



Maximum : 7.7°
Minum : -5.2°
Humidity : 85%

SUNSET
Today 05:56 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 07:32 AM



P3 NEWS
**MASSIVE TRAFFIC SNARLS HIT
BADAMIBAGH-DALGATE STRETCH**

A massive traffic jam was witnessed from the Badamibagh cantonment area to Dalgate Crossing after police blocked the road...

P4 WORLD
**ISRAEL OPENS
EMBASSY IN UNITED
ARAB EMIRATES**

Israel opened an embassy in the United Arab Emirates Sunday, its foreign ministry said, in a historic move four months after the...



P5 NEWS
**KARGIL TO BE DEVELOPED
AS ADVENTURE TOURISM
DESTINATION**

Union Minister of State (IC) Tourism and Culture, Prahlad Singh Patel ...



Widom!
Quote!

Obstacles are those
frightening things you
see when you take your
eyes off your goal.

— Henry James

NEWS DIGEST

**Police Attaches
Property Of 'OGW'**

SRINAGAR: Police on Monday attached immovable property of an alleged militant associate of Jaish-e-Mohammad outfit in Awantipora area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district. According to a police spokesperson, immovable property consisting of a house belonging to an alleged OGW • More On P10

**J&K Reports 64
Covid-19 Cases**

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 64 fresh COVID-19 cases on Monday taking the infection tally in the Union Territory to 1,24,083, while no new death has been reported, officials said. Of the fresh cases, 25 were reported from Jammu division and 39 from Kashmir, they said, adding Jammu district reported the • More On P10

**Coal Heater Claims
Woman's Life**

SRINAGAR: A woman died on Monday due to asphyxiation caused by a coal heater at her house in Bijbehara area of Anantnag district. 36-year-old Masooda Akhter and her daughter were found unconscious at their home at Karewa Colony, Bijbehara on Monday morning, local sources said. • More On P10

**Guns Roar Along
LoC In Poonch**

SRINAGAR: The Indian and Pakistani troops on Monday exchanged gunfire and mortar shells along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistani troops on Monday afternoon resorted to unprovoked firing with small arms along the LoC in Khari Karmara area • More On P10



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

**Kashmir Under Thick
Security Blanket On R-Day**

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A day ahead of the R-Day celebrations, police and paramilitary forces carried out random searches and an area-domination exercise at Lal Chowk and adjoining areas here on Monday as security was beefed up across Kashmir

to prevent militants from carrying out any attacks, officials said.

The police, assisted by paramilitary forces, carried out the searches in and around Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium, the venue of Republic day parade and around Lal Chowk, Court Road and Residency Road areas.

Security was tight around the SK cricket stadium as well as in other districts of Kashmir, the officials said.

Police officials said various measures have been put in place to ensure that the January 26 celebrations pass off peacefully.

Random checking of vehicles and • More On P10

**Cold Wave Returns To
Kashmir After Snowfall**

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Intense cold-wave conditions returned to Kashmir on Monday as the minimum temperature dipped at most places following snowfall over the weekend, officials said.

The cloud cover ahead of the weekend's snowfall had kept the night temperature around the freezing point for two consecutive nights in most parts but the respite ended as the temperature

plunged across the Valley.

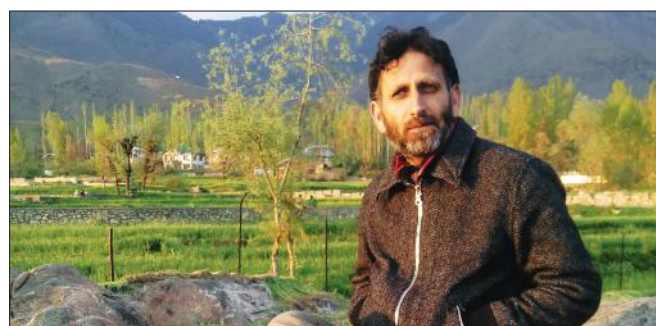
Srinagar recorded a low of minus 5.2 degrees Celsius, down from minus 1.9 degrees Celsius the previous night. Qazigund, the gateway town to the Valley, recorded a minimum of minus 5.5 degrees Celsius, down from minus 3.0 degrees Celsius the previous night, the officials said.

The minimum temperature at the Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district settled at minus 11.5 degrees Celsius, down • More On P10

**Ace Swimmer's Death By Drowning
Arouses Suspicion, Police Register Case**

Farooq Shah

SRINAGAR: Little did the 45-year-old Dal Lake dweller, Riyaz Ahmad Kanna, know the newly launched boat ambulance that he tirelessly worked on would soon carry his own lifeless body to hospital for a post-mortem. The ace swimmer, who his friends describe as an affable man with a golden heart, had on the evening of January 9 gone missing briefly before his body was retrieved from the icy-cold waters of the Dal Lake.



"Riyaz is missing and people are searching for him in the lake," Sahil, a nephew of the

deceased, informed Niyaz Nabi over his phone. Niyaz and Riyaz were close friends. • More On P10

**Army Pilot Killed
In Chopper Crash**

Agencies

JAMMU: A pilot was killed and another seriously injured after an Indian Army Dhruv chopper crash-landed in Lakhampur area of Jammu.

Two pilots suffered grievous injuries when an advanced light helicopter (ALH) Dhruv of the Indian Army crashed inside an army establishment near Basoli Morh in Lakhampur on Monday evening, sources said. The injured pilots were evacuated to a military hospital for treatment. However, one of them succumbed to the injuries. • More On P10

**Panchayati Raj Increasing
Dev Pace In J&K: LG**



Observer Monitoring Desk

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said Monday that the pace of development has been accelerated in Jammu and Kashmir with the establishment

of three-tier Panchayati Raj system in the Union Territory.

"The vision of grassroots democracy was laid by the founding fathers of our Constitution to realize the dream of inclusive development • More On P10

**No Coercive Action Against
Those Challenging Roshni
Verdict: J&K Tells SC**

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Jammu and Kashmir administration told the Supreme Court on Monday that it would continue with the assurance that no coercive action would be taken against those persons who have approached the top court against the high court verdict of scrapping the Roshni Act of 2001.

A bench of Justices N V Ramana, Surya Kant and Aniruddha Bose was informed by Solicitor General Tushar

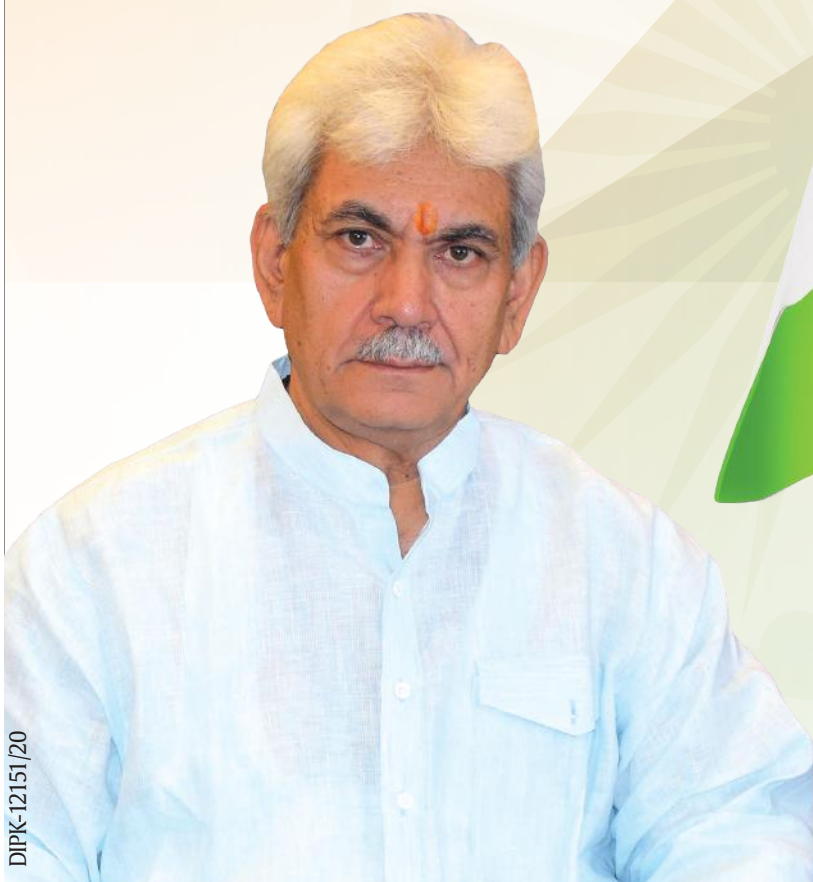
Mehta, appearing for the Jammu and Kashmir administration, that the review petition against the high court's October 9 verdict is pending there and would be taken up on Thursday.

The bench noted the submission that the pending review petition was yet to come up before the high court and granted liberty to petitioners to mention the matter thereafter. One of the lawyers appearing for the petitioners said that no coercive action be taken against them • More On P10



72nd REPUBLIC DAY

FELICITATIONS TO THE PEOPLE
OF JAMMU & KASHMIR



DIPK-12/151/20



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No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Boost immunity with key nutrients found in pistachios

Agencies

American Pistachios Growers, a non-profit trade association, organized a Virtual Knowledge Session to talk about the immunity building properties in pistachios and also announce Luke Coutinho as its Lifestyle Ambassador in India.

American Pistachios Growers (APG), a non-profit trade association representing over 800 grower members in the U.S. organized a Virtual Knowledge Session to talk about the immunity building properties in pistachios and also announce Luke Coutinho as its Lifestyle Ambassador in India.

The session was addressed by Luke Coutinho, globally renowned Holistic Lifestyle Coach - Integrative Medicine and Mike Roussell, PhD, Nutrition Consultant and Advisor to Men's Health Magazine, United States. The Session was presided over by Mr. Ron Verdonk, Minister Counselor for Agriculture, U.S. Embassy, India, and moderated by Mr. Sumit Saran, India Representative of the APG.

"I am especially happy that Luke Coutinho, who is an icon and known especially for his commitment to nutrition, fitness and holistic lifestyle, is recommending American pistachios. The Indian food sector is poised for exponential growth and we are constantly exploring opportunities to serve Indian consumers with high-quality, healthy, wholesome and safe products from the U.S. Pistachios are a natural fit in the market," said Ron Verdonk, Minister Counselor for Agriculture, at the U.S. Embassy, New Delhi, inaugurating the session.

"We strongly believe in the quality and value of US agricultural products which comply in quality with the demands of the Indian marketplace. Both India and the United States recognize the need to encourage healthier lifestyles through exercise and diet in order to combat malnutrition and other public health challenges. We hope to make 2021 a great year for American grown pistachios in India as we find new ways to complement our food and beverage cultures," Ron Verdonk added.

"I am very happy to be associated with



American Pistachio Growers. Indians have always used pistachios as a garnish on desserts, biryanis etc. It is time we become more aware about this amazing nut and make American-grown pistachios a part of our daily diet. Why? Because pistachios are a complete protein and people will be shocked to know that a handful of these nuts have the same amount of protein as an egg. This is great news for vegetarians and those looking for plant-based protein sources. Pistachios also have one of the lowest calorific value of all commonly consumed nuts and you can have as many as 49 pistachios in a single serving. These make it a perfect for Indians," said Luke Coutinho, commenting on his role as a Lifestyle Ambassador of American grown pistachios.

"According to the International Food Information Council's Year-end Survey, one in three people report their eating habits have become healthier over the past year. Also, over 22 per cent respondents report that their choices affect their mental and physical health. Therefore, adding nutritious foods like pistachios to the diet can help give your body more vital vitamins and minerals to help your immune system function at its best," said Dr Mike Roussell, reiterating the inherent health benefits of pistachios.

"A healthy immune system aids in the healing process and shortens recovery time. I am recommending pistachios to my clients as a convenient snack that's great to have after a workout or whenever you need a nutritious pick-me-up to hold you over until your next meal. But this year I'm also recommending pistachios for the wealth of vital nutrients they contain, which can help your immune system to operate at its best," Dr Mike Roussell added.

"India is a growth market for American grown pistachios. India itself does not produce any pistachios. However, as awareness about pistachios and its health benefits increase, we are seeing continuous growth in demand. We are delighted and honored to have Luke Coutinho as Lifestyle Ambassador for America Pistachio Growers in India. He is a great icon for health, nutrition and wellbeing. With his help, we will be able to create awareness about American grown pistachios among discerning consumers. American grown pistachios are available under quality brand names across all major retail points and e-commerce platforms across India," said Sumit Saran, moderating the discussion.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION RESHAM GHAR COLONY, BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU - 180001

website: <http://jkpsc.nic.in>
email: jkpscsecretary@gmail.com

Jammu: 6191-2566528 <f>2566530
Srinagar: 0194-2312629 (f) 2312631

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE/CALENDAR OF COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR CONDUCT OF WRITTEN / RECRUITMENT TEST (RTS)-2021

S. No.	Name of Examination	Tentative Date of Notification	Tentative Date of Examination	Duration of Exam
1.	❖ A.E. (Civil) RT/Examination, 2021. ❖ Deputy Research Officer ❖ Assistant Research Officer	19.02.2021 (FRIDAY)	25.04.2021 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
2.	❖ Geologist Grade III Examination, 2021 (Industries & Commerce Department). ❖ Works Manager Examination 2021 (Transport Department)	26.02.2021 (FRIDAY)	23.05.2021 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
3.	Prosecuting Officers, Home Department (Preliminary) Examination, 2021.	22.02.2021 (MONDAY)	30.05.2021 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
4.	❖ Range Officers (Territorial/Wildlife/Soil Conservation) (Preliminary), Examination 2021 ❖ Assistant Conservator of Forest Preliminary Examination, 2021	01.03.2021 (MONDAY)	20.06.2021 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
5.	Combined Competitive (Preliminary) Examination, 2021	19.02.2021 (FRIDAY)	11.07.2021 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
6.	❖ Physical Education Lecturer/Instructor RT Examination (Youth Services Sports Department), 2021. ❖ Specialist Instructor/Instructor in Games and Sports (YSS Department) Examination, 2021. ❖ Lady Warden (YSS Department) Examination, 2021. ❖ Physical Education Lecturer (YSS Department) Examination, 2021.	22.03.2021 (MONDAY)	01.08.2021 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
7.	Prosecuting Officers, Home Department (Mains) Examination, 2021.		22.08.2021 (SUNDAY)	5 DAYS
8.	Range Officer (Territorial/Wildlife/Soil Conservation) /ACF (Mains), Examination 2021.		06.09.2021 (MONDAY)	5 DAYS
9.	❖ Assistant Legal Remembrancer Examination, 2021 (Law Department) ❖ Assistant Draftsman (Translation) Examination, 2021 (Law Department)	16.04.2021 (FRIDAY)	01.10.2021 (FRIDAY)	1 DAY
10.	Combined Competitive (Mains) Examination, 2021.		04.10.2021 (MONDAY)	5 DAYS
11.	Assistant Registrar Cooperative RT/Examination, 2021	23.04.2021 (FRIDAY)	24.10.2021 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
12.	❖ Programmer (YSS Department/Election Department) ❖ Chief Librarian RT Examination, 2021 (Culture Department)	10.05.2021 (MONDAY)	07.11.2021 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY

No: PSC/Exam/Calendar/2021/ 04
Dated: 22.01.2021

DIPK-12112/20

(Dr. Shabir Hussain Keen) KAS
Controller of Examinations,
J&K Public Service Commission

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Kulgam

No.1167/MVD/KUL

Date:-25/01/2021

NOTICE

Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Dr.Mohd Ashraf Ahanger S/O Mohd Sultan Ahanger R/O Redwani Payeen Kulgam(Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle Murati Desire XI Bearing Regd. No.JK18A-9637 (Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.N/A. and Mr.Fida Husain Gilkar S/O Ab Wahab Gilkar R/O SK Colony Azadpora Anantnag(Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Cancellation of hire purchase agreement with N/A. Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Amy file his objection within (7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.

MJA

Assistant Regional
Transport Officer Kulgam

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Anantnag

NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from one Dr.Ab Majeed Nangroo S/O Mohd Ramzan Nangroo R/O Sirhama Anantnag Owner of Vehicle No.JK03D-7139 for Hire Purchase Cancellation with JK Bank Sirhama and Endorsement with Urban Cooperative Bank Khanabal Anantnag . Now it is therefore notified for General information that objection if any to the proposed cancellation / Endorsement of Hire Purchase Agreement shall be filled in writing in the Officer of ARTO Anantnag within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice in Daily Kashmir Dispatch News Paper.

No:-101/4689/MVD/ANG
Dated:-25/01/2021

MJA

Assistant Regional Transport
Officer Anantnag

Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Office of the Deputy Director Law Enforcement, Kashmir

Message for Farmers

All the orchardists/farming community of the valley are advised not to Purchase/ use the below mentioned batch No's of pesticide products in their fields, which have been declared as MISBRANDED by the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage NH-IV, Faridabad (Haryana).

