web

portal that during your time, people would complain that their kids are being tortured and that it was better to become a militant. Can you explain it further?

Yes, I used to get such complaints during my

In the wake of any such complaint, the local and police administration needs to ascertain

whether it is genuine or not, and act accordingly We need to check whether there is a need to improve the working system of police, or is there a need to improve their behavior, or is it a problem of perception.

Then we need to identify the perception and think of remedial measures. That is why I assert that a detailed study is needed to know what drives youth towards arms.

other acquaintances to know the reason.

We need to talk to their families, friends and

Do you think post abrogation of Article 370

the sense of alienation towards the system has

If 160 boys have joined militancy, then what is That means they got alienated and the OGWs

might have been ready to jump the well. So it is our collective responsibility as a society to know what drives them to militancy and how

Let's talk about the Shopian "fake encounter" about which you recently remarked, "killing innocent youth and show them as terrorists is most heinous crime and those involved should be charged for murder".

See, the fake encounters not only alienate a particular family but the whole society. Not only must

Justice be done, it must also be seen to be done. When people come to know their kids were killed by security forces, they will go far away from them (Security forces).

"much easier" for police to work in Kashmir. Were regional political parties interfering in

You also said Governor Rule would make it

See, at my level, there was no such interference

from the ruling party. But yes, at the lower level, there can be such interference from the MLAs. Police is not answer-

able to any MLA or Minister. This is not the case in Governor Rule, where police is much free.

Sarjan Barkati... of Kashmir" during 2016 agitation for his peculiar

method of sloganeering that attracted large crowds.

Hideout 'Busted'...

"The recovered arms and ammunition include Four AK-47 Magazines, 15 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 2 hand grenades, one each of Binoculars, Compass, wire-cutter and a map", the sources added. (GNS)



Pregnant, Lactating Women Should Not Be Given COVID-19 Vaccine Now: Health Ministry



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Interchangeability of COVID-19 vaccines is not permitted and pregnant and lactating women should not be administered the shots as they have not been part of any anti-coronavirus vaccine clinical trial so far, the

territories, the ministry highlight- therapies, pharmaceutical proded that under the emergency use authorisation, coronavirus vaccination is indicated only for 18 of persons having active sympyears and above. If required, CO-VID-19 vaccine and other vaccines coronavirus infected patients should be separated by an interval of at least 14 days.

ID-19 vaccines is not permitted. unwell and hospitalised patients Second dose should also be of the due to any illness, the COVID-19 same COVID-19 vaccine which vaccination is to be deferred for was administered as the first dose," the letter written by Manohar Agnani, Additional Secretary, Union health ministry said.

cautions and contraindications nant or not sure of their pregnanfor COVID-19 vaccination along cy and lactating women should with a comparative factsheet for not receive COVID-19 vaccine at both the vaccines (Covishield this time," the letter stated.

and Covaxin) which contains information on vaccine platform, physical specifications, dosage, cold-chain storage requirements, contraindications and minor AEFIs (adverse event following immunization).

It said this information should be disseminated to programme managers across all levels and through them to cold-chain handlers and vaccinators for ready reference.

Listing the contraindications, the health ministry cautioned against administration of the vaccine in persons with a history of anaphylactic or allergic reaction to a previous dose of COVID-19 vaccine, and in those with immediate or delayed onhealth ministry said on Thursday. set anaphylaxis or allergic re-In a letter to all states and Union action to vaccines or injectable ucts, food items, among others.

According to the letter, in case toms of SARS-CoV-2 infection, who have been given anti-SARS-CoV-2 monoclonal antibodies or "Interchangeability of COV- convalescent plasma and acutely four to eight weeks after recovery.

"Pregnant and lactating women have not been a part of any CO-VID-19 vaccine clinical trial so far. The ministry has listed pre- Therefore, women who are preg-

THE ACTIONS follow the storming of the US Capitol last week by supporters of Trump

Washington Locks Down Ahead Of Biden Inauguration Amid **Possible Violence Warnings**

Agencies

WASHINGTON: As Washington locks down for President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration, Delta airports. Officials have warned of Air Lines put new restrictions on passengers to the US capital on Thursday amid warnings of possible political violence throughout the country even after the Jan 20 swearing-in.

