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Cuote Nothing and no one is perfect. It just takes a good eye to find those hidden imperfections. — Daphne Delacroix



Army Officer Shoots Self Dead

SRINAGAR: An Army officer allegedly shot himself dead at a forward post in Tangdhar sector along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Monday.

The deceased has been identified as Major Fayazullah Khan, a company commander of 6 Jammu and Kashmir Rifles, they said.

The officials said the reason behind the officer taking such an extreme step was not immediately known. (PTI)

2 Missing After Truck **Falls Into Nallah**

JAMMU: Two persons are missing while another was rescued in injured condition after a canter truck they were travelling in fell into a nallah near Ramsoo along the Jammu-Srinagar highway on Monday morning. Official sources said the truck (HR38-1633) skidded off the road and fell down at Sher Bibi area of Banihal in Ramban district. Soon a rescue operation was launched by police and members of quick response team besides locals including members of NGOs.
More On P10

'Explosive Bag' **Diffused In Kupwara**

SRINAGAR: The government forces on Monday diffused an explosive laden bag in north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

A road opening party of army's 338 field regiment detected a red bag containing explosives on the Kralpora-Kupwara road near Harrie on Monday morning, news agency KNT reported while quoting police sources.

The report said that the road was blocked for traffic and a bomb disposal squad reached the spot and diffused
More On P10

IAF Ferries 81



KO Lensman Abid Bhat captures a Shikara anchored on the banks of frozen Dal Lake on Monday.

Kashmir Shivers Under Intense Cold Wave

Srinagar Records A Low Of Minus 6.4 Degrees Celsius

Kashmir valley is reeling

Press Trust Of India

under an intense cold wave SRINAGAR: There was a since the heavy snowfall earlier this month. The inslight improvement in the minimum temperature at tense cold has resulted in most places in Kashmir on the freezing of water supply Sunday, but there was little lines and water bodies in respite from the cold wave several areas, including the as mercury remained sever-Dal Lake here. al degrees below the freez-The night temperature continues to settle several

ing point across the valley. Meanwhile, the MET Office said a Western degrees below the freezing point, but there was Disturbance is most likely to some improvement across affect the union territory for the valley, barring the skia few days from January 22. resort of • More On P10

Severe Cold Claims Lives Of Siblings

wo minor children of a nomad died due to severe cold after the family refused to shift to a temporary shelter from their tent in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Monday. 10-year-old Sahil and six-year-old Shazia, children of Zubair Ahmad, died due to severe cold as the family was staying in tented accommodation

More On P10

J&K An Oasis Of **Talent**, Says LG

Asks Budding Youngsters To Come Forward To Reap **Maximum Benefits**



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir is an oasis of talent and the budding youngsters should come forward to reap maximum benefit from programmes like 'SHAURYA' to channelize their potential in the right direction, Lieutenant
More On P10

Samba Man Succumbs To Covid-19

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Monday one more coronavirus death while 82 fresh cases of infection, including nine travelers were detected across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

A 70-year-old man from Rakh Barothlon area of Samba became one more victim of covid-19 in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.
More On P10

...Lawaypora 'Encounter'

Police Rules Out Returning Bodies To Families



'Militants' Buried In Families Presence, No Logic In Another **Burial: IGP**

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The three youth killed in a gunfight in Lawaypora last month were involved in militancy; Inspector General of Police-Kashmir Vijay Kumar said on Monday and added that police will soon convince their parents of it with concrete evidence.

"Their involvement has been -- almost 60 per cent -- proved. We are getting the data and we will convince their parents, he said. He said the police were not

sharing the information as yet deliberately as the issue was very sensitive.

"According to the meta data we have collected so far, all the three associates who were killed in the encounter were involved in militancy. They were providing logistic support (to militants). We want to take a few more days so that we collect all the
More On P10

THE PROTOCOL IS FOLLOWED IN CASE of death of a civilian, but, if we hand over the bodies of militants or associates, people get emotional and attend the funerals in thousands"

Govt Nod For Prosecution of Shabir Shah In 6-Year-Old Case

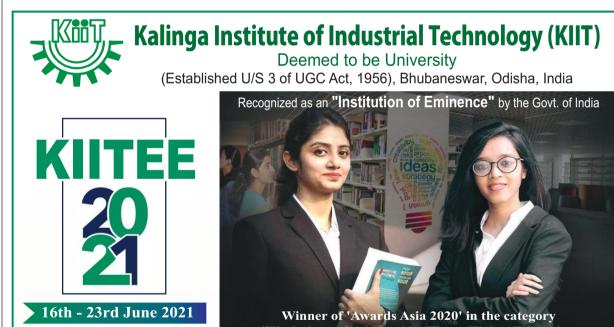
Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir government has given its go-ahead to police for prosecuting jailed separatist leader Shabir Ahmad Shah under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act-1967 in

1967, the government hereby accord sanc-tion for launching prosecution against the above mentioned accused for commission of offences punishable under section 13 ULA(P) Act in the case FIR No. 52/2015 of police station Sumbal

an order issued by Home

According to the or-



Stranded Passengers

JAMMU: The Indian Air Force (IAF) on Monday ferried 81 stranded people between the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, a week after airlifting 286 passengers, an official said.

"Eighty-one passengers were airlifted by AN-32, locally known as Kargil Courier. While 53 passengers were airlifted from Kagil to Jammu, 28 others were ferried from Jammu to Kargil," Aamir Ali, Chief Coordinator,
More On P10

Two 'Drug Peddlers' Arrested In Srinagar

SRINAGAR: Police on Monday claimed to have arrested two alleged drug peddlers from this capital city and recovered huge quantity of contraband substances from their possession. In a statement issued here, a police spokesperson said that the officers from Police Station Bata maloo intercepted two persons identified as Nazir Ahmad Rather of Kakroosa Vilgam Kupwara and Abdul Rashid Dar of Reban Sopore Baramulla at Taxi Stand Batmaloo.
More On P10

...Udhampur Infant Deaths

NHRC Recommends Rs 3L **Compensation To Each Family**

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Monday recommended a compensation of Rs 3 lakh each to the families of 11 children who died due to consumption of spurious medicines in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district between December 2019 and January last year.

favour of the victim भवन्तु सुखिनः

The NHRC ordered the compensation in

families, observing that there is no denial of lapse in the case though the drugs department of Jammu and Kashmir does not want to 'own the responsibility' for it. The complaint with regard to the deaths of the infants, aged between one and four year, due to consump-

tion of spurious drugs

was lodged
More On P10

a six-year-old case.

offences punishable un-The Home department of the Union Territory has der section 13 ULA(P) Act. sanctioned prosecution of Shah, who is chairman of Democratic Freedom Party, for commission of

2 Held With Arms DroppedFrom Drone: Police

Press Trust Of India JAMMU: Police on

Monday claimed to

have arrested two al-

leged operatives of

Jaish-e-Muhammad

(JeM) along with a huge

Jammu and Kashmir.

They had travelled

from Kashmir to the

International Border

at Vijaypur in Samba

arms and ammunition

dropped
More On P10

collected the

"Now, therefore, in exercise of powers conferred by sub-section 02 of section 45 ULA (P)Act,

Conducting Auction

Of 13 Structures

Agencies

in

The

head

District

der, Bandipora police had received reliable information on March 28, 2015 • More On P10

department.

Transit Accommodation To Come Up For KPs In Bla

Panel Constituted For and its members in-Superintending clude Engineer (R&B) Circle Baramulla- Kupwara, Chief Accounts Officer in Office of Relief & Rehabilitation

SRINAGAR: The govern-Commissioner, J&K-Jammu, Executive Engineer ment on Monday con-(R&B) Division Baramulla, stituted a committee for Divisional Forest Officer. conducting the auction Social Forestry, Baramulla, of 13 structures for "facilitating" the construc-District Mineral Officer. tion of transit accom-Baramulla and Assistant Accounts Officer (R&B) Division Baramulla.

seven-member The committee has been asked to fix the Reserve Price for the bid as per laid down norms before the auction of the structures. The Commissioner, Baramulla committee
More On P10

Chinese Constructions Along Arunachal Border India Keeping A Constant Watch, Says MEA

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: In a cautious reaction to a report that China has built a village in Arunachal Pradesh, India on Monday said it keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on the country's security, and takes necessary measures to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Ministry of External Affairs said India has stepped up the construction

More On P10 'Workplace of the Year' by Times Higher Education

Times Higher Education World University

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modation for Kashmiri Migrant Employees at Fatehpora (I&FC Colony) Kashmir's is

north Baramulla district. committee Additional by Development

cache of arms and ammunition that were dropped by militant handlers from across the border using drones, from Ramban district of

and



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Fast Food Restaurant Proximity Likely Doesn't Affect Children's Weight: Study

new paper in Q Open finds that the availability of fast-food restaurants on the route between children's houses and their schools does not affect children's weight. Reducing the rate of childhood obesity is a top public health pri-ority in the United States where obesity rates are 18.4% for those ages 6-11 and 20.6% for those ages 12-19. Childhood obesity is a documented risk-factor for negative physical and mental health outcomes. Obese children are also more likely to become obese adults and suffer associated health problems.

Researchers have proposed that the accessibility of affordable healthy food options may be an important determinant of childhood weight. Many public health figures are concerned about the role of fast-food restaurants on food consumption and resulting in obesity in children.

Local governments in the United States have the power to influence children's food options through the zoning process. Several cities, including Austin, Texas, and New York, have considered banning fast-food restaurants near schools. This article investigates the effect of fast-food availability on childhood weight outcomes by gender, race, and location.

The researchers used a novel identification strategy based on chang-es in fast food exposure along the route between home and school that occur as students progress through the public school system and transition to different types of schools, e.g., from elementary schools to intermediate schools or



from intermediate schools to high

schools Researchers here used Arkansas student Body Mass Index, collected from 2004 to 2010, and matched it to home and school address through annual school registration records. Home address was used to geocode the location of student residences.

The researchers identified fastfood restaurants on the route between children's houses and their schools. Fast food restaurants included the major hamburger chains and drive-in res-taurants (e.g. McDonald's, Burger King, Wendy's), dairy stores with large fast-food menus (e.g., Dairy Queen), take-out pizza establishments, quick-service taco places (e.g., Taco Bell). Sandwich delica-

tessens (e.g., Subway, Quiznos), and fried chicken restaurants (e.g., KFC, Chick-Fil-A). The researchers excluded speciality stores such as ice-cream parlours not sell-ing other fast foods (e.g., Baskin-Robbins), coffee shops (e.g. Star-bucks), and doughnut shops (e.g. Krispy Kream).

Using a radius of a one-half mile to define exposure near home and school, the mean total exposure level is 3.34 restaurants. The majority of children in the sample had zero exposure within 0.5 miles of home (69.6%). In contrast, 45.2% of children have at least one fast-food restaurant located within 0.5 miles of their school.

Researchers then measured changes in fast-food exposure as students changed schools as a result of a natural progression through the school system over time, for example, the change from elementary school to junior high school, and thus had different exposure to fast-food restaurants. The researchers found that changes in exposure have no effect on BMI z- score.

For example, increasing fast-food exposure by three restaurants moving from 4th to 10th grade increased the mean change in BMI by .003, less than one per cent (0.7%) of the standard deviation. Ultimately the researchers found no meaningful association between fast-food exposure along the route to school and BMI. This conclusion holds across different ages of children and for subsamples by gender, race, and ethnicity.

The researchers also found no differences by income as measured by whether the child qualifies for free or reduced-price school lunches or between urban and rural children.

These findings suggest that simple exposure to fast-food establishments in the commercial food environment was not a primary driver of excess childhood weight gain among children. While it is possible that fast-food restaurants matter but their effects on BMI are longer-term, the researchers found no evidence that longer exposures as in the 4th to 8th-grade transition differ meaningfully from the 4th to 6th or 6th to 8thgrade transitions.

'Policies that place restrictions on actions of individuals and businesses are costly," said the paper's author, Michael R. Thomsen. We see this with the response to Covid-19. Even when imposed with the most well-intentioned of objectives, people resist attempts to constrain their will. "

'If governments are going to pursue a strategy that requires the investment of time and monetary resources to get a policy passed and enforced, it must be for tangible good, not simply a feeling of having done something. Although there is a strong correlation be-tween the availability of fast-food and obesity, the evidence for a causal relationship remains weak. With limited political capital, policy fights over limiting access to fast-food may not be worth the public health returns."

higher risk of subarachnoid hemorrhage dults who smoke or who are genetically predis-posed to smoking behaviours are more likely to

Smoking linked to

experience a serious type of stroke called subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH), researchers say. The study, published in the journal 'Stroke', indicates that those who smoked half a pack to 20 packs of cigarettes a year have a 27 per cent increased risk of SAH. SAH is a type of stroke that occurs when a blood vessel on the surface of the brain ruptures and bleeds into the space between the brain and the skull. It mainly affects middle-aged adults and has high rates of complications and death.

"Previous studies have shown that

smoking is associated with higher risks of SAH, yet it has been unclear if smoking or another confounding condition such as high blood pressure is a cause for stroke,' said researcher Gui-



do Falcone, assistant professor of neurology at Yale University in the US.

To determine whether there is a causal effect of smoking on SAH, researchers analysed the genetic data of 408,609 people aged between 40 and 69 years at the time of recruitment (2006-2010).

Incidence of SAH was collected throughout the study, with a total of 904 SAHs occurring by the end of the study.

Researchers developed a genetic risk scoring system that included genetic markers associated with the risk of smoking and tracked smoking behaviour data, which was collected when each participant was recruited.

Heavier smokers, those who smoked more than 40 packs of cigarettes a year, were nearly three times more at risk for SAH compared to those who did not smoke.

Agencies

مصاحب كنبيه معهولدت

غلام نبى نجار ولدغلام قادر نحار

عنيفه بانوز وجهغلام نبى نجار

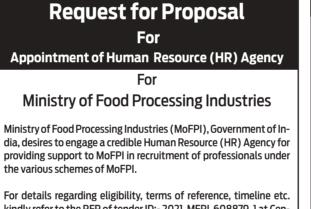
'Greenhouse gas, air pollution cause distinct regional impacts on extreme fire weather'

n a first-of-its-kind study, scientists have assessed the influence of human activities on extreme fire weather risk, and found that greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution have distinct regional impacts on wildfire outbreaks.

The research, published in the journal Nature Communications, analysed the climate under various combinations of human influences since 1920, isolating individual effects and their impacts on extreme fire weather risk.

According to the scientists, biomass burning and land-use changes have more regional impacts that amplify greenhouse gas-driven warming. The study noted a 30 per cent increase of extreme fire weather risk over the Amazon and western North America during the 20th century caused by biomass burning. Land use changes, according to the re-

search, also amplified the risk of extreme fire weather in western Australia and the Amazon.



kindly refer to the RFP of tender ID:- 2021 MFPI 608879 1 at Central Public Procurement Portal (https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/ app) and at Ministry's website: (https://mofpi.nic.in/tender/ RFP)

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Tanveer Ahamd Sheidkh S/O Ab Rashid Sheikh R/O Magam zi h

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63 مال

59 سال

Agencies

While previous studies found that human activities and their products like greenhouse gas emissions, and air pollution raise the risk of extreme fire weather, the scientists, including those from the University of California (UC) Santa Barbara in the US, said the specific

The scientists said industrial aerosols block some of the solar radiation from reaching the ground and tend to have a cooling effect on the climate.

"We knew something had been compensating in a sense for greenhouse gas warming, but not the details of how



influence of these factors has been unclear.

"To get a wildfire to ignite and spread, you need suitable weather conditions -- you need warm, dry and windy conditions," explained Danielle Touma, a co-author of the study from UC Santa Barbara.

"And when these conditions are at their most extreme, they can cause really large, severe fires," Touma said.

According to the researchers, heat-trapping greenhouse gas emissions are the dominant contributors to temperature increases around the globe.

By 2005, they said emissions raised the risk of extreme fire weather by 20 per cent from preindustrial levels in western and eastern North America, the Mediterranean, Southeast Asia, and the Amazon.

The study predicted that by 2080, greenhouse gas emissions are expected to raise the risk of extreme wildfire by at least 50 per cent in western North America, equatorial Africa, Southeast Asia and Australia, while doubling it in the Mediterranean, southern Africa, eastern North America and the Amazon.

that compensation might continue in the future," said Samantha Stevenson, a co-author of the study from UC Santa Barbara.

However, in Southeast Asia, "where aerosols emissions are expected to continue," the study said there may be a weakening of the annual monsoon, drier conditions and an increase in extreme fire weather risk.

'Southeast Asia relies on the monsoon, but aerosols cause so much cooling on land that it actually can suppress a monsoon," Touma said.

"It's not just whether you have aerosols or not, it's the way the regional climate interacts with aerosols," he added. The scientists hope that the current understanding of fire risk at a regional scale helps in mitigation and planning purposes.

"In the broader scope of things, it's important for climate policy, like if we want to know how global actions will affect the climate," Touma said. "And it's also important for understanding the potential impacts to people, such as with urban planning and fire management," he added. -PTI

Eligible firms willing to participate and meeting the eligibility criteria may submit the application as per the stipulated timeline.

Davp 16101/ 11/0007/2021

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Srinagar . If any person has any objection in this regard he/she		. /					lot il li .	اسكےعلادہ اورکوئی فردکنبہ میں موجود نبی
may file the same in the office of the Deputy/Assistant Secretary Certificates KD within seven days from the issuance of this notice.		•	•	اسكےعلاوہ اورکوئی فرد کنبہ میں موجو		•	• •	
After the expiry of said period no objection shall be entertained.	<u>سے</u> اگر کسی شخص	ل ہےاں حوالے	إنهآمدانی=/5500 تا	ريائيشپز بريصاورسائل كىكنبەكى ما	ى شخص يا	، ہےاس حوالے سے اگر	ئەآمدانى=/7800 تك	ريائيشيز بريسجاورسائل كىكنبهك ماباز
This is published for the information of general public	ر کرانداندا	ایتواندور ایترواد	زمین کدنی اعتراض	یا شخاص کومز کورہ سرٹفکیٹ اجرا کر۔	تدرابنا	وتو و میارت دن کراند ا	یں کوئی عذریااعتراض ہو	اشخاص کومز کورہ سرٹفکیٹ اجرا کرنے :
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E INFORMATION CARRIED IN DISPLAY/ CLASSIFIED ADVERTISE	MENTS, A	PPEAR <u>IN</u>	G IN THE NE	WSPAPER IS COR	RECT. H	OWEVER TH	E NEWSP <u>ap</u>	ER TAKES NO

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News



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PAMPORE: 01933-294132

• PATTAN: 01954-293507 QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

Mughal Road - (Closed) Srinagar- Leh- (Closed)

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155 CAPD: 18001807011

SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

PDD: 0194-2450213

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

Sgrr-Jammu highway - (Open)

This Day in History

379 - Theodosius installed as co-emperor of the

1419 - French city of Rouen surrenders to Henry V

1493 - France cedes Roussillon & Cerdagne to

TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686

HIJRI

CALENDAR

JAMADI

-UL-SANI

1442

PRAYERS

FAJR

6:08 **ZUHR**

12:38

ASR 4:09

MAGRIB

5:52

ISHA

7:16

DIAL-EMMA

AIRPORTS

RAILWAYS

HIGHWAY STATUS

Eastern Roman Empire

in Hundred Years War



A TOURIST ENJOYS snow on the frozen Dal Lake during a sunny day in Srinagar on Monday. KO Photo Abid Bhat

Nocturnal Fire At Sekidafar Damages Several Houses

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The nocturnal fire damaged several residential houses in Sekidafar area of Safa Kadal quarter in Srinagar. Officials said that a Sub In-

spector rank officer of the Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) department was also injured when he fell from a house while extinguishing the flames.