The details of MISBRANDED Pesticide products are as under:-

S.No	Name of the Product	Active Ingredient	Batch No	Date of Manufacture	Date of expiry	Manufactured	Marketed by
1	Ergon	Kresoxim Methyl 44.3% SC	AN00483	11-03-2020	10-03-2022	Rallis India Ltd	Rallis India Ltd
2	Wiltrox	Hexythiazox 5.45% EC	WS20HEA002	20-04-2020	19-04-2022	Shreeji Pesticide Pvt Ltd	Willwood Crop Sciences Pvt. Ltd

All the Enforcement Officers/ Inspectors are directed to seize stocks of the above said pesticide products under Batch No's: AN00483 and WS20HEA002 and proceed further as per the provisions of Insecticides Act-1968 and Rules made there under.

DIPK-12141/20

Sd/-
Deputy Director Law Enforcement
Kashmir.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Department of Animal Husbandry, Kashmir Information Education and Communication Cell, Publicity Wing

The Department of Animal Husbandry Kashmir has established Control Room at Divisional and District Level for the information of the General Public to report any unusual mortality birds.

Divisional Level Control Room (Animal Husbandry Department)

S.NO	Name of Officer	Division	Contact No
1	Dr Altaf Ahmad Masoodi	Kashmir	9419001367
2	Dr Muyeen Ahmad Chesti	kashmir	9419063572
3	Dr G. N Gora	kashmir	7006752730
4	Dr Suhail Amin	Kashmir	7006707297

District wise Control Room (Animal Husbandry Department)

S.NO	Name of Officer	District	Contact No
1	Dr.Nisar Ahmad Khan	Kulgam	9149757240
2	Dr.MohammadRamzan	Bandipora	9906593706
3	Dr. Shakeel Ahmad Dar	Baramulla	7780958162
4	Dr.IshratShakeel	Budgam	9419035830
5	Dr. Ab Ahad Dar	Ganderbal	(6005933511)
6	Dr Syed Mohammad Abass	Anantnag	9149757240
7	Dr Feroz Ahmad Malik	Kupwara	7006692583
8	Dr Hanan	Pulwama	9682172203
9	Dr Nisar Ah Khan	Shopian	9797882031
10	Dr Mukhtar Ah Mir	Srinagar	7006548207

Control Room (Department of Wildlife, Kashmir)

Central Division	Abdul Rehman (I/C Control Room)	9682522304
Wetland Division	Suhail Ahmad, (Range Officer)	7780829713
North Division	Nisar Ahmad Raina (Range Officer)	9622225653
	Altaf Kounsar Koul (Range Officer)	7006294377
South Division	Dildar Ahmad (Range Officer)	7006868332
Shopian Division	Mudasir Ahmad (I/C Control Room)	9906967104
Dr Umar Nazir	Veterinary Officer	7006491038

DIPK-12105/20

Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Shah
Joint Director
Nodal Officer for Avian Influenza/Bird Flu

سرینگر میونسپل کارپوریشن
اطلاع عام بسلسلہ بولی نیلام
بزرگہ سر بمبر offers
ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ اشتہار ہذا مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ سرینگر میونسپل کارپوریشن کے پھاٹک واقع ٹینگہ پورہ، بطور مالو بانی پاس میں مورخہ 11-01-2021 سے 06 گھنٹوں بغیر کسی دعویٰ کے بند پڑے (ضبط شدہ) ہیں۔ ان ضبط شدہ گھنٹوں کے ماکان کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ وہ مورخہ 02-02-2021 تک پھاٹک ہذا میں اپنے گھنٹوں سے متعلق شناخت ظاہر کرنے کے بعد جرمانہ و دیگر اخراجات ادا کر کے اپنے گھنٹوں کو واپس لے جائیں۔ بصورت دیگر ان ضبط شدہ گھنٹوں کو بذریعہ سر بمبر offers حاصل کرنے کے تحت فروخت کیا جائیگا۔ اس سلسلے میں ذریعہ نیلام جانور کی تفصیلات و بیٹرنری آفیسر کے دفتر واقع ٹینگہ پورہ، بانی پاس سے دفتری اوقات کے دوران حاصل کی جاسکتی ہیں۔
لہذا خواہشمند اصحاب اپنی مہربند آفر (offer) مورخہ 03-02-2021 دن کے 2:00 PM بجے تک و بیٹرنری آفیسر کے پاس پیش کر سکتے ہیں۔
بجکم
سرینگر میونسپل کارپوریشن

No: SMC/ MVO/ 229
Dated: 23-01-2021

DIPK-NB-5272/20

...REOPENING OF SCHOOLS IN SRINAGAR

Admin Launches Month-long Safety Awareness Programme

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Days after the government decided to re-open schools after the passage of nearly one year, the district administration Srinagar has geared up and started making students as well as the teachers aware regarding Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).

A special programme-cum-awareness meeting was held on Monday at Banquet Hall Srinagar regarding the opening of schools in district Srinagar.

The awareness program was presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Shahid Iqbal

Choudhary alongside Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Srinagar Dr. Syed Haneef Balkhi.

A presentation was given by the GMC Community Science department, regarding the COVID-19 SOPs and guidelines, which needs to be followed in schools.

Pertinently, the government had ordered re-opening of schools in a staggered manner for academic activities from February 8th and March 1st 2021 respectively. All the educational institutions including Schools, Colleges and Universities remained closed from March last year in wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, which claimed around 2,000



KO File Photo: Abid Bhat

lives in Jammu and Kashmir so far. Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary while speaking to the media said, "Before opening the schools, we have launched a one month long COVID-19 safety awareness programme for educa-

tional institutions, where a special training and certification programme will be given to teachers, safety and hygiene support will be given by district administration and teachers have to connect a good bond with parents for which teachers will be trained."

"In Srinagar, we have around 1000 Schools, which include both Private and Government schools. The district administration will frame the 'School Safety Plan', under which interactions will be held with both parents and students," he said.

"We gave the presentation about the basic hygiene, physical distancing and other COVID-19 SOPs, which needs to be followed during the opening of schools," Dr Salim HOD Community Medicine said, Those who attended the meeting include Chief Education Officer (CEO) Education, RTO Kashmir, all Zonal Education Officers (ZEO) and Heads of Institutions.

Massive Traffic Snarls Hit Badamibagh-Dalgate Stretch

SRINAGAR: A massive traffic jam was witnessed from the Badamibagh cantonment area to Dalgate Crossing after police blocked the road connecting Sonwar with Zero Bridge for security reasons on Monday.

The road was blocked ahead of the Republic Day function being held at Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium on January 26.

Eye witnesses said that hundreds of the vehicles were stranded on the road from the Pantha Chowk to Dalgate giving a very tough time to commuters and motorists alike.

One Sameer Ahmad said that the traffic jams increase in the city due to one or the other reasons. "Authorities issue no route

plan in advance which only bothers commuters later," he said and blamed insufficient number of traffic cops who are unable to regulate congested roads.

The problem further worsens due to presence of street vendors on vital roads including Regal Chowk, Lal Chowk, Residency Road, Dalgate, Hari Singh High Street and Iqbal Park.

Massive traffic jams were witnessed at MA Road, Residency Road, Jahangir Chowk, Dalgate, Sonwar, Rainawari, Pantha Chowk, Bemina, Batamalo and other adjacent areas.

One of the travellers Rafiq Ahmad said that travelling on city roads has become a time and energy consuming experience.

He added that it took him half an hour to complete the distance of five kilometres which otherwise is just five to seven minutes drive normally.

At Rambagh, Hyderpora, Sanat Nagar and other adjacent roads, the traffic also moves at snail's pace. "Traffic jams have become a routine affair. No efforts are being made to regulate vehicular movement," said a commuter.

When contacted, authorities said that barricades have been erected at a few places as a security measure which will be removed after the culmination of Republic Day celebrations on Tuesday.

He added that the snow along the roadsides has led to slippery conditions which was also adding to jams.

Advisor Khan Conducts City Tour

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan, on Monday conducted an extensive city tour and visited several tourist destinations in Srinagar to assess development works being executed there for enhancing utilities for the visitors.

Advisor Khan visited Peerzoo where he inspected newly inducted jetties and functionality of water transport down the Jhelum river course. He asked the R & B department to clear the debris from the river at Habba Kadal which has narrowed the width of the river course.

Advisor, during his visit to Baba Demb lagoon, took stock of installation of fountains and other related utilities being raised for beautification of the spot. He directed the concerned officer to introduce boats in the lagoon and start water sports. He was informed that an amount of Rs 8.25 crore has been spent on development of Flea Market, Food Street, Kiosks in Flea Market, Pathway, Retaining Wall, Lighting, Solid Waste Management, Parking Lot and tourist benches at Baba Demb, so far.

Enroute, the Advisor visited the Nigean Club where he was briefed about the activities, footfall of tourists, maintenance



Advisor Khan interacting with people during his city tour.

of the garden and other related issues. At Royal Springs Golf Course Cheshmashahi, Advisor had a brief about the development works being executed there during the current season. He was told that an amount of Rs 4.10 crore has been utilized for different development works and work on installation of sensor lights, water lift pump, construction of footpath and macadamization of roads inside the Royal Spring Golf Course (RSGC) has been completed besides six battery operated golf carts have been procured for the RSGC.

During the visit, the Advisor was informed that Rs 450 lakh has been spent on development of Shikara Ghats by DTK.

Advisor was accompanied by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, P K Pole, Director Tourism and other officers during the tour.

Rainawari Locals Appeal SMC To Curb Dog Population

SRINAGAR: Rainawari locals Monday appealed to Srinagar Municipal Corporation to curb the dog population in the area. They said they are unable to make a move on the roads especially in the morning and evening hours due to the presence of packs of stray dogs.

"We are scared of venturing out from houses to offer morning and evening prayers. There is canine terror as dogs roam all around. They chase everyone who come across them," according to Jan Muhammad, a local of Kathidarwaza.

Residents said that there is heavy presence of dogs in Rainawari localities including Kathidarwaza, Zind Shah Masjid, Sikan-darpura etc.

"These dogs have made our life hell. Women, kids and old aged persons are more vulnerable" another local said.

Residents appealed to SMC to take measures to contain the population of dogs in Rainawari areas.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG

NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from one Dr. Ghulam Fatima D/O Nazir Ahmad Shah R/O Bul Bul Nowgam Anantnag Owner of Vehicle No. JK03J-0820 for Hire Purchase Cancellation with JK Bank Boagam . Now it is therefore notified for General information that objection if any to the proposed cancellation / Endorsement of Hire Purchase Agreement shall be filled in writing in the Officer of ARTO Anantnag within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice in Daily Kashmir Dispatch News Paper.

MJA

Assistant Regional Transport Officer Anantnag

از عدالت نائب تحصیلدار ایگزیکٹو میونسپلٹی ڈیپارٹمنٹ کا وارڈ 100

مضمون کاغذات درخواست متناجب رہمدر یوسف ولد مرحوم حاجی محمد انوروانی ساکنہ ہنڈی تحصیل ترہگام بمرا دعطایگی

نسبت متوانی مرحوم حاجی انوروانی ولد فتح محمدوانی والد سائل

استہبار بمرا دآگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ ذیل کے تحت بروئے بیان سائل دینان کو اپان چکی دارملاؤ نمبر وارڈ 100

فتح محمدوانی 13-09-1999 کو فوت ہوئے

سائل اپنے والد متوانی فتح محمدوانی کے نسبت death certificate حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے اگر کسی شخص کوئی مذہب اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا مذہب اعتراض ساتھ ہم اندر دفتر نمائش پیش کرے

معاہدہ کرنے بعد کوئی بھی مذہب اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار SK

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

(Election Authority)

(Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989)

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Nirvachan Bhawan, Rail Head Complex, Jammu

Phone No: 0191-2477519 Fax No - 0191-2477389_

Notification No: EA/Pyt/2021/15

Dated: 25.01.2021

Whereas, District Development Councils are to be established for every district in terms of Section 45 of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act 1989 (as amended by S.O. 3654(E) dated 16-10-2020 of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India) which reads as under:

45- For each district there shall be a District Development Council, having jurisdiction, over the entire district excluding, such portions of the district as are included in a Municipality or Municipal Corporation constituted under any law for the time being in force.

Whereas, elections to elect members of the District Development Councils in each district were conducted in the month of November-December, 2020 and 278 members have been returned elected out of the total 280 District Development Council Constituencies in the Union Territory, on 22nd December, 2020;

Whereas, the Government in the Rural Development Department, UT of Jammu and Kashmir issued S.O. 13 dated 11th January 2021 notifying the Jammu and Kashmir District Development Council (Reservation of Offices of Chairpersons) Rules, 2021;

Whereas, Rule 2(a) of the said Rules envisages issuance of an order, as soon as possible, after deceleration of results of elected members of the District Development Councils, for reservation of the Offices of Chairpersons of the District Development Councils in accordance with the provisions of these rules;

Whereas, Rule 2(b) of the said Rules provides for the reservation of offices of Chairpersons of the District Development Councils for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, as nearly as may be, in the same proportion to the population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territory, and Rule 4 further envisages the allocation of the seats so reserved to different District Development Councils on the basis of population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in such District Development Councils in the descending order, i.e. from amongst all the District Development Councils in the Union Territory, the District Development Council having the largest population of Scheduled Tribes shall be allotted to the Scheduled Tribes Category and the District Development Council having the largest population of Scheduled Castes shall be allotted to Scheduled Caste Category;

Whereas, Rule 2(c) of the said Rules provides for reservation of one-third of the total number of seats of the Offices of Chairpersons to be reserved for women;

Whereas, the population details with reference to the provisions of the said Rules were sought from the Secretary Rural Development. Government of Jammu and Kashmir, vide this office letter no: PS/SEC/2021 /1909 dated 14-01-2021;

Whereas, in response to the same, Government of Jammu and Kashmir in the Rural Development, vide letter No. RD/PR/Pyt/23/2020 dated 22-01-2021 has provided the population details of the District Development Councils as under:

District	Total Population of DDCs	SC Population	ST Population
Anantnag	816066	0	102320
Kulgam	398890	0	20317
Pulwama	480533	.52	22180
Shopian	238993	0	21726
Srinagar	49656	0	5251
Ganderbal	273359	0	47894
Budgam	671130	2	20793
Baramulla	894821	0	37665
Bandipora	329135	.57	74452
Kupwara	825375	326	71202
Jammu	837065	278182	55149
Samba	258716	75985	15398
Udhampur	472150	127680	55276
Reasi	296462	34958	88237
Kathua	545213	123643	49860
Doda	377312	52369	38595
Kishtwar	215831	14020	38069
Ramban	272257	13534	38989
Rajouri	584540	44779	226714
Poonch	443238	274	172780

Now therefore, in accordance with the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir District Development Council (Reservation of Offices of Chairpersons) Rules, 2021 the Election Authority, State Election Commission, UT of Jammu and

Kashmir, notifies the draft reservation of offices of the Chairpersons of the District Development Councils as under:

District Development Council	Reservation Status
Anantnag	Schedule Tribe
Bandipora	Open
Baramulla	Women
Budgam	Open
Doda	Open
Ganderbal	Women
Jammu	Schedule Caste
Kathua	Open
Kishtwar	Women
Kulgam	Open
Kupwara	Open
Poonch	Schedule Tribe Women
Pulwama	Open
Rajouri	Schedule Tribe
Ramban	Women
Reasi	Open
Samba	Open
Shopian	Women
Srinagar	Open
Udhampur	Schedule Caste

Objections, if any, to the draft reservation of offices of the Chairpersons of the District Development Councils, as proposed above, may be filed to the Secretary, State Election Commission, Nirvachan Bhawan, Rail Head Complex, Jammu on or before, 30th January, 2021 or sent on email id:- ceo-ik@nic.in

No: 01/SEC/PYT/2021/1912-32

DIPK-NB-5284/20

Sd/ K.K. Sharama, IAS (Retd.)