Hotels, airlines and other businesses ramped up security as authorities planned to deploy at least 20,000 National Guard troops in the city. Activist groups concerned about the potential for violence asked hotels to close starting this weekend ahead of the event. Delta will not allow travelers flying to Washington area airports to check firearms on its flights before the inauguration, Chief Executive Ed Bastian said on Thursday.

"We're all on high alert based on the events over the last couple of weeks in Washington," Bastian told CNBC. He told Reuters his airline had placed passengers on a no-fly list for their involvement in disruptive incidents that, for U.S. Senator Mitt Romney.

The actions follow the storming of the US Capitol last week by supporters of President Donald Trump and disturbances on flights and at plans for armed protests in Washngton and all 50 states

Trump's vice president, Mike Pence, was expected to speak on Thursday at a briefing on inauguration security. It will be his first public appearance since the Jan. 6 attack.

In Washington, the perimeter of a high fence surrounding the Capitol was pushed out to encompass the U.S. Supreme Court and the Library of Congress.

Nearby roads were closed. some businesses said they would shut down next week, and the public transportation agency said it was closing certain metro stations and rerouting bus lines from Friday through Jan. 21.

The National Park Service said a decision had yet to be made on whether to close the National Mall running from the Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial. The park service closed the Washington example, targeted Republican Monument to tours and Mayor Muriel Bowser asked visitors to because of widespread fraud.

stay away from the city. Law enforcement officials have warned of potential violence beyond the U.S. capital. In Ohio, Governor Mike DeWine said on Thursday the statehouse and state office buildings in downtown Columbus would be closed from Sunday through Wednesday.

BEYOND INAUGURATION

Mary McCord, head of the Iustice Department's national security division under former President Barack Obama, warned the threat could remain well beyond the inauguration.

'You will see a resurgence of activity and planning and extremists' threats. So I don't think this problem is going away with this president leaving the White House," McCord said.

The U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday voted to impeach Trump on charges of incitement after his supporters rampaged through the Capitol, leaving five dead, following a speech by the Republican president reiterating his false claim that Biden, a Democrat, beat him

UP Woman Goes Missing, Case Under Anti-Conversion Law Against Man She Met Online

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

GORAKHPUR: Police lodged a case against a Karnataka man for allegedly kidnapping a 19-year-old woman after befriending her, hiding his religious identity, police said on Thursday.

A missing report was lodged by the woman's father on January 5 after she did not return home from college, Station House Officer, Chiluatal police station, Neeraj Kumar Rai said.

"During an investigation and with the help of call records of the woman's mobile phone, it was found that she used to frequently talk to the man whose name in the Truecaller app was mentioned as Mehboob and the location as Karnataka," he said.

A case was lodged against the man on January 11, following which a three-member police team was sent to Karnataka to trace the man and the kidnapped woman, Mr Rai said.

On the basis of these inputs, the woman's father lodged an FIR against the man and accused him of allegedly kidnapping his daughter and hiding his religious identity, he said.

The woman's father, who is a re-



the FIR that last year the man had befriended his daughter through social media and wooed her on the pretext of providing a job.

Police said that everything would be clear once the accused and the kidnapped woman are traced.

The case was lodged under sections 366 (kidnapping, abduction or inducing woman to compel her into marriage) and 363 (kidnapping) of the Indian Penal Code, besides the new anti-conversion law of the Uttar Pradesh government, the SHO said.

The recently promulgated Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020, nullifies marriages if they are carried out for the sole purpose of religious conversion

Pakistan Fires 12 Police Officers For Not Protecting Hindu Temple



Agencies

akistani authorities have sacked a local police chief and 11 other policemen for ty received permission from local failing to protect a Hindu temple that was set on fire and demolished last month by a mob led by hundreds of supporters of a religious party, police said.

The 12 policemen were fired on Thursday over acts of "cowardice, irresponsibility and negligence" for not trying to stop the mob when it attacked the temple, with some having fled the scene.

htunkhwa also suspended 33 other police officers for a year facing trials on various charges. as punishment, provincial police chief Sanaullah Abbasi said.

Shri Paramhans Ji Maharaj Samadhi temple – situated in the remote village of Teri in Karak district, some 85km (53 miles) south of Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – would be rebuilt.

Last week. Pakistan's Supreme Court also ordered the rebuilding of the temple, with the next hearing in the case set for January 19.

On December 30, about 2,000 men ransacked the historic temple built in 1920 and an adjacent Hindu shrine, destroying the

the temple that was recently freedom of religion or belief".