Officials said that a fire broke out in one of the residential houses at Ganderpora Chowk in Sekidafar here, which spread over several houses belonging to Muhammad Amin Lone, Shabir Ahmad Lone, Late Ghulam Ahmad Bhat, Muhammad Dilawar Bhat, Muhammad Aslam Bhat and Ghulam Muhammad Bhat.

The fire tenders rushed to the spot and a Sub Inspector rank officer from F&ES department identified as Noor Aalam Khan got injured when he fell down from a house while discharging his duty.

He was shifted to hospital for treatment where his ondition



AAC Expresses Grief

wami Action Committee (AAC) has expressed grief and sorrow over the loss of properties worth millions due to incidents of fire in various parts of Srinagar City.

In a statement the AAC expressed solidarity with the dozens of families in Old City's Tarbal Nawakadal, Watalkadal and Safakadal areas whose houses were destroyed due to fire.

The AAC has appealed to affluent people of the areas especially the welfare organisations to provide all possible assistance to these affected families in this harsh winter and come forward

Woman Dies After Coming Under Snow From Rooftop



SRINAGAR: An elderly woman died on spot after she came un- of der a mound of snow that came Sha crashing from the roof of her house in Srinagar.

The incident occurred on Sunday night at Kani Devar Hawal area of old Srinagar city.

Sources said that the 50 year her house when she came under snow. She felt unconscious and died on spot.

SKIMS where doctors declared her der snow falling from a rooftop. brought dead," family sources said. Agencies

he deceased was the wife	
Muhammad Yasin Rangreez	
h. Her funeral was held to-	
and was buried at her native	
veyard.	

Srinagar that has been reported since January 3 when massive snowfall lashed Kashmir Valley. old woman ventured out from Earlier, a CRPF officer on guard duty in the house of National Conference leader Muhammad Sayeed Akhoon at Habak Sri-"Despite this, she was shifted to nagar died when he came un-

		Spain by treaty of Barcelona
	•	1511 - Italian city Mirandola surrenders to the
		French
	•	1795 - Democratic revolution in Amsterdam ends
•		oligarchy
)	•	1806 - United Kingdom re-occupies the Cape
		of Good Hope following victory in the Battle of
		Blaauwberg over French vassal, the Batavian
		Republic. Establishes British rule in South Africa.
	•	1808 Louis Napoleon signs 1st Dutch aviation law
	•	1812 - Peninsular War: After a ten day siege,
		Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington, orders
		British soldiers of the Light and third divisions to
		storm Ciudad Rodrigo
	· ·	1883 - The first electric lighting system employing
		overhead wires, built by Thomas Edison, begins
		service at Roselle, New Jersey.
	· ·	1885 - Battle of Abu Klea, Sudan, between the
		British Desert Column and Mahdist forces: 76
		British and 1,100 Mahdists killed
		1899 - Anglo-Egyptian Sudan forms
	· ·	1903 - 1st regular transatlantic radio broadcast
		between US & England 1922 - Geological survey says US oil supply would
	Ι.	be depleted in 20 years
		1927 - British government decides to send troops
	· ·	to China
		1938 - General Motors begins mass production of
,		diesel engines
		1941 - British offensive in Eritrea
		1941 - British troops occupies Kassalaf, Sudan
		1942 - Japanese forces invade Burma
l		1943 - 1st Warsaw Ghetto Uprising begins
l	•	1957 - USSR performs atmospheric nuclear test
	1	1060 Finankaura & Dramias Kinki sign UC

1960 - Eisenhower & Premier Kishi sign US-Japanese Security pact 1966 - Indira Gandhi elected India's 4th Prime

- Minister
- 1977 World's largest crowd gathering the Hindu Kumbh Mela in India attracts a then record 15 million people.
- 1981 US & Iran sign agreement to release 52 American hostages.
- 1993 Israel recognizes PLO as no longer criminal. 1997 Michelle McGann wins LPGA Healthsouth Inaugural

day grav This is the second death in

was described as out of danger.

houses got damaged in the fire in the last 24 hours. Earlier

The family members whose fire incident in Srinagar with- Nabdipora area of the city. Kashmiri houses are vulnerwere seen wailing and crying fire gutted a dozen houses able to fires especially during as they were not only ren- in nearby Nawa Kadal, Tarbal harsh winters as they lack fire dered homeless but suffered and Fateh Kadal areas of the safety measures. Short circuit loss of their all movable assets. downtown while a house was in electricity is considered to be Pertinently, it was the third damaged in a fire incident in the major cause of these fires.

HE FIRE TENDERS RUSHED TO THE SPOT AND A SUB

Inspector rank officer from F&ES department identified as Noor Aalam Khan got injured when he fell down from a house while discharging his duty.

DDC Srinagar Convenes DLAC Meet On Food Safety

SRINAGAR: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Srinagar, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Chowdhary today convened a meeting of District Level Advisory Committee (DLAC) on Food Safety at Banquet Hall here.

On the occasion, a detailed presentation was given by Assistant Commissioner, Food Safety Srinagar Hilal Ahmad Mir who is also the Member Secretary of the committee.

The meeting was informed that from the date Drugs & Food Control Organization (D&FCO) took over the implementation of Food Regulatory Laws in Srinagar, 14889 inspections were conducted, 1209 cases have been filed before the competent courts out of which 444 have been decided and an trict has been selected for Eat amount of Rs.63, 47,000 has been Right Challenge a flagship proimposed as fine on violators and 794 cases are subjudice.

It was further informed that like RUCO, Surveillance & En-2,239 samples have been lifted forcement drives, Licensing & out of which 34 have been de- Registration drives, FOSCORIS clared unsafe while 341 as substandard and 263 as misbranded, consumer Awareness, FosTac besides 53 food business establishments were closed for varying Certification, Eat Right School periods and 7881 food business & Campuses are also being operators have been brought implemented on ground. within the ambit of Food Licensing & Registration System.

Also, 63 awareness programmes have been conducted tation of FSS Act and COTPA.



and in addition while implementing Cigarette & other Tobacco Products Act, Cigarettes worth Rs.3, 12, 670 for violating Statutory or Pictorial warning have been seized and an amount of Rs 21,800 was imposed as fine. Meanwhile, the committee was informed that the disgram of FSSAI and under this programme certain schemes inspections, Special Camps for Trainings, Hygiene Rating, Hub

The DDC assured of full support to Food Wing of D&FCO, Srinagar for smooth implemen-

COVID-19 VACCINATION No Report Of Side Effects, **Allergies In J&K**

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has not reported any sideeffects or allergies among the health workers who were vaccinated on Saturday, officials said on Monday. Top health officials from

Jammu and Kashmir divisions said that the vaccination process is going on and no person after taking vaccination has been hospitalised and suffered from any allergy or any other side effect.

State immunisation officer Dr Qazi Haroon said that health workers in thousands have taken vaccines but so far no case of allergic reactions and other things have been reported so far.

Meanwhile, experts said that people shouldn't hesitate in taking vaccination as it is the biggest weapon to beat Covid-19 pandemic.

Flu expert and President of Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) Dr Nisar ul Hassan said that anybody who is reluctant to take a vaccine must be booked.

"These people can turn out to be spreaders. They aren't a threat to himself only but also for the people with whom they come in contact with," he said.

Pump Station Gets Rs 34.50 Cr Bill For A Month From PDD

BANDIPORA: Mechanical Irrigation Department Shadipora Division here in North Kashmir's Bandipora district was shocked when the Power Development Department (PDD) sent them over Rs 34.50 crore, electricity bill for the month of October, 2020.

The total bill dispatched by PDD to 'Baba Jangi Flood and Irrigation Pump Station', located in Shilvat Sumbal is Rs 34 Crore, 63 lakh, 42 thousand 184.

When contacted, Executive Engineer PDD Sumbal, Ghulam Qadir confirmed the report saying Baba Jangi Flood and Irrigation Pump Station Shadipora is not an ordinary consumer but this station is owned by the government.

"It may be a technical error or 3 crore bill annually for the whole may be the said pump station has Division. "We don't owe such a failed to clear the balance and in hefty amount to PDD. How come lump sum the bill may have been it is possible that such a huge bill dispatched. Whatever, we will has been generated against a sinascertain the facts," he said.

One of the officials from PDD adding that he is in touch with on condition of anonymity said PDD over the matter. (KNT)

Overcharging By Sumo Drivers Sparks Protest

Kashmir's Ganderbal today alleged that the sumo drivers are causing inconvenience to travelers intending to travel from one place to another.

The residents of Anderwan area staged a protest and blocked the roads, raised slogans against administration and Sumo-drivers. They said the administration has failed to take any action against Sumo drivers who over-charge at will.

The protesters said that Sumo- that any driver resorting to overdrivers plying on the Dursuma- charging will be taken to task.

SRINAGAR: People in Central Anderwan route are looting passengers. "For a distance of a few kilometers these drivers charge Rs charging them with excess fare, 40 to 50, which is unfair," they said. "We used to pay only Rs 10 to 15, but during the Covid-19 pandemic, these drivers increased fare arbitrarily without the approval from the administration." They also allege that there is no adherence to the SOPs. Later ARTO, Ganderbal rushed to the spot and pacified the protesters.

The officer assured protesters

1997 - Yasser Arafat returns to Hebron after more than 30 years and joins celebrations over the handover of the last Israeli-controlled West Bank city.

Event of interestEvent of Interest

- 2006 The New Horizons probe is launched by NASA on the first mission to Pluto.
- 2013 Calcium deposits are discovered on Mars by NASA's Curiosity Rover. 2013 - Lance Armstrong admits to doping in all
- seven of his Tour de France victories.
- 2016 China's economic growth revealed as lowest for 25 years - 6.9% in 2015.

From KO Archives

POLICE DETECT 150 FAKE FINANCE COMPANIES IN JK

Rajinder Singh

JAMMU: The crime branch of Jammu and Kashmir police has detected 150 finance companies operat-ing in the state allegedly without any registration from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). These have de-frauded gullible depositors to the tune of Rs 80 crore. Cases have been registered against 40 such allegedly fake companies, mostly in Jammu involving over 200 accused.

Disclosing this to Kash¬mir Observer, the inspector general of police, crime and railways, Masood Chaudhary, said over 99 per cent or the companies were fake and had defrauded people mostly from rural areas in the name of higher interest on their deposits. Most of these operators are be-lieved to have gone abroad along with their families while some of them have declared themselves bankrupt and closed down their companies.

Chaudhary said the cases were registered on receipt of complaints from the affected people. A spe-cial team of sen-ior police offi-cials, headed by the deputy inspector gen-eral (DIG) of police, crime and railways, Prem Kumar, has been constituted to investigate the cases. He said some of the accused have been apprehended while some more were likely to be arrested shortly.

In the absence of more stringent laws, Chaudhary said, police were finding it difficult to intervene in the matter. It can take action only after a formal com-plaint is received. Some of the accused had defrauded the depositors to the tune of Rs 10 crore to Rs 15 crore. He said some special teams had been rushed to places like Mumbai and other major cities across the country to apprehend the culprits.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 19 January, 2001)



that majority of the government

departments are defaulters and

Mechanical Irrigation Depart-

neer Mechanical Irrigation De-

partment Shadipora Division

Tasaduq Ahmed he is himself

shocked. "Normally we get Rs 2 to

gle water pump," he questioned

According to Executive Engi-

ment is one among them.

World

FBI Vets Troops Amid Fears Of Insider Attack During Inauguration



Agencies

law agencies are screening all 25,000 National Guard officers deployed for President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration, fearing a possible insider attack after it emerged that some of those involved the deadly January 6 riot at the US Capitol had ties to security agencies.

"In coordination with the Secret Service and the FBI, they're screening all the personnel that are coming in," General Daniel identified as being at or near Hokanson, who heads the National Guard Bureau, told CBS News on Sunday.

The comments by the four-star general come as the capital Washington, DC, remains locked down under unprecedented security in the wake of the storming of the Capitol – the seat of the US government - by supporters of outgoing President Donald Trump. The mob wanted to prevent the Congress from certifying Biden's election following repeated false claims by Trump that the November election was stolen.

At least five people died in the worst riot in almost two centuries, guration approaches. and prompted the US Congress to impeach President Trump for "incitement of insurrection".

Speaking from Washington, DC, Al Jazeera's Shihab Rattansi said that ahead of Wednesday's inauguration day, the National Guard is no longer relying on its usual vetting mechanisms to ensure that those within the service this operation," McCarthy said in are not radicalised in some way.

'We've been told constantly from the National Guard leadership that members of the Na- drill in preparation for Wednestional Guard are routinely vet- day's inauguration.

ted for any potential dangers in their backgrounds, any links to enforcement extremism and so on," he said. "The new development that's been reported is that the FBI is

> now getting involved.' Rattansi said the FBI is running the names of the National Guard officers through its own databases, "checking for any red flags, any connection to extremist or militia groups"

At least 21 current and exmembers of the US army and law enforcement have been the Capitol riot, The Associated Press (AP) reported.

The US Army has also been investigating a psychological operations officer who led a group of people from North Carolina to the rally. Captain Emily Rainey, who had said she acted within military regulations, later resigned. On the lookout for problems

Secretary of the Army Ryan McCarthy told AP on Sunday that officials are conscious of the potential threat, and he warned commanders to be on the lookout for any problems within their ranks as the inau-

So far, he and other leaders say they have seen no evidence of any threats, and officials said the vetting had not flagged any issues they were aware of.

"We're continually going through the process, and taking second, third looks at every one of the individuals assigned to an interview after he and other military leaders went through an exhaustive, three-hour security



THE ENTIRE CITY IS ON HIGH-ALERT as authorities are receiving multiple reports of violent threats from various groups at the level of the incident that happened on January 6.

Ahead Of Inauguration, Washington DC Turns Into Garrison City

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

head of the inauguraloe Biden and Vice forcing hundreds of lawmakers President-elect Kamala Harris on Wednesday, the American capital over the weekend was literally converted into a garrison city because of the multiple reports of threats and armed violence that security agencies have been receiving over the past few weeks.

More than 25,000 National Guards have been deployed along with thousands of local police personnel and those from other security agencies. The area in and around Capitol Hill, a large part of Pennsylvania Avenue and the White House has been made out of bounds for the general public with eight-feet high iron barricades being erected. US Marshals are deploying

4,000 officers to Washington DC. Major parts of the majestic National Mall, which during inauguration is usually thronged by thousands of people, have been closed off.

The entire city is on highalert as authorities are receiving multiple reports of violent threats from various groups at the level of the incident that to overthrow their government happened on January 6 -- when and kill police officers. That's hundreds of supporters of Pres- exactly what happened. So, I do National Capital Region, he said.

Agencies



ident Donald Trump stormed think we have to take another Capitol Hill, disrupting the conposture in our city that is more stitutional process of certificadomestic terrorist focused than tion of President-elect tion of electoral college votes, external to our country and act accordingly. We don't want to to take shelter at safe locations see fences. We definitely don't and vandalizing the historic want to see armed troops on our building. At least five people streets. But we do have to take a died in the shameful incident. different posture, Bowser said. The Federal Bureau of Inves-

In addition to converting downtown Washington DC into tigation (FBI) in its internal bulletins has warned of the potena fortress, security in and around State Capitols has also been put tial for violence in Washington on high alert as security officials DC and at all 50 state Capitols. We are concerned, certainly, are gearing up to prevent a January 6-like event and ensure a about these threats in other peaceful transition of power. places, incoming White House Chief of Staff Ron Klein told I think this will be an inauguration unlike any other. It was CNN in an interview.

already destined to be, given I do think the Secret Service COVID concerns and some of and all their assets, the help the limited seating and public they're getting from the Nationaccess. But having our fellow al Guard, will keep the inauguration itself safe and the official Americans storm the Capitol in an attempt to overthrow the ceremonies in Washington safe. government certainly warrants But these broader threats are heightened security, Mayor of concerning, Klein said.

Washington DC, Muriel Bowser, He said the president did intold NBC News in an interview. cite the mob on January 6, and Our police department is that's "very, very disconcerting".

working with our federal law en-"It's an action that Congressforcement partners and the Unitman Raskin, I thought, was ed States Army also has a plan to quite articulate about, the unpivot if we have any attacks in precedented nature of that acour neighbourhoods, she said. tion. We are obviously getting We've never believed that sobriefings from the outgoing called patriots would attempt administration about the efforts to try to secure state capitals, secure Washington, D.C., the

Masked Crowd, No Trump: Why Biden **Inauguration Will Be Like No Other**



sprawling green space between the Capitol and the Lincoln Memorial. Înstead the vast ground will be lanted with 200,000 flags

Kashmir Observer Tuesday | 19-01-2021 As 29 Deaths In Norway Raise Worry, Australia Seeks Info On Covid Jabs



Agencies

prway expressed increasconcern about the safety of the Pfizer Inc. vaccine on elderly people with serious underlying health conditions after raising an estimate of the number who died after receiving inoculations to 29.

The latest figure adds six to the number of known fatalities in Norway, and lowers the age group thought to be affected to 75 from 80. While it's unclear exactly when the deaths occurred, Norway has given at least one dose to about 42,000 people and focused on those considered most at risk if they contract the virus, including the elderly. Until Friday, the vaccine produced

by Pfizer and BioNTech SE was the only one available in Norway, and "all deaths are thus linked to this Agency said in a written response to Bloomberg on Saturday.

There are 13 deaths that have been assessed, and we are aware of another 16 deaths that are currently being assessed," the agency said. All the reported deaths related to "elderly people with serious basic disorders," it said. "Most people have experienced the expected side effects of the vaccine. such as nausea at the injection site, and worsening of their underlying condition."

tions have been rare as governments rush to roll out vaccines to try to contain the global pandemic. U.S. authorities reported 21 cases of severe allergic reactions from Dec. 14-23 after administration of about 19 million initial doses of the Pfizer vaccine. The first Europe-wide safety report on the Pfizer-BioNTech

vaccine is due to be published at the end of January.

Australia's Concern

Australia, which has an agreement for 10 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine, is seeking urgent information on the issue from the producer, health authorities and Norway's government, Health Minister Greg Hunt told reporters in Melbourne on Sunday.

Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration will seek "additional information, both from the company, but also from the Norwegian medivaccine," the Norwegian Medicines cal regulator," Hunt said. Australia's foreign ministry will also contact its counterpart in Norway on the issue.

Norway's experience doesn't mean that younger, healthier people should avoid being vaccinated. But it's an early indication of what to watch as countries begin to issue safety monitoring reports on the vaccines. Emer Cooke, the new head of the European Medicines Agency, has said tracking the safety of Covid vaccines, especialand vomiting, fever, local reactions ly those relying on novel technologies such as messenger RNA, would be one of the biggest challenges once

Official reports of allergic reac- shots are rolled out widely.