State Election Commissioner

(Election Authority)

Dated: 25/01/2021

DIAL-EMMA



- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488, 2452222, 2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

AIRPORTS

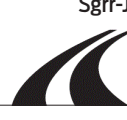
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS



- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS



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

This Day in History

- 1531 - Lisbon hit by Earthquake; about 30,000 die
- 1589 - Job is elected as Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia
- 1654 - Portuguese troops conquer last Dutch base on Recife
- 1666 - France declares war on England & Munster
- 1697 - Isaac Newton receives Jean Bernoulli's 6 month time-limit problem, solves problem before going to bed that same night
- 1699 - Venice, Poland & Austria sign Treaty of Carlowitz with Ottoman Empire
- 1748 - Britain, Netherlands, Austria & Sardinia sign anti-French treaty
- 1797 - Russia, Prussia and Austria sign treaty
- 1862 - Lincoln issues General War Order #1, calling for a Union offensive, General George McClellan ignores order
- 1905 - World's largest diamond, the 3,106-carat Cullinan, is found in South Africa
- 1934 - Nazi Germany & Poland sign 10-year non-aggression treaty
- 1939 - Francisco Franco's troops conquer Barcelona
- 1940 - Nazis forbid Polish Jews to travel on trains
- 1942 1st US force in Europe during WW II go ashore in Northern Ireland
- 1945 - Soviet forces reach Auschwitz concentration camp
- 1952 - At least 20 people have been killed and 100s injured during riots in Cairo against the British
- 1956 - Porkkala military base returned to Finland by USSR
- 1958 - H Laskow replaces Moshe Dayan on as Israeli minister of Defense
- 1958 - Japanese ferry Nankai Maru capsized off southern Awaji Island, Japan, 167 killed.
- 1959 - Italy government of Fanfani resigns
- 1961 1st woman personal physician to a US President - Janet G. Travell (to John F. Kennedy)
- 1962 - US launches Ranger 3, misses Moon by 22,000-mi (37,000-km)
- 1965 - South Vietnam military coup under general Nguyen Khanh
- 1968 - Israeli submarine Dikar sinks in Mediterranean Sea, 69 die

HIJRI
CALENDAR

12

JAMADI

-UL-SANI

1442

PRAYERS

FAJR

6: 06

ZUHR

12: 42

ASR

4:17

MAGRIB

5:58

ISHA

7:21

From KO Archives

SHO KILLED IN BOULEVARD BLAST

NC Activist Gunned Down In Sopore

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR - A bomb planted at high security Boulevard here killed a senior police officer this morning while four persons died in separate incidents of violence elsewhere in the security ridden state ahead of Republic day. Four more people were injured in two separate explosions that rocked the city since last evening.

Even as police and other agencies stepped up security for the Republic day, suspected militants blew up an improvised explosive device (IED) inside a public urinal near Hotel Trambo intercontinental at around 09:45 hours killing instantly station house officer of Ram Munshi Bagh police station, Ghulam Hassan Naaz.

The deceased SHO on his daily round had stopped for a chat with his counterpart from Nehru Park police station. Naaz went to nearby public convenience to relieve himself and immediately afterwards an explosion took place. Naaz was blown to pieces. Reports said. The driver and four guards of the police officer narrowly escaped the blast that also smashed windscreens of several nearby hotels. The guards fired in panic in air. Traffic came to an immediate halt on the vital road which also leads to Rajbhavan. Security forces sealed off Dalgate and adjacent areas. Policemen stationed near the Sulaiman Shopping Complex turned violent and beat up pedestrians and drivers of passenger buses smashing several vehicles. According to the CNS Hizbul Mujahedin has claimed responsibility for the explosion.

An official spokesman quoted by PTI said the blast is suspected to have been caused by an IED activated by a remote-controlled device. Senior police and army officials visited the explosion site and vigil has been stepped up in the highly guarded area frequented by government officials and security vehicles.

In Handwara troops shot dead a civilian after two militants slipped through a security force dragnet following an encounter early today, a CNS report said. Personnel of the 3rd RR according to CNS raided the house of one Samandar Khan in village Dooruhah Handwara after a tip off. While the two militants holed up there gave them a slip after an encounter, troops shot dead the house owner Samandar Khan before destroying his house. Police however said Khan was caught in cross fire.

Meanwhile, a couple received splinter injuries when suspected militants hurled a grenade at a security picket in downtown Srinagar last night, he said. The device fell short of its target and exploded on the road wounding the couple, the spokesman added.

Unknown gunmen shot dead one Tariq Ahmad allegedly a police informer, near Nowpora crossing this afternoon. Gunmen shot dead one Mohinder Kumar inside his house at Kulhand in Doda district while body of an unidentified person was found in Kunzar area in Baramulla.

A woman was wounded when she was caught in a cross-fire between militants and security forces at village Kotli Kalaban in Rajouri district an official spokesman said.

Militants abducted one Muhammad Shafi Ganai from Kulhand area in Doda district, the spokesman said. NC BLOCK SEC SHOT: Unidentified gunmen shot dead a block secretary of the ruling National Conference at Tujar Sharif, Sopore this evening. Identified as Ghulam Muhammed Mir alias Gula Mir of Tujar Sharif, the deceased was shot point blank at 6.30 pm. He died instantly. Mir, 45, is said to have been working as a manager and accountant with the marketing society, Sopore.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 26 January, 2001)

Israel Opens Embassy In United Arab Emirates



Agencies

JERUSALEM: Israel opened an embassy in the United Arab Emirates Sunday, its foreign ministry said, in a historic move four months after the Jewish state and the Gulf country normalised ties.

"Today the Israeli embassy in Abu Dhabi has officially been opened, with the arrival of the mission head Eitan Naeh," the ministry said in a statement.

"The Israeli embassy in the United Arab Emirates will advance relations between the countries on all levels."

The UAE, along with Bahrain, signed a US-brokered deal in September to normalise relations with the Jewish state.

The agreements, known as the "Abraham Accords", shattered a long-standing Arab consensus that there should be no normalisation with Israel until it reaches a comprehensive peace deal with the Palestinians.

The Palestinians condemned the agreements as a "stab in the back".

The Israeli embassy in Abu Dhabi will be operating from "temporary offices" until locating a permanent facility, the foreign ministry statement said.

The mission will "expand the

ties with the Emirati government, financial bodies and the private sector, universities, the media and more," it added.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi welcomed the move, saying the embassy would "enable the expansion of bilateral relations between Israel and the Emirates for a swift and maximal implementation of the potential in these ties."

The foreign ministry announcement came shortly after the UAE said its cabinet had approved the establishment of an embassy in Israel, also a first.

Ashkenazi welcomed the UAE decision, which he said "will advance the warm ties between the states and peoples".

Earlier this month, Sudan also signed the Abraham Accords, becoming the third Arab country to do so and the fourth to normalise diplomatic relations with the Jewish state in as many months.

Morocco also normalised ties with Israel in December, in a diplomatic quid pro quo that saw Washington back Moroccan rule over the disputed Western Sahara region.

Until last year, only Egypt, in 1979, and Jordan, in 1994, had normalised ties with Israel.

US Giant Merck Ends Covid Vaccine After Poor Response



Merck & Co. is discontinuing development of its two experimental Covid-19 vaccines after early trial data showed they failed to generate immune responses comparable to a natural infection or existing vaccines.

The U.S. drug giant, which has a long history of successfully developing vaccines, had adopted a different strategy from rivals Pfizer Inc., Moderna Inc. and Johnson & Johnson, using a more traditional approach of focusing on shots based on weakened viruses.

One, called V590, borrowed technology from Merck's Ebola inoculation, while the other, V591, is based on a measles vaccine used in Europe.

Both V590 and V591 were laggards in the vaccine-development race. Merck finished recruiting the first participants for early-stage safety studies near the end of 2020, when front-runners Pfizer and Moderna were preparing to report late-stage data on their shots' effectiveness. Merck received interim results from its trials this month.

The results were "disappointing, and a bit of a surprise," said Nick

Kartsonis, senior vice president of clinical research for infectious diseases and vaccines at Merck Research Laboratories. Both shots generated fewer neutralizing antibodies to halt infection than other Covid-19 vaccines, and produced inferior immune responses compared with people who had naturally contracted the coronavirus.

"We didn't have what we needed to be able to move forward," Kartsonis said in an interview Sunday.

After evaluating the data, Merck's senior leadership decided to discontinue the programs and divert resources to the company's efforts to develop Covid-19 treatments.

Vaccine Anxiety

While Merck's vaccines weren't expected to be part of the initial immunization push in the U.S., the development comes amid heightened anxiety over vaccine supplies and a sluggish pace of injections. The emergence of new variants of the coronavirus has also raised questions about whether the shots that have been cleared will lose effectiveness as the pathogen mutates.



Across The World, Ageing Dams Pose Growing Threat: UN Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW YORK: Over a thousand large dams in India will be roughly 50 years old in 2025 and such aging structures across the world pose a growing threat, according to a UN report which notes that by 2050, most people on Earth will live downstream of tens of thousands of dams built in the 20th century.

The report, titled 'Ageing water infrastructure: An emerging global risk' and compiled by United Nations University's Canadian-based Institute for Water, Environment and Health, says most of the 58,700 large dams worldwide were constructed between 1930 and 1970 with a design life of 50 to 100 years.

It said at 50 years, a large concrete dam "would most probably begin to express signs of ageing." Ageing signs include increasing cases of dam failures, progressively increasing costs of dam repair and maintenance, increasing reservoir sedimentation, and loss of a dam's functionality and effectiveness, "strongly interconnected" manifestations, the report said.

"By 2050, most people on Earth will live downstream of tens of thousands of large dams built in the 20th century, many of them already operating at or beyond their design life," according to the UN University analysis.

The analysis includes dam decommissioning or ageing case studies from the USA, France, Canada, India, Japan, and Zambia and Zimbabwe.

According to the report, the world is unlikely to witness another large dam-building revolution as in the mid-20th century, but dams constructed then will inevitably be showing their age.

The report said that 32,716 large

dams (55 per cent of the world's total) are found in just four Asian countries: China, India, Japan, and South Korea - a majority of which will reach the 50-year threshold relatively soon.

The same is true of many large dams in Africa, South America, and Eastern Europe, it said.

In India, there are over 1,115 large dams that will be roughly 50 years old in 2025, more than 4,250 large dams in the country will be over 50 years old in 2050 and 64 large dams will be more than 150 years old in 2050, it said.

The report said that approximately 3.5 million people are at risk if India's Mullaperiyar dam in Kerala, built over 100 years ago, "were to fail".

"The dam, in a seismically active area, shows significant structural flaws and its management is a contentious issue between Kerala and Tamil Nadu States," it said.

The report added that dams that are well designed, constructed and maintained can "easily" reach 100 years of service but predicts an increase in "decommissioning" - a phenomenon gaining pace in the USA and Europe - as economic and practical limitations prevent ageing dams from being upgraded or if their original use is now obsolete.

In the US, the average age of 90,580 dams is 56 years. More than 85 per cent of US dams in 2020 were operating at or beyond their life expectancy and 75 per cent of US dam failures occurred after 50 years of age. The estimated cost to refurbish US dams is about USD 64 billion. Nearly 1,275 dams were removed in 21 US states in the last 30 years; 80 removed in 2017 alone, it said.

Worldwide, the huge volume of

water stored behind large dams is estimated at 7,000 to 8,300 cubic kilometres - enough to cover about 80 per cent of Canada's landmass under a meter of water.

The report's co-author Vladimir Smakhtin, Director of UNU-INWEH, said the report aims to attract global attention to the creeping issue of ageing water storage infrastructure and stimulate international efforts to deal with this emerging, rising water risk.

"Underlined is the fact that the rising frequency and severity of flooding and other extreme environmental events can overwhelm a dam's design limits and accelerate a dam's ageing process. Decisions about decommissioning, therefore, need to be taken in the context of a changing climate," Smakhtin said.

Lead author and UNU-INWEH Senior Researcher Duminda Perera said the problem of ageing large dams today confronts a relatively small number of countries - 93 per cent of all the world's large dams are located in just 25 nations.

"Large dam construction surged in the mid-20th century and peaked in the 1960s - 70s especially in Asia, Europe and North America, while in Africa the peak occurred in the 1980s. The number of newly-constructed large dams after that continuously and progressively declined," he said.

The pace of large dam construction has dropped dramatically in the last four decades and continues to decline in part because "the best locations for such dams globally have been progressively diminishing as nearly 50 per cent of global river volume is already fragmented or regulated by dams," the report says.

Scottish Nationalists Lay Groundwork For Second Independence Referendum

Agencies

The Scottish National Party published a "Roadmap to Referendum" on Saturday, laying out plans for another vote on Scottish independence just as the United Kingdom grapples with Covid-19 and the impact of Brexit.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who would have to agree to a new referendum, argues there is no need for a new vote after independence was rejected by Scottish voters in 2014.

But the SNP has said that if it wins a parliamentary majority at elections scheduled for May 6, it will pass its own bill so that a referendum can take place once the pandemic is over.



It says that the UK government will either have to agree to it or take legal action to dispute the legal basis of the referendum.

"Such a legal challenge would be vigorously opposed by an SNP Scottish government," said the document, dated January 24.

Polls show that Scottish nationalists are on course to win a record majority in elections for Scotland's

devolved parliament.

Scots voted 55-45% against independence in a referendum in 2014, but Brexit and the British government's handling of the Covid-19 crisis have bolstered support for the SNP, with most polls showing a majority now favour breaking away.

A poll published on The Times website on Saturday showed another potential threat to the future of the UK, with 51% of Northern Irish voters saying they favoured a referendum about their future within the next five years, compared to 44% who oppose it.

Support for a United Ireland stands at 42% according to the polls, versus 47% who object to Northern Ireland leaving the UK.

Over 300 Human Rights Groups Call For End To Disastrous Saudi War On Yemen



Agencies

More than 300 anti-war and humanitarian organizations across the world have signed a statement calling for an end to the Saudi war against impoverished Yemen.

The statement called for an international day of action on January 25, just days after US President Joe Biden's inauguration and the day before Saudi Arabia's "Davos in the Desert" Future Investment Initiative.

It pointed to the Saudi-led bombing and blockade of Yemen, which have killed tens of thousands of Yemeni people, saying despite the dire circumstances the Yemenis are in, including a devastating COVID-19 outbreak, Saudi Arabia is escalating its war and tightening its blockade.

Saudi Arabia launched its war on Yemen war in 2015 in a bid to reinstall Yemen's former pro-Riyadh government. The military campaign has turned the poor Arab country into the world's worst humanitarian disaster, with tens of thousands of civilians killed and many more suf-

fering the calamities of the war.

Yemen's Houthi Ansarullah movement, which effectively administers most of the country, has said the Saudi-led coalition will pay dearly for its atrocities.

"Invasion of Yemen is a crime. So is the siege of the country. And continuation of these two amounts to a double crime," Houthi spokesman Mohammed Abdul-Salam wrote on Twitter on Saturday.

The signatories of the anti-war statement were organizations from Yemen, the US, Britain, Austria, Bangladesh, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, India, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, and some other countries.

They said the war on Yemen is man-made, and therefore, it can be ended.

They also demanded that their governments immediately "stop foreign aggression on Yemen; stop weapons and war support for Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates; lift the blockade on Yemen and open all land and sea ports; and restore and expand humanitarian aid for the people of Yemen."

Coronavirus Will "Continue To Change", Says Indian-American Physician



Agencies

WASHINGTON: Indian-American physician Vivek Murthy, US President Joe Biden's pick for US Surgeon General, said that the deadly COVID-19 is going to "continue to change" and the country has to be ready for it, calling for better genomic surveillance and more investment in contact tracing to deal with the crisis.

Mr Murthy, 43, who is playing a key role in shaping the COVID-19 policy of the Biden administration, said there is also a need to invest a lot more in testing and contact tracing, because these are also going to be essential.

"The virus is basically telling us that it's going to continue to change, and we have got to be ready for it. It means we have got to, number one, do much better genomic surveillance, so we can identify variants when they arise. It means we have got to double down on public health measures, like masking and avoiding indoor gatherings," Dr Murthy

told ABX News this week.

"It also means investing more in something we haven't talked about very much recently, which is in treatment strategies, which have received a lot less attention than vaccines, but are really important," said Dr Murthy, who served as Surgeon General of the US during the Obama administration and had to leave abruptly when Donald Trump became the US President.

He also expressed concern over the variants of virus.

"We are in a race against these variants. The virus is going to change. And it's up to us to adapt and to make sure that we're staying ahead," he said in response to a question.

"But they are not surprising, because this is what viruses do. They mutate, they change. And we should expect them. But here's what we know. We know that the variant, not just the UK variant, but likely the South Africa variant, the Brazilian variant, P.1, are likely to be more transmissible," he said.

NEWS MAKERS

Plane With Banner That Read, 'Worst President Ever' Flies Over Trump's Home

Agencies

Criticism haunts former President Donald Trump even as after he has left the White House. After returning to his home at the Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, Trump is back to what he seems to have enjoyed the most-- golfing. Two banners insulting Trump flew over the West Palm beach. One banner read, 'Worst President Ever' Another banner reading 'Trump You Pathetic Loser Go Back To Moscow' flew over the resort too.

There's no clue as to who could be behind the banners, which were seen trailing behind planes that flew over the beach club. It is also unclear whether or not Trump saw the banners.



The former president, who departed Washington D.C. following a farewell rally, was greeted by some of his supporters at the club with signs that read, 'Still My President' and 'Trump Won!', the Daily Mail reported.

Trump is currently being impeached for the second time. The President has been charged

with inciting an angry mob who stormed and vandalised Capitol Hill, demanding that the election results be overturned. While the impending impeachment trial will not literally remove Trump from office, if he is convicted of inciting the riots of January 6, he will be banned from running for political office.

Anti-Lockdown Protesters Clash With Police In Amsterdam

Agencies

Dutch police clashed with protesters demonstrating against the country's lockdown in the capital, Amsterdam and the southern city of Eindhoven on Sunday, a day after rioting youths protesting the country's curfew torched a coronavirus testing facility in a Dutch fishing village.

In Amsterdam, police used a water cannon to disperse protesters taking part in a banned demonstration on a major square ringed by museums. Video images showed people grouped against a wall of the Van Gogh Museum.