\$100,000 For Toilet As Ivanka Trump Wouldn't

Many U.S. Secret Service agents have stood guard in Washington's elite Kalorama neighborhood, home over

the years to Cabinet secretaries and former presidents. Those agents have had to worry about death threats, secure perimeters and suspicious strangers. But with the arrival of Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner, they had a new worry: finding a toilet. Instructed not to use any of the half-dozen bathrooms inside the couple's

house, the Secret Service detail assigned to President Donald Trump's daughter and son-in-law spent months

searching for a reliable restroom to use on the job, according to neighbors and law enforcement officials. After resorting to a porta-potty, as well as bathrooms at the nearby home of former president Barack Obama

bought by the Hindu community to facilitate visiting devotees. The attack took place after members of the Hindu communi-

authorities to renovate the temple. Pakistan is home to an estimated 3.5 million Hindus, who form a 1.6 percent minority of the country's 207 million population, as per government figures.

More than 30 rioters, including the Muslim leader who allegedly incited the mob, have already been arrested after they were identified in videos of the attack uploaded online. The arrested in northwestern Khyber Pak- supporters of the Jamiat Ulemae-Islam party, who are currently

Although Muslims and Hindus generally live peacefully together The punishments come amid in Pakistan, violence against the government assurances that the minority community often centres around the country's strict, and heavily emotive, blasphemy laws. Attacks on Hindu temples, while

not common, have been increasing in frequency in recent years. Most of Pakistan's minority

Hindus migrated to India in 1947 when the Indian subcontinent gained independence from the British rule, resulting in the formation of Muslim-majority Pakistan.

Last year, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) recompound and setting fire to it. newed its designation of Paki-The mob led by a local Muslim stan as a "country of particular leader was enraged by the reno- concern", citing, among other vation of a building adjacent to reasons, "severely restricted

Snapdeal, 4 Indian Shopping **Complexes Figure In US Notorious Markets List**



WASHINGTON: Snapdeal, one of India's largest e-commerce platforms, along with four Indian first time a section addressing shopping complexes, two of them the role of internet platforms in in New Delhi alone, have figured in the latest 2020 Review of Noto-counterfeit and pirated goods rious Markets for Counterfeiting into the United States. and Piracy issued by the Office of

the US Trade Representative. have found mention in the list content creators and US consumare Heera Panna in Mumbai, Kidderpore in Kolkata and Palika Bazaar and Tank Road in Delhi.

was mentioned in the last list of notorious markets, but now it has been replaced by Palika Bazaar.

"Holding intellectual property rights violators accountable and ensuring that American innovators and creators have a full and fair opportunity to use and profit from their work is critical for both physical and online markets," US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said.

role of e-commerce in facilitat- Hong Kong?-92 per cent by valing the sale of pirated and coun- ue - the problem is global, with terfeit goods, the 2020 Review additional major points of oriof Notorious Markets identifies gin, including India, Singapore, 39 online markets and 34 physi- Thailand, Turkey, and the United cal markets that are reported to Arab Emirates, the report said.

be engaged in or have facilitated substantial trademark counterfeiting and copyright piracy.

The report includes for the facilitating the importation of

importation of counterfeit and The four Indian markets that pirated goods, harming both US ers, is posed not by foreign flea markets and dark web sites but by inadequate policies and in-Aizawl's Millennium Center adequate action by e-commerce companies that market and sell foreign products to American consumers," Lighthizer said.

"Combatting piracy and counterfeits will require sustained effort by both the federal government and by companies that profit from the sale of such

goods," the official said. Although the majority of counterfeit goods seized by American law enforcement In addition to addressing the agencies originate in China and

Farmers Again Reject Govt's Offer Of Amending Laws, Want Them Repealed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Protesting farmer unions stuck to their demand for a complete repeal of three contentious farm laws at their ninth round of talks with three Central ministers while the government asked them to be more flexible in their approach and expressed willingness for necessary amendments, as continuing holding direct talks their commitment to continue the two sides decided to meet again on January 19.

Farmer leader Joginder Singh Ugrahan told reporters after the meeting that the unions urged the government to repeal the three laws, but the Centre was unwilling to do so.