Israeli Warplanes Launch **Attacks On Besieged Gaza Strip**



WASHINGTON. UNITED STATES: With

On Vaccines: WHO Chief

World Is On The Brink Of A

'Catastrophic Moral Failure'

GENEVA: The head of the World Health Organization said on Monday that the world was on the brink of a "catastrophic moral failure" on distributing COVID-19 vaccines, urging countries and manufacturers to share doses more fairly around the world.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the prospects for equitable distribution are the world's poorest and most vulat "serious risk" just as its vaccinesharing scheme COVAX aims to start distributing inoculations next month.

He noted 44 bilateral deals were signed last year and at least 12 have already been signed this year.

"This could delay COVAX deliveries and create exactly the scenario COVAX was designed to avoid, with hoarding, a chaotic market, an uncoordinated response, and continued social and economic disruption," he said.



nerable at risk, he said at the opening of the body's annual Executive Board meeting in virtual format.

"Ultimately these actions will only prolong the pandemic." The global scramble for shots has intensified as more infectious virus variants circulate.

Tedros cited as an example of inequality that more than 39 million doses of vaccine have been administered in 49 higher-income countries whereas just 25 doses had been Such a "me-first approach" left given in one poor country.- Reuters coronavirus distancing for guests, Joe Biden's swearing-in as the 46th US president will be a muted affair unlike any previous inauguration.

Where Washington is normally packed with hundreds of thousands of supporters, celebrities, socialites and lobbyists, the US capital is eerily quiet ahead of Biden's big day, which promises to be a mostly televised celebration of democracy.

threaten Biden and his supporters. Coronavirus concerns were always going to dampen Wednesday's inauguration, but since departing President Donald Trump's supporters launched an insurrection in his into the city will also be closed. name, Washington has ordered a security lockdown unseen since the September 11, 2001 attacks. That has forced Biden's inaugu-

ration team to urge supporters to members. Previous well-attended instay home, auguring a ceremony at the Capitol like recent sports matches, with no fans in the seats. Lockdown

Since Trump supporters stormed the

Live from Capitol Hill

As is traditional, lawmakers, top government officials, justices of the Supreme Court, and other dignitaries will gather on the Capitol building's grand west front for Wednesday's ceremony.

Given the need for social distanc-Capitol on January 6, security officials ing, the crowd will likely be thinner are preparing for anything that could than usual, and all masked. There will be the traditional invocations In the run-up to the inauguraand benedictions by church leaders. tion, most traffic has been barred In between, Lady Gaga will defrom Washington's vast downliver the national anthem, 22-yeartown. For two days, main bridges old African American poet Amanda Gorman will read one of her works, Tha Capitol, the White House, and and Jennifer Lopez will sing. other main buildings are all barri-

At midday, Supreme Court Justice John Roberts will give Biden caded and will be defended by more than 20,000 armed National Guard the oath of office, and his vice president Kamala Harris will be sworn augurations saw more than one milin by Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

But there will be no traditional lion people descend on Washington. rousing cheer from a crowd on the This year there will be no place to go: the National Park Service mall -- only the fluttering of flags will close the National Mall, the while fans clap to their televisions.

Agencies

'srael's military says its warplanes have carried out air raids on the besieged Gaza Strip.

The aircraft "struck military targets" belonging to the Hamas resistance movement in Gaza, it said in a statement on Monday.

It claimed that the attack took place in response to an alleged rocket attack launched from Gaza towards the coast near the city of

Ashdod in the occupied territories. There were no reports of any damage. Israeli military sources said the rockets had landed in the Mediterranean Sea.

The Palestinian Information Center cited local sources as saying that three wars against Gaza, killing an Israeli warplane fired two rockets thousands of Palestinians.

at a position as well as a farmland east of the city of Rafah in southern Gaza, causing material damage. According to the report, another Is-

raeli fighter jet fired two rockets at a position east of Khan Yunis city, destroying it and private properties nearby.

The Israeli regime every so often launches strikes against positions in the blockaded enclave, accusing the resistance groups there of launching rockets.

Gaza has been under a crippling Israeli siege since June 2007. The blockade has caused a decline in living standards as well as unprecedented levels of unemployment and unrelenting poverty in the Gaza Strip.

Since 2008, Israel has waged

NEWS MAKERS

Arnab Whatsapp Chats: Imran Plays Up References To Pulwama, Balakot

Agencies

The purported WhatsApp messages between Republic TV editor in-chief Arnab Goswami and a former CEO of the Broadcast Audience Research Council is continuing to make headlines.

The transcripts of the messages that were 'leaked' last week attracted much social media attention for Arnab flaunting his proximity to the Narendra Modi government.

Now, the Arnab Goswami WhatsApp stan for their references to the Pulwama suicide bomb attack. which left over 40 CRPF jawans dead in February 2019, and the Balakot air strike that India carried out in retaliation the same month.

In the transcripts, Arnab purportedly referred to the Pulwama attack on Feb- Pakistan Army have frequently alleged the ruary 14, 2019, as "This attack we have Narendra Modi government could carry won like crazy". Three days before the out 'false flag' operations to lay grounds Balakot air strike on February 26, 2019, for pursuing punitive action against Is-



transcripts are being played up in Paki- sponse would be "Bigger than a normal eration is typically a covert action carried air strike. And on the same time something major on Kashmir. On Pakistan the government is confident of striking in a way that people will be elated ... "

Since 2019, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, his ministers and even the Goswami purportedly wrote India's re- lamabad. In military terms, a false flag op-

out by a country, which then pins blame on another nation or actor.

Imran Khan tweeted on Monday the transcripts vindicated his government's claims about the Modi government's intentions.

Imran tweeted, "In 2019, I spoke at UNGA on how India's fascist Modi govt used the Balakot crisis for domestic electoral gains. Latest revelations from communication of an Indian journalist, known

for his warmongering, reveal the unholy nexus between the Modi govt & Indian media that led to a dangerous military adventurism to win an election in utter disregard for the consequences of destabilising the entire region. Pakistan averted a larger crisis by a responsible, measured response to Balakot. Yet, Modi govt continues to turn India into a rogue state."

Imran added "Indian sponsorship of terrorism in Pakistan, its abuses in IIOIK [Pakistan's name for Jammu and Kashmir] & a 15-year Indian global disinformation campaign against us all stand exposed. Now India's own media has

revealed the dirty nexus that is pushing our nuclearised region to the brink of a conflict it cannot afford. I want to reiterate that my govt will continue to expose India's belligerent designs to-

wards Pakistan & Modi govt's fascism. Int community must stop India from its reckless, militarist agenda before the Modi govt's brinkmanship pushes our region into a conflict it cannot control.

Nepali Climbers Reach Base Camp After Scaling K2, World's 2nd Highest Mountain

ISLAMABAD: The triumphant team of Nepali climbers who made history when they became the first to summit Pakistan's K2 in winter arrived safely back at base camp on Sunday, officials said.

The 10 climbers reached the top of the world's second-highest mountain on Saturday, the last peak above 8,000 metres (26,000 feet) to be conquered in wintertime.

"All the 10 Nepali climbers arrived in the base camp this afternoon. They are in good health and relaxing," Faizullah Firaq, a spokesperson for the Gilgit Baltistan government, told AFP. One of the successful climbers, Nirmal Purja, who is also known as Nimsdai, posted on social media: "The full team are now back... All safe and sound... It has been an overwhelming journey.'

Thaneshwor Guragain from Seven Summit Treks, a leading mountaineering company behind one of the expeditions, said more climbers are still hoping to reach the top. Unlike Mount Everest, which has been topped by thousands of climbers young and old, K2 is a much lonelier place. But this winter, dozens of adventurers converged on the mountain hoping to take the record.

K2 is known as the "Savage Mountain" because of its punishing conditions: winds can blow at more than 200 kilometres per hour (125 miles per hour), and temperatures can drop to minus 60 degrees Celsius (minus 76 Fahrenheit).

The descent can be just as dangerous as going up.

Saturday's successful summit was overshadowed by the death of a Spanish climber from another team, Sergi Mingote, lower down the perilous peak.

His body was evacuated from base camp on Sunday to nearby Skardu city by an army helicopter, the Alpine Club of Pakistan's Karrar Haidri told AFP.

News

GRAS Portal To Enable People To Pay Govt Receipts From Anywhere: Mehta



JAMMU: Financial Commissioner Fi- either through internet banking nance, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta today launched an online platform - Government Receipt Accounting System (GRAS) portal for easy payment of government receipts from anywhere without visits to treasuries or banks.

On the occasion Director General Accounts & Treasuries (DG A&T), Mahesh Dass; Excise Commissioner, Rahul Sharma; Deputy Excise Commissioner, Jammu, Amarjeet Singh; Director A&T, Jammu, Neeraj Gupta Bakshi, Joint Director (Resources), Shoukat Hussain; Vice President, JK Bank, Sunit Kumar, Scientists from NIC, representatives of RBI besides department in receipt monitoring, other officers of the Finance department were present.

Dr Mehta enquired about the different features of this portal. He asked the developers to inculcate the feature of SMS alert to facilitate the customers. He directed them to Excise and Taxation department and take on board all the departments will later cover other departments taking any kind of fee (tax/non-tax) from the citizens, business establishments, institutions.

The FC also urged them to look into what other features could be added to the platform so that the process becomes more simple and user-friendly. He asked the scientists to use all the protection techniques as per the guidelines of GoI, IT Ministry. He directed for making the portal a one stop solution for all kinds of activities where the people have to visit treasuries and banks for depositing tax or any other kind of fee to avail government services.

The meeting was informed that the GRAS portal will serve as common collection portal and will provide facility to the citizens, business communities to deposit/ remit tax/ non including GST on daily basis, Cyber tax to the government electronically through GRAS Portal thereby bringing in greater transparency in government business of receipt collection.

The GRAS portal is accessible by logging on to www.jkgrasjktreasury. through this portal for remittances sury as well.

service available 24 X 7 or over the counter. The Portal also provides the facility for frequent visitors to register as a user in order to avoid entering personal data repeatedly.

The various stakeholders of the application are tax payers like citizens/ firms, Virtual Treasury/ Cyber Treasury, tax assessing departments, Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs)/ tax collecting officers, Agency, Banks like J&K Bank and RBI and Accountant General for preparation of final accounts.

GRAS application will help the accurate and factual government receipt position which in turn will provide real time government revenue receipt position and generate necessary MIS reports. Initially, GRAS is being implemented on pilot basis in for which all government departments shall furnish their receipt head details viz-a-viz services to be linked with receipts head details.

The portal will give correct and factual insight to the registered users about their accounts as it would upgrade to full automation of the same. They could deposit to government receipts on a real time basis, making settlements easy besides receiving acknowledgements online. It would save their time and reduce the gap between the payer and payee, the meeting was informed.

Pertinent to mention here that for smooth implementation of GRAS and for collection and consolidation of data related to government receipts and other receipts Treasury has already been created alongside Civil Secretariat Treasury vide Govt. Order No. 262-F of 2020 dated 25.09.2020. It was further given that Treasury Officer, Civil Secretariat Treasury is nominated gov.in. A user can generate e-Challan as Treasury Officer for Cyber Trea-

Address Ration Shortage In Kashmir Division: Apni Party

SRINAGAR: Expressing serious but the Director Food Civil Supration and the arbitrary curtail-

concerns over the shortage of plies and Consumer Affairs Department Kashmir appears to ment in food supplies quota in be sleeping impervious to the

32nd National Road Safety Month Kick Starts Across Kashmir

SRINAGAR: To build awareness about road safety and reduce road accidents, a month-long 32nd National Road Safety, 2021 awareness drive themed 'Sadak Surakhsha Jeevan Raksha' was today launched across all the districts of Kashmir. The month long programme that commenced today is sched-

uled to culminate on February 17. On the occasion, IGP Kashmir Zone, Vijay Kumar flagged off a Bike Rally on Road Safety Awareness from Traffic Police Office Polo View Srinagar, which passed through Abdullah Bridge, Via Convent School, L.D Hospital, Sheergari to JehangirChowk, Dalgate, R.M. Bagh and culminated back at Polo View. The rally was organised by Traffic

Police City Srinagar with an aim to create awareness among people to discourage and prevent underage youth from driving, besides making others to abide Traffic rules and signages while driving. The message was delivered via PA system and placards and through rally shows.

Speaking on the occasion, IGP Kashmir appreciated the effort put in to emphasize on the safety and awareness in this regard. He said that the safety of the riders and passerby is the prime concern and need of the hour.

He expressed concern over the rising rate of accidents and said is to sensitize the people espethat the Traffic department is committed to work towards reducing such incidents and appreciated the role played by its men on ground, youth and media.

Among others, SSP Srinagar, Dr. Haseeb Mughal, SSP Traffic City Srinagar, Javid Ahmad Koul, SP fic City Dr. Zahoor Ahmad, Dy SP



mad and Dy. SP Traffic City South ing the month-long program. Sheikh Aadil besides other officers and officials from Traffic City Srinagar and District Police Srinagar attended the inaugural function. At Budgam: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmad Mirza, who is also Chairman, District Regional Transport Authority today kick started a month long road safety programme during

an impressive ceremony here. The Chairman DRTA, on t

Besides, recent amendments in the Motor Vehicles Act will be highlighted through various seminars, workshops and events to promote a culture of

Among others, SSP Ganderbal, Khalil Poswal, ADC Ganderbal, Farooq Ahmed Baba, President Municipal Council Ganderbal and ARTO Ganderbal were present on the occasion.

At Pulwama: The District Deelopment Commissioner (DDC) ARTO Bandipora Mohammad Suhaib, Deputy Education Officer inaugurated Road Safety month and safety measures while execut- by flagging off a Car Rally at the Bandipora, GM Sheikh, DySP (DR) new bus stand Pulwama. Bandipora, and other district offi-Speaking on the occasion, DDC cers were present on the occasion. At Kulgam: The Deputy Comwelcomed all participants for atmissioner (DC) Kulgam, Showkat focus on imparting instructions to tending the programme and said the aim of programme is to sensi-Aijaz Bhat today said that enforcetize the people about traffic rules. ment of traffic regulations and He stressed upon the participants awareness regarding road safety to obey the traffic rules and regumeasures is a prerequisite for preventing fatal road accidents. lations and become the ambassa-



sures relating to road safety district in connection with the Among others, SSP Budgam, Amod celebration of Road Safety month. Ashok Nagpure, CMO, Dr. Tajamul Among others EO Municipal Hussain, ARTO were present, besides council Pulwama, Inspectors of the Motor Vehicle Department and drivthe event was also attended by a ers besides other people were preslarge gathering of Drivers, Transporters including officers/ officials of the ent on the occasion. Motor Vehicle Department. At Baramulla: Deputy Commission-

At Ganderbal: The Deputy Comer (DC) Baramulla, Dr G N Itoo today missioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shafqat flagged off a rally of vehicles from Dak Iqbal flagged- off an awareness rally Bungalow to formally kick-start the from Mini Secretariat Ganderbal with month long Road safety programme. On the occasion, DC adminisan aim to sensitize people about the importance of following traffic rules tered a pledge taken by the driver to prevent road accidents. fraternity wherein they affirmed

The DC on the occasion said that that they shall obey the traffic rules the aim of celebrating the month and regulations for averting losses to human lives and property. Speaking on the occasion, DC cially the drivers about road safety highlighted the objectives of so that people drive sensibly on roads and follow traffic norms so observing the road safety prothat accidents are minimized. gramme and said that strict adherence of traffic rules is vital to

It was informed that to stimulate community involvement in promoting road safety awareness and to disseminate information about East Sheema Nabi Qasba, ASP Traf- traffic rules awareness camps, medical camps for drivers, awareness Traffic City West Gh. Hassan, Dy. rallies, Painting and slogan making SP Traffic City North, Imtiyaz Ah- competition will be organised dur-

programme and said that, during the period, several activities shall be carried out of varied nature shall be organised which aims to educate different stakeholders about the relevant rules and regulations. At Bandipora: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad inaugurated the Road Safety Month by flagging off a car

avert any kind of loss that is oc-

Transport Officer Baramulla high-

ighted the aim and objectives of the

Meanwhile, Assistant Regional

curring by violating such rules.

rally from Mini secretariat to Banlipora Town Square, here. Scores of Sumo drivers carrying placards with slogans appealing people to follow road safety

measures to avoid accidents participated in the car rally to create awareness about road rules. On the occasion DC Bandip-

ora said that the aim of the programme is to inculcate traffic awareness among motorists, commuters, pedestrians including colege and school goers and to make them aware about safety measures to be taken while on road.

It was informed that during this period several activities including rallies, awareness camps, seminars, debates, painting competitions and other related programs will be organised across the district

5 Family Members Sustain Burn Injuries In Narbal Fire

KASHMIR OBSERVER 05

day sustained burn injuries after a tion is stated to be stable. temporary tent caught fire in Narbal area of the outskirts of Srinagar city. Ahmad, Sakina, Sahil Ahmad, Im-An official said that a temporary tent which was established by a family from Nagrota Jammu Nagrota Jammu. suddenly caught fire in which five members sustained burn injuries.

SRINAGAR: Five persons on Mon- ized treatment, where their condi-

SMHS hospital Srinagar for special- dent. (KDC)

He identified the injured as Bashir tiyaz Ahmad, and Azad Ahmad, all members of the same family from

He added that the cause of fire is being asserted adding that police All the injured were shifted to have taken cognizance of the inci-

Advisor Khan Meets Deputations In Srinagar



deputations and individuals today thronged the Grievances Cell to apprise Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Khan of their grievances and demands.

A delegation led by Ashiq Shangloo, President Aglar Industrial Unit Holders expressed gratitude to Advisor Baseer Khan for fulfilling their demand of providing electricity to Aglar Industrial Estate, Shopian.

A group of Pahalgam Hoteliers Association headed by Asif Iqbal Burza for reviving tourism in Kashmir by publicizing and promoting tourism potential and adventure tourist destinations of the region which increased the visitor's Influx manifold thus benefiting thousands of people associated with this industry.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Kashmir Electrical Manufacturers led by Mohammad Yaseen Khan demanded safeguarding the industrial products produced in J&K by extending the provision of price and purchase preference according to the industrial policy of 2016-2026. The delegation also

demanded release of pending payments of MSMEs. Another delegation of Kashmir Traders and Manufacturers Federation led by its President, Mohammad Yaseen, also apprised Advisor of the sky rocketing prices of essential commodities due to closure of National Highway seeking an early redressal of the same besides demanding speedy snow clearance

from roads. and Daily Wagers Associations for early redressal of the same.

SRINAGAR: Over two hundred submitted representations to Advisor regarding the implementation of minimum wages act, utilization of seasonal labourers throughout the year and other issues.

A delegation of Casual employees of J&K Cable Car Corporation requested Advisor for regularization of their services.

Similarly, representatives of CIC operators working in the RDD department also requested regularization of their services.

Representatives of Shutloo Rafiabad demanded that the Rafiabad also thanked Advisor Baseer Khan area should be provided electricity from Delina Grid Station.

Meanwhile, a delegation of J&K Cement Employees Association, apprised Advisor regarding increasing liability of J&K Cements Limited due to non-functioning of cement manufacturing plants at Khrew, deposition of CP fund of employees in the account, release of terminal benefits to retired employees.

Besides, members of J&K Handloom Cooperative Societies Association highlighted the issues confronted by them after merger of Handicraft and Handloom departments.