Police in Eindhoven used



a water cannon and tear gas against a crowd of hundreds of demonstrators that also included supporters of the anti-immigrant group PEGIDA.

Eindhoven police said they made at least 30 arrests by late afternoon and warned people to stay away from the city center amid the clashes.

There were no immediate reports of injuries.

It was the second Sunday in a row that police clashed with protesters in Amsterdam angry

at the country's lockdown amid. The unrest followed a night of rioting in the fishing village of Urk on the first night of a curfew imposed by the Dutch government to rein in the spread of the more transmissible variant of the coronavirus.

Police said Sunday they fined more than 3,600 people nationwide for breaching the curfew that ran from 9 p.m. Saturday until 4:30 a.m. Sunday and arrested 25 people for breaching the curfew or for violence.

Video from Urk, 80 kilometers (50 miles) northeast of Amsterdam, showed youths breaking into the coronavirus testing facility near the village's harbor before it was set ablaze Saturday night.

Spain Military Commander Ousted For Jumping Covid-19 Vaccine Line

MADRID: Spain's top military commander has been forced to resign after he and other high-ranking officers violated established protocols and received the COVID-19 vaccine ahead of time.

Spain's defense ministry confirmed to The Associated Press on Saturday that Minister Margarita Robles had accepted the resignation of Chief of Staff Gen. Miguel Ángel Villarroya.

His resignation comes after online news site El Confidencial Digital reported that Villarroya and other top brass had broken national protocols for Spain's vaccination strategy, which currently only allows nursing home residents and medical workers to receive shots.

Several public officials have jumped the vaccine queue in recent weeks, including a regional health chief for southeast Murcia, who also resigned.



Waqf Apathy Leaves Centuries Old Mughal Era Mosque In Ruins

GANDERBAL: The historic mosque at Malshahi Bagh here in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district has been reduced to rubble due to government neglect.

Currently occupied by the Central Waqf Board, along with 360 kanals of orchard land, the mosque was built by Dara Shukoh in the 17th century for his mentor Mullah Akhoun Shah.

The Waqf Board earns millions of rupees as revenue from gardens and shrines every year, but it has not spent a single penny on the renovation or restoration of this historic mosque," locals said according to

news agency KNT.

They said this centuries old mosque can become a tourist spot and centre of attraction for its architecture grandeur if it is renovated and restored to its pristine glory.

"My grandfather used to tell me that people from both Kashmir and outside used to visit this Mughal era mosque but now it presents a sordid tale due to neglect," said a septuagenarian Muhammad Subhan.

The locals demanded that the mosque should be declared as a heritage site under the Ancient Monuments and Preservation Act.

Family Protests After Mother Of 3 Found Mysteriously Dead In Rafiabad

BARAMULLA: A mother of three was found dead under mysterious conditions in Ladoora area of Rafiabad in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Sunday evening.

Officials said that the in-laws of the woman reported that she died of an electric shock from an electric boiler late Saturday night, however, the family members of the women contested their claims.

"Soon after her death, the family members of the woman reached the home of their daughter" they said.

Officials said that the family members of the deceased woman staged a protest demonstration, alleging that their daughter has been murdered by her in-laws.

The protestors demanded a transparent probe into the matter.

Meanwhile, medical superintendent District Hospital Baramulla said that they have already followed all the legal proceedings and have initiated a detailed postmortem report.

"Cause of death wasn't immediately known, however, we are waiting for the forensic Report," he added

Meanwhile, a senior police official said that they have registered a case under relevant sections of law and the investigation has been taken up to ascertain the facts. (KNS)

Food Safety Dept Conducts Inspection At Parimpora Mandi

SRINAGAR: In view of frequent blockade of highway, a team of Food Safety Officers headed by Assistant Commissioner Food Safety Srinagar today conducted an inspection of various fruits and vegetable wholesalers within the Parimpora Mandi.

During inspection, the dealers were directed to destroy rotten fruits and vegetables of their own and ensure that no such food articles are to be sold to the retail vendors.

Later, the Assistant Commissioner chaired a meeting of New Kashmir Fruit and Vegetable Association and the members of the association were directed to ensure supply of fresh fruits and vegetables in the markets.

They were also directed not to use calcium carbide for ripening of fruits, and were warned that strict action under rules shall be taken against those found violating these directions.

The Association was further stressed to bring all their members within the ambit of the food licensing and registration system.

Arrangements For Urs Ziti-Shah-Wali At Kupwara

KUPWARA: The District Administration Kupwara headed by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Nazir Ahmad Lone today convened a meeting here to review arrangements put in place for smooth celebration of Urs Hazrat Ziti-e-Shah Wali (RA) on January 27 and 28 at Muqam-i-Shah Wali Drugmulla.

The ADC directed the concerned officers to place all arrangements beforehand so that devotees do not have to face any inconvenience during the Urs period.

The Engineers of Jal Shakti and PDD were directed to provide uninterrupted water and power supply during the Urs period. While as, R&B engineer was directed to ensure proper maintenance of roads leading to the shrine. AD, Food was directed to keep adequate quantity of ration available at food stores of the area.

The BMO was directed to depute the Medical team along with necessary medicare equipment during the Urs. Likewise, DFO Kehmil was asked to ensure availability of firewood at the venue for the said purpose.

Meanwhile, the Police department was asked to make adequate security arrangements in the area.

Pulwama Admin Launches Film On National Voters Day

PULWAMA: The District Administration, Pulwama today launched a 6 minute Film on National Voters Day, here.

The film portrays the unique Systematic Voters Education and Electoral participation (SVEEP) activities executed during the SVEEP campaign preceding recent DDC/ ULB Elections. It is important to mention that the SVEEP campaign had a tremendous impact on voter turnout in the recent elections. The model adopted during the recent elections SVEEP campaign was a poster campaign through line departments like pasting of SVEEP messages on OPD tickets, on domestic gas cylinders on Electricity bills and through ICDS.

Farmers' Leaders Issue Guidelines For R-Day Tractor Parade

Agencies

After getting the permission to organise a tractor rally in Delhi on Republic Day, the farmers' union has issued guidelines so that the parade is carried out in a peaceful manner.

The Sanyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) said: "We are going to create history. Till date, such a parade has never been carried in the country on Republic Day. We have to keep in mind that this historic parade doesn't gets maligned. The peaceful parade will mark our victory. We have to remember that we are not going to conquer Delhi, rather we are going to win the hearts of the people of the country."

The SKM clarified that tractors and other vehicles will be included in the parade but all trolleys will not be part of the parade. Some trolleys with special tableaux will figure and safety arrangements will be made for them.

The farmers' union also instructed the farmers to keep ration for at least 24 hours and items for cold in case tractors get stuck in traffic. It also appealed the farmers not to carry any political party's flag, but the national flag along with the flag of the farmers' unions.

The farmers have been clearly told by the SKM not to carry any kind of weapon and not to use any provocative slogans.

The SKM said that the parade will be led by the vehicles of the farmers' leaders and everybody has to follow the instructions of the traffic volunteers, who will be



deployed at every junction.

"The route of the parade has been decided. Police and traffic volunteers will guide the farmers. Action will be taken against the vehicles which will try to violate the route," the SKM said.

If any vehicle tries to block the road without any reason, the volunteers will remove the blockade, it said. All the vehicles will return after completing the parade.

"Only five people including the driver will be allowed on a tractor. No one will be allowed to sit on the bonnet, bumper or roof of the tractor. All the tractors will be driving in a line. No one will race with each other and no one will be allowed to go ahead of the vehicles of the farmers' leaders," the SKM said in the guidelines.

Apart from this, the drivers won't be allowed to play music in the tractors so that it will make easy for others to listen to the instructions during the parade. The SKM also said that no one will be allowed to consume any intoxicants and if someone is found doing

so, the traffic volunteers should be informed immediately.

The farmers' leaders said: "We have to grace the Republic Day, win the hearts of the public. Everyone should take care that women are being treated respectfully. The police will be on its duty so no one should fight with them. Apart from this, there should be no misbehaviour with the media, irrespective of the channel and garbage should not be thrown on the roads and rather everyone should carry a separate bag for it."

The SKM also said that they have done all the preparations for any emergency so nobody should worry about anything.

"Ambulances have been arranged and arrangements with the hospitals have also been made so in case of medical emergency, farmers can call on the helpline number or tell the nearest volunteer," it said.

"The farmers can also contact the volunteers in case their vehicle or tractor breaks down. The helpline number will be open 24 hours," the SKM added.

Kargil To Be Developed As Adventure Tourism Destination



KARGIL: Union Minister of State (IC) Tourism and Culture, Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated National Tourism Day at Ice Hockey Rink Biamathang in Kargil on Monday. The Union Minister announced the setting up of a branch of Indian Institute of Skiing and Mountaineering (IISM) there in order to encourage and groom the local talent and realize the dream of Atma Nirbhar Bharat.

Patel said that the narrative to the outside world should go that Kargil is not a war zone rather a peaceful one. The Central Government is determined to provide every necessary infrastructure in Kargil, so that an international level skiing

and mountaineering facility is established. A thoughtfully planned world class adventure sports destination in Kargil will be established by nurturing local talent through the best of education in the field of mountaineering, skiing, ice hockey and other winter sports, he further added.

The district of Kargil will get to benefit from the good opportunities of winter tourism and it also has the potential to be represented internationally. Patel said the Government is committed to protect the interests of the region and there is a need to train the local players through these skiing courses. He also appealed to the students

to enroll in the courses of IITM for professional courses in hospitality.

The minister reiterated that the Government of India is fully committed to create international level tourism infrastructure in the district so that a feasible environment is created for tourism and employment opportunities.

Member Parliament Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Central Government is determined to bring development in all sectors of the newly formed Union Territory. He said that there is a lot of potential in Kargil for a variety of tourism and adventure tourism activities.

The MP added that holding of winter festival at Zaskar and celebration of National Tourism Day besides the start of various winter sports workshops and tournaments in Kargil and the visit of two Union Ministers despite the harsh winter season reflects the Central Government's commitment for the promotion of Tourism in Kargil. Mr. Jamyang asserted that tourism in Ladakh should be rural centric and more guest houses should be made and the government has provided necessary provisions for it also.

JKPCB Reviews 'Consent Mechanism Of The Board'



JAMMU: The Online Consent Management and Monitoring System (OCMMS) of the Pollution Control Board was today reviewed by the Chairman, JK-PCB, Suresh Chugh, here at a meeting.

He said that the main objective of taking review meetings regularly is to expedite the processing of online cases under consent mechanism, so as to give a boost to young entrepreneurs, who are establishing new industries as per the New Industrial Policy of the Government viz. Start-up, make in India etc.

The Chairman directed the Regional Directors of Pollution Control Board, Jammu / Kashmir and other officers to ensure Zero Pendency in dealing with the consent cases and lapse in this regard or delay shall be construed as hindrance in the implementation of the Government policies. He advised the Member Secretary and the Regional Directors to provide sufficient staff in the divisions, where there is influx of new industries and directed them for early disposal of consent cases.

The Chairman was also apprised that from January 2017 to December, 2020, 10019 applications were received for Consent to Establish/Operate/ Establish

(Renewal)/Operate (Renewal) by the Board and the consent were granted to 7723 during the period, which is 77% of successful disposal of consent cases. The Board rejected 1925 applications for certain shortcomings which is 19% of total applications received by the Board. He appreciated the increase in the disposal and advised all the officers to continue working with diligent, as per expectation of the Government.

The Chairman said that PCB has been front runner in BRAP (Business Reforms Action Plan) under EoDB (Ease of Doing Business) and will continue to do so to provide better services to the public.

Member Secretary, JK PCB, B.M.Sharma, while appreciating the officers for promptness in disposal of the consent cases, advised the Regional Director, PCB, Jammu / Kashmir to make clear cut recommendations while dealing with the cases of Stone Crushers, Brick Kilns and other industries, as ambiguous recommendations lead to delay in timely disposal of cases. He also advised the Regional Directors to immediately send replies to the complaints received from LG Grievances Cell, as the same are being monitored for prompt disposal by the Government.

Soz Hails Sajad Lone For Leaving PAGD

SRINAGAR: Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister Saifuddin Soz Monday said that Sajad Lone pulled out from Peoples' Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) to keep the identity of his Peoples Conference Party intact.

"Sajad Lone took the correct decision for his party. Every political party is unique with a separate identity. I think Sajad Lone pulled out from PAGD to keep the identity of his party intact," Soz said.

Pertinently, the People's Conference led by Sajad Lone pulled out of the alliance recently citing the fielding of proxy candidates in the District Development Council (DDC) polls as a reason.

Lone, however, said his party

was not "divorcing" from the objectives of the PAGD. "We will continue to adhere to the objectives that we set out when this alliance was made. And the PAGD leadership should be assured that we will extend support on all issues which fall within the ambit of stated objectives," he said. "We have issued clear instructions to all party leaders not to issue any statements against the PAGD or its leaders".

Prof. Saifuddin Soz said that every party in Kashmir has its own identity and every party be it NC, PDP or some other party wants people to identify their party separately. "Sajad Lone did the same. He pulled out from the Alliance in the interest of his party," Soz said. KNT

Six Police Officers Awarded JK Police Medals

169 Police Officials Awarded JK Police Medals For Gallantry

JAMMU: On the eve of Republic Day, 2021 Government of Jammu and Kashmir today announced JK Police Medal for Gallantry and J&K Police Medal for Meritorious Service.

Government has awarded J&K Police Medal for Meritorious Service to 06 police personnel, Rashmi Ranjan Swain, ADGP, CID, Satish Khandare, ADGP, UT of La-

dakh, Harmeet Singh Mehta, SSP, Kishtwar, Rajni Sharma, Addl. SP, Ramban, Ghulam Shah Rubbani, SI and Mushtaq Ahmad, SI. Further, recognizing the exemplary acts of bravery and courage beyond the call of normal duty in preventing crime and in nabbing dreaded criminals, the Government has awarded J&K Police Medal for Gallantry to 169 Police officers/officials.

NEWS MAKERS

LG Felicitates Ast Director IUST

AWANTIPORA: Lieutenant Governor J&K, Manoj Sinha felicitated Dr. Hilal Ahmad Rather Assistant Director, Physical Education Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) with young Achievers Award at SKICC Srinagar for his tremendous achievements for representing state at National and country at International Level.

Dr. Hilal is an elite athlete who had represented India at International platforms and had brought laurels to the country in KickBoxing and Boxing. Vice Chancellor IUST, Prof. Mushtaq A. Siddiq has congratulated Dr. Hilal for this achievement.

Dr. Hilal is 3-times International medalist and had more than 10 Nationals to his credit. He had also been honoured as best sports player of J&K in 2006 and was Torch Bearer in 19th Commonwealth Games held in Delhi. Dr. Hilal Rather is IST DAN Black belt. He is the first athlete from the state to represent India at the International podium. Dr. Hilal is also a social worker who worked tremendously on social issues like Child Abuse, Women Self-defence, Drug Abuse and sports Upliftment.



Budgam Police Arrests Two Bootleggers

BUDGAM: Budgam Police on Monday claimed to have arrested two bootleggers and recovered 23 bottles of illicit liquor.

A police official said that "During Naka checking at Nambalhar here, police party of Police Station Khansahib intercepted an Auto Rickshaw bearing registered NoJK01V 1751 with two persons on onboard. During search 23 bottles of illicit liquor were recovered from their possession."

He identified them as Sheeraz Ahmed Paul son of Khazer Mohammed Paul resident of Chanpora Srinagar and Niranjan Kumar son of Parmanand Kumar resident of Bihar.

The officer said cases FIR No.06/2021 have been registered at PS Khansahib and further investigation has been taken up.

Kulgam Girls To Learn Skiing In Gulmarg

KULGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Showkat Aijaz Bhat today flagged off a group of 10 girls for 15 days Snow Skiing course being hosted by the Directorate of Youth services and Sports at Gulmarg

The girl students participating in the course were selected by the Department of youth services and sports from different zones of the district.

During this 15-day training programme, the participating students will be trained in basic, intermediate and advanced courses of Snow skiing.

Among others, ADDC, ADC, ACR, ACD, CEO, DYSSO besides parents of these students were present on the occasion.



Avian Influenza: DC Kulgam Chairs Meeting Of Officers

KULGAM: Following confirmation of presence of Avian Influenza Virus among dead crows spotted at Manzgam village of the district, The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Showkat Aijaz Bhat today convened an urgent meeting of officers, here.

The meeting discussed measures to control the further spread of the virus and accordingly the area within the radius of 01 KM of the Manzgam village was declared as 'Alert Zone'. Chief Animal Husbandry Officer (CAHO) Kulgam, was directed to conduct random sampling within the Alert Zone and surveillance be intensified in the whole area.

The ways and means to prevent transmission of virus to poultry was also discussed and it was informed that Bio-Security has to be strengthened and disinfectants shall be sprayed in the entire area, where the mortality in birds has been reported and the same shall be carried out by CAHO in collaboration with Forest Department and Wildlife Department.

It was given out that the dead birds (if any) should be disposed-off by deep burial. For sample collection and testing, the bird may be sent to the lab in adherence to bio-safety and zoo-sanitary measures.