"We decided to meet again on January 19 at 12 pm," he said. Ugrahan said the union

leaders also raised the issue in Punjab who are supportproviding logistic support for the agitation.

for nearly five hours, including a lunch break, farmers unions



to resolve the over-one-monthlong deadlock over three agri laws, even as a committee has been formed by the Supreme Court to resolve the deadlock.

In his opening remarks, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar urged farmer leaders to be flexible in their and making it an issue of ego, approach as has been done by

the government. Besides Tomar, Railways, Comof NIA raids on transporters merce and Food Minister Piyush Goyal and Minister of State for ing farmers' protests and were Commerce Som Parkash were part of the government side talking with representatives of At the meeting that lasted around 40 farmer unions at the Vigyan Bhawan here.

"Both the government and said they are committed to farmer unions have reaffirmed

with the direct dialogue process," All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee member Kavita Kuruganti, who is

part of the meeting, said.

"In his opening remarks, Tomar ji said you keep saying that the government is adamant even though we have accepted several demands. Don't you think you should be flexible and not stick to one single demand of repealing the laws," said Baljit Singh Bali of Punjab Kisan Morcha

Farmer leader Darshan Pal said there was a good discussion on all three laws, "There is a possibility of some resolution. We are positive," he added.

Let Secret Service Use Hers

NEWS MAKERS

UK Man Offers Millions In Covid Relief To Search Dump For Bitcoin Bounty

LONDON: A Welshman was on Friday offering local officials a GBP 50 million coronavirus relief fund if they let him search a landfill for a hard drive containing bitcoin worth GBP 210 million which he dumped in 2013. James Howells had 7,500 units of the virtual currency on his laptop hard drive, which had been gathering dust in an office drawer



after he spilled a drink on the device. He threw the drive away during an office clearout in 2013, having forgotten that the bitcoin he acquired for a paltry sum four years earlier were still on the memory device.

requests to be able to search the landfill, despite his offer of a cut of the bounty. "In 2017 the value of my hard drive was approximately GBP 125 mil-

lion (\$171 million, 141 million euros), at which point I made them another offer of 10 percent and unfortunately that offer was refused," Howells told BBC Radio 5 Live. The value of bitcoin has since shot up even further.

He is now willing to donate 25 percent of the value of the buried treasure to his home city for a "Covid relief fund" if he finds the hard

"Imagine how great it would be to say 'I've given everyone in the city a few hundred pounds'," he told the BBC.

The council told the broadcaster its licensing laws bars any excavation.

"The cost of digging up the landfill, storing and treating the waste could run into millions of pounds without any guarantee of either finding it or it still being in working order," said a council spokeswoman.

Howells believes the search would "not be as hard as you might think" as a professional team would be able to hone in on the likely spot because he knows exactly when he threw it away.

and the not-so-nearby residence of Vice President Pence, the agents finally found a toilet to call their own. But it came at a cost to U.S. taxpayers. Since September 2017, the federal government has been spending \$3,000 a month - more than \$100,000 to date - to rent a basement studio, with a bathroom, from a neighbor

Doctor Who Declared Trump "Healthiest" President Ever Dies

New York, United States: President Donald Trump's former personal doctor -- who claimed Trump had dictated a letter insisting he would be the "healthiest" president ever -- has died, reports said Thursday. Harold Bornstein passed away last Friday at the age of 73, according to the New York Times. No cause of death was given. The long-haired gastroenterologist was Trump's physician from 1980 to 2017.

Bornstein gained public attention in December 2015 when Trump's presidential campaign team released a letter from him gushing about Trump's apparently excellent health. The glowing missive said that "if elected, Mr Trump, I can state unequivocally, will be the healthiest individual

ever elected to the presidency." The New York doctor told CNN in 2018 that the president had "dictated the whole letter" himself. "I didn't write that letter. I just made it up as I went along," Bornstein said.

AUS VS IND, 4TH TEST, DAY 1

Labuschagne's Century Steadies Australian Innings As India's Rookie Bowlers Shine

Press Trust of India

BRISBANE: The incredible underdog fairytale of Thangarasu Natarajan got better with his twin strikes on debut headlining a commendable effort from an inexperienced Indian bowling attack, which reduced Australia to 274 for 5 despite a stylish hundred from Marnus Labuschagne on the opening day of the final Test at The Gabba, Brisbane.

The Indian attack, with a collective experience of 3 Tests and 10 balls and 11 wickets in its kitty, was pitted against a batting line-up with 59 hundreds.