Likewise, several other individuals gave representations to Advisor regarding release of funds held in different government departments, transfers, engagement on contractual

basis, release of pay arrears, compensation for the damage caused due to last year snow, construction of retaining wall, provision of electricity and related issues.

Advisor Baseer Khan issued on spot directions to the concerned officers to look into all the issues A delegation of J&K Sericulture projected by the delegations and and Agrostology Casual Labours the individuals and initiate action

road safety among the users.

Kashmir division, Apni Party grievances of the citizens". senior leader and Former Ministo address the issue on priority.

As per the statement Mir observed that there exists an aw- monthly ration is just another exful shortage of ration supplies in ample of a hasty and arbitrary dethe valley and the Director Food cision taken by the CAPD departfairs Department Kashmir ap- create only inconvenience for the pears to be in deep slumber.

created a chaotic situation in fore rolling out such edicts." the Kashmir division. There is People are suffering immensely anguish over the disparity.

He took a strong note of the ter Mohammad Dilawar Mir on arbitrary decisions that are be-Monday urged the Lt. Governor ing introduced every now and then. Mir said, "Making Aadhar Card link mandatory for availing Civil Supplies and Consumer Af- ment. Such authoritative orders people at large. The problems and "The closure of Jammu-Sri- concerns of general masses need

nagar National Highway has to be taken in confidence first be-

While raising the plight of a huge shortage of food grains Fair Price shop owners of Kashand fuel supplies in the valley. mir division, Mir expressed his

casion urged the general public to Pulwama, Dr Raghav Langer today follow all precautions, preventions ing any journey or during driving.

He said the aim of celebrating this month is to aware masses, to all drivers plying passenger/ commercial or self vehicles including two wheeler drivers to follow all precautions while driving to avoid road fatalities/accidents a Later a rally participated by Driv-

ers/ Pillion riders, conductors and road safety to save precious lives. large gathering of common people was taken out from District Headquarters to ARTO office through the series of month long events casion of celebration of National main road carrying placards/ Ban- including painting competitions, ners depicting and demonstrating road shows and awareness camps observed from January 18 to Feball precautionary signs and mea- etc scheduled to be held in the ruary 17, 2021.

He made these comments dors for spreading the slogan of while inaugurating a rally of stu-Meanwhile, ARTO Pulwama dents from ARTO Office Kulgam informed the gathering about to Chattabal crossing on the oc-Road Safety Month 2021 being

Sajad Lone Visits Engineer Rashid's Family

SRINAGAR: People's Conference been my colleague in the aschairman Sajad Gani Lone along sembly and in earlier days In the with Ex MLA Kupwara Bashir party as well. Sajad Sahib want-Ahmed Dar visited Er Rashids ed to visit. But earlier he was in home in Mawer Langate on Sun- jail for one year and then COVID day evening.

one should attribute any po-litical motive for the visit. "We an end", Dar said. have social relations. His father

came along. We sat with the According to former MLA family who are going through a Kupwara Bashir Ahmed Dar, no very tough time. We hope and pray that their ordeal comes to

Er Rashid is currently lodged was associated with Shaheed in Tihar jail since August 05, in Lone Sahib and Er. Rashid has terror funding related case.

NEWS MAKERS

Chairman J&K RTI Movement Calls On LG

SRINAGAR: Chairman Block Development Council Keran Kupwara, President J&K unit of Janta Dal (United), Chairman J&K RTI Movement, and other delegations from various parts of Kashmir today called on Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha here at Raj Bhavan. President J&K unit of Janta Dal (United), G. M Shaheen called on Lieutenant Governor and discussed various issues of public importance pertaining to development of Trade and Tourism sector, upgradation of roads, and generation of employment avenues for unemployed educated youth of J&K.

Mr. Shaheen also shared his views on various ongoing efforts of the UT government towards improving development scenario in Jammu & Kashmir and expressed hope towards the present administration to meet the developmental needs of the people. Chairman, J&K RTI Movement, Dr. Raja Muzaffar also met the Lieutenant Governor and submitted a memorandum of issues and demands including establishing a Circuit bench of Central Information Commission in Srinagar and at Jammu to hear RTI related appeals and complaints. He urged direct for timely updating of data on official websites to make administration more accountable and transparent. He expressed gratitude towards LG Administration for rolling out the Forest Act in J&K besides discussing various other issues of public importance.

Dr. Raja Muzaffar also demanded that all government functionaries at the helm including Administrative Secretaries, DCs, SSPs, SDMs, BDOs, SDPOs, and SHOs be directed to create an official Twitter handle and Facebook page so that people reach out to them without any difficulty.

A delegation led by Chairman, Block Development Council, Keran Kupwara, Mr. Mohammad Syed Khoja also met Lieutenant Governor and put forth a charter of demands for the inhabitants of remote and backward tehsil Keran of Kupwara district. The delegation highlighted various important socio-economic issues related to upliftment and welfare of the backward and underprivileged sections of the society. They also demanded infrastructural development in Keran to provide better essential services to people of the area which is about 180 km away from the summer capital.

Playback Singer, Composer, and Philanthropist, Saim Bhat also called on the Lt Governor and urged for providing platforms to local youth in reviving Kashmir's folk music including Sufiyana and Chakri to be presented in the purest form at local, national, and international levels to keep original melody intact.

GDC Bla Organises Talk On ' Establishment Of Road Safety Clubs'

educate road users, and improve their knowledge and skills to reduce the accidents, a talk on 'Establishment of Road Safety Clubs in Educational Institutions' was today organised here at Government Degree College (GDC), Baramulla.

The talk was organised by the NSS units of GDC, Baramulla in collaboration with District Administration and Assistant Regional Transport Office (ARTO) Baramulla.

It was given out that the aim of these clubs will be to spread awareness, educate road users to reduce the accidents and develop young ambassadors to take up this to each individual and see that no one should die on the roads.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Baramulla, Aijaz Abdullah Saraf was the chief guest on the occasion and ARTO Baramulla, Mubashir Jan was the invited speaker.

At the outset, the ADC presented a brief account of laws governing road use Program officers, students and faculty and safety measures and tabled statistics of the college besides concerned officers of road accidents and subsequent deaths and officials attended the programme.

BARAMULLA: To spread awareness, in J&K and other parts of the country. He shared his understanding and experiences of how the ever-increasing graph of road accidents could be checked and brought down to save human lives.

The ARTO lucidly elucidated the need to create road safety awareness among the youth so that they would not only imbibe the road safety norms themselves, but also disseminate the word to the peer groups, friends and relatives. and society, at large.

He discussed threadbare the process, mechanism, and working of Road Safety Clubs and anticipated that establishing these clubs would significantly reduce the road accidents and create a safe society.

Earlier, Principal, GDC Baramulla, Prof. (Dr.) A. R. Malik stressed the need for behavioural change in road users to lessen the frequency of road-use-related accidents and deaths.

Among others, NSS volunteers, NSS

GDC Kilam- Turkey Nursi Hold Online TTP

KULGAM: The five days international Teacher Training Program (TTP) themed 'Strong Belief and Sound Character through Science and Islam: 5D Thinking Approach' concluded smoothly at Government Degree College (GDC), Kilam.

The program was a joint venture of GDC Kilam and the Nursi Society Turkey, organised with a purpose to train teachers about using 5D thinking approach as a novel epistemological and pedagogical way in teaching science to read the book of the universe.

The program that commenced from January 11 culminated on January 15 and was attended by participants from different countries.

Principal GDC, Kilam Prof. Dilruba Rasool Hamadani cordially welcomed all the participants and the honorable guests from Turkey and India. The Principal also extended a warm welcome to the chief guest of the occasion Director Colleges Jammu and Kashmir, Peerzada Mohammad Yousuf.

Director Colleges during his address spoke on the importance of five dimensional thinking approach. He stated that sacralizing the treasure of scientific knowledge is truly the need of the hour.

President of Nursi Society, Dr. AlparslanAcikgenc, Vice President of Nursi Society, Dr. Necati Aydin, Professor (retired) of Islamic Thought, Durham University, UK, Dr. Colin Turner (Ph.D. in Islamic Studies), Dr. Yunus Cengel, (Professor Emeritus at the University of Nevada, US) and Dr. Nadina Kamal delivered their presentations and engaged the participants in the most lucid and professional manner.

HOD Political Science and the coordinator of the program, Professor, Sheikh Javaid Ayub, presented the vote of thanks to all the participants and the guests from Turkey.

Think **Opinion**, Analysis, Essays

KASHMIR BSERVER

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KO VIEW

Vaccination begins

n Saturday the vaccination began in J&K with two inaugural ceremonies with Lieuten-ant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha launching the drive at Government Medical College, Jammu for the Jammu division and the Advisor to LG Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar starting the proceedings at Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) in Srinagar. At SKIMS, the first vaccine shot was given to director SKIMS, Dr. AG Ahangar and a sanitation worker.

In the run up to the drive, Jammu and Kashmir had received the first shipment of 1.46 lakh Covishield doses of Covid-19 vaccine developed by AstraZeneca and University of Oxford, manufactured by Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII). On the first day, the government vaccinated 4000 people. However, in the first phase, only healthcare workers across the Union territory who had registered themselves for the vaccination were given shots while frontline workers would be covered in the second phase.

The centre had also directed Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh administrations to deliver some vaccines to central and armed forces healthcare workers too. Similarly, the Union Health Ministry along with the Union Territory administration in Ladakh and Army had made special arrangements to vaccinate 4000 Army soldiers deployed in various forward areas of the Eastern Ladakh along the Line of Actual Control. Adequate stocks were forwarded to all districts and choppers were pressed into service to take vaccines to far off places. Ladakh had received 11,500 doses of Covishield vaccine which were equally distributed between Leh and Kargil.

It was good that the doctors took the lead by taking the vaccine. This was important to bolster the confidence among the larger public. As things stand, there is some hesitancy among the people about taking the vaccine. This despite the fact that even people with allergies can take the shot except those who are allergic to any of the ingredients present in the vaccine.

So far, over 1.22 lakh have been infected by the virus in the union territory and close to 1915 people have died. That said, 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. 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. Hopefully, this year should see the beginning of the end of Covid-19 pandemic which alone will restore the normal life.

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Economy Central **Policy Logjam** Beyond subsidies and land banks



ntegration will give a boost to investment, innovation and incomes". This was one of the many optically pleasing statements showered from New Delhi after the abrogation of article 370 on August 5th 2019. Attracting investment into J&K post 370 abrogation seems to have remained a sustained focus of the central Govt. Probably, also because "370 as an impediment to investment" was the central arguments around which the entire narrative of abrogation was spun.

A brief chronology

Soon after the abrogation, the Government announced a very ambitious project titled, "Global Investors Summit" and scheduled it on 12th to 14th Oct, 2019. With precarious situation on ground and indecisiveness of policy makers, the Government on 20th Sen 2019 decided to postnone the event till March 2020. In January 2020, a pre-summit investor's meet was held in New Delhi. Besides showcasing the sectoral opportunities in J&K, the Government also announced its plans of deploying a whopping 6000 acres of land for industrial purposes. To put things into perspective, the current area under industries in the entire J&K is only 242.25 acres. A few road shows promoting the summit in major Indian cities also took place in the month of February and March 2020. To further lure the investment houses to J&K, the Government approved 4 sector specific policies on 20th March 2020 which included tourism as well as hydroelectricity. However, with the pandemic unfolding exponentially across the world, this entire exercise came to an eerie halt. Not a single penny came. Fast forward to 27th Oct, 2020, the Central Government amended the Jammu and Kashmir Development Act, 1970 for setting up, "J&K industrial development corporation". Besides industrial promotion, the amendment empowered the

newly created corporation to acquire and hold property, both movable and immovable, for the performance of any of its activities, and to lease, sell, exchange or otherwise transfer any property held by it on conditions as may be deemed proper. Three days after this amendment i.e. on 31st Oct, 2020, an area equal to 3000 acres (24000 Kanal) was transferred by GoJK to the Industries & Commerce Department. It was, moreover, said that another tranche of 3000 acres shall be notified for industries after clearance from the forest department.

The Industrial Policy 2021

On 7th of January 2021, J&K's lieutenant governor announced a Rs 28,400-crore industrial development scheme that he said would usher in socio-economic development of the Union Territory. Despite the fact that this amount is arrived at by aggregating the incentives of 17 long years till 2037, the package is surely a lot better in terms of the percentage and variant of subsidies provided to the industry by the centre.

However, the four page list of

Given the involvement of some very powerful and comparatively competent bureaucratic offices from both centre and the UT and the amount of time it took to come up with a tangible policy; the expectation was something of the scale of industrial reforms encompassing the entire industrial ecosystem and not just the rudimentary financial components of Plant and Machinery

ighlights which they refer to as a kets, all these essential component

J&K Industries need holistic reforms which go beyond the archaic approach of providing stimulus through subsidies and creating land banks

Without going into the details, the larger focus of the policy has again been myopically aligned towards enhancement of manufacturing capacities alone. Manufacturing plant is only one of the cogs in the wheels of the supply chain. No matter how much resources you push into this one cog, the strength of the entire chain will still be determined by its weakest link. Flooding our manufacturing capacities with subsidized resources and deploying more land is hardly going to make a difference. There is a whole gamut of weak links which if given equal attention can culminate into better economic outputs in terms of industrial production, employment creation and revenue generation.

The smooth movement of goods in the supply chain demands a robust intra-region and interstate connectivity. A lone road link which keeps on hanging on a strand of thread and an internal road connectivity which is still at the mercy of horses for delivery speaks volumes about the priorities we should be focusing on. Men, material and mar-

Lastly, the absence of research and development has time locked our local industries in 19th century industrial practices. This has resulted in blind spots wherein manufacturers are unable to look at indigenously available resources with a new perspective. Breakthroughs happen through research and the kind of resources that we have in J&K deserve to be studied with a fresh perspective. This is where policy reforms are needed in terms of knowledge support and financial incentives. J&K Industries need holistic reforms which go beyond the archaic approach of providing stimulus through subsidies and creating land banks. As long as chronic issues of poor logistical connectivity, electricity deprivation, paucity of skilled Human Resource, unreliable high speed internet, inaccessibility to equity and investment in research and development continue to be ignored, Industrial policies will continue to yield poor results.

volatile nature of our economy are logically poles apart. The survival of business in this turbulent environment depends largely on its ability to absorb income shocks. Facilitating listing of business on SME stock exchanges & opening equity route for the manufacturers would be one reform in such direction. Seeking relaxed norms in terms of repayment cycles from the RBI for lending towards manufacturing, in areas under Disturbed Areas Act, can also make a huge difference. Nothing of this critical impediment has been embarked upon

Importantly, unless Industries in J&K are given non-disruptive supply of internet connectivity and power, no amount of subsidies are going to help. These are the lifelines on which the entire castle of manufacturing and service industry rests. Any vulnerability in these two essential bed rocks will ensure failure even before anything is started. Industrial areas and IT Parks should at least be demarcated and made immune from political & law and order compulsions vis-à-vis the internet.

OTHER OPINON

Racism in sporting culture

port serves as the proverbial mirror for social prejudices. This sad truth was reaffirmed — twice — during the ongoing Test series between India and Australia. During the third Test in Sydney, play had to be halted briefly as two Indian players, Mohammed Siraj and Jasprit Bumrah, were subjected to racial slurs by a section of the spectators. Even though action was taken on the basis of Mr Siraj's complaints - six spectators were ejected from the stadium the ugliness spilled over into the final Test in Brisbane where Mr Siraj reportedly became the target of racially-motivated taunts, once again. Such incidents — they are a malignancy – have a long history in cricket. From the racial discrimination suffered by Krom Hendricks in South Africa in the 1890s to, in the more recent past, Dean Jones, the former Australian cricketer, referring to the South African cricketer, Hashim Amla, as a "terrorist", the game's multicultural roots have repeatedly been targeted by primitive sentiments. This is not to suggest that other sports are an embodiment of the spirit of inclusion. More than 150 incidents of racial abuse were reported in English football in 2020, a spike of over 50 per cent. Ironically, protest against such differentiation has been penalized too. A gesture of protest against police brutality against black people by the former National Football League player, Colin Kaepernick, not only earned him a public rebuke from the outgoing president of the United States of America but also cost him his career in the NFL.

The implications of these events are troubling. They highlight the embedded nature of bias in an activity that is meant to foster a sense of fraternity and solidarity across social groups. The pushback against this divisiveness within the ecosystem of sport is encouraging. Calls of institutional accountability are no longer rare in cricket: a former Test umpire has demanded an enquiry into the absence of match officials from ethnic minorities in English cricket. English football has adopted affirmative action to provide equal opportunity to managers from the black community. Laws against racist behaviour are far more stringent. Yet, the enduring nature of racism points to the existence of a worrving chasm that separates the law of a game from its spirit. Racism is not the only manifestation of this gap in sporting culture. In cricket, sledging - it need not always adhere to the contours of sportsmanship - is widely accepted as evidence of fierce competitiveness that makes sporting contests alluring. Sports federations, spectators, advertisers, even the law - the stakeholders of sporting competitions - must be mindful of the gap. Otherwise, the principles of fairness and assimilation would be weakened in sport.

Telegraph India

policy, stands woefully short of being holistic or potent to make any real difference. Given the involvement of some very powerful and comparatively competent bureaucratic offices from both centre and the UT and the amount of time it took to come up with a tangible policy; the expectation was something of the scale of industrial reforms encompassing the entire industrial ecosystem and not just the rudimentary financial components of Plant and Machinery. The four page list of highlights that is available in the public domain is still an elementary document of subsidies, land banks and plenty of rhetoric. It is a matter of fact that our manufacturing backwardness can't be cured by interest and capital subsidies alone. Investors invest in an industrial ecosystem. If we think that business houses will shift their manufacturing plants to an isolated Himalayan region marred with conflict just because we are providing them a piece of land and basic incentives on establishing factories, then

which ensure the optimum utilization of the industrial capacity, needs smooth and reliable logistical connections. No matter how good your plant and machinery is, if your raw material gets choked for 15 days on Jammu-Srinagar highway and your finished products are not even able to reach Sonmarg, you are bound to fail. No amount of subsides can cure this chronic disease marring the potential of our industries. The concept of establishing a dry-port for mitigating logistical disadvantages was a step in the right direction, but never saw the light of the day. This policy was expected to address that.

Dearth of skilled human resources is also starving our manufacturing plants during winters when skilled migrant laborers leave the valley and the manufacturing capacities remain underutilized. Aligning our ITIs and Polytechnics to meet the skill deficit in the industrial sector is long overdue. The policy was supposed to address this as well.

The stringent and inflexible nature of the debt contract and the

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Kashmir Needs Solar power Supply Technology

he summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar is located at an altitude of 1592 meters perceived to have a clean environment because of high altitude destinations. But as per the Pune based Indian Institute of Technical Meteorology (IITM) is surprising. The study revealed that the pollution in Srinagar hits dangerous levels.

In the meantime, when forests of Kashmir face the axe and the government looks to demarcate land for industries by inviting investors from the other states of India in a wake of scrapping of semi autonomous status of Jammu and Kashmir. According to official reports nearly 15000 acres of land identified in Kashmir. The government has started a campaign to bring J&K on the industrial map of the country.

we are grossly mistaken.