The Forest and Wildlife Departments were directed to increase vigil and surveillance in the area.

Meanwhile, to prevent transmission of disease to Poultry and Human Beings, several guidelines/advisories were issued which include avoiding contact with wild/migratory birds, Avoid contact with places where migratory birds use to visit for feeding/water.

The general public have been informed that in case of any unusual mortality in poultry/migratory birds contact can be established to Poultry Extension Officer Kulgam on mobile number (7006260091) and Technical Officer, AHD Kulgam (7006960640).

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Ladakh impasse

Military commanders of India and China met on Sunday for the ninth round of talks to resolve stand-off along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh. In the preceding eight rounds of talks, the Indian Army has sought disengagement of troops by China from all points of friction but to no avail. The latest negotiations were held at Moldo border point on the Chinese side of the LAC. India has deployed some 50,000 troops in Ladakh to guard the border in sub-zero temperature. They are in a high state of combat readiness to repel fresh Chinese attempt to ingress. Recently in an interview with a television channel, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that India will not reduce its troop strength unless China initiates the process. Singh said India was developing its border infrastructure at a "very fast rate". He, however, expressed confidence that a solution to the impasse could be found through talks.

In recent weeks, China has reportedly deployed tanks in front of Indian posts opposite Rezang La, Rechin La and Mukhosri locations. Other reports have said China is upgrading and installing radars along the entire stretch of the LAC from Ladakh to Sikkim region. If anything, it shows that China has no intention of withdrawing unless on its terms. It also doesn't want to give up the over 1000 square kilometres of land it has occupied.

China has also defended construction of a village in Indian territory in Arunachal Pradesh calling it a matter of sovereignty and insisting that it never recognised the "illegally established" Indian state. India has said it kept a constant watch on all developments with a bearing on the country's security, and taken necessary measures to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

India wants China to go back to status quo ante as it existed in April last year but Beijing is in no mood to do so. On the contrary, the People's Liberation Army has enhanced its military profile on the border by deploying thousands of its soldiers and equipment. In recent years China has reportedly more than doubled its total number of air bases, air defence positions and heliports near the Indian border. This has now become a high stakes war of nerves between the two countries.

An eyeball to eyeball confrontation between the two countries has lingered ever since the forces of the two countries clashed at Galwan Valley in June-15-16 last year leading to the death of 20 Indian soldiers. A pragmatic way out to resolve the lingering stand-off is through negotiations, even if it takes time. With winter already half way through it will be in the interest of both the countries to reach an understanding that also holds on the ground. But this can only happen if Beijing approaches the dialogue seriously

O T H E R O P I N O N

Time to Heal

Wednesday, a sense of normality returned to Washington as Joe Biden took his oath of office as US president, bringing to an end four tumultuous years of Trumpism. Donald Trump's time in the White House was a veritable roller-coaster ride, with the former president throwing convention to the wind and creating a number of crises domestically and in foreign affairs. Therefore, Mr Biden has a major task ahead of him, and it will require the veteran American politician to go the extra mile to put out the many fires his unorthodox predecessor has lit.

It is a fact that Joe Biden is no revolutionary statesman; in fact, he represents the status quo ante, a return to predictable American politics. However, after Mr Trump, one can say that a return to 'normal' may not be such a bad thing. On the home front, Mr Biden has to deal with a raging coronavirus pandemic, a floundering economy and a nation deeply divided along racial and ideological lines.

Overseas, he will have to steer American policy in a positive direction after Donald Trump provoked China as well as Iran. He will also have to coax America out of isolation mode and steer it towards reintegration into the global mainstream.

Within the US, the Trump era exposed racial tensions that had been bubbling under the surface for long and that exploded last summer during the Black Lives Matter protests, following the murder of George Floyd. Meanwhile, the attack on the US Capitol earlier this month by Trump supporters showed that the far right in the US is hardly a spent force, and has literally shaken the corridors of power. Therefore, ensuring racial justice and checking the mushroom growth of far-right white extremism must top Mr Biden's domestic agenda.

The Covid-19 pandemic also looms large over the US; the new president has already signed a raft of measures to deal with the crisis. Moreover, Mr Biden has reversed the so-called Muslim ban, while saying that the US was back in the Paris climate accord. On the foreign front, a number of issues await the new US leader's attention. These include the confrontation with China, whom Mr Trump accused of "ripping off" the US, setting in motion a steady decline in Sino-American relations. Mr Biden's predecessor also ripped up the Iran nuclear accord and at one point brought Washington and Tehran dangerously close to war.

Further, Mr Trump's mollycoddling of Israel destroyed any illusion of American neutrality in the Arab-Israeli dispute. All these foreign issues will test Mr Biden's mettle and require progressive thinking.

Dawn

The Highway of Hardships

Road widening between Srinagar to Jammu has caused disaster under the garb of development ?

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

It is not for the first time that Kashmir has gone through a harsh winter season with heavy snowfall. This has been a routine in the past. Kashmir valley and other upper reaches especially the Srinagar – Jammu highway around Pir Panjal mountain pass has always witnessed the heaviest snowfall. Commuters would get stranded for days together on this highway during the 1970's, 80's or 90's but if this highway gets closed for days and weeks in this 21st century we can call this a failure of the authorities especially the construction companies involved in 4-laning of this highway.

Only a few days back two young men from Kupwara namely Shabir Ahmad Mir, 24 and Gulzar Ahmad Mir, 27 died of hypothermia as they had been stranded on NH-44 across Banihal pass. The fresh snowfall on January 23rd led to closure of this highway for the 3rd time in the month of January. The duo had left for Jammu on 22nd January in their lorry (load carrier) from Kupwara but got stuck in the traffic jam amid fresh snowfall. This incident led to protests in Banihal town and people have been demanding black-listing the construction company which is indeed very much justified as several deadlines have been missed by the company. A rights activist from Kupwara Rasikh Rasool filed a complaint over these deaths before the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). He accused the Government for having failed to protect the lives of people travelling on NH-44 especially between Srinagar and Jammu.

If the Government has failed to make Srinagar Jammu a fair weather road even in year 2021, we can only equate this with official incompetence of the Government particularly the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) which is managing this whole show.

Messed up NH-44 in J&K

The National Highway number 44 or NH 44 is the longest-running major highway that connects North India with South Indian states. The highway passes through Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. NH 44 came into existence with the merger of seven national highways which included Srinagar -Jammu highway. This was earlier called NH-1A. The 300 Kms Srinagar Jammu section of NH-44 is in the worst condition for the last several years. In the past, the highway would get closed due to landslides and snow avalanches during winter months but now this road gets closed in summers as well soon after a mild rainfall. More than 6 years have lapsed since the 4 laning of this highway from Jammu to Srinagar was taken up but the project isn't getting completed. From Nashri to Banihal, we see only muck and dust on the highway and when it rains the highway becomes muddy. There are landslides at several places adding to miseries of people. Due to constant blasting by the engineers on the Ramban



-Banihal mountain area, the adjoining highway has been affected. Recently, a bridge along with adjacent road caved in near Kela more area of Ramban. This led to closure of the highway for a week or more until a Bailey bridge was erected at the site by Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

Several Deadlines Missed

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) which is the intending authority for the 4-laning of Srinagar -Jammu section of NH-44 last year revised the deadline for completing the work on two treacherous stretches. One is the 43-km-long Udhampur-Ramban section and the 36-km-long Ramban-Banihal section. The Udhampur-Ramban section was supposed to get completed by December 2019, but NHAI missed the deadline. Around last summer, the deadline was extended to December 2020 which again missed the target. From Ramban to Banihal it is expected to take another 1 or 2 years to complete four-laning work. The NHAI had fixed December 2021 as the deadline for the project but as we see the work going on at snail's pace with lots of challenges like caving in of the highway at many places; I am sure the December 2021 target won't be a reality as

Traveling between Srinagar and Jammu has become too risky now. People prefer to travel between Srinagar to Jammu by flight rather than going through a nightmare on this highway. The frequent closure of this road line is causing great economic losses as well

ADG Police (Traffic) recently said that it would take minimum 3 to 4 years to stabilize the highway.

Dumping of muck in Chenab

M/S Gammon India a noted infrastructure company has been allotted the work on Udhampur – Ramban section by NHAI. The company along with few other contractors have been accused of dumping muck inside the Chenab river. The company was also allegedly dumping muck in Devika river near Mouth Udhampur where it set up a stone crushing unit inside the river bed illegally. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) took serious notice of muck dumping inside Chenab river some years back. In a recent hearing of the case, the NGT castigated the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) which is the intending agency and construction company. NGT pulled up NHAI and the executing agency for dumping large quantities of muck into the Chenab river at several spots. NGT even directed the J&K Pollution Control Board (PCB) to take stringent measures in this regard as in past the PCB had shown a lukewarm attitude towards NHAI and the executing agency. NGT bench comprising chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel in his order issued around October 2020 year said that J&K Pollution Control Board (PCB) may proceed with the recovery of compensation for the damage and initiate prosecution against the violators of environmental norms following the due process of law. The case has now been listed on March 31st 2021. Nobody knows whether J&K Pollution Control Board (PCB) has recovered compensation from the construction company or not ?

1750 deaths in one decade

As per the data compiled by J&K Traffic Department in the last 10 years, the Srinagar-Jammu highway saw over 8,000 road accidents. There were around 1,750 deaths and more than 12,000 people having been injured in these road traffic accidents (RTAs) between years 2010 to 2020. The most dangerous stretch, on the Banihal to Nashri sector as discussed above, alone has seen more than 850 deaths in the RTAs. The

Director General of Police (ADGP) J&K Traffic, T Namgyal in a media report has attributed the highway accidents to the increasing volume of traffic and the rocky mountain terrain. The number of mishaps on Srinagar-Jammu highway (NH44) is not at all coming down. This is in fact increasing day by day. There is not even a single day when we don't hear about deaths and injuries happening on Srinagar Jammu highway especially in Banihal-Ramban -Nashri sector where the condition of the road is worst and landslides take place almost every week or sometimes every day. The mountains which have been blasted and drilled during the last few years seem to have become unstable.

Conclusion

Traveling between Srinagar and Jammu has become too risky now. People prefer to travel between Srinagar to Jammu by flight rather than going through a nightmare on this highway. The frequent closure of this road line is causing great economic losses as well. There is scarcity of essentials in the markets most of the time in winters. The essential items like poultry, mutton and fruits are sold at exorbitant rates in Srinagar soon after the highway gets closed. People with vested interests, especially the wholesale fruit dealers, mutton dealers, poultry merchants take undue advantage of the highway closure and they start hoarding essential items. Lastly, the construction work that has been going on for the last several years had a great environmental impact. Geologists and earth scientists say that the same cannot be compensated for many decades as mountains, forests, water bodies and rivers have been a great causality of this road widening project.

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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Internet and Education

Ever since the pandemic hit the world, no one has been spared from its direct or indirect effects. Schooling and pedagogy is one such area that saw a dynamic change, as a result of the measures that were taken by the world against the pandemic. Virtual lessons and online classes became the new norm. Kashmir has no different story to tell. Parents, students, and schools have their perceptions and apprehensions as is the case across the world.

Before the pandemic hit Kashmir, parents were already complaining about the overexposure of electronic gadgets and the internet on their children. Post pandemic, their worries increased as the internet and usage of digital devices became part of the schooling. They are skeptical about the productivity of online learning

and the effect this new way of learning will have on their wards.

Students have their side of the tale too. While the senior students are still adjusting to virtual learning, juniors, who just started their educational journey accept this as the only way of schooling. This may have its repercussions too when things become normal and toddlers return to the real classrooms. They will have to unlearn and relearn all over again the art of learning.

Senior students have their own challenges too. Shifting from a physical classroom to a simulated one and staring endlessly on their digital devices is not the optimal way of learning. Not to forget the internet speed in Kashmir, which deals the final blow in the entire online schooling process. Inaudible teachers, buffering videos

and non-interactive classes would be the last thing parents would wish for their children.

No doubt some schools went out of their way to make the new method of learning as positive as possible. They devised new processes and methods to ensure they keep their students engaged and the learning process continues. But there is a vast majority of schools that just passed the buck. As a result, the burden of teaching shifted on the parents. Parents had to arrange the electronic gadgets and foresee time to be present during the classes. They must also help with the homework, which many felt increased manifold in this mode of learning.

Long story short, post-pandemic, things have changed drastically. We can't deny the fact that the inter-

net plays a vital role in our day to day lives now. It has become a part of our schooling system too. But there is a constant fear about over usage of technology especially by the young ones.

Are we over-exposing our kids to the digital world? As a parent, it is a natural tendency to protect our children from all unforeseen situations but is that enough? Only fear and complaining won't do. Parents need to put some reasonable efforts into inculcating digital habits. If parents adopt productive internet habits, their wards will eventually copy and follow. As they say, Young ones imitate the elders.

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Should Women be Paid for Domestic work?

Priyanka Saurabh

“There is a clear and present need to recognize this work, but also to redistribute it. Household duties should be shared among members of a family

A report published in 2018 by the International Labor Organization shows that, globally, women make up 76.2% of the total hours of home care work, three times more than men. In Asia and the Pacific, this figure rises to 80%. The women's movement in North America and Europe has raised wage demands for homework. Along with other demands for social and political equality, women's rights campaigners have now campaigned for the legally demanding work of home women and everyday tasks of childcare. In doing so, she challenged the notion that homework was rooted in the essential nature of women.

For pioneering women rights activists of the 1960s and 1970s, it was important to break the myth that women's work at home was an unconditional personal service of capitalist production. Women's cooking, cleaning, washing, ironing The labor force on clothes, lunch boxes is equal to the daily consumption in a shop or assembly line. By providing free services at home, women were prevented from seeing what they saw as 'real work' or social contract. Our society has quietly decided that domestic chores belong to the field of women's responsibilities and activities. It has also determined that this work will not bear any economic value. But why should this happen?

Why should domestic work and farm labor done by women not be accepted in India's socio-economic policy framework? The government is making gender discrimination by not measuring the role of women in making the country's gross domestic product (GDP). The Census of India places household chores in a non-working population with beggars and students. The number of non-working population in the census 2011 was 728.9 million. The official definition states that these are people who did not work of any nature in any time period. Of these 165.6 million people were the main "discharge of domestic responsibilities", they are mostly 96.5 percent or 159.9 million women.

There is a clear and present need to recognize this work, but also to redi-



tribute it. Household duties should be shared among members of a family. The study, published in 2011 in the journal Mountain Research and Development, entitled "Women in the Contribution to Household Food and Economic Security, reported that women in the mountain region" did no work ". However, when analyzing their activities, it was observed that when the men of the area worked an average of nine hours, the women worked for 16 hours.

There is a discussion among women thinkers as to what the pay of women will actually be. Sociologist Ann Oakley, who studied the history of homework in her path-breaking books published in the 1970s, said that 'wages for the home' only imprisons women within the home, increasing their social isolation. The goal of the women's movement should not be to ask for wages, but to keep women away from regular household chores and to enable them to participate fully in all spheres

of social life, including paid employment outside the home.

The debate over monetary remuneration for homework has remained unresolved within the women's movement, with tools for measuring the value attaching women's unpaid work in national economies become more sophisticated. These tasks that are part of the responsibility of women that maintain human life and reproduce the labor force are suppressed as usual. It is noteworthy that an important campaign is going on in India on the question of domestic labor. These are mainly women who do 'women's work', but in other people's homes. They demand that their conditions be defined, the minimum wage guaranteed, and the status and rights of workers protected. The demand for homework to be recognized by the state is important.

The question of how and how to measure the value of house tax has received serious attention from wom-

en domestic workers and their trade unions in Tamil Nadu and elsewhere. Their demands include an hourly minimum wage, a weekly day off, an annual bonus, and protection of their physical autonomy in the workplace. This is an agenda that all parties can and cannot just include in their election manifesto, but can strengthen them politically by recognizing them and taking the mandate of homework seriously.

If domestic workers emerge as a strong force, succeed in finding the dignity of homework, making it a valuable form of labor, it can be a good thing for all women who have done long-term homework.

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

The author is a research scholar, poetess and a freelance journalist

Dangerous not Indispensable

Why the covid-19 variants are so dangerous and how to stop them from spreading

Michael Plank and Shaun Hendy

With new, more infectious variants of COVID-19 detected around the world, and at New Zealand's border, the risk of further level 3 or 4 lockdowns is increased if those viruses get into the community.

These include a variant called B.1.1.7 that has spread very quickly within the UK, with other new variants now observed in South Africa and Brazil.

Changes in the genetic code of viruses like COVID-19 occur all the time but most of these mutations don't have any effect on how the disease spreads or its severity.

These changes can be useful because they leave a signature in the virus's genetic code that allows us to trace how the virus has spread from one person to another.

But the new variant detected in the UK is more transmissible than the original virus that was dominant in 2020. That means it spreads more easily from one person to another.

The good news is it does not cause more severe illness or have a higher fatality rate than the original variant. Evidence so far suggests vaccines will still be effective against it.

But the bad news is because it spreads more easily, it has the potential to infect many more people, causing more hospitalisations and deaths as a result.