After 87 overs, the two Tamil Nadu rookies Natarajan (20-2-63-2) and Washington Sundar (2-4-63-1) could hold their heads high for a lion-hearted effort on a good batting pitch in the absence of the injured Ravichandran Ashwin and Jasprit Bumrah.

If tall off-spinner Washington set up a nice little trap to get rid of Steve Smith (36 off 77 balls), Natarajan forced centurion Labuschagne (108 off 204 balls) and Matthew Wade (47 off 85 balls) to miscue their pullshots after a 113-run stand which threatened to put India in a spot.

At stumps, Tim Paine (38) and Cameron Green (28) had added 61 runs for the sixth wicket and the visitors would need a few quick wickets to keep the first innings total within a manageable

between distance



Palayampatti, a non-descript village in Tamil Nadu's Salem, to Australia's modern city Brisbane is 9035 km on a google map.

But add the hardships of a daily wager mother trying to put food on table, being called for suspect action early in his career, not being privileged enough to get a paternity leave (his daughter is already three months old), it's a million miles emotionally that Team India's favourite "Nattu" has traversed.

Getting Labuschagne, who was on a rampage, with a short

delivery ensured that Australia didn't finish the day with a score

close to 350. For someone, who was supposed to be a net bowler, India's Test Cap No 300, did well enough on the first day despite not exactly being a natural. He also knows that he doesn't have the express pace to trouble batsmen (his average speed is 130 plus).

He bowled full during his first two spells and made the length shorter when the ball got old and that's how he induced Wade and Labuschagne to go for those pull

Nobody would have blamed a Natarajan or a Shardul or "leader of the attack" Mohammed Siraj (19-8-51-1), all of whom toiled manfully throughout their multiple spells in a battle of unequals.

The inexperience was palpable as Thakur (18-5-67-1) bowled a lot of full pitched deliveries which Labuschagne pounced on in the second and third sessions during an innings that had nine boundaries.

If all the injuries weren't enough, Navdeep Saini (7.5 overs) now seems to be in trouble as he has sustained a groin niggle moments after his skipper Ajinkya Rahane dropped a dolly at gully when Labuschagne was on 37.

By far, Australia's most consistent batsman in the series, Labuschagne batted in two gears during the day.

In the first session, he faced 82 balls and sedately moved to 19 but in the next 113 balls, scored another 82 runs to reach his fifth hundred in 195 balls.

He trusted the bounce, hit some lovely drives and was also ready to pull anything that was short.

During his partnership with Smith, the former Australian skipper was the aggressor but Washington, a specialist batsman till 2016 and now a frontline off-spinner, with the help of his seniors -- skipper Rahane and his deputy Rohit Sharma -- laid a beautiful trap.

Washington had bowled three maiden overs prior to lunch and

the fidgety Smith, who is always looking to get a move on, fell for the leg trap that was set for him.

Rohit stationed himself at short mid-wicket for a whip that Smith plays on the on-side.

They were banking on the extra bounce that they had seen Washington generate with the white ball.

The plan worked as Smith flicked one straight into Rohit's hands just few minutes after the lunch.

Having lost four of their key players (Bumrah, Ashwin. Ravindra Jadeja and Hauma Vihari) due to various injuries, Rahane couldn't have lost a worst toss as Tim Paine elected to bat.

The new-look Indian bowling line-up kept it steady at the onset removing openers David Warner and Marcus Harris in the first session.

That Australia forced a half-fit Warner (1) to play was evident when he had no apparent footwork while trying to drive an angular delivery from Siraj, which was brilliantly snapped by an agile Rohit diving to his right. It could be seen that Warner, after his groin injury, was still finding it difficult to stretch his front-foot and get to the pitch of the delivery.

Thakur, whose debut against West Indies ended in a nightmare after bowling only 10 deliveries, achieved success, bowling the 11th one in the Test arena.

It was a gentle out-swing, an inswing for left-handed Harris (5), who instinctively clipped it straight to debutant Sundar at square leg.

Real Kashmir FC Breezes Past **Chennai City To Register First** Win Of I-League Campaign

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K's leading football club Real Kashmir FC defeated former champions Chennai City FC by 2 goals to nil on Friday to register their first vic-I-League tory of the season at Kolkata's Kishore Bharati

Krirangan Stadium. Snow Leopards took an early lead through their Cameroonian striker Asier Pierrick Dipanda Dicka, who scored inside the first 16 minutes of the match. Real Kashmir then sealed the tie with a goal in the 84th minute via attacking midfielder Lalrindika Ralte.