Indeed, the industries could boost the economy, provide employment and strengthen the goodwill of the valley but would be at the cost of our environment. Most of the existing industries here in the valley are using coal and kerosene oil on their daily operation. Less availability of hydroelectricity forced them to adopt conventional fuels. During the six month

winter period, Hydro power plants generate minimum power supply because the rivers freeze and there is a sharp decline in flow of water.

Research conducted by Kashmir university found that the pollution level always touches the sky during winter because people make use of conventional energy sources as an alternative to state run power supply. The study also revealed that the emission from the vehicular combustion is 220 to 250 tonnes per year which accounts for 15-20 percent of the annual emission.

Meanwhile, the government is yet

to clarify where these industries will get power supply from. But if they want their smooth functioning without degradation of the environment of the valley, then it is very important to utilize other sources of energy.

The world is now adopting solar energy systems to preserve natural resources. From vehicles to offices, solar energy is being utilized everywhere now. It is time to adopt the convenient sources of energy to minimise the harm in our environment.

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Think **Opinion**, Analysis, Essays



eptember 23, 1994. Syeda, who is like my sister, was travelling on a minibus from Nadihal, a village neighbouring our home in Bandipore, to Chittibandi, carrying her four-year-old son, Mehraj, in her lap. It was around 5 pm when the minibus reached a small bridge connecting Aragam and Chittibandi. A Border Security Force contingent deployed by the bridge signalled the driver to stop. Unknown to Sveda and her fellow passengers, two militants were travelling on the minibus. They jumped off and ran. The BSF men opened fire, raining bullets on the minibus. By the time their guns fell silent, 12 people lay dead. Syeda took three bullets, one across the forehead, one on the neck, and another crushed forefinger of her left hand. Syeda battled death for over two months in SKIMS, Soura, where surgeons removed a part of her frontal bone. She survived, though. It was a miracle. Mehraj was hit by a bullet in his tiny hand as well. The wound healed but the damage was permanent. The scar is a constant reminder.

In the quarter century since Syeda was scarred for life, the people of Kashmir have been ground down by an unbreakable loop of tragedy, each fading the painful memory of the previous one. So much so, I must admit that I had forgotten about Syeda and her little child's suffering.

I have returned to our village regularly since the bloodbath on the bridge, but never lived there. Many a time, I only went to report a tragedy.

Syeda's brother, Faisal Nayeem, is a childhood friend. We grew up together in a cluster of villages which functioned like one big family, with friendships and relations that went back several generations. Syeda has always been very affectionate and she loved her brother's friends as she did him. I had lost touch with Faisal over the years. We would talk on the phone occasionally, but our conversations had become so brief they ended as soon as they began.

Then, a few days ago, Faisal posted a picture of his nephew, Mehraj, on Facebook and we started talking.

Syeda is married to Mohammad Ayaz, a gentle soul. As Faisal and I talked, we recounted their wedding. Ayaz still works with the state's sheep husbandry department, as a stock assistant, Faisal said. We talked about our childhood, our parents. We also remembered friends and neighbours who are no longer with us.

We relived that dark September evening in 1994 but he also told me a heart-warming story.

Their family, like most families in our villages, wasn't affluent. Affluent, I talk strictly in terms of its dictionary meaning. Perhaps, that affluence was not a priority for most there. That was also not how prosperity was viewed then. My grandmother used to say that having enough for two meals a day, milk for nun chai, a few extra beddings for guests, a roof that didn't leak when it snowed, and good health meant you were comfortable. And if you have more than your need to share with your neighbours, she would insist, you are blessed. In that sense they were more than comfortable and blessed. They had 'panun haakh ba-te'.

But that evening in 1994, their lives came crashing down. Syeda lived but the bullets had crushed her, leaving a dent in her forehead and her left hand without fingers. But God almighty had given her and Mehraj new lives, everyone believed that.

The few times I had spoken to Nayeem afterwards, we had barely even mentioned Syeda. Perhaps he had feared it was to scratch old wounds. But when he posted that picture and we talked about that tragedy, it was without pity and sadness gnawing at our soul. The story behind that picture brought me out of the depths of despair and despondency. It is a story that gives me hope about us as a people, about our homeland Kashmir. So I wanted o share it



Silver Linings

Muzamil Jaleel

Mehrai has grown up into a fine young man. He completed his PhD in Physics a few years ago and secured a postdoctoral position at the renowned Christian Doppler Lab in Austria, where he is currently researching lithium batteries. Previously, he worked as a senior research fellow at Tokyo University. He has published around 20 papers in prestigious journals such as Nature, Elsevier and Royal Society of Chemistry.

Little Mehraj never attended any elite school.

ing those beautiful couplets as he taught Urdu poetry. Abdul Gani sahib and Nazir sahib aren't with us any longer. God bless their soul. We talked about Bashir sahib, the mathematics wizard. Khaleef sahib would look like a school boy himself and he taught bio sciences in such a manner that we would wait for his class to begin. Parsa sahib, Kamal sahib, Wani sahib, Parvaz sahib, Mashhoor sahib and many others. It was an academy of excellence.

eyes. We could hear his mesmerising voice, recit-

We need our villages and towns to be like big families again, sharing joy and suffering, looking after each other, helping each other up. We, as a people, need to build our collective capacities so we aren't made dependent again. In effect, we must realise that when the house is on fire, no one can protect their exclusive cabin from the flames. If it burns it will all be smouldering ash, eventually. We need to rise above our differences and act together to save our home.

He perhaps sat on the same straw mats of our government school where we learned the alphabet and memorised the tables. He also went to Government Higher Secondary School, Nadihal, Nayeem told me. In our day, it was a high school. Established in 1925, its walls have been witness to the words of some of the finest teachers of their era. We remembered our teachers. Abdul Gani sahib - an unparalleled headmaster and a strict disciplinarian, who would never arrive even a minute late to duty. Nazir sahib. We could see his handsome face, his impeccable dress and the passion to teach his

We talked about our school. Teachers, not a building or gadgets, make it an institution and we were blessed to have some of the finest teachers. Perhaps that tradition has continued and Mehraj too learnt to dream inside those classrooms.

A decade and a half ago, I went back to my school after a 15-year-old student was killed in a mysterious explosion on the premises. Back in those days, our school doubled up as an army camp. My story on the student's death was headlined "Mohsin's Last Day At My School". It was March 21, 2005. I haven't returned there

Mohsin Sarwar's innocent face as he lay lifeless in his school uniform inside the school haunts me to this day

For his undergraduate studies, Mehraj went to Amar Singh College, Srinagar, and did his master's and PhD at Pondicherry University. I am sure it was his uncle who inspired Mehraj to study Physics. Nayeem is a reason many youngsters from our neck of the woods are drawn to study natural sciences, especially Physics. He has a doctorate in Physics. He's a teacher and very good at it.

Mehraj is not the only academic achiever in Sayeda's family. His older brother, Adil, has a PhD in Biotechnology and now works as a junior scientist at SKIMS Medical College. Another brother, Owais, qualified for the Junior Research Fellowship with a top rank. He's now doing a PhD at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research Lab in Jammu where he is researching cancer treatment.

Faisal told me similar stories of half a dozen youngsters from Bandipore's villages who have excelled in academics, through perseverance and hard work. When I asked how many of them are now doing research in the world's top institutions, he asked me to wait so he could count.

There are scores of such stories of individual achievement across Kashmir. Our young men and women are excelling despite tremendous odds, not just in academics but many professional fields as well. We are at a darkly gloomy juncture in our history and such stories should serve to inspire hope. So, we need to talk to each other. We need to defeat the fear. We need to give hope to each other.

We must be careful, however, not to make individual achievement alone a metric of our worth. It should be only a stepping stone, to employing one's talent and the socioeconomic and cultural privilege academic and professional achievement bestow for the greater good of our society. The primary goal of education is to make us understand our collective dreams and nightmares. It should make us remember the days and nights of begaar of our ancestors. It should remind us that not long ago we were collectively sold like cattle. It should tell us that 1865 and 1877 can happen again. We need our villages and towns to be like big families again, sharing joy and suffering, looking after each other, helping each other up. We, as a people, need to build our collective capacities so we aren't made dependent again.

In effect, we must realise that when the house is on fire, no one can protect their exclusive cabin from the flames. If it burns it will all be smouldering ash, eventually. We need to rise above our differences and act together to save our home.

We need to recognise the 'rantas' that has suddenly walked out of our folklore and come alive on our TV and phone screens. We need to decipher her shrieks. We need to stay awake. For sleep is a kind of death.

We need to fight the gloom.

Not until very long ago we were doomed because we couldn't read and write our letters. We had our letters written for us, read to us. It took centuries to learn our alphabets. We must ensure that we read and write our letters. We need to focus on the silver linings and remember that the journey towards our emancipation began with "Iqra".

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

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Marketing Rendezvous Kashmiri Tujji wallas and Apple's Iphones

Wajahat Qazi

s there a connection between Kashmiri tujji wallas (barbecue vendors) and Apple's Iphones? On the face of it, this question is as bizarre and improbable as can be but probe deeper, a link- albeit tenuous- emerges. Both, in starkly different permutations and combinations, are about marketing and its corollary branding. The question and the issue thereof presented itself to me as I wandered and took photos with my Iphone along the foreshore road the link road that snakes around Lake Dal connects Hazratbal with Nishat, the region of Srinagar city that houses the famed Mughal gardens.

As I approached the end of the foreshore road , a tujji walla was fanning the embers of charcoal on his stall, a preparatory interlude to roast the tujjis, a popular food item among the youth of Kashmir. There are many stalls of this kind along the road but this guy's stall was one that could not be failed to be noticed: the front of his stall was wrapped with plastic cloth with the words Ertugrul emblazoned across it. (Ertugrul is a Turkish soap wildly popular in Kashmir, among its youth).

To me this was a stroke of marketing genius: the tujji walla had recognized the popularity of Erturgrul, identified a market segment among which it was popular and was engaging in what might be called 'pull' marketing'. All this is well and fine but where is the connection with Apple and its Iphones readers will rightly ask?

Before I dwell on the question, a digression is warranted here. Apple is a company that has been among the pioneers of the smartphone revolution, itself a reflection of the Information, Commu-



nication Technologies(ICTs) and their convergence. This assertion might be questioned by many who would protest and posit that Apple is not a company; it is a brand. The protesting readers would be right. While technically Apple is indeed a company, as in being registered, having an organizational structure and a bevy of employees across the word, but pared to essence Apple is a brand into which there is a massive consumer buy in not because its flagship product, the Iphone is a smart phone that has many features that differentiate it from other smartphones but, in the final analysis, Apple's Iphones offer and are prized for their experience, real or perceived.

This is the genius of Apple's late Steve Jobs and this is what connects the Tujji walla and Iphones. Both are about marketing and branding. The difference is that of scale, sophistication and technology. However, it does not mean that experience or its prospects, and mere marketing and branding are the only factors upon which a product or service can be predicated upon

This is the genius of Apple's late Steve Jobs and this is what connects the Tujji walla and Iphones. Both are about marketing and branding. The difference is that of scale, sophistication and technology. However, it does not mean that experience or its prospects, and mere marketing and branding are the only factors upon which a product or service can be predicated upon. A genuine offering-product or service- has to be backed by substance. It is in conjunction with creative, deft and clever marketing and branding, and the substance of a product or service that it can not only take off but also be embedded in consumers' consciousness.

There is also the question of ethics here.

We inhabit a world of images and even sounds. In the crosscurrents of either, consumers can, by virtue of very subtle and sophisticated marketing be taken for a walk along the proverbial primrose path. They can be deceived, that is. The fake (experience, product or service) can be made to look so real as to be mistaken for the real. At times, not even law or regulation and regulators can detect this. It is here that the conscience and the moral compass of business persons, markets and branding experts must kick in. But, we live in a flawed world where the temptation to make a quick buck at the expense of people or by exploiting the gullibility of people can override the ethical? Can this be overridden? Not entirely and not always. The slick are and can be slick than the rest of us. In the final analysis, it is 'buyer beware' that can potentially help avoid the snares of unscrupulous business.

All in all then, without marketing and branding, businesses and firms can succeed only up to a point. Scalability, scale, reach and brand recall embedded in the consciousness of consumers can only happen with marketing, branding and communication strategies. This is a lesson even countries are realizing and applying. As I wind up this piece, I think of the tujji walla on foreshore road, whose instinctive and intuitive approach to his micro business was a class act in marketing. Can he, if he would have been the beneficiary of modern business education, have done much better?

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LIFE & TIMES



Workplace mistreatment may up suicidal thoughts in employees

you ignore a colleague's greeting or make a sarcastic comment in the workplace then it may actually do more harm to them than intended, a new study suggests.

The study indicates that perceived low-grade forms of workplace mistreatment, such as avoiding eye contact or excluding a co-worker from conversation can amplify suicidal thoughts in employees with mood disorders.

'We know from prior research that minor forms of workplace mistreatment reduce employee engagement," said researcher Kayla Follmer, Assistant Professor at the West Virginia University

in the US.

"But our paper provided an explanation about why this was occurring. Mistreatment increases suicidal ideation (thoughts) and because of that, work engagement is reduced," Follmer added.

For the study, published in the journal Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes, the research team surveyed 279 adults who are employed 20 or more hours a week and diagnosed with depression or bipolar disorder.

The researchers then asked participants to rate various experiences relating to workplace mistreatment, suicidal ideation and job engagement over sev-

eral months.

While research for this study was conducted before the Covid-19 pandemic, Follmer wonders if the world of remote work intensifies the effects of mental health and workplace engagement.

"Suicide and depression are very taboo, dark topics. It can be heavy at times to research, but that's the responsibility we bear to bring these experiences into awareness for organisations and to tell them we can do better. And it's our responsibility to do better for those individuals who need us," the researcher said.

Agencies

Researchers find better diet, glucose uptake in the brain lead to longer life in fruit flies

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

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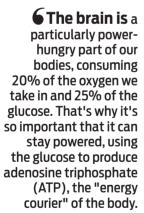
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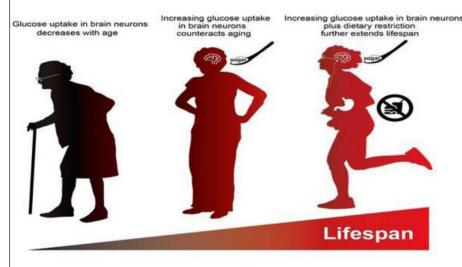
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esearchers from Tokyo Metropolitan University have discovered that fruit flies with genetic modifications to enhance glucose uptake have significantly longer lifespans.

Looking at the brain cells of ageing flies, they found that better glucose uptake compensates for age-related deterioration in motor functions, and led to a longer life. The effect was more pronounced when coupled with dietary restrictions. This suggests healthier eating plus improved glucose uptake in the brain might lead to enhanced lifespans.

The brain is a particularly power-hungry part of our bodies, consuming 20% of the oxygen we take in and 25% of the glucose. That's why it's so important that it can stay powered, using the glucose to produce adenosine triphosphate (ATP), the "energy courier" of the body.

This chemical process, known as glycolysis, happens in both the intracellular fluid and a part of cells known as the mitochondria. But as we get older. our brain cells become less adept at making ATP, something that

broadly correlates with less glucose availability.

That might suggest that more food for more glucose might actually be a good thing. On the other hand, it is known that a healthier diet actually leads to a longer life. Unravelling the mystery surrounding these two contradictory pieces of knowledge might lead to a better understanding of healthier, longer lifespans.

A team led by Associate Professor Kanae Ando studied this problem using Drosophila fruit flies. Firstly, they confirmed that brain cells in older flies tended to have lower levels of ATP, and lower uptake of glucose. They specifically tied this down to lower amounts of the enzymes needed for glycolysis.

To counteract this effect, they genetically modified flies to produce more of a glucosetransporting protein called hGut3. Amazingly, this increase in glucose uptake was all that was required to significantly improve the amount of ATP in cells.

More specifically, they found that more hGut3 led to less decrease in the production of the enzymes, counteracting the decline with age.

Though this did not lead to an improvement in age-related damage to mitochondria, they also suffered less deterioration in locomotor functions.

But that's not all. In a further twist, the team put the flies with enhanced glucose uptake under dietary restrictions, to see how the effects interact. Now, the flies had even longer lifespans.

Curiously, the increased glucose uptake did not actually improve the levels of glucose in brain cells. The results point to the importance of not just how much glucose there is, but how efficiently it is used once taken into cells to make the energy the brain needs.

Though the anti-ageing benefits of a restricted diet have been shown in many species, the team were able to combine this with improved glucose uptake to leverage the benefits of both for even longer lifespans in a model organism. Further study may provide vital clues to how we might keep our brains healthier for longer

Agencies

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Business

Petrol, Diesel Price Rise Again By 25 Paise/Litre After 3-Day Pause



NEW DELHI: Petrol and diesel Delhi and several other places prices rose again by 25 paise in the country. It had risen on per litre each on Monday af- two days in the week prior to ter oil marketing companies last week as well. decided to break their threeday pause on price revision in on Wednesday as global crude the wake of enlarging underrecovery on sale of the two petroleum products.

price of petrol and diesel came primarily on account of Saudi on a day when global oil prices have a glimpse of softening production cuts to balance oil with crude falling below \$55 a barrel after almost a week of hovering above that range.

With Monday's increase, petrol is being sold at Rs 84.95 a litre in Delhi from previous day price of Rs 84.70 a litre. the national capital this year Similarly, diesel prices also increased to Rs 75.13 a litre. up rate had risen to Rs 84 a litre. from the previous day's level of Rs 74.88 a litre.

Across the country as well pump price of petrol and diesel increased but the quantum of the rise varied from state to state depending on the level of taxation on the two petroleum products.

The auto fuel price rise was said that petrol and diesel pricon hold for last three days af- es may increase further in comter petrol and diesel prices had ing days as retail prices may increased on two successive have to be balanced in line with days last week on Wednesday global developments to prevent and Thursday taking gasoline OMCs from making a loss on to new record high levels in the sale of auto fuels.-IANS

OMCs ran out of patience prices have risen sharply lately taking benchmark Brent

crude price to over \$57 a bar-The increase in the pump rel now and rising. The rise is Arabia's decision on unilateral prices on pandemic affected demand reduction in an oversupplied market.

Ât Rs 84.95 a litre in Delhi, petrol price has already breached the highest level in after October 4, 2018, when the

Petrol price was very close to breaching the all-time high level of Rs 84 a litre (reached on October 4, 2018) when it touched Rs 83.71 a litre on December 7, 2020. But the march had been halted ever since then with no price revision by the OMCs.

Oil companies' executives

J&K Tourism Stall At ITM Bags **Award For Visual Display**

LUCKNOW: The stall of the J&K Tourism Department at the ITM here was adjudged as the best stall for presentation, display of visual content and tourist communication during the three daylong event which concluded today.

The award was presented to the J&K Tourism Department delegation by Chairman & Managing Director, ICM





Pay Hikes In India To Fall To **Decade Low In 2020: Report**

pay hikes in 2020.

The sharpest drop in pay hikes was projected in the auto sector, companies in India gave an average

reflecting its stress; e-commerce pay increase of 9.3 per cent during 2019, reflecting a slowdown in the sector was seen giving a doubledigit pay hike -- among the higheconomy compared to 2018. "The projection for 2020 is est across 20 sectors -- surveyed by on Plc, a human resource condown by 20 basis points to 9.1 per cent. However, despite the

dip in the projections, two out of

five participating companies in

the survey are projecting a dou-

ble-digit increase, expecting a

positive economic outlook," the

the trout which was considered

as a Royal food reaches the com-

The introduction of trout in

Kashmir for angling is cred-

ited to a Britain Frank Mitchell.