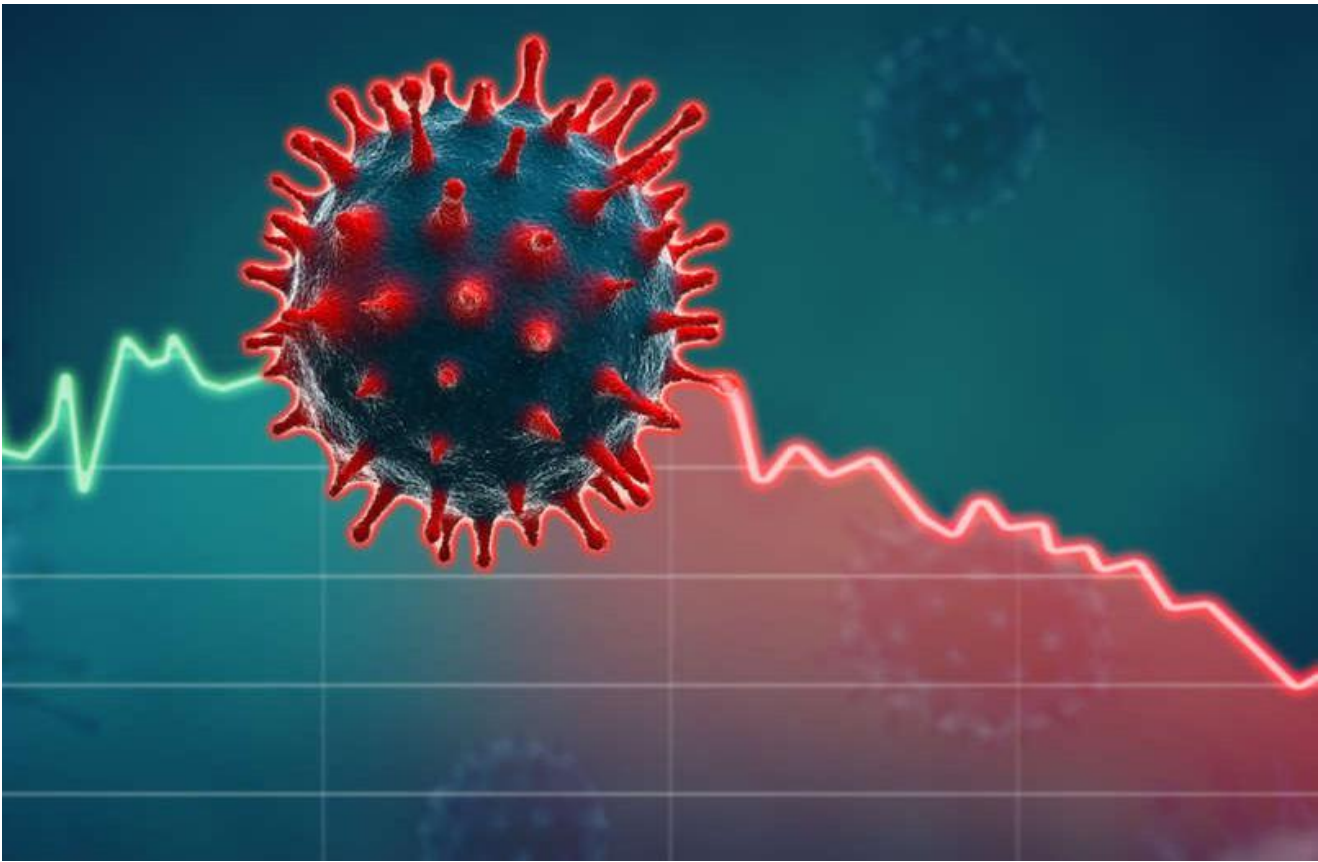
Why variants that spread more easily are so dangerous

The average number of people an infected person with COVID-19 passes the virus on to — the so-called R number — is 40%-70% higher with B.1.1.7 than the original variant.

A variant like B.1.1.7 with a higher transmission rate is actually more dangerous than one with a higher fatality rate.

Sure, a 50% increase in the fatality rate would cause 50% more deaths. But because of exponential growth, a 50% increase in transmissibility causes 25 times more cases in just a couple of months if left unchecked.

That would lead to 25 times more deaths at the original mortality rate.



“If we had a similar outbreak with the new variant, R could be 50% higher which would mean it is above 1. In other words, we would likely need to use alert level 4 to contain an outbreak, and it might take longer to eliminate the virus than it has previously

How do we know the new variant is more transmissible?

The number of cases of the B.1.1.7 variant has risen rapidly relative to the original variant.

This can happen for a number of reasons. The new variant might simply happen to be present in a part of the country or group of people who are spreading the

virus more rapidly for some other reason.

It could have become resistant to immunity, meaning it could more easily re-infect people who have already had COVID-19. Or it might cause people to become infectious more quickly.

Researchers in the UK used mathematical models to test these hypotheses. They found the explanation that

fitted best with the data was that the new variant really is more transmissible. And they estimated a person with the new variant infects 56% more people on average than a person with the original variant.

Contact tracing data from the UK also showed more of the close contacts of someone with the new variant go on to be

infected.

Patients with the new variant have also been found to carry more of the virus. Together, this provides strong evidence the B.1.1.7 variant is between 40% and 70% more transmissible than the original variant.

The variants found in South Africa and Brazil share some of the same mutations as the B.1.1.7 variant. There is some evidence they may also be more transmissible or better able to evade immunity.

But there is more uncertainty about these variants, partly because the data quality isn't as high as in the UK, which is very good at doing genome sequencing.

How can we manage the risk?

The new variants spread in the same way as the original one: through close contacts between people, especially in crowded or poorly ventilated environments.

This means all the tools we have developed to fight the virus will still work. These include testing, contact tracing, masks and physical distancing.

But any variant that is more transmissible has a higher R number. To control an outbreak, we need to bring the R number under 1 and so we may need to use more of these tools to achieve this.

For example, in the Auckland outbreak in August 2020, alert level 3 was enough to contain and eventually eliminate the outbreak. Our analysis showed alert level 3 reduced R to about 0.7.

If we had a similar outbreak with the new variant, R could be 50% higher which would mean it is above 1. In other words, we would likely need to use alert level 4 to contain an outbreak, and it might take longer to eliminate the virus than it has previously.

To give our contact tracers the best possible chance of containing a new outbreak without needing alert level 3 or 4, we all need to do our bit. This means looking for QR codes when out about and using the app to scan them, as well as turning on Bluetooth. And it means staying at home and getting tested if you feel sick.

The Conversation

New drug combination may help treat acute myeloid leukemia

Agencies

Researchers have identified two drugs that are potent against acute myeloid leukemia (AML) when combined, but only weakly effective when used alone. The research team was able to significantly enhance cancer cell death by jointly administering the drugs that are only partially effective when used as single-agent therapies. "Our study shows that two types of drugs, MDM2 inhibitors and BET inhibitors, work synergistically to promote significant anti-leukemia activity," said researcher Peter Adams, Professor at the Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute in the US. "The results were surprising because previous research had shown that each drug on its own had modest benefit against AML. The new research provides scientific rationale to advance clinical studies of the drug combination in patients with AML," Adams added in the study published in the journal Nature Communications.



There are many types of AML, and different cases have different chromosome changes, gene mutations and epigenetic modifications, making it difficult for researchers to find novel therapies that will work for a substantial proportion of patients. Although much progress has been made toward finding effective treatments in recent years, the long-term overall survival has stagnated. According to the American Cancer Society,

the five-year survival rate for adults with AML remains less than 30 per cent. Notably, TP53, the most frequently mutated gene in all human cancers, is found unaltered in about 90 per cent of AML patients, the researchers said. Since the product of the TP53 gene, p53, acts to suppress tumours, scientists have sought drugs that reactivate or boost its anti-cancer powers in AML, which should provide a clinical benefit. However, such drugs on their own, have been disappointing in AML. "We were interested in combining MDM2 and BET inhibitors because each showed encouraging pre-clinical activity, but limited activity when given to patients as a single agent," said Adams. "Our research unexpectedly showed that like MDM2 inhibitors, BET inhibitors activate p53, but through a different pathway. BET inhibitors mute the power of a protein called BRD4, which we found is a p53 suppressor in AML," Adams added.

Herbal Beauty Tips



Shahnaz Husain

How to identify good natural coconut oil? Shahnaz Husain (SH)- Pure natural coconut oil should taste and smell of fresh coconut. It should be white in colour. Check if it is cold-pressed, since nowadays cold-pressed oils are available. Pure or Organic should be written on the label. It should be of a reputed company.

Which oil is good for oily hair and how

water. Mix honey and lemon juice in equal quantities and apply daily ONLY on the dark patches. Wash off after 15 minutes with plain water. Twice a week, apply face mask. Mix 2 teaspoons oats with one teaspoon each of ground almonds, honey, curd and lemon juice, or egg white; apply on the entire face, avoiding the lips and area around eyes. Wash it off after half an hour.

Natural face pack for open pores solution? SH- Mix multani mitti with rose water into a paste and apply on the areas with open pores twice a week. Wash off when it is dry. Or, mix oats with egg white and apply on the areas with open pores twice a week. Wash off when it is dry.

Which kitchen ingredients is not good for oily skin like honey, coconut oil etc? SH- Oils are not good for oily skin, like coconut oil or any pressed oil. They can clog the pores of the skin and lead to acne. Milk or cream of milk should not be applied on oily

ends and even hair loss. For working women air conditioners harm their skin and hair both, how to protect them from natural ingredients? SH- Moisturisers should be applied in the morning, so that the skin is protected from the drying effects of air-conditioners. Aloe vera gel can also be applied daily, at any time, washing off with plain water after 20 minutes. It moisturises and softens the skin. For the hair, very little hair serum should be smoothed on, as it helps to protect the hair. Or, take a few drops of olive oil, spread over palms and smooth over the hair. Take hot oil treatments. Twice a week heat pure coconut oil and apply on the hair. Then dip a towel in hot water, squeeze out the water and wrap the hot towel around the head, like a turban. Keep it on for 5 minutes. Repeat the hot towel wrap 3 or 4 times. This helps the hair and scalp absorb the oil better. Use a mild herbal shampoo. Use less shampoo and rinse well with water.



much? SH- Oil should not be applied on oily hair. However, if there is sticky dandruff, heat pure olive oil and apply on the scalp, using cotton wool and rubbing gently to dislodge the flakes. During winter, if the hair is dry and scalp oily, olive oil or sesame seed (til) oil may be applied.

Natural ingredients to prevent men baldness?

SH- Herbal ingredients like trifala, amla, brahmi and bhringaraj are useful on the scalp, using cotton wool to check hair loss. However, in male pattern baldness, it is better to consult a trichologist (hair specialist) or doctor, as hormonal and hereditary factors are involved.

Natural remedies for flyaway hair?

SH- If there is fly-away hair, mainly due to static, just wet palms slightly and smooth them over the hair. This controls the fly-away look. A few drops of hair serum, or few drops of oil may also be spread on the palms and smoothened over the hair, to make them look settled and manageable.

Which home remedies should be used for dark brown pigmentation on skin?

SH- For dark brown patches on skin, apply a sunscreen with high SPF before going out in the sun. Mix rice powder with curd and use as a facial scrub once or twice a week. Apply ONLY on the dark patches and rub gently on the skin with tiny circular movements. Leave on for a few minutes and then wash off with

skin.

Natural ingredients to treat facial hair?

SH- Home remedies do not remove facial hair. But, they are said to lessen facial hair growth if used regularly over a period of time. Make a thick paste of sugar, lemon juice and water and apply it in the direction of hair growth. Wash off when it dries. Apply it once or twice a week.

Apply a paste of turmeric powder and milk and rub this on the skin with a circular motion. It is said to discourage facial hair, but it may leave a slight yellowish colour on the skin.

Natural packs for under arm darkness and why it happens?

SH- Under-arm darkness can occur due to shaving, use of hair removing creams, direct application of deodorants on the skin, or hereditary factors. The normal sugar and lemon mixture used for waxing would lighten skin colour over a period of time. Mix gram flour (besan) with curd, lemon juice and a little turmeric (haldi) into a paste. Apply on the areas under the arms thrice a week and wash it off after half an hour.

What are Side effects of eye liner, hair colour?

SH- If there is lead in the eye-liner, it can lead to allergies, itching or irritation. Hair dye can also cause allergies, as well as pigmentation or discolouration of the skin. It can also lead to dry hair, hair breakage, split

Which natural ingredients can be used for hair and skin as daily routine?

SH- I condition my hair with henna once a week. Curd, oil, cat-echu (kathha) and 12 eggs are mixed with the henna paste. No water is added. The hair is fed by the nutrients in the blood stream, so I take a small bowl of sprouts daily. I also use a herbal hair tonic, which contains trifala.

Which kitchen ingredients is used to treat and prevent acne and pimples?

SH- Pimples and acne occur on oily skin. So astringents are needed to reduce oiliness. Cucumber has an astringent effect. Apply cucumber juice by itself on the face and wash it off with plain water after 15 minutes. Or, mix cucumber juice with a little rose water, for an astringent-toner. Green tea works well as an astringent toner. Soak green tea leaves or a tea bag in hot water for half an hour. Cool and strain and use the liquid on the skin. Sandalwood paste can be applied on the pimples, acne and boils. Tulsi leaves and pudina (mint) leaves can be used. Boil a handful of leaves on a very low fire in 4 cups of water for one hour. Leave it overnight. Next morning, strain the water and make a paste of the leaves. Apply it on areas with pimples and rash. The water can be used for rinsing the area.

The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called herbal queen of India

Unior Territory of Jammu And Kashmir

Office of the Chief Engineer J&K Urban Environmental Engineering Department

(Camp Jammu)

CIRCULAR

Subject: Tentative Seniority List of Ministerial Staff (Head Assistant/ Senior Assistant/ Junior Assistant/ Orderlies) Of J&K UEED

Whereas a Tentative Seniority List for Ministerial Staff of J&K UEED was issued vide this office No: CE/UEED/1461-78 Dated: 22.09.2008, as it stood on 01.04.2003 which has not been finalized. Whereas another tentative list was issued by Superintending Engineer UEED Circle 2nd Srinagar vide his No: SE-II/641-42 dated: 24-10-2016 as it stood on 08-12-2011 / 09-12-2011 which again has not been finalized. Whereas some of the employees appearing in these lists have been transferred from the department (as a matter of devolution) to other offices like JMC/SMC etc wherefrom they have reportedly taken their seniority and promotions. Whereas a seniority list of those employees who have continued to be in this department needs to be finalized and issued. Now in order to have a final seniority list of those employees who have been on the establishment of J&K UEED post devolution, the seniority list in respect of these employees is re-cast as below for invitation of objections if any for finalization of the list as it stood on 09.12.2011.