This win puts Real Kashmir

level on points (4) with I-League table toppers, Churchill Brothers and Mohammedan SC, with just two matches played thus far by each Heavily team. touted as title challenger, coach David

Robertson's Real Kashmir FC drew against a resilient TRAU FC in their first match of the season.

Real Kashmir will play their next match against Sudeva Moonlight FC on Tuesday.

Centurion Marnus Labuschagne Disappointed At Not Getting A 'Big Score'

Press Trust of India

BRISBANE: Even with a fifth Test hundred in his kitty against a "very disciplined" bowling attack Australia's Marnus Labuschagne was still a disappointed man on the opening day of the fourth Test against India here as the knock was not "big" enough for him. Australia ended the day 274/5, thanks largely to Labuschagne's 108 off 204 balls. The 26-year-old said he should have done more.

...I think, I am definitely disappointed not going on and getting a really big score, which would have put us in a better position as a team," Labuschagne said at the virtu-

al post-play press-conference. "Any Test century, it doesn't matter who it is against or against what opposition, you want to make sure you are scoring hundreds and probably for me (it was) today it was disappointing that (I) did not end up making that a really big hundred," he stressed.

However, he credited the Indian bowlers for being disciplined early on and hardly giving away any scoring opportunities.

...Indian bowling attacks, they are very disciplined and doesn't matter who is bowling, they are very planned, they are very strategic and we saw that today with their bowling attack.

They were disciplined early and did not give us many of those scoring opportunities in the first session," the righthanded batsman said

He said he worked to his plan, which was to tire out the bowlers and then pick scoring chances.

"I think when you are playing really good teams, it doesn't matter who comes in, everyone in that line-up is very disciplined, they understand their role, you know they are very skilled bowlers.

So, it was sort of a matter of discipline early on, specially in the first session and half, making sure you get yourself in, you get pace of the wicket. So that you can really cash in when the bowlers are littlebit tired and there are a bit cooked," he added.

Labuschagne was facing a relatively new Indian attack and he conceded that he had to make some plans on the run.

"I think that is a part of the game, that is really enjoyable, you got to read the situation out there. Definitely made some plans on the run today," he said. Labuschagne also said that

India's decision to go with an extra bowler "probably paid off for them" after speedster Navdeen Saini had to leave the field because of a groin injury. He also credited all-rounder

Cameron Green (28 not out) and skipper Tim Paine (38 not out) for holding fort till the end after Australia lost two quick wickets in the final session. Labuschagne shared a 70-run

third wicket stand with Steve Smith, who made a 77-ball 36, and he said that the off-field controversies don't really concern the star when he comes out to bat.

Smith was criticised by fans on social media and a few former cricketers for scuffing up Rishabh Pant's guard on the final day of the Sydney Test, which ended in a draw, a charge termed ludicrous by head coach Justin Langer.

that stuff doesn't really concern him, he is focussing on the ball and scoring runs. If anything, it gives him extra motivation to put big runs on the board, so I don't think that (outside) stuff comes into play when he is actually out there (in the middle) at all," he signed off.

Joe Root Hundred Helps England Lead Sri Lanka By 185 Runs In First Test

Press Trust of India

GALLE (SRI LANKA): Joe Root notched his first test century in more than a year and Essex batsman Dan Lawrence made an impressive debut as England took control in a rain-affected first test against Sri Lanka on Friday. Root was unbeaten on 168 off

254 balls and Lawrence made 73 off 150 balls with England cruising to 320-4 before rain denied further play on Day 2 after tea. The visitors now lead by 185

runs with six wickets in hand on a wicket that has started to show signs of plenty of spin. England had rattled Sri Lanka

for 135 in the first innings inside the first two sessions on Thursday with off-spinner Dom Bess claiming 5-30 and Stuart Broad picking 3-20.

Root and Lawrence defied Sri Lanka's plans with a 173-run stand as wicketkeeper Niroshan Dickwella twice missed opportunities to hold onto the edges

off Lawrence's bat. Off-spinner Dilruwan Perera

finally got the breakthrough late in the second session with the second new ball when Lawrence gloved a catch to forward short leg.