In 1899, he reared the trout in

the premises of his private car-

pet factory at Bagh-e-Dilawar

Khan, located in Shahr-e-Khas.

He established the first trout

mon people in Kashmir.

report added

sultancy firm . "The vehicle manufacturing industry reported the biggest drop, from 10.1 per cent in 2018 to 8.3 per cent for 2020," the survey showed. As per the results of the survey,

THE VEHICLE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY REPORTED THE biggest drop, from 10.1 per cent in 2018 to 8.3 per cent for 2020," the survey showed.

Kokernag Now Asia's Largest Trout Fish Farm

70 Lakh Eggs Obtained From Trout Fish This Season

SRINAGAR: In a significant development, at least 70 lakh eggs have been obtained from trout fish at Kokernag fisheries farm this season and officials say they will generate huge revenue.

Known for its natural beauty, Kashmir has the distinction of having Asia's largest fisheries farm in Kokernag. The farm is emerging best

producer of Rainbow trout fish Due to serious efforts by its of-



US Economy Is 'Spiraling Downward['], Warns Top **Biden Advisor**



to President-elect Joe Biden warned the US economy is "spiraling downward" and called for swift action to address vulnerabilities that the global pandemic has drawn into focus.

Brian Deese, who will serve as director of Biden's National Economic Council, said Sunday that the incoming administration's \$1.9 trillion spending plan would generate "the kind

of robust recovery we need." Biden's proposal includes more direct payments to households, an expansion of jobless benefits, more money for state and local governments and an expansion of vaccinations and virus-testing programs.

It also calls for a \$15 federal minimum wage, from \$7.25, higher taxes and more regulations. Those initiatives have already alienated some Republicans and drawn criticism that the proposals are far removed from an emergency effort to shake off the coronavirus-related slowdown.

moment," Deese said on "Fox News Sunday." "The economy and the virus are spiraling downward. Now is the time to act."

Biden will need at least 10 Republican senators to success- tions, Deese said the systems fully push through the stimulus need to be secured immediately.

top economic adviser at the rapid pace that he has called for. Deese expects the president-elect to win support despite some of the proposals being seen as a non-starter for Republicans.

The plan is "a colossal waste and economically harmful," Republican Senator Pat Toomey said Friday. The Pennsylvania lawmaker said some of the measures could slow down recovery in the labor sector.

"The ink on December's \$1 trillion aid bill is barely dry and much of the money is not yet spent," Toomey said.

Vulnerabilities exposed

Deese said the Biden proposal addresses vulnerabilities in the US that Covid-19 has highlighted. For example, increasing the

minimum wage will provide "concrete and direct" support to Americans, he said, and providing relief to public transit systems will "avoid diminished service and diminished support" once the US emerges from the crisis.

The plan also includes mea-"We are at a very precarious sures to address weaknesses in the cybersecurity, revealed by last year's huge hack of government systems. With so many federal operations being handled online amid Covid restric-

China GDP Grows 2.3% In 2020, Bounces Back To Pre-**Pandemic Trajectory**

BEIIING, CHINA: China's economy grew at the slowest pace in more than four decades last year despite a rebound after the country's coronavirus outbreak, official data showed Monday



across the world. ficials, at least 70 lakh eggs have been obtained from trout fish this season so far.

Agencies

NEW DELHI: A new survey report on Tuesday said that India will see the lowest salary increase in a decade this year and even the real estate and transport sector -- the top national job generators -- will witness lowest

Mr.Ajay Gupta.

While presenting the award, Mr. Gupta appreciated the ing tourists who came to visit steps taken by J&K Tourism the stall during the event. Department for the revival of tourism sector in the CO- day, B2B meetings between VID-19 unlocking process. He officials of participant States specifically praised the De- and UTs including Utter partment for undertaking se- Pradesh, Uttrakhand, Jammu ries of winter and snow activi- & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, ties which has given a boost to Gujarat and travel agents and winter clientele.

Besides J&K Tourism Department, Gujarat Tourism boosting of tourism. was awarded for Best decorative stall, Himachal Pradesh Tourism was awarded for stall like Delhi, Lucknow, Kanpur, display while as Uttrakhand Gorakhpur, Allahabad, Vara-Tourism was awarded for promoting wellness tourism.

J&K stall at the ITM here has the B2B meetings.

ESIDES J&K TOURISM Department,

Gujarat Tourism was awarded for Best decorative stall, Himachal Pradesh Tourism was awarded for stall display while as Uttrakhand Tourism was awarded for promoting wellness tourism.

evoked keen interest among the tour operators and intend-

On the concluding day totour operators were held to brainstorm the revival and

Tour operators and travel agents from adjoining areas nasi, Aligarh, Barielly, Jhansi, Mathura, Agra and other cities It may be recalled that the of north India also attended

Chief Project Officer (CPO) of the farm, Mohammad Muzaffar Bazaz said the farm is known worldwide for its production. "Rainbow trout is cold water

fish and should have temperatures between 0 to 20 degree Celsius. It is rich in protein and boosts immunity. The revenue and production increase with each year," he said.

"We have sold five lakh eggs so far this season to several states sor of the farm, who has well exincluding Uttrakhand and Nagaland and generated revenue of Rs 10 lakh to the farm," he said. Every year between November and February, eggs are obtained

a breeding period of 51 days. Af-

reservoirs before taking them to Asia's largest fish farm project. After achieving success in sale centres The project is managed by the breeding trout, the Department local officials who are technically over the years has ensured that

knowhow about trout seed production. Syed Manzoor is the supervi-

pertise in rearing fish. The Fisheries Department set up a trout farming project at

Kokernag in south Kashmir with the European Economic Commufrom trout fish in this farm. It has nity's assistance in 1984.

The infrastructure has been ter then fish are given feed first upgraded over the years and hatchery at Harwan in 1901 and in tanks then taken to water Kokernag has turned out to be trained the locals. -KINS

E WE HAVE SOLD FIVE LAKH EGGS SO FAR THIS SEASON TO

everal states including Uttrakhand and Nagaland and generated revenue of Rs 10 lakh to the farm," he said.

The 2.3 percent expansion is the lowest figure since the Chinese economy embarked measures.

on major reforms in the 1970s. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said last year was a "grave and complex environment both at home and

abroad" with the pandemic having a "huge impact". The figure was a marked slowdown from 2019 growth of 6.1 percent -- itself already the lowest in decades -- with the country hit by weak domestic demand and trade tensions.

forecast by an AFP poll of analysts from 13 financial institutions, who predicted a 2.0 percent expansion.

Covid-19, which has ravaged the world economy, first emerged in central China in late 2019. But the world's second-largest economy also became the first to bounce back after imposing strict lockdowns and virus control

It is expected to be the only major world economy clocking positive 2020 growth.

In the last three months of 2020, China's economic rebound continued with a better-thanexpected 6.5 percent growth on-

year, a sustained improvement since the second quarter.

This brings it back to a prepandemic trajectory, although full-year 2020 growth is still its worst performance since But it is better than that 1976, when the economy shrank 1.6 percent.

That was two years before former leader Deng Xiaoping set in motion a shift away from communist-style central planning, turning China into an industrial, trade and tech powerhouse.

Recovery 'not yet firm'

NBS commissioner Ning Jizhe told reporters on Monday that the foundation for China's economic recovery "is still not yet firm".

NEWS MAKERS

Director Law Enforcement For Regular Sampling Drive

Enforcement Agriculture Production and Farmer's Welfare Department (AP&FWD) J&K, Abdul Rahim Samoon today instructed officers of the enforcement wing to gear up men and machinery for conducting regular inspection and sampling of products for testing purpose so that the farmers and orchardists are provided the quality products.

The Director said this during a virtual meet convened here to review the overall working of law enforcement agency. He insisted to frame checking squads for Kashmir Division so that the menace to take strict action against Wing.

SRINAGAR: The Director Law of spurious pesticides is controlled and accused are dealt under the tenets of law. He stressed upon the En-

> forcement Officers for successful implementation of Road Map for supply of quality inputs in Kashmir Division and added that the prime objective of the enforcement wing of the department is to ensure that quality fertilizers, pesticides and seeds are made available to the farmers

through proper sale outlets. He directed officers to put in every effort to safeguard farmers interests. Samoon asked the officers of the Enforcement

the retailers found selling fertilizers, pesticides or seeds without following the proper procedure.

Samoon directed the officers that any dealer or retailer found guilty of violating different provisions of the law, his licence should be cancelled with immediate effect. Among others, the meeting was attended by Joint Director Seeds, Pesticides and Fertilizers, Mohd Iqbal Khan, Agriculture Chemist Kashmir. Plant Protection Officer Kashmir, Deputy Director Law Enforcement and other senior

Handicrafts Awareness Camp Held At Achabal

ANANTNAG: The Handicrafts Department, Anantnag today organised a one day awareness camp at Achabal to raise awareness among the participants regarding various welfare schemes and programmes offered by the department.

The camp was inaugurated by AD Handicrafts Anantnag, Abhimanyu Singh.

While addressing the artisans, the AD said that main aim of organising the camp is to aware the artisans about various handicraft activities like chain stitch, crewel, embroidery, wood carving, paper machie, Zari, Tapestry, willow wicker, carpet and Kani shawl.

He directed the concerned officers to make sure that newly formulated schemes for artisans percolate down to the target public. He also directed the entrepreneurs and societies to avail the benefits of the departmental schemes.



ment during the current fiscal and said that department has provided interest subsidy of more than Rs.1.44 cr to the artisan community of handicrafts Block Achabal for setting up their own income generating units.

The AD said that the department Singh on the occasion highlighted is also providing Rs. 500 and Rs. 700 subsidy and has registered 6700 artisans

the achievements made by the depart- monthly stipend to the trainees during the training period of one year and two years. He also informed the camp that presently 28 handicraft centers are functional in the district and 09 centers in Dooru Sub-Division

The department also provides financial assistance of Rs. 01 lakh at 7 percent

with the handicraft department. The department has submitted proposals for setting up of Mega Clusters at Larnoo in crewel, Chain stitch and staple embroidery while as regular cluster for Safipora Wularhama in papermashi.

The AD handicrafts appealed to the artisans and trainees to come forward for taking benefit of the state / central sponsored welfare schemes for their better livelihood.

The camp was also addressed by experts of handicrafts including HTO's, KVIB officers who apprised the participants and artisans about latest techniques and welfare programmes being implemented by the department for the welfare of the artisan community. The camp was attended by a large number of artisans, trainees, society holders besides various departmental officers of Handicrafts, Handloom, KVIB and Induscose.

NEWS

DC Conducts Market Checking At Kulgam

KULGAM: To ensure stabilization of rates and availability of essential commodities in the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Showkat Aijaz Bhat along with ASP, Mohammad Yousuf today conducted market checking in the district.

On the occasion the DC said that market checking is being intensified in all Tehsils to ensure stabilization of market rates and availability of essential commodities including vegetables.

He said the shopkeepers are directed to keep Government approved rate lists displayed in their shops and warned strict action against erring shopkeepers for violating the Food Safety and Standard Rules.

Meanwhile, DC has appealed to the general public of the district to bring into the notice of Administration if they find anyone indulging in overcharging of essential commodities for immediate necessary action. The District Administration has also designated different market checking teams headed by concerned Tehsildars who carry regular inspections of markets, petrol pumps to inspect the availability of essential commodities and check arbitrary price hike in markets.

DC Ganderbal Chairs Meeting Of PPOs

GANDERBAL: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shafqat Iqbal today chaired a meeting of Petrol Pump Owners (PPOs) to discuss the availability of facilities and implementation of various guidelines at filling stations established within the district.

During the meeting threadbare discussion was held on installation of transparent pipes for dispensation of oil, public convenience facility, installation of free air facility, stock position besides adherence to rationing guidelines that was recently issued by the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir.

At the onset, AD food briefed the meeting about the stock position of petrol and diesel and informed that 2.05 lakh litres of diesel and over 1.08 lakh litres of petrol are available at 12 filling stations of the district. The DC directed the petrol pump owners to ensure implementation of set guidelines in letter and spirit and warned of strict action under the relevant laws against those found violating the rules and regulations.

Tuesday | 19.01.2021

The owner of Paristan Filling Station Ganganger, Gund was directed to take all necessary measures for operating the said filling station within 3 days so that the locals do not suffer.

Meanwhile the DC directed the enforcement wing to carry regular inspection of all petrol pumps functioning within the district and take stern action against the violators. The meeting was attended by Assistant Director FCS&CA, Naseer Ahmad Baba, TSOs besides petrol pump owners.

SB Suse Assumes Charge As DC Shopian



SHOPIAN: Shrikant Balasaheb Suse today assumed the charge as Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian.

Soon after assuming the charge, he interacted with the officers and officials in his office chamber. While speaking on the occasion, Suse said that he feels honoured

to have got an opportunity to serve people of Shopian as Deputy Commissioner which is known for

Apples and having historical importance from the ancient times. It was previously known as 'Sheene-van' meaning 'forest of snow' and has produced great scholars,

poets. He further said that he expects complete professional and dedication from all officers and officials and assured them of his complete support to honest work

Four Fishermen Selected For Construction Of LCH at Handwara

KUPWARA: The Fisheries Department, Kupwara today organized a draw of lots function under PMMSY scheme for construction of low cost houses (LCH) for underprivileged fish farmers.

10

The function was organised under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ÂDC) Handwara, Nazir Ahmad Mir and on the occasion, four fishermen beneficiaries were selected through a draw of lots.

The ADC said that the government is committed to uplift the people belonging to poor sections of the society.

The District Fisheries Officer informed that the department has already provided the assistance to 50 BPL fishermen beneficiaries under the scheme and more assistance will be provided to the needy per-sons under the scheme.

CONTD. FROM **FRONT** PAGE

Kashmir Shivers...

Gulmarg, Sunday night, a MET official said. The minimum temperature at the resort, in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, settled at minus 6.0 degrees Celsius last night, down from minus 4.2 degrees Celsius the night earlier.

Srinagar city recorded a low of minus 6.4 degrees Celsius, up from minus 7.6 degrees Celsius the previous night, the official said. The minimum temperature in the city on

Sunday night was still over four degrees below the normal for this time of the year, he said.

Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 6.8 degrees Celsius, up from the previous night's minus 8.7 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of 8.3 degrees Celsius and was the coldest recorded place in Jammu and Kashmir, the official said.

Kupwara in north Kashmir recorded a low of minus 5.2 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag in south minus 6.9 degrees Celsius.

Several water bodies, including the surface of the famous Dal Lake here, have frozen due to the bone chilling cold, prompt-ing authorities to issue and advisory against walking on the ice.

The plunge in the minimum temperature has caused problems for the residents as it has also resulted in the freezing of water supply pipes.

A thick layer 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 valley.

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

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' (small cold) and a 10-day-long 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold). The MET Office has said a fresh Western Disturbance is most likely to affect J-K during January 22 evening to 25 forenoon. Due to this, widespread moderate snowfall in Kashmir, hilly areas of Jammu and some parts of Kargil district especially Minamarg, Drass and Zanskar and rains in plains of Jammu region are likely to occur, with the main activity on 23-24. This may affect surface and air transportation. , the official said.



Kumar- drummer, Shobhit Gupta–Violin player, and Rahul Kumar-Dholak player were adjudged winners from Jammu.

As per the official spokesperson, the winners were chosen from more than 2000 calls and entries that were received till January 11 this month through a combination of online/ WhatsApp submission and on-ground auditions at Jammu & Srinagar.

"The overall auditions and selection were conducted under the watchful eyes of extremely talented and renowned musical experts who judged the budding talents. These included internationally acclaimed Indian playback singer Sukhwinder Singh, renowned J&K singer and Music composer Naseem-ul-Haq, Music composer, and person behind hits like 'Rang De Basanti', 'Blue' and 'Kisna' Dilshad Shaikh and J&K-based Sufi, Ghazal, and light classical music expo

claimed that the youths were civilians. Asked about the demand for handing over the bodies of the trio to their families, Kumar said there was no question of it because their

involvement in militancy has been proved. The IGP said the bodies of slain militants or militant associates are not being handed over to their families in view of the COVID-19 pandemic as people might assemble in funerals and violate protocols.

"The protocol is followed in case of death of a civilian, but, if we hand over the bodies of militants or associates, people get emotional and attend the funerals in thousands, he said.

Kumar said the pandemic has not ended vet and if the bodies of militants or militant associates are handed over to their families, then it will be difficult to stop people from

the accused after Friday prayers had appeared in Naidkhai and raised anti-national slogans and also instigated the youth of the area against the sovereignty and integrity of India," reads the order. The Home department of J&K UT is the

competent authority to grant sanction in the FIRs registered under the ULA (P) Act.

Shah was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in July 2017 in a money launder-ing case dating back to 2005. Since then, he is in jail. Agencies

2 Held With Arms...

with the help of drones, Inspector General of Police-Jammu Mukesh Singh said.

The duo were arrested along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway in a joint operation by the Ramban district police and the Special Operations Group (SOG) Jammu when they were heading towards Kashmir along with the weapons.

The alleged operatives were identified as Umar Ahmad Malik and Suhail Ahmad Maik -both residents of Semthan village of Bijbehara in Anantnag district of south Kashmir.

The recovered weapons include two AK assault rifles with nine magazines and 269 bullets, a pistol with two magazines, and 16 hand grenades, he said.

"Initial investigation reveals that the two operatives, working under a plot hatched by Kashmir-based militants and their Pakistanbased Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) handler Aqib alias Alfa from Budgam, clandestinely travelled from Kashmir to the International Border at Vijaypur (Samba) and received arms and ammunition dropped with the help of drones," Singh said.

Further investigation into the militant module is going on, he said.

Transit Accommodation...

has to ensure that no bid below the Reserve Price shall be considered and accepted, reads an order.

It has been also asked to ensure utilization of material as may remain outside the purview of auction of structures as far as possible in new construction and to make sure that the amount thereof is deducted from the work done bill of the contractor

the delinquent government officials and compensation to aggrieved families who have lost their children in different areas of Ramnagar tehsil of Udhampur district.

Chinese Constructions...

of border infrastructure, including roads and bridges for the improvement of livelihood of its citizens.

The response from the ministry came when asked about a report by NDTV channel, saying China has constructed a new village in the disputed region of Arunachal Pradesh and it consisted of about 101 homes. The news channel said the report is based on satellite images accessed exclusively by it.

"We have seen recent reports on China undertaking construction work along the border areas with India. China has undertaken such infrastructure construction activity in the past several years," the MEA said.

"In response, our government too has stepped up border infrastructure including the construction of roads, bridges etc, which has provided much needed connectivity to the local population along the border," it added.

The ministry also asserted that the government remains committed to the objective of creating infrastructure along the border areas for the improvement of livelihood of its citizens, including in Arunachal Pradesh.

"Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all the necessary mea-sures to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity," it said.

In its report, NDTV showed two images of the area where it said the village has been set up. According to the channel, the first image dated August 26, 2019 did not show any human habitation but the second one of November 2020 shows a row of structures.