S. No	Name of Official	Designation	Date of birth	Date of 1 st appointment	Date of promotion to the present post	Place of posting as on 30-06-2005	Remarks
1	Mr. P. K. Dhar	Section Officer	27.04.1945	17.02.1962	07.09.2001	-	Retired on 30.04.2003
2	Mr. Gh. Jeelani Bazaz	Head Assistant	28.03.1948	04.01.1965	27.03.1997	Direction Office	Retired on 31.03.2006
3	Mr. I. A. Shawi	Senior Assistant	03-12-1951	18.07.1972	12.05.2003	S&D Division 1 st	Retired on 31.12.2009
4	Mr. Noor Mohammad Bhat	-do-	29.07.1948	20.08.1973	01.05.1981	Direction Office	Retired on 31.07.2006
5	Mr. Nazir Ahmad Ganie	-do-	15.08.1950	13.02.1974	27.03.1997	Direction Office	Retired on 31.08.2008
6	Mr. Atta Mohammad Bhat	-do-	04.06.1953	20.09.1978	27.03.1997	S&D Division 1 st	Retired on 30.06.2011
7	Mr. Mohammad Ashraf	-do-	30.05.1960	31.07.1978	27.03.1997	Direction Office	Expired on 26.02.2011
8	Mr. Gul Mohammad Parnoo	-do-	13.04.1956	07.10.1978	27.03.1997	Direction Office	Retired on 30.04.2014
9	Mr. Gh. Mohammad Ahangar	-do-	04.04.1958	11.08.1980	27.03.1997	Direction Office	Retired on 30.04.2018
10	Mrs. Naseema Bano	Junior Assistant	15.01.1958	30.09.1981	30.09.1981	Direction Office	
11	Mrs. Amina Bano	-do-	02.03.1960	30.09.1981	30.09.1981	S&D Division 1 st	Retired on 31.03.2020
12	Mrs. Kaki Bandyaj	-do-	15.05.1959	07.11.1981	07.11.1981	Direction Office	
13	Mr. Gowhar Ahmad Qadri	Junior Assistant	01.10.1962	12.05.1981	13.11.1982	S&D Division 1 st	
14	Mr. Farooq Ahmad Hakhroo	-do-	02.03.1963	09.12.1986	09.12.1986	S&D Division 1 st	
15	Mrs. Nigeena Parveen	-do-	04.04.1963	09.12.1986	09.12.1986	S&D Division 1 st	Expired on 18.10.2016
16	Mr. Nazir Ahmad Bhat	-do-	02-06-1959	16-06-1989	16-06-1989	S&D Division 1 st	Retired on 30-06-2019
17	Mr. Gh. Nabi Hakeem	-do-	06.02.1950	01.08.1979	01.01.1991	Direction Office	Retired on 29.02.2008
18	Mr. Gh. Mohammad Rather	-do-	01.12.1958	12.12.1979	01.01.1991	S&D Division 1st	Retired on 31.12.2018
19	Mrs. Neelofar Jan	-do-	11.03.1959	24.12.1991	24.12.1991	S&D division 1 st	Retired on 31.03.2019
20	Mr. M. Ibrahim Dar	-do-	23.01.1956	19.08.1983	27.03.1997	Direction Office	Retired on 31.01.2014
21	Mr. Nasir Hussain Bhat	-do-	10.01.1973	11.06.1997	11.06.1997	Direction Office	
22	Mr. Ab. Hamid Khan	-do-	11.09.1958	21.07.1979	05.07.1997	Direction Office	Retired on 30.09.2018
23	Mr. Noor Mohammad Bhat	-do-	05.12.1958	01.06.1985	05.07.1997	S&D Division 1 st	Retired on 31.12.2018
24	Mrs. Rifat Ara	-do-	13.01.1958	09.09.1988	30.07.1997	S&D Division 1 st	Retired on 31.01.2018
25	Mrs. Shakela Bano	-do-	21-06-1970	22-07-2002	22-07-2002	Direction Office	
26	Mrs. Mahjabeen	-do-	15.06.1970	24.05.2003	24.05.2003	Direction office	
28	Mr. Shafat Ahmad	-do-	01.01.1960	25.11.1982	-	-do-	Retired on 31.12.2019
29	Mohd. Shafi Dar	-do-	01.02.1961	25.11.1982	-	-do-	
30	Abdul Salam Sofi	Orderly	04.01.1969	11.01.1988	-	-do-	
31	Gh. Nabi Ganie	-do-	10.06.1960	25.05.1989	-	-do-	Retired on 30.06.2020
32	Zahoor Ahmad Dar	-do-	05.12.1971	01.08.1989	-	-do-	
33	Ab. Rehman Dar	-do-	17.09.1960	16.08.1990	-	Direction office	Retired on 30.09.2020
34	Pir Mir Qasim	-do-	01.05.1960	01.11.1991	-	-do-	Retired on 30.05.2020
35	Habib ullah Shalla	-do-	30.01.1958	05.03.1992	-	-do-	Retired on 30.01.2018
36	Altaf Hussain	-do-	02.03.1972	16.07.1996	-	Direction office S&D Division 1 st	
37	Gh. Hassan Sofi	-do-	14.04.1969	27.03.1997	-	-do-	
38	Mrs. Yasmeena Akhtar	-do-	05.05.1972	14.08.1997	-	Direction Office	Placed as I/c Junior Assistant on 09-12-2011
39	Mrs. Neelofar Nabi	-do-	01.01.1980	14.08.1997	-	S&D Division 1 st	
40	Mohd. Ayoub Mir	-do-	03.02.1968	16.08.1997	-	Direction office	Placed as I/c Junior Assistant on 09-12-2011
41	Bashir Ahmad Rather	-do-	01.03.1972	16.08.1997	-	S&D Division 1 st	
42	Manzoor Ahmad Naiko	-do-	01.04.1994	18.08.1997	-	-do-	
43	Mrs. Afroza	-do-	05.08.1972	18.08.1997	-	-do-	
44	Bashir Ahmad Sheikh	-do-	01.10.1966	18.08.1997	-	-do-	
45	Tariq Ahmad Bhat	-do-	17.02.1978	18.08.1997	-	-do-	Placed as I/c Junior Assistant on 09-12-2011
46	Bilal Ahmad Bhat	-do-	16.02.1979	18.08.1997	-	S&D Division 1 st	Placed as I/c Junior Assistant on 09-12-2011
47	Gh. Mohd Wani	-do-	01.05.1965	01.09.1997	-	Direction office	
48	Mrs Firdoosa Akhter	-do-	06.05.1972	22.09.2004	-	S&D Division 1 st	
49	Dildar Mohd Wani	-do-	01.01.1986	30.07.2011	-	Direction office	

Objections if any from anyone concerned should reach the office of the undersigned alongwith documentary evidence in support of their claim within a period of 15 days from the day this circular is published in print media. Moreover all the concerned officials are required to submit a copy of the order by virtue of which they have been placed to the post reflected against them alongwith attested copies of qualification and Date of Birth certificate.

No: CE/UEED/Estt/CJ/2416

Dated: 23-01-2021

DIPK-12121/20

(Basharat J Kawoosa)

Chief Engineer J&K U.E.E.D Department

Camp Jammu

Sensex Tumbles 531 Pts; Energy, IT Stocks Play Spoilsport



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The BSE benchmark Sensex dived nearly 531 points to close at 48,348 on Monday, prolonging its losing streak to the third straight session, weighed down by massive selling particularly in energy and IT stocks.

After swinging nearly 1,000 points during the session, the BSE benchmark settled with a loss of 530.95 points or 1.09 per cent at 48,347.59.

The 30-share index opened over 375 points higher and hit the day's high of 49,263.15 before succumbing to selling pressure that took the index to the session's lowest point at 48,274.92.

Likewise, the NSE gauge Nifty plunged 133 points or 0.93 per cent to end the session at 14,238.90.

On the Sensex chart, Reliance Industries fell 5.36 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, HCL Tech, Asian Paints, UltraTech Cement and PowerGrid

dropping as much as 4.72 per cent.

Of the Sensex constituents, 21 closed in the red and only 9 in the green.

Among the gainers were Axis Bank, Sun Pharma, Bajaj Auto, Bajaj FinServ, HDFC Bank and Dr Reddy's.

Analysts are of the view that markets may remain volatile in this holiday-shortened week amid monthly derivatives expiry, quarterly earnings and the upcoming Union Budget.

Indian equity markets will remain closed on Tuesday for the Republic Day.

Asian shares closed higher on Monday.

On the forex front, the rupee ended 3 paise higher at 72.94 against the US dollar.

Meanwhile, Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 0.56 per cent higher at USD 55.69 per barrel on Monday.

Jammu, Valley Get New Projects Under PMFME Scheme

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Horticulture, Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department, Navin K Choudhary, Monday conducted review meetings to assess progress on Prime Minister's Formalization of Micro Food Enterprises (PMFME) scheme besides taking stock of disbursement of Agriculture Infrastructure Development Fund (AIDF).

It was briefed that, under PM FME, 17 new and 14 up gradation projects have been identified by Horticulture Department Jammu while these projects for Horticulture Department Kashmir stand at 19 and 10 respectively. In addition, Agriculture Department Jammu has identified 50 new and 15 up gradation projects while their counterparts from Kashmir have identified 5 and 40 projects respectively. The Horticulture P&M J&K has taken up 59 new projects while 57 existing projects have been identified for upgrade.

Choudhary stressed that the purview of 'One District One Product' could be relaxed in case any entrepreneur from adjoining districts also wanted to collaborate with the others to boost production and marketing of any of the identified products. He also directed the directors of agriculture and horticulture departments to identify 2 'Master Trainers' each, for both regions of the Union Territory.

The Principal Secretary asked for holding a district level meeting between the Deputy Commissioners, Area Marketing Officers and respective officers within the next three days. He also directed prompt uploading of well formatted project reports and directed HoDs to form a three-member committee to go through each project report and cross check all details therein.

Principal Secretary stressed that the schemes have been for-

mulated for promotion of food processing and allied activities and asked the departments to highlight the schemes through the media. He also called for setting up cold storages and milk chilling plants in Jammu region.

Meanwhile, setting up of new infrastructure and transfer of existing infrastructure between various departments and government bodies was also discussed in the meeting.

Principal Secretary also took stock of upcoming incubation centres, two each at Jammu and Kashmir regions, for the benefit of upcoming enterprises.

Pertinently, the PM FME is aimed at establishing Micro Food Processing Industries at Micro/Village level through individuals, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Cooperatives and Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs). Under the programme, 35 per cent subsidy/capital support with a ceiling of Rs 10 lakh is being provided to the beneficiaries. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India has indicated a target of 1537 units under ODOP for a period of five years for J&K.

Later, Principal Secretary had a detailed review regarding disbursement of loans under AIDF which has been approved by the central government to facilitate formal credit to farm and farm processing-based activities which in return will create several job opportunities in rural areas.

Registrar J&K Cooperatives Societies Jammu; Director Agriculture Jammu; Director Horticulture Jammu; Director Horticulture P&M, J&K; Mission Director, JKHPMC Limited; Deputy General Manager NABARD besides Chief Agriculture Officers, Chief Horticulture Officers and various senior officers participated in the meeting while their counterparts from Kashmir participated through video conference.



As Covid Ravaged World, Billionaires Got Richer By \$3.9 Trillion: Oxfam

Agencies

The coronavirus pandemic has worsened income inequality, with the world's richest people regaining their losses while the number of people living in poverty has doubled to more than 500 million, non-profit group Oxfam said on Monday.

According to a report by Reuters, the report titled 'The Inequality Virus', which is to be tabled at the Davos summit in Switzerland, stated that the richest people have already managed to recoup the losses they recorded in the early days of the pandemic because of the bounce back in stock markets.

Using figures from Forbes' 2020 Billionaire List, Oxfam said the world's 10 richest people, including the likes of Jeff Bezos, Elon Musk, Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg and Warren Buffett, saw their fortunes increase by \$540 billion since the crisis began even though the global economy remains smaller than when the pandemic started a year ago.

"Worldwide, billionaires' wealth increased by a staggering \$3.9 trillion between March 18 and December 31, 2020... The

world's 10 richest billionaires have seen their wealth increase by \$540 billion over this period," the report said.

"At the same time, the pandemic saw hundreds of millions of people lose their jobs and face destitution and hunger... It is estimated that the total number of people living in poverty could have increased by between 200 million and 500 million," it added.

Meanwhile, using data specially provided by the World Bank, Oxfam said that in a worst-case scenario global poverty levels would be higher in 2030 than they were before the pandemic struck, with 3.4 billion people still living on less than \$5.50 a day.

By contrast, Oxfam said it could take more than a decade for the world's poorest to recover their losses. "Rigged economies are funneling wealth to a rich elite who are riding out the pandemic in luxury, while those on the frontline of the pandemic - shop assistants, healthcare workers, and market vendors - are struggling to pay the bills and put food on the table," said Gabriela Bucher, executive director of Oxfam International.

The pandemic marks a "piv-

otal" point which has exposed economic disparities and built support for "transformative" policies, Oxfam said, calling for higher taxes on wealth and corporations alongside stronger protections for workers.

While urging governments to ensure that everyone has access to a coronavirus vaccine and financial support if they lose their job, Bucher said policies in a post-coronavirus world should focus on ending poverty and protecting the planet.

"They must invest in public services and low carbon sectors to create millions of new jobs and ensure everyone has access to a decent education, health, and social care, and they must ensure the richest individuals and corporations contribute their fair share of tax to pay for it," she said.

"These measures must not be band-aid solutions for desperate times but a 'new normal' in economies that work for the benefit of all people, not just the privileged few," she added.

Oxfam has traditionally sought to inspire debate at the World Economic Forum's annual gathering of business and political elites in the Swiss ski resort of Davos.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE PANDEMIC SAW HUNDREDS OF millions of people lose their jobs and face destitution and hunger... It is estimated that the total number of people living in poverty could have increased by between 200 million and 500 million,"

RBI Refutes Reports Of Withdrawal Of Old Rs 100, Rs 10, Rs 5 Notes

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday refuted reports of withdrawal of old series of Rs 100, Rs 10 and Rs 5 currency notes.

"With regard to reports in certain sections of media on withdrawal of old series of Rs 100, Rs 10 & Rs 5 banknotes from circulation in near future, it is clarified that such reports are incorrect," the RBI said in a tweet.

While announcing the issuance of new Rs 100 denomination banknotes with base colour Lavender in July 2018, RBI had



said banknotes in the denomination of Rs 100 issued by it in the

earlier series will continue to be legal tender. — PTI

J&K Govt To Esb Jan Aushadi, AMRIT Stores Everywhere

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Financial Commissioner Health & Medical Education, Atal Dulloo today convened a meeting of all the concerned to review the establishment of low price Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadi Kendra and AMRIT (Affordable Medicines & Reliable Implants for Treatment) Pharmacies across J&K.

Dulloo asked the concerned to establish these low price medical stores wherever they are scheduled to be established. He urged them to make all medicines and implants available at these stores.

The meeting was attended by Dr Shashi Sudhan Sharma, Principal Government Medical College, Jammu; Dr Renu Sharma, Director Health Services, Jammu; Satvir Kour Sudan, DG Planning (H&ME), Lotika Khajuria, State Drug Controller; Project Coordinators of Jan Aushadi and AMRIT Pharmacies, and other Medical Superintendents and health officers.

Dr Samia Rashid, Principal GMC, Srinagar, Dr Samir Mattoo, Director Health Services, Kashmir, Principals of other Medical Colleges and Chief Medical Officers and Medical Superintendents of Kashmir division based hospitals participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

The FC asked the officers about the working and demand of medicines from these stores wherever they are functional. He asked them to provide the list of stores not performing well so that the problems faced by each of them are addressed preferentially.

Dulloo directed the officers to expedite the establishment of 32 more identified centres in Kashmir division and make them functional before the end of February. Similarly he asked them to make 42 stores

of Jammu division functional before the end of March.

The FC further asked them that these stores provide affordable medicines therefore happens to be life-giving to poor patients. He advised them to explore the possibility of establishing these stores in all the major hospitals including GMCs and District Hospitals at an earliest so that all the patients get benefitted.

Dulloo also directed to look for ways and means to make all medicines and surgical implants available at these stores at prices lower than the market. He desired that people should look for these stores and ask for them. He asked them to resolve the grievances regarding unavailability of certain medicines or implants forthwith and make everything available readily as prescribed by the medicos.

The FC was informed that Jan Aushadi Kendras provides affordable medicines at a reduced cost of about 50-70% providing around 625 drug molecules. It was further informed that 90 kendras are currently functional and 75 more in offing across J&K.

It was given in the meeting that these stores operate on profit margin of 20% only sharing 5% to hospital development fund by the registered pharmacists selected by the committee. Bureau of Pharma Public Sector Undertakings of India (BPPI) shall provide one time financial assistance upto Rs 2.50 lakh to the kendras run by government, the meeting was informed.

The meeting revealed that from April, 2019 till date drugs worth Rs 17.82 crore has been dispensed to approximately 1,35,000 patients through these stores.

The meeting revealed that under AMRIT more than 5200 drugs, implants, surgical disposables and consumables are available at a discount up to a range of 50% on Maximum Retail Price.

Oman Bars Expats From Certain Jobs Amid Economic Downturn

Agencies

Oman announced on Sunday it will bar expatriates from certain jobs in an effort to create more employment opportunities for its citizens amid an economic downturn.

In a region that depends heavily on cheap foreign labour, expats in the sultanate make up about 40% of the country's 4.5 million-strong population.

Faced with an economic slump and a sharp drop in oil revenues, Oman, and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states have stepped up efforts to create jobs for their own citizens.

"A number of jobs in the private sector will be nationalized," the Omani labour ministry announced on Twitter on Sunday.

It added the work permits of foreigners in those professions will not be renewed after their expiry date.

Various jobs in insurance companies, shops, and car dealerships, including finance, commercial and administrative positions, will be "limited to Omanis only," the ministry said.

Work as a driver, "no matter what the vehicle," will also be reserved for citizens, it added.

In April 2020, Oman ordered



state-owned companies to accelerate the process of replacing foreign staff with Omani nationals, especially in senior positions, to create more jobs for citizens.

The finance ministry at the time said large numbers of expatriates still occupied managerial posts in state-run firms.

Since 2014, the oil-rich Gulf region has been hit hard by falling crude prices, suffering a new blow amid the global economic impact of the novel coronavirus pandemic.

Oman and fellow GCC states Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, and Bahrain have sought to diversify their economies and integrate millions of new graduates into their workforces.

All have introduced legislation to give nationals preference over foreigners in both the public and private sectors.

More than 25 million foreigners live in the Gulf, making up the majority of the populations in the UAE, Qatar and Kuwait.

NEWS MAKERS

UK Retailer Debenhams Shuts All Stores, Around 12,000 Jobs Lost

LONDON: UK department store chain Debenhams is to shut all its outlets, administrators for the collapsed group said Monday, with the loss of around 12,000 jobs.

Debenhams, which has long struggled with fierce online competition, will see its brand live on however after British online fashion group Boohoo bought the group's intellectual property assets.

Debenhams collapsed last month, having struggled to adapt from a bricks-and-mortar business long before the coronavirus pandemic forced shoppers online.