The Essex batsman showed lot of maturity in his debut test with his back foot and front foot drives and even played exquisite cut shots against spinners. He hit six fours and his debut half century also included a six over midwicket off Lasith Embuldeniya, Sri Lanka's most successful bowler at 3-131.

Earlier, Root survived Sri Lanka's leg before wicket television referral off Perera's second ball of the day after the start was delayed 70 minutes because of rain.

But Embuldeniya got overnight batsman Jonny Bairstow caught in short gully Bairstow couldn't add to his overnight 47 but added a vital 114 runs with his skipper.

Root, 66 overnight, completed his 18th test century and second in Sri Lanka with a single in the first over after lunch off 163 balls with seven fours as the England captain grew in

'My Red Ball Skills Are Very Good,' Says **Test Debutant Washington Sundar**

Press Trust of India

BRISBANE: Washington Sundar, prior to his unexpected Test debut on Friday against Australia, had bowled over 285 overs in first-class cricket and after dismissing Steve Smith, the Tamil Nadu off-spinner is ready to bowl 50 in an innings if that's what the side wants of him.

India's T20 specialist off-spinner was asked to stay back by the team management after the white-ball series to help as a net bowler but injuries to key players, including senior pro Ravichandran Ashwin, landed him in a mouthwatering duel with Smith which he won hands down.

have always felt that my skills are very good with red ball. I have bowled a lot of overs in first class cricket and first division league in Chennai as well. I was just waiting for this opportunity and last couple of months, we were here, I did get to bowl a lot of overs and improve upon my skills," the shy bowler said after first day's play.

But does he have the stamina to bowl long spells that a team



expects from its spinners considering that he hasn't played firstclass cricket since 2017?

His answer is 'bring it on'. "Like any bowler, I love bowling a lot of overs. It's just so much fun to bowl a lot of overs. Give me 20, 30, 40 or 50 overs. We had some plans going for Steve Smith and (Marnus) Labuschagne and I am very glad they worked. The first wicket definitely felt good."

Washington kept Smith quiet for two overs and in the 13th delivery got him caught at short mid-wicket.

Did Ashwin versus Smith set a

template for him? "We did have some plans for

Smith and it's a different game altogether. Last game was different, conditions were different and I had to bowl good balls over and over again. It happened (the dismissal) and it's grea The former India U-19 World

Cupper feels the wicket was good for batting and it was great effort to reduce to the hosts to 274 for 5.

"There was a little bit of spongy bounce till lunch and the wicket was good and bowlers did a good job to restrict Australia to

Pakistan Announces Squad For Test Series Against South Africa, Six Players Face Axe

Press Trust of India

KARACHI: Six players, including Shan Masood, Haris Sohail and Imam-ul-Haq, from the recent New Zealand series were axed as Pakistan's new chief selector Muhammad Wasim on Friday announced a massively overhauled 20-member squad for the two-Test home series against South Africa.

Wasim rewarded several top performers of the domestic season and included nine uncapped players in the squad, which will be trimmed to 16 players ahead of the first Test. Top scoring batsmen Saud

Shakeel, Kamran Ghulam, allrounder Agha Salman, left-arm spinner Nauman Ali, off-spinner Sajid Khan and fast bowlers Hasan Ali and Tabish Khan -- all got call-ups for the series beginning on January 26 at the National Stadium here.

The selectors also upgraded young batsman Abdullah Shafique to the Test squad although he was selected for the New Zealand tour as a specialist T20 player and failed in his two

Similarly, the selectors have also called up pacer Haris Rauf, another T20 specialist for the two-Test series.

The selectors also dropped six players from the dismal tour of New Zealand with Wasim insisting that fast bowler Naseem Shah was not in the Test squad



because he had an injury.

About the ouster of left-arm spinner Zafar Gohar, Wasim said the selectors had gone for specialist spinners in Nauman and Sajid Khan keeping in mind it was a home series.

Other players dropped from NZ tour include experienced pacers, Muhammad Abbas and Sohail Khan.

Shakeel. Kamran Ghulam, Agha Salman, Nauman Sajid Khan, Abdullah Shafique, Tabish Khan, Haris Rauf and Imran Butt are yet to

"Ideally we would like to have players who can adapt to all conditions like Babar Azam but we need time for that. But we want to develop players who can play in any conditions," he said.

play Tests for Pakistan.