The India-China border dispute covers the 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC). China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of southern Tibet, while India contests it.

India and China are locked in a bitter border row in eastern Ladakh for over eight months.

The army as well as the Indian Air Force have been maintaining a high state of onerational readiness along the entire stretch of the LAC with China including in the Arunachal sector in view of the eastern Ladakh standoff.

Severe Cold Claims...

at Brimmar in Kulgam, they said.

Sahil, they said, died after developing fever inside the tarpaulin tent where they were staying. His sister Shazia, also developed complications due to severe cold and died on way to the healthcare facility.

Ahmad is a nomad from Reasi district in the Jammu division. The local administration had asked the nomadic family to shift to a temporary shelter set up in a school but they had refused the offer, the officials said.

The government has established several temporary shelters for nomads and other people living in avalanche-prone areas of Kashmir valley as a precautionary measure. (With PTI inputs)

J&K An Oasis...

Governor Manoj Sinha said Monday.

Sinha made these remarks during the I&K's biggest talent hunt-cum-music concert show "SHAURYA", which was organized here at SKICC by Army's Northern Command to commemorate the fallen soldiers of 1971, an official spokesperson said. The winners, he said, performed in an exciting fusion band with Sukhwinder Singh performed live at SKICC Auditorium in front of an enthralling gathering.

On the occasion, the LG also felicitated young achievers of Kashmir valley who have performed in different fields.

'Shaurva' a musical talent hunt has been conceptualized by Mausiqui Studios with active support from the local administrations and renowned Bollywood celebrities and singers like Sukhwinder Singh.

The winners of the talent hunt included vocalist Anees Yousuf Qureshi, Adnan Mansoor- Rabaab Player, Asif Fayaz-Guitarist, Umar Majeed- Santoor player and Mansoor Mushtaq from Kashmir. While Raghujeet Singh vocalist, Reema Devi- Vocalist, Keyboard player, Rajinder

nent Shazia Bashir," he said.

He further said that the winners will also be presented with prize money of Rs 5 lakh and Mausiqui Studios will provide support and platform for the band to create its music album and perform in top national and international events for three years, nonexclusive Plug-ins in various Bollywood & regional movies, albums, besides a special music video will be made on the band and released internationally.

Speaking on the occasion, singer Sukhwinder Singh, who has recorded songs across various genres and languages all over India, felt that it is the duty of everyone to work for the betterment of society and country, adding that he tries to play his part through his work.

Samba Man...

So far 1922 people have succumbed to virus in J&K- 1206 in the Valley and 715 in Jammu region.

Srinagar district with 453 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (367), Baramulla (172), Budgam (115), 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 Reasi (15).

Meanwhile, nine travelers were among 82 fresh Covid-19 cases reported in Jammu and Kashmir in the last 24 hours, taking the total tally to 123425, officials said.

Among the fresh cases, officials said. 36 were reported from Jammu division and 46 from Kashmir Valley.

Giving district-wise details, they said, Srinagar reported 13, Budgam 7, Pulwama 2, Kupwara 5, Anantnag 2, Bandipora 1, Ganderbal 13, Kulgam 1, Shopian 2, Jammu 26, Udhampur 4, Kathua 1, Samba 2, Kishtwar 2 and Reasi 3 new cases of Covid-19.

Moreover, they said, 194 more patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals- 123 from Jammu Division and 71 from Kashmir Valley. There are now 1111 positive cases in J&K, they added. (With GNS inputs)

Police Rules...

evidence which we will show to their parents first to convince them of their children's involvement," Kumar told reporters here.

State forces had said the three local militants were killed in the encounter in Lawaypora on the outskirts of Srinagar in the last week of December, but their families

"Then we will have to fight the people, use tear gas or maybe even pellets. Then also, you will criticise us. The bodies of slain militants have been buried in the presence of their family members. So, there is no logic in another burial," the Inspector General of Police (IGP) told reporters.

He said it is in the larger interests of the people that the police do not hand over the bodies.

"Till COVID does not end, we will not hand over the bodies of militants or militant associates, he said.

On a question about the allegation that allurement of reward money led to the Amshipora fake encounter killing of three persons from Rajouri, the IGP said the issue has been misrepresented in the media.

"The reward money is given to the source and not to any officer. In this case also, their company commander had promised and has also given the money to the source. The source has also accepted before a magistrate that he received the money. He has not said the Major or the Commanding Officer got the money, Kumar said.

On the arrangements for R- Day functions, the IGP said militants would try to disrupt the functions, but the police will ensure all such attempts were foiled.

"We have done all the preparations. Checking and cordon-and-search (operations) have started, nakas have been established. Our personnel are ready, technical support and human resources are also there and we are keeping surveillance. Militants will make attempts, but we are alert and the focus is on preventive intelligence.... There will be some preventive arrests also, he said.

Kumar said it has been seen in recent times that over ground workers (OGWs) of militant outfits or militant associates are involved in cases of opening fire from pistols, throwing grenade or IEDs, and it was a top priority for the police to deal with the issue.

"Yesterday, we arrested a youth from Anantnag along with a pistol and he accepted that he was tasked to kill someone. The youth are being lured as OGWs, but the police are alert and we are tracking them through technical surveillance and human resources and this is a top priority for us," he said.

Govt Nod For...

that Shah after conclusion of Friday prayers had addressed a public gathering and raised slogans against the sovereignty and integrity of India.

"During investigation, it was revealed that

The committee has to deposit the proceeds obtained from the auction in the Government treasury as Revenue Miscellaneous. (GNS)

NHRC Recommends...

before the commission by prominent Jammu-based social activist Sukesh C Khajuria, following which the NHRC issued a show cause notice to the J-K government in September last year.

The Commission has perused the record and reply to the show cause notice and observes that there is no denial of lapse in the case though the Drugs Department does not want to own the responsibility for it. The Commission is unable to accept this contention.

'The Commission has already found that there is a procedural lapse on the part of the Drug Department of Jammu and Kashmir wherein the authority has duly failed to keep a regular vigil on the contamination and contents of medicines sold within its jurisdiction,' Khajuria told PTI quoting the NHRC order.

The Commission therefore reiterates that the state is vicariously liable for the said negligence and this is a fit case for award of compensation, he said.

Recommending the Jammu and Kashmir chief secretary to pay monetary compensation of Rs 3 lakh to the next of kin of each deceased who died due to the consumption of adulterated oral syrup and whose human rights have been infringed, the NHRC said, and asked the Jammu and Kashmir government to file the compliance report along with a proof of payment to it within six weeks, positively.

In response to the show cause notice, the additional secretary, Health and Medical Education Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir on November 27. stated that there is no scope of any complacency on the part of the State Drugs Control Department in discharging the various statutory duties assigned to it under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetic Act, 1940. 'On the other hand. the manufacturing of quality drugs is primarily the responsibility of the manufacturing firm and the Drugs Control Department has already launched a formal complaint against the manufacturing firm before the competent court of law,' the order said.

It said the reply further states that the instant case involves a lapse, which has an exceptional genesis.

În his petition, Khajuria had sought intervention of the NHRC for action against

India and China have held several rounds of military and diplomatic talks in order to resolve the eastern Ladakh row, but no significant headway has been made for its resolution.

Earlier this month, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat visited various forward posts near the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh and reviewed India's operational preparedness.

He also visited several key installations including "forward most air maintained" posts in Dibang Valley, Lohit sector and Subansiri valley, according to the Army.

2 Missing After...

The rescuers were able to pull out one person in injured condition and he was later shifted to hospital. Driver and other person onboard the truck are missing and searches are continuing for them. SHO Banihal Nahiem Matoo told news agency GNS.

When this report was filed, the rescuers were in pursuit of finding the missing persons.

'Explosive Bag'...

the explosive substance.

Police in this regard has registered a formal case and set investigation into motion.

IAF Ferries 81...

Kargil Courier Service, said.

On January 12, a total of 286 stranded passengers of Ladakh were airlifted in C-130, C-17 and AN-32 aircraft of the Indian Air Force between Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

AN-32 Kargil Courier Service operates thrice a week between Kargil and Jammu and twice a week between Kargil and Srinagar due to a closure of the 434-km Srinagar-Leh national highway owing to heavy snowfall.

The service had to be cancelled early his year due bad weather and the Ladakh administration had made a request to the Ministry of Defence to deploy C-17, C-130 and AN-32 aircraft to cater to the backlog, he said. (PTI)

Two 'Drug Peddlers'...

During checking, the police spokesperson said, 34 Kgs of opium poppy precisely dried and crushed seedpods of opium plant were recovered from their possession.

"The duo was on their way to leave for Punjab 볼 where they had planned to sell it. They have been arrested and shifted to Police Station Batamaloo where they remain in custody," he added.

11 Kashmir Observer

SPORTS

Real Kashmir FC To Face Suveda Delhi In I-League **Top-4 Clash Today**



Press Trust of India

KALYANI: Upbeat after a win against formidable Chennai City FC, Real Kashmir FC would look to maintain their momentum when they square off against debutants Sudeva Delhi FC in a top-four I-League clash here on Tuesday.

RKFC began with a 1-1 draw against TRAU but blanked Chennai City 2-0. They are placed third, just above the Delhi side but have equal points (4) alongside tabletoppers Churchill Brothers and Mohammedan SC.

"To win the Hero I-League is tough as every game presents its own set of challenges. Sudeva won't be any different, however, we are ready

for the match and would aim for the win. We want to also create pressure on the other two title challengers who are above us," head coach David Robertson said

"Sudeva Delhi FC have a strong team with the likes of Kean (Lewis) leading them. It won't be an easy outing for us but we are ready for it. We know we will have to initiate attacks and take an early lead if we are to win the match," Real Kashmir's Afghan International Haroon Amiri said.

Sudeva Delhi FC won their first match with a comfortable 3-0 margin against Indian Arrows but it's a different ball game altogether against the Snow Leopards.

Head coach Chencho Dorji

is wary of the threat that Real Kashmir presents.

sides in the nation and we have to be very focused going into the match. Every game is very important and the season will become tougher as it progresses. "We have to be more disci-

against them," he added.

know that Real Kashmir are deadly in attack and we have to be on our toes if we are to get a positive result."

"They are one of the best

plined both in attack and defence. We are optimistic of our chances Midfielder Kean Lewis said, "There are no easy teams in the Hero I-League, so every

game is going to be very dif-ficult and challenging. We

The match will kick off at 7 PM IST.

AUS Vs IND, 4th Test, Day 4 Mohammad Siraj Takes Five As India Restricts Australia's Overall Lead To 328

Press Trust of India

BRISBANE: Indian pacers Mohammed Siraj and Shardul Thakur produced another inspirational effort in adverse circumstances but India were set a challenging target of 328 by Australia as the Border-Gavaskar Trophy headed towards an exhilarating finale in the fourth Test at The Gabba, Brisbane.

The target is a tricky one and the Indian batsmen would get a fair idea whether to go for it by lunch on the final day, which is Tuesday. This was after Siraj and Thakur combined to share nine wickets while dismissing Australia for 294 in their second innings.

Siraj (19.5-5-73-5) punched way above his weight with his maiden five-wicket haul but couldn't prevent Australia from posting an imposing target for his team in only 75.5 overs of the second innings batting.

At stumps, India were 4 for no loss with Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill at the crease.

The highest target chased at Brisbane is 236 and that was seven decades ago which is an indicator why this Australian ground can be equated with Fort Knox. The home team hasn't lost a game here since 1988. Thakur's dream Test match also got better with figures of 4/61 and a match haul of seven wickets. The most poignant moment was his apparent joy when he took the catch to help Siraj pip him to the coveted five-for landmark.

As Siraj showed that scuffed red kookaburra acknowledging the 957 people in the stands on the first working day of the week, the most generous applause came



from his partner in crime, who walked a foot behind him clapping with gusto.

It was the kind of day that Test aficionados wait eagerly -- ebbs and flows keeping everyone on the edge of their seats.

The possibility of rain adds to the excitement and the changing weather did affect the contours of Australia skipper Tim Paine's facial expressions which exhibited relief and despair in equal measures.

Among the two captains, Paine is supposed to be the enforcer but this Indian team hasn't stopped surprising its detractors with a spirit, which has made this series one of the finest played in recent times. If Weather Gods don't decide to

play the boss, there will be an official winner but certainly not a "loser". This is the first Indian team which

has earned well-wishers in exponential numbers for soldiering on manfully without any complaints.

A bowling attack with less than four-Test experience (if Thakur's debut is discounted) got 20 wickets

without being over-expensive. Yes, a Mohammed Shami or [asprit Bumrah's experience would have been invaluable but their absence showed that in terms of temperament, India's next batch of pacers are game-ready.

Yes, they would make mistakes but their predecessors also made plenty on their way to glory. The two top quality deliveries that Siraj produced got rid of oppo-

sition's two best batsmen -- Marnus Labuschagne (25 off 22 balls) and Steve Smith (55 off 74 balls). Both deliveries were different

from each other like chalk and cheese. Labuschagne got a fuller delivery on the off-stump that moved in a shade and he jabbed at it with Rohit Sharma taking a smart catch at second slip.

For Smith, who was on the offensive, Siraj produced what in cricketing parlance is known as the "heavy ball" or the "effort ball". The one that climbed and grew big on Smith and forced

skipper Ajinkya Rahane. But there was a time during the morning session when Siraj was either being pulled or driven through covers imperiously as David Warner (48 off 75 balls) and Marcus Harris (38 off 82 balls) took control to send him and T Natarajan on a leather-hunt. Between them, they ad hit 14 boundaries, 11 of them on the day. And then it was Thakur, who de-

spite his 5 feet 7 inch frame, bounced Harris into swaying. The brush off gloves went to Rishabh Pant. In the very next over, Warner, who was in sight of his first half-

century of the series, was rapped on the backfoot by Washington who bowled one that kept straight. The opener ended up being cramped for room on the backfoot while going for the cut shot. Four wickets fell in the session as India got back into the match.

The second session saw Smith up the ante before Siraj delivered and another three wickets. A few missed catches made it an exciting contest.

'A Drawn Series Worse Than The 2-Year Old Loss To India,' Says Ricky Ponting

Press Trust of India

BRISBANE: Former Australian captain Ricky Ponting feels a drawn Test series against a severely depleted India will be a worse result for the hosts than the loss they suffered at home in the Border Gavaskar Trophy two years ago. The injuryravaged Indian team has shown great resilience and grit throughout the current tour of Australia. In the ongoing fourth and final Test, the tourists are without their premier fast bowlers, skipper Virat Kohli and a few specialist batsmen.

"I think a drawn series will be worse than the loss a couple of years go," Ponting told cricket com au

Steve Smith Plans Day 5 Exploits To Bring India Down



work and hopefully we can hol on to all the chances," he added. The rain factor is also going to be a crucial one on the final day but Smith would rather focus on what he can control. "Who knows? That is a tough question.

India, after conceding a 33run first innings lead, bundled out Australia for 294, with pacers Mohammed Siraj (5/73) and Shardul Thakur (4/61) doing the bulk of the damage.

... it is going to be an interesting final day and boys are excited about tomorrow," the mainstay said.

Smith, who top-scored with a vital 55 in the second essay, evaded a question on whether Australia could have declared early.

...it is hard to know obviously with the rain coming, we are certainly not weatherman and don't know that it is coming, so you have to play the game as you sort of see it as well, so I don't know," he said. Left-arm pacer Mitchell Strac

him to lob one at gully for rival 'Retired' Mohammad Amir Will Play For Pakistan Only When Misbah And Co Leave



Press Trust of India Left-arm tweeted in response to speculation on his comeback. Last week. Amir had



"That's the way I look at it,

considering how hard India have found it going through 20 players in a series, (Australia) having (David) Warner back for the last couple of games, (Steve) Smith back for all them that they didn't have last time around.

"A draw would not only feel like a loss to them but be a worse result than last series," he added.

The series is locked 1-1 at the moment. India need 324 runs with all 10 wickets in hand on the final day to pull off a historic win at the Gabba, while a draw will also see them retain the trophy. The 46-yearold batting great backed Australia to eke out a win, saying the Indian resilience is bound to crack.

"India's resilience has got to give up at some stage. They can't keep doing what they've been doing, being so resilient, and tomorrow it might be that day.

"The last day of the series, potentially playing for another

provide India a good start, the tourists will once again elevate an aggressive Rishabh Pant up

Ponting feels if the openers

draw, I've just got a feeling that

hand, they know they have to go

flat out and give everything to win the series," he added.

Ponting said the first hour of play will be vital for India.

"The first hour of play will be

the most important for them. Not

if they don't lose wickets, they

have to actually get away and

start scoring reasonably quickly. "Ninety-eight overs tomorrow,

324 still to get so they're going to

have to score at a rate that they

haven't scored in the series so far.

"And Australia, on the other

something's got to give.

the order to go for a win. "Rohit and Gill have every chance to get them off to a good start. If they do do that I think they might use Rishabh Pant up the order again, like they did in Sydney, because if it does get down to a run chase and (India are) behind the (required) run rate early on. "I can't see how Pujara is going

to be the guy to drag them back into the chase.'

Whether India are aiming for a win or a draw will be known early in the day, according to Ponting.

"It's going to be intriguing to me to see if they come out with the thought of trying to win the game or if they're happy to try and defend and sit on it and block the day out and not even entertain (thoughts of) going for the runs.

"That story will be told pretty early on in the day tomorrow," he added.

Press Trust of India

BRISBANE: Australian batsman Steve Smith reckons that with the Gabba track starting to play a few tricks, staying patient would be imperative for his team's bowlers when they defend an imposing 328 against a determined India on the last day of the fourth and final Test at The Gabba, Brisbane. India were 4/0 before the final session of the play was suspend-

ed early due to rain on the fourth day on Monday. The series is currently locked 1-1. "I think the game is in a nice

place for us. I think the wicket has started to play a few tricks today, couple of balls shot up," Smith said at the virtual postday press conference, facilitated by official broadcasters Sony Networks. "So, tomorrow it is just going to

be about bowling (in) good areas and letting the natural variation of the day five wicket sort of do its

He said the Australian bowlers should remain patient and not go searching for too much.

"The Indian players have obviously batted well. Obviously in Sydney, it was 130 (overs) or something, obviously it is a different wicket to that. But for us it is just being patient, not searching too much, bowling good areas and just letting it happen," the prolific batsman stressed.

"I think the more you sort of go searching for on these kind of tracks, then you probably don't get the reward. So, it is just about hitting good areas consistently and letting the natural variation of the wicket take its course," he reiterated.

looked uncomfortable with his hamstring, but Smith expressed optimism that the 30-year-old would be good to go on Tuesday.

"I am not sure (about it), to be honest with you. Like, I saw the same thing, walking back, (Mitchell) grabbing at his right hamstring.

"I'm sure he'll get assessed by the medical staff and one thing I know about Mitchell is he's tough and he's played through some injuries before and got the job done, so he will be hopefully good to go tomorrow," said Smith.

Smith also said that the role of experienced off-spinner Nathan Lyon, will be crucial.

...there is nice little crack I think, forming outside the righthander's off-stump, he (Lyon) will probably be looking to sort of aim at...so I think if he hits good areas consistently tomorrow, there is certainly no reason why he can't create some chances on day five," the 31-year-old said.