Wasim, a former Test player, insisted that selectors would follow a horses for courses policy now and the squad had been picked keeping in mind the conditions in Pakistan for the SA series.

Wasim also said that Haris

Rauf had been inducted into

the Test squad because the selectors felt that the bowling attack lacked aggression in New Zealand and he would bring that element to the pace attack.

Wasim also said that the selectors had done their best to acknowledge the top performers of the domestic season.

This is a reward for their consistent performance, hard work and perseverance during a difficult season played under the strict Covid-19 protocols. This is also an endorsement that domestic cricket will be valued and respected, and will remain a stepping stone for international cricket.

"All those players who aspire to represent Pakistan at the global stage will not only have to feature in it but also perform at the expected levels to earn the selectors' nod. "Even the players who have

been dropped will not go out of the system and will be closely monitored." The South African team will reach Karachi on Saturday. Pakistan Test squad for

SA series: Babar Azam (C), Muhammad Rizwan (VC), Imran Butt, Abdullah Shafique, Abid Ali, Azhar Ali, Fawad Alam, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Saud Shakeel, Kamran Ghulam, Agha Salman, Hasan Ali. Shaheen Shah Afridi. Tabish Khan, Haris Rauf, Sajid Khan, Nauman Ali, Yasir Shah. Faheem Ashraf, Muhammad Nawaz.

Arteta's Arsenal Remain Mid-Table After 0-0 Draw Against Crystal Palace

Press Trust of India

LONDON: Arsenal's three-match winning streak in the Premier League ended with a 0-0 draw against Crystal Palace as the Gunners missed a chance to keep their momentum going and climb up the table.

place with 24 points, while Palace stayed in 13th with 23 points. "We'll take it," Palace winger Eberechi Eze said on Thursday.

Arsenal remained rooted in 11th

"It's a good point to take." Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta was under severe pressure before Christmas after the team's worst start to a season since 1974. But wins over the festive period against Chelsea, Brighton and

West Bromwich Albion moved

his team back into mid-table and

in sight of the European positions. But Thursday's game saw his team revert back to its old form. lacking creativity in midfield and cutting edge up front.

Arteta partly blamed fatigue, saying his players lacked some freshness and some quality in the final third. We lacked the last pass or the

last shot. We had to generate more to win that game," he said. Arsenal controlled the match against Palace in the opening stages of the first half with the home side's clearest chance coming in the 20th minute.

Pierre-Emerick Captain Aubameyang cut inside from

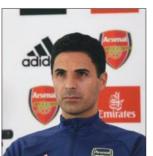


the left and unleashed a curling shot that appeared to fool goalkeeper Vicente Guaita. He wildly palmed the ball just in front of him and then mispunched before collecting it. But Palace slowly grew into

the match, putting Arsenal under pressure in midfield and on the counterattack. The visitors came close from a free kick in the 39th when James Tomkins leaped above center back Rob Holding and headed the ball against the crossbar.

Three minutes later, Christian Benteke beat defender David Luiz in an aerial duel to a cross from Tyrick Mitchell and the forward's close-range header nearly beat Bernd Leno. But the goalkeeper's leaping fingertip save was enough to push the ball out of danger for a corner.

Arsenal piled on the pressure at the start of the second half, creating a number of chances with Hector Bellerin firing just wide after Palace failed to clear and the



in the first half, Crystal Palace defenders did everything to keep the forward from taking the ball on his favored left foot. Palace assistant manager Ray Lewington kept shouting right, right at the top of his lungs to urge

ball fell to him in the 46th.

drought continues in the

Premier League. After his chance

Aubameyang's

Aubameyang's weaker right foot. Manager Roy Hodgson lauded his team's performance, saying he was happy to come away with a clean sheet.

his players to keep the ball on

cipline and hard work from the players, he said. It was a good evening for us. He added: If we keep playing

the way we did today, I think

It was a fantastic piece of dis-

there's points in the bag. Arsenal missed the pace and creativity of left back Kieran Tierney, who was rested as a precaution with muscle tightness.

They did defend very well with loads of players," Bellerin said. "I felt that the little spark of creativity was missing today. Today, we didn't have that little

bit of luck that we needed. Arteta also acknowledged that the absence of Tierny, who will have an MRI scan on Friday, was a big factor.

He's a real threat and the way we attack on the left is really important, but he is injured, the manager said.