Mohammad Amir, who blamed the current dispensation at the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) for his shock retirement, on Monday said he would be available to play for Pakistan again only once the support staff led by head coach Misbah-ul-Haq exits. Having already retired from

Tests, the 28-year-old quit international cricket last month alleging mental torture by the cricket board. He had later also blamed Misbah and bowling coach Waqar Younis for spoiling his image.

"I would like to clarify that yes I will be available for Pakistan only once this management leaves. so please stop spreading fake news just to sell your story," Amir ed about a desperate need for a change in the environment of the Pakistan dressing room.

"Give players some space and freedom. Put an end to this scary environment in the dressing room, these very players will win you matches," he told the media. In 2019, Amir had quit Tests to focus on white-ball cricket as he felt his body could not take the load of playing all the formats. He claimed 119 wickets from 36 Tests after making his debut in 2009. He served a five-year ban from 2010 to 2015 on charges of spot-fixing. Amir had announced his retirement last month after being dropped for tour of New Zealand.

GIVE PLAYERS SOME SPACE AND FREEDOM. Put an end to this scary environment in the dressing room, these very players will win you matches."



England Defeats Sri Lanka By 7 Wickets In 1st Test

Agencies

GALLE: Jonny Bairstow and Dan Lawrence held their nerve in a 62-run unbroken stand to guide England to a seven-wicket win over Sri Lanka on Monday on the fifth and final morning of the series-opening test.

England ensured it didn't have any more hiccups in erasing the remaining 36 required on the last day after Sri Lanka had set up a tricky 74-run target on a turning wicket.

England had slumped to 14-3 late on the fourth evening, included a crucial run-out of its captain Joe Root for just 1, before Bairstow and Lawrence combined to usher the tourists to 76-3.

Bairstow remained unbeaten on 35 off 65 balls and Lawrence, who hit a gritty half century in the first innings of debut, finished 21 not out. Sri Lanka had the chance of a

breakthrough after England resumed on 38-3. Bairstow may have been out lbw off Dilruwarn Perera's off-spin in the third over. but stand-in captain Dinesh Chandimal didn't go for the television referral.

Bairstow eventually sealed the victory with a boundary when he swept Perera to square leg.

"To come with little prep and play in the manner we have, has been really impressive," Root said after receiving his man-of-the-match award.

Root's 228 in the first innings -- his fourth test double century -- provided England a hefty lead of 286 runs as the visitors posted 421 runs in the first innings. "The thing that pleased me the most

was my mindset," Root said of his innings. I "felt I got into a good place, managed to get my feet apart, get forward and back well people have been critical of my conversion, so nice to go up and make a big one."

The England captain also praised the effort of his two spinners -- Dom Bess and Jack Leach -- who snared 14 wickets between them, each bagging a five-wicket haul.

"Brilliant effort, particularly with the little cricket they've played," recently, Root said.

"Series like these are always tough but without the prep it's testament to their characters.

In the absence of its injured captain Dimuth Karunaratne, who was ruled out with a hand injury sustained during the tour of South Africa, Sri Lanka was rattled for 135 in the first innings but rallied with a 359-run effort in the second innings.

Lahiru Thirimanne scored his first test century in almost eight years while Angelo Mathews and Kusal Perera scored half centuries in the second innings which gave the home team a 73-run lead on a wicket where

Bairstow felt it was difficult to bat on.

"I think it was a crucial toss to win, but the first innings cost us the game," Sri Lanka's stand-in captain Chandimal said.

"Credit to Thirimanne, Angelo, Kusal everyone did their bit as a batting unit in the second innings, and another 70-80 runs, it could have been a different story." The relatively small target didn't diminish the challenge in the fourthinnings chase

"Pretty tough (to bat), saw a lot more balls were raising off a length, some chunks coming out and it was tricky," Bairstow said.

'Needed to be precise in your movements, bouncing more going forward so playing as much off the back foot in the second innings."

The second test of the two-match series will also be played at Galle, starting Friday. England swept the series 3-0 when it last toured Sri Lanka in 2018.

OUT POST

Proposed Tractor Rally On Jan 26

It's Law & Order Matter, Says SC On Plea For Injunction Against It

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court told the Centre on Monday that the proposed tractor rally on the Republic Day by farmers protesting against the new farm laws is a ?law and order? matter and Delhi Police is the first authority to decide who should be allowed to enter the national capital

Supreme Court told the Centre on Monday that the proposed tractor rally on the Republic Day by farmers protesting against the new farm laws is a ?law and order? matter and Delhi Police is the first authority to decide who should be allowed to enter the national capital

A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde, while hearing the Centre's application seeking an injunction against the proposed tractor or trolley march or any other kind of protest which seeks to disrupt the gathering and celebrations on January 26, said that police has all the authority to deal with the matter?

Does the Supreme Court say as to what are the powers of police and how they will exercise them? We are not going to tell you what to do,? said the bench, also comprising Justices L N Rao and Vineet Saran

The apex court told Attorney General K K Venugopal that it will take up the matter for hearing on

Wednesday, January 20? The question of entering into Delhi is a law and order matter and will be determined by the police,? the bench said, adding, ?Mr Attorney General, we are adjourning the matter and you have all the authority to deal with this matter.?

The Centre, in an application filed through Delhi Police, has said that any proposed march or

SAQQARA: Egypt on Sunday un-

veiled ancient treasures found at

the Saqqara archaeological site

near Cairo, including sarcophagi

over 3,000 years old, a discovery

that "rewrites history", according

to famed Egyptologist Zahi Hawass.

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Egypt Unveils Ancient

Treasures That "Rewrite History"



Supreme Court told the Centre on Monday that the proposed tractor rally on the Republic Day by farmers pro-testing against the new farm laws is a? law and order? matter and Delhi Police is the first authority to decide who should be allowed to enter the national capital.

protest which seeks to disrupt and disturb the Republic Day celebrations will cause an ?embarrassment to the nation?

During the hearing conducted through video-conferencing, the bench said who should be allowed to enter Delhi and who should not be allowed has to be dealt with by the police as the court is not the ?first authority? The bench told Venugopal that

the apex court is seized of the issue of farm laws and ?we have not

said anything on police powers? The apex court then asked,? Are farmers unions appearing today?? Senior advocate Dushyant Dave said he was representing some farmer unions in the matter

Advocate A P Singh, representing one of the farmers' body, told the bench about the affidavit filed by them requesting the top court to remove the remaining three members of the court-appointed committee to resolve the issue of farm laws and select people who

can do the job "on the basis of mutual harmony"? We will hear everyone on that day (next date of hearing),? the bench said, adding,? We will hear you in the same combination of bench?

On January 12, the top court had stayed the implementation of the contentious new farm laws till further orders and constituted the four-member committee to make recommendations to resolve the impasse over them between the Centre and farmers' unions protesting at Delhi borders The members of the court-

appointed committee were -Bhupinder Singh Mann, National President of Bhartiya Kisan Union, All India Kisan Coordination Committee; Parmod Kumar Joshi, Director for South Asia, International Food Policy Research Institute; Ashok Gulati, agricultural economist and former chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, and Anil Ghanwat, President of Shetkari Sanghatana

Later, Mann had recused himself from the court-appointed committee

The top court had on January 12 said it would hear the pleas against the farm laws after eight weeks when the committee would give its suggestions to resolve the impasse after talking to the protesters and the government.

Thousands of farmers, mainly from Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh, are protesting at various border points of Delhi for over a month now against the three laws – the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act.

Enacted in September 2020, the government has presented these laws as major farm reforms aimed at increasing farmers' income, but the protesting farmers have raised concerns that these legislations would weaken the minimum support price (MSP) and "mandi" (wholesale market) systems and leave them at the mercy of big corporations

The government has maintained that these apprehensions are misplaced and has ruled out a repeal of the laws.

Scientists Develop Rapid Blood Test To Identify Patients At Highest Risk Of Severe COVID-19

Press Trust of India

Cientists have developed a rapid blood test that can predict within a day of hospitalisation which patients with COVID-19 are at the highest risk of severe complications or death, an advance that may help identify those who may best benefit from specific investigational treatments.

The test, described in the journal JCI Insight, measures levels of mitochondrial DNA -- a unique type of genetic material that normally resides inside the energy factories of cells.

According to the researchers from the Washington University School of Medicine at St. Louis in the US, mitochondrial DNA spilling out of cells and into the bloodstream indicates that a type of violent cell death is taking place in the body.

"Doctors need better tools to evaluate the status of COVID-19 patients as early as possible because many of the treatments are in short supply, and we know that some patients will get better without intensive treatments," said study co-author Andrew E. Gelman.

"We need to understand why some patients, irrespective of their ages or underlying health in some cases, go into this hyperinflammatory death spiral. Our study suggests that tissue damage may be one cause of this spiral, since the mitochondrial DNA that is released is it-self an inflammatory molecule," Gelman added.

Viruses are known to cause a type of tissue damage called necrosis that is a violent, inflammatory response to the infection, the researchers said, adding that this may lead to cells breaking open and releasing their contents including mitochondrial DNA.

"In COVID-19 patients, there has been anecdotal evidence of this type of cell and tissue damage in the lung, heart and kidney. We think it's possible that measures of mitochondrial DNA in the blood may be an early sign of this type of cell death in vital

organs," Gelman explained. The scientists believe the new

Saqqara is a vast necropolis of the ancient Egyptian capital of Memphis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site home to more than a dozen pyramids, ancient monasteries, and animal burial sites. A team headed by Hawass made the finds near the pyramid of King Teti, the first pharaoh of the the book of the dead... masks, wooden boats, games the ancient Egyptians used to play".

"It is a rare and new discovery because most of the artefacts we found are dated back to the New Kingdom,

whereas in Saqqara, it's usually more around 500 BC," he added. A number of objects were displayed to the press on Sunday, while excavations of the site are ongoing.

"Seventy percent (of the new area) is still to be explored," he added. Egypt's tourism and antiquities ministry had announced Saturday "major discoveries" at Saqqara, where there has been a flurry of ions in recent year exca The ministry said the team had also discovered the "funerary temple of Queen Nearit, the wife of

Amazon Faces Backlash From BJP Lawmakers Over Saif Ali Khan-starrer Web Series Tandav

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: A local official from

According to NDTV, the director, producer and writer of the Saif Ali Khan-Dimple Kapadia starrer Tandav and Amazon's head of India Original Content have been accused in the case of promoting religious enmity and efiling a place of worshir



onnel were

test could help predict disease severity and also act as a tool to better design clinical trials -identifying patients who might benefit from specific investigational treatments.

"We will need larger trials to verify what we found in this study, but if we could determine in the first 24 hours of admission whether a patient is likely to need dialysis or intubation or medication to keep their blood pressure from dropping too low," said Hrishikesh S. Kulkarni, another co-author of the research.

In the study, the researchers assessed 97 patients with COVID-19, measuring their mitochondrial DNA levels on the first day of their hospital stays.

They found that mitochondrial DNA levels were much higher in patients who eventually were admitted to the ICU, intubated or died.

According to the study, this association held independently of a patient's age, sex and underlying health conditions.

It noted that mitochondrial DNA levels were about tenfold higher in patients with COVID-19 who developed severe lung dysfunction or eventually died.

Those with elevated levels were almost six times more likely to be intubated, three times more likely to be admitted to the ICU and almost twice as likely to die compared with those with lower levels, the scientists said.

They said the test could also predict outcomes as well as, or better than, existing markers of inflammation currently measured in patients hospitalised with COVID-19.

According to the scientists, the test is quick to perform, returning results in less than an hour, and uses the same machinery that processes the standard PCR test for COVID-19.

They said the method allows mitochondrial DNA levels to be quantified directly from patient blood samples without requiring intermediate steps to extract the DNA from the blood.

The researchers hope to verify that the test is accurate in a larger multi-center trial before applying for approval from the US Food and Drug Administration.

are now available and only

On Sunday, India had rolled

Abdullah's remarks that

he is 25 per cent Gujjar also

triggered a bout of laughter

among the audience, mostly

belonging to the nomadic community. Abdullah's moth-

The well-attended function

was organised by Gurjar Desh

Charitable Trust to release the

biography of its patron-in-chief

Masud Ahmad Choudhary, a re-

tired Additional Director Gen-

eral of Police and ex-vice chan-

cellor of Baba Ghulam Shah

of Chaudhary, who is widely

known as "Sir Syed" of Guj-

jar Community for his untir-

ing efforts in areas of social

and educational awakening,

his contributions in the police department, in service of the

Gujjar community and as an

institution builder.

Badshah University (Rajouri). The book explores the life

er was from a Gujjar tribe.

Farooq Abdullah says 'can't Even Kiss My Wife' Because Of Pandemic, **Leaves Audience In Splits**



India's ruling Hindu nationalist party has registered a police complaint against an Amazon Prime web series alleging it insults Hindu gods and goddesses, and threatened to launch a protest at the company's office in Mumbai.

features an array of characters According to Hindustan Times,

Sixth Dynasty of the Old Kingdom. More than 50 wooden sarcophagi dating to the New Kingdom (16th century BC to 11th century BC) were found in a burial shaft,

Hawass told AFP on Sunday. "This discovery re-writes the history of Saqqara and more specifically the history of the New Kingdom, which began 3,000 years ago," he said.

Hawass said his team had discovered a total of 22 shafts, including one containing a "soldier, with his battle axe resting beside him".

A stone sarcophagus was also found, he added, as well as "a papyrus around five metres long containing the 17th chapter of

King Teti". The Saggara site is also home to the step pyramid of Djoser, one of the earliest built in ancient Egypt. Later this year, and after several delays, authorities hope to inaugurate a new museum -- the Grand Egyptian Museum -- at the Giza plateau, home to the famed Giza pyramids.

Egypt hopes archaeological discoveries will spur tourism, a sector which has suffered multiple shocks, from a 2011 uprising to today's coronavirus pandemic.

THIS DISCOVERY RE-WRITES the history of Saqqara and more specifically the history of the New Kingdom, which began 3,000 years ago."

Protests against Amazon.com have been organised for Monday to warn it not to show scenes insulting Hindu gods and goddesses, Ram Kadam, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) member of the Maharashtra legislative assembly, said in a tweet after filing a complaint with police in Mumbai on Sunday.

Kadam, according to News18, said on Monday that he will head to the offices of Amazon Prime Video and seek an apology. "All Hindus should stop buying from Amazon and delete the Prime Video app. Saif Ali Khan would have seen the script, why did he agree to be a part of the show? He should clarify his stand. They should remove the series and apologise to all Hindus," he said. Set in Delhi, Tandav by hit filmmaker Ali Abbas Zafar The political drama also drew the ire of other lawmakers from the BJP, causing fresh controversy for the e-commerce giant which last year had to withdraw dozens of rugs and doormats depicting Hindu gods from its international Amazon.com platform after a backlash in India.

BJP Member of Parliament Manoj Kotak, in a letter to India's Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar dated Saturday, said that the makers of Tandav "have deliberately mocked Hindu gods and disrespected Hindu religious sentiments".

He called on the ministry to immediately form an authority to regulate streaming platforms, and in the meantime called for a ban on the series. Amazon did not respond to re-

quests for comment.

stationed outside Saif Ali Khan and Kareena Kapoor's home in Mumbai on Sunday. "Saif appears to have been given additional security amid mounting controversy around his show Tandav," said the article.

India late last year brought streaming platforms under the oversight of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry and said it plans to regulate their content.

ANI reported on Sunday that the ministry had summoned Amazon Prime Video officials in connection with the controversy.

Streaming services have gained traction in India because of the availability of affordable smartphones and cheap mobile data, making the South Asian nation a battleground for Amazon, Netflix and Disney as they seek to expand outside their home markets.

Agenceis

ANANTNAG: "Hello! This is 'Dil se Dil Tak' welcoming its south Kashmir listeners." The cheerful greeting in Urdu flows into homes in south Kashmir's militancy stronghold areas from the 'Radio Raabta' community station, providing not just entertainment but a platform for locals to air their grievances. The Army, which has been instrumental in providing wings to the dreams of locals, set up the community radio station - 'Radio Raabta' (connect) - in Anantnag as part of its outreach programme to youths of the Valley, especially south Kashmir. It was the vision of Lt Gen BS Raju, the general officer in command of the strategically-located XV Corps, to establish a community radio station in Anantnag. It became a reality from New Year with radio jockeys – Umar Nisar and Aaisha Gowhar.

The 'Radio Raabta' 90.8 FM 'Dil se Dil Tak' has not only become talk of the Anantnag district, but the reach is 20 km in radius, covering parts of Pulwama and Kulgam districts as well. The station is playing Hindi and Punjabi songs after acquiring the intellectual property rights. "Soon we will have Kashmiri music after getting the rights for that," says Nisar.

with local achievers, especially youths. "This has at least helped us in knowing what's going on in the immediate surrounding," says Umer Malik, general manager of Eden Hotel at Pahalgham.

Press Trust of India

time will tell about their ef-**SRINAGAR:** The audience ficacy, "but I am praying for at a book-release function their success so that the situin Jammu on Sunday burst ation gets normal". into laughter when National Conference president Farooq out the world's largest vacci-Abdullah said he had not kissed nation drive against COVID-19, his wife since the outbreak of which has so far infected 1,05,57,985 people in the coun-try and killed 1,52,274 of them. the coronavirus pandemic.

The octogenarian leader, who was candid and witty in his nearly-35-minute speech, said one is even afraid of a handshake or a hug in the current situation.

"I can't even kiss my wife. Who knows (what will happen). There is no question of a hug, though the heart wants it. I am sincere in my words," he said, leaving the audience in splits. A short video clip of his remarks has gone viral on social

media Abdullah, a former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, said that when his daughter sees photos of him not wearing a mask, she takes him to task on his return home. People today are afraid of

handshakes and hugging each other as thousands are still dying on a daily basis in various parts of the world, Abdullah said.

He said COVID-19 vaccines

Who knows (what will be the start of the sta Who knows (what will happen). There is no question of a hug, though the heart wants it. I am sincere in my words"

Smiles, Sanitizers Welcome Students As Schools Reopen In Delhi

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Balloons, flowers, sanitisers and smiling faces welcomed class 10 and 12 students in schools in the national capital on Monday as they returned to campuses after over 10 months.

The students who were elated to be able to attend the first offline class of the academic session wore masks and queued up outside schools maintaining social distance.

Schools reopened on Monday after over 10 months of being closed in view of coronavirus pandemic. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said it was an emotional moment to see children back in school.

"Seeing kids back in school after a long time, is an emotional moment for me. Schools have reopened today after leaving behind a very difficult time. We are hopeful that soon, everything will be normal and all students will be able to come to schools and meet their teachers and friends," he tweeted.

Pragati Diwan, an excited class 12



student said, "it was optional to come but I was sure I have to. It is the last year of my school life and I haven't come to school even one day," said Pragati Diwan, an excited class 12 student.

For another student at Geeta Bal Bharti School, the feeling was similar to that of attending first day at school.

"It does not feel like I am coming to school after ten months, it feels like I have come to school for the first time. I am looking forward to the preparations for board exams here," she said.

Prince, a student at Delhi government school, said, "The online classes were a great help for theoretical subjects but the practical subjects were a challenge. I am glad to be back at school so the practical concepts will be easily brushed up before the board exams".

Troubled South Kashmir Breathes Fresh Airwaves

The radio jockeys are providing informative snip-pets like traffic updates and weather, and interviews