Its stores will reopen following the lifting of the UK lockdown to liquidate stock, administrators FRP Advisory, brought in to salvage parts of the business, said in a statement Monday.

"Once Debenhams stores are able



to reopen and the stock liquidation can continue in stores, the website will be operated by Boohoo.

"The closing down sale will continue in stores for several weeks until the stock liquidation is completed and the value of this stock

will be retained for creditors.

"Regrettably, all the UK stores will then be permanently closed," the statement added.

A source close to the company told AFP this meant that around 12,000 jobs would disappear.

Debenhams, whose history dates back to the late eighteenth century, had hoped to sell some of its 124 stores, whose staff have been paid by the British government's furlough scheme during the pandemic.

It is unclear whether British retail group Frasers, which has been in talks with the administrators, will still snap up some Debenhams stores.

Frasers is headed by Mike Ashley, owner of English Premier League football club Newcastle United and renowned for purchasing major retailers that have fallen from great heights.

Boohoo has meanwhile acquired Debenhams' assets, including customer data.

The cost of the deal is GBP 55 million (\$75 million, 62 million euros), Boohoo said in a separate statement.

Ito Assumes Charge As Dir Tourism

SRINAGAR: Dr. Ghulam Nabi Ito today took over as the Director, Tourism, Kashmir today. Dr G N Ito was earlier posted as District Development Commissioner Baramulla.

Soon after taking over, Dr. Ito convened a brief introductory meeting with the officers and officials of the tourism department and urged them to work with zeal for the promotion of tourism.

While interacting with employees of the Department, Director Tourism Kashmir said tourism is one of the important sectors of the JK's economy which generates a huge number of employment and needs to be promoted vigorously.

He said he would provide all out support to his team of officers and employees in highlighting JK's tourism potential within and outside the country.

He exhorted the officers to work relentlessly and ensure tourists visiting Kashmir leave with happy memories so that the



visitors become the ambassador of JK.

Outgoing Director Tourism, Nisar Ahmad Wani who has been posted as Managing Director, JKTDC on the occasion thanked the subordinate officers and staff for the support and cooperation in running the affairs of the Department.

LG Visits District Jail Jammu, Attends Cultural Evening With Inmates

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Jails have changed into correctional centres from punishment houses, with the initiatives and reforms done for correction of the inmates. The inmates must lead a positive life by imbibing the values of truth and non violence in their life and contribute to the society.

These remarks were made by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha while attending a cultural evening on the eve of Republic Day at District Jail, Jammu.

Lieutenant Governor was received by the DGP, Prisons, VK Singh and Guard of Honor was presented to him. He visited the interview room and product display unit to inspect the facilities.

A portrait of Mahatma Gandhi made by an inmate of District Jail Baramulla was presented to the Lieutenant Governor by the DGP Prisons, J&K.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor called for spreading Mahatma Gandhi's ideas of truth and non-violence in the jails of Jammu and Kashmir. These



experiments are also being done in foreign jails and there are examinations and speech competitions along with studies on Mahatma Gandhi's ideas. This has changed the lives of the inmates there. We can start this experiment from the Republic Day itself, said the Lt Governor.

Stressing on taking comprehensive reformative and corrective measures, the Lt Governor appreciated the Prisons department's initiatives for skill development of inmates.

All jails must effectively implement the principles of Custody, Care and

Correction so that inmates can lead a positive life and contribute to society afterwards, said the Lt Governor. It is also the responsibility of jail administration that Organized Criminal Activities in prisons are completely checked, he added.

While speaking on the reforms in prisons system and related human resource management, the Lt Governor observed that during the last few decades, a number of reforms have taken place in our country.

He further said that on the instructions of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri

Narendra Modi, necessary reforms were made in 2016 and a Modern Jail Manual was prepared. The government's objective behind this was that the jails be converted from punishment houses to a place of reforms and corrections, he added.

On making improvements in raising the standard of living of inmates, ensuring the safety of women inmates and their children, the Lt Governor said that committed efforts are being made to ensure that the prisons are modernized according to the changing circumstances of the time.

The Lt Governor congratulated the DGP Prisons for commendable work done in setting up of video conferencing, capacity enhancement of jails, modern interview rooms in about 11 prisons and treating those who suffer from mental trauma properly with the help of psychologists.

He appreciated the efforts made by the prison authorities for welfare of prisoners and initiatives taken during the COVID-19 pandemic. He encouraged the inmates to make best utilization of

their time in prisons by acquiring skills available in the prisons so as to be able to contribute as responsible citizens after their release. He lauded the inmates who performed during the function and complimented the trainers and staff of Prisons Department for their efforts.

In December, in the Mann Ki Baat program, the Hon'ble Prime Minister mentioned the work done by inmates of Kaushambi District Jail in Uttar Pradesh for making protective coats from jute bags and torn clothes and distributing them in the nearby cowsheds so that animals can be protected from cold, observed the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor remarked that "Today we all witnessed music talent of inmates. Apart from this, vocational courses are also being run here for skill development of inmates, which is commendable. The revenue generation of different products created by the inmates last year was around Rs 18 lakh. In the coming times, it can be given a more elaborate form, he added.

CRPF jawan dies of cardiac arrest in Srinagar

Agenceis

SRINAGAR: A paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) trooper died of cardiac arrest at SKIMS Soura Srinagar on Monday morning.

An official said that a 50-year-old CRPF man identified as Sudhir Partihar of C-Coy, 86BN who was undergoing treatment at SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar died after he suffered a massive cardiac arrest on Monday morning.

He said that after completing the legal- medico formalities the body will be shifted to PCR Srinagar and accordingly will be shifted to his hometown for his cremation.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Kashmir Under

frisking of passengers are being carried out at several places, the officials said, adding that the deployment of security personnel around vital installations in and around the city and other district headquarters has been strengthened.

A thick layer of security has been thrown around the venue -- a few kilometres away from the Lal Chowk city centre -- and the area has been sanitised, they said.

The security forces have been asked to remain alert and more check-points have been erected in the city, the officials said.

Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir Vijay Kumar on Sunday said the situation is under control and expressed confidence that the day will pass off without any untoward incidents.

"The situation is under control. The functions will be held incident-free," he said here.

Kumar said a multi-layered security cover has been put in place and domination and surveillance of areas are being undertaken.

"A three-layered security arrangement has been put in place. Areas are being dominated, frisking and checking of vehicles are being undertaken. Drones are also being used," he said.

The IGP said the state forces are launching cordon-and-search operations "wherever there is some suspicion" as regards the presence of militants.

"The security arrangements are fully in place," he added.

India, China

area of North Sikkim on January 20 and the same was resolved by local commanders as per established protocols. Media is requested to refrain from overplaying or exaggerating reports which are factually incorrect," the Army said in a brief statement.

People familiar with the developments along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in North Sikkim said the Chinese troops attempted to transgress into the Indian side of the frontier but were stopped by the Indian military personnel.

They also said a brawl had broken out between the troops of the two armies.

Naku La was the same site where the Indian and Chinese troops had engaged in a fierce clash on May 9 last year following a violent face-off between the two sides in Pangong lake area that triggered the military standoff in eastern Ladakh.

The Indian and Chinese armies on Sunday held another round of Corps Commander-level talks with an aim to move forward on disengagement of troops from all the friction points in eastern Ladakh.

Following the Ladakh standoff, the Indian Army has significantly bolstered its strength at all its bases along the nearly 3,500 KM-long LAC, the de-facto border between the two nuclear-powered Asian giants.

India has all along been maintaining that the onus is on China to carry forward the process of disengagement and de-escalation at the friction points in the icy heights of eastern Ladakh.

Close to 100,000 Indian and Chinese troops are deployed in eastern Ladakh as both sides have been holding on to their ground and showing readiness for a long-haul, amid continuing diplomatic and military talks to find an amicable solution.

Reflecting India's firm approach in handling the situation, Army chief Gen MM Naravane had said nearly two weeks ago that Indian troops will hold their ground as long as it takes to achieve the "national goals and objectives" even as he hoped for an amicable resolution of the border standoff through talks.

Ladakh Stand

meeting was the Moldo border point which is on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

The outcome of the meeting is not yet known.

People familiar with the negotiations said India insisted that it was up to China to carry forward the process of disengagement and de-escalation at friction points in the region.

India has been maintaining that the disengagement process has to start simultaneously at all friction points and no selective approach was acceptable to it.

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Reflecting India's firm approach in handling the situation, Army chief Gen MM Naravane nearly two weeks back said that Indian troops will hold their ground as long as it takes to achieve the "national goals and objectives" even as he hoped for an amicable resolution of the standoff through talks.

Sunday's talks took place nearly two weeks

after India handed back to China a soldier of the People's Liberation Army after apprehending him at the southern bank of Pangong Tso in eastern Ladakh. It is learnt that India's gesture has generated a positive atmosphere.

The Indian delegation at the talks was led by Lt Gen PGK Menon, the Commander of the Leh-based 14 Corps.

In the military talks, India has all along been demanding restoration of status quo ante in all areas of eastern Ladakh prior to April. The face-off had begun on May 5.

The eighth and last round of the talks had taken place on November 6 during which both sides broadly discussed disengagement of troops from specific friction points.

The seventh round of Corps Commander-level talks had taken place on October 12 where China had pressed for the withdrawal of Indian troops from a number of strategic heights around the southern bank of Pangong lake.

However, India insisted that the disengagement process has to start simultaneously at all the friction points.

Last month, India and China held another round of diplomatic talks under the framework of Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on India-China border affairs. However, no concrete outcome emerged from the meeting.

Following the sixth round of military talks, the two sides had announced a slew of decisions including not to send more troops to the frontline, refrain from unilaterally changing the situation on the ground and avoid taking any actions that may further complicate matters.

This round was held with a specific agenda of exploring ways to implement a five-point agreement reached between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi at a meeting in Moscow on September 10 on the sidelines of a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) conclave.

The pact included measures like quick disengagement of troops, avoiding action that could escalate tensions, adherence to all agreements and protocols on border management and steps to restore peace along the LAC.

Bukhari Meets

president expressed gratitude to the PM for tackling the COVID pandemic and initiating a comprehensive vaccination drive in the country besides sanctioning a special package for the revival of the industrial sector in Jammu and Kashmir, a party statement said.

"During the course of the meeting, Bukhari reiterated his demand for the restoration of Statehood to J&K and urged the Prime Minister not to delay fulfillment of this commitment any further," it said.

Expressing serious concern with regard to the rising unemployment rate in J&K, Bukhari urged for formulation of a comprehensive employment package for the J&K youth who have been yearning for a dignified livelihood.

He emphasized on the need for exploration of viable options including roping in of multinational companies across the country and in the gulf countries so as to address the unemployment problem of J&K's qualified and skilled youth.

According to the party handout, Bukhari also solicited the intervention of the Prime Minister for restoration of age relaxation for J&K's UPSC aspirants that was in vogue before January 2020. He said that scrapping the UPSC age relaxation clause to the Domicile of J&K has extremely disappointed the youth of J&K.

"Similarly, Bukhari urged the Prime Minister to order lifting of ban on 4G mobile internet services across Jammu and Kashmir. He termed the ban on 4G in J&K unjustifiable and a discrimination with the people especially the student and business community," it added.

According to the party statement, Bukhari also pleaded for an honorable return of Kashmiri Pandits and sought their rehabilitation with the majority community in the Valley. He said any ghettoization of this inseparable part of Kashmiri society will not be acceptable to the people.

It further said that the dilapidated condition of Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and developing other alternative inter regional road connections like Mughal Road and Kishtwar-Sinthan routes into all weather roads also surfaced during the meeting.

Bukhari, the statement said, also pressed for the construction of individual and community bunkers for the border residents in J&K so as to prevent the loss of life and damages to the properties recurring due to cross LoC skirmishes.

"At the end of the meeting, Bukhari submitted a memorandum regarding these important issues and invited the personal intervention of the Prime Minister for their redressal," it added.

Cold Wave

from minus 11.0 degrees Celsius.

Pahalgal recorded a low of minus 11.9 degrees Celsius, slightly up from the previous night's minus 12.0 degrees Celsius. Kupwara recorded a low of minus 3.1 degrees Celsius, while it was minus 8.4 degrees Celsius in Kokernag.

Ace Swimmer's

Packing his bag with the rescue gear, Niyaz hurried off to the lake and after a 15-minute drive from his house at Rajbagh reached the spot at around 7:30 PM. Soon he joined a search party that had been struggling for more than an hour to find any trace of the missing Riyaz who, according to his maternal uncle Abdul Rashid Kanna, had jumped into the lake from his donga boat. A little while earlier Rashid's daughter, Masarat, had raised an alarm informing the neighbours about Riyaz's alleged jump.

"Rashid kept on telling everyone that Riyaz had jumped into the lake," said Mushtaq Ahmad Kanna, one of his close cousins.

Among the rescuers was Tariq Ahmad Patloo, the man behind setting up the boat ambulance. Earlier in August, Tariq had contracted the covid-19 virus forcing him to spend a period of two weeks in quarantine. It was Riyaz who had taken his care during this critical period particularly when all his friends and relatives had ostracised him for fear of catching the infection. It was for Tariq to return the favour now. Unsure that Riyaz could ever take an extreme step namely suicide, he kept on yelling his name while others conducted the search.

The thick crust formed on the surface of the lake due to the temperatures plummeting well below zero was hampering the rescue in the dark. Niyaz shone a searchlight on the lake while others kept hitting the crust at different places with trident spears that fishermen use to catch the fish. Suddenly Me'rajuddin Gussana hooked into something that had gone under a nearby boat. He raised an alarm. Joined by others, he pulled the spear as hard as he could and what they brought to the surface surprised them all. It was Riyaz's body. A shattered Tariq brought his ambulance closer and the rescuers hauled the body onto it. Niyaz gave a few precordial thumps on the body thinking hypothermia might have forced Riyaz to go into a coma. When some blood oozed out his nose, Tariq decided to rush him to the SMHS Hospital without wasting any time. Sadly, Niyaz's worst fears came true upon reaching the hospital. Riyaz was declared brought dead.

Meanwhile, the Nehru Park police had already come to know about the incident and took the body in their possession immediately. After completing the necessary formalities, they handed it over to the family for final rites the next day.

Those who knew Riyaz closely describe him as an expert swimmer who, during the infamous 2014 Kashmir floods, had saved hundreds of lives executing several rescue missions in the most professional manner.

"It's impossible that a swimmer of his prowess could perish under the water so meekly," Tanveer ascertained. "What's more surprising is the spot wherefrom his body was recovered is barely three feet deep."

Gosani too is surprised.

"The crust hadn't broken at the spot where Rashid pointed to," Gosani said. "For a man weighing something like 60 kg wouldn't go under without leaving a mark."

This reporter tried to get in touch with Rashid Kanna who blatantly refused to talk about the case.

"I'll not be able to say anything as I'm shattered by his sudden death," he said.

Meanwhile, for relatives and friends, the growing anxiety seems unbearable.

"Riyaz was a very dear friend and his absence tears us apart with each passing day," Tariq says. "We've a right to know what happened to him."

Nehru Park Police took the body in its possession immediately after it arrived from the hospital. Police behaved professionally and decided to send the body for post-mortem and forensic analysis to ascertain if any foul play might have occurred in Riyaz's death. Though Rashid and other relatives urged the police not to take the body for these procedures, police didn't relent.

"We've observed all the SOPs in the most professional manner we could," a police officer, who wished not to be named, said.

The officer informed a case under section 174 Cr PC has been registered and further investigation is in progress.

"We'll have to wait until the post-mortem and the FSL report arrive," the officer said.

Army Pilot

According to the sources, the helicopter was damaged completely in the crash-landing.

Panchayati Raj

envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi," LG said, as

per an official spokesperson.

Sinha made these remarks after inaugurating Nirvachan Bhawan at Rail Head Complex here and administering the National Voters' Day pledge to the officers present there.

Terming Three-Tier Panchayati Raj system as the engine of development, the LG, as per official spokesperson said that with establishment of 3-tiers of democratic setup for the first time in the UT, the pace of development has been accelerated, thus paving way for progressive future of J&K.

"With elected representatives of J&K complementing the Government's efforts, schemes and projects envisioned for the welfare of the people will reach every household and J&K will achieve new heights of development," he added.

Applauding the determined efforts of the election machinery for smooth conduct of elections even in many remote and hilly areas, in spite of the harsh weather, and Covid pandemic, Sinha, he said, hoped that they will continue to give their valuable contribution in the conduct of free and fair elections.

On this occasion, LG also congratulated the people of J&K, especially the first-time voters, J&K Election Commission, government forces, all on-duty officers for ensuring successful, peaceful, free and fair conduct of DDC, Panchayat and Municipal Bodies elections.

According to the official spokesperson, LG acknowledged the officers for their outstanding contribution in the electoral process and felicitated them for playing a significant role in the successful conduct of the elections in J&K. The LG, he said, also underscored the high importance of educating voters about exercising their Right to Vote.

"Celebration of the Voters' Day is a reminder to all the eligible voters about their responsibility to participate in the electoral process thereby strengthening the democratic framework," said the LG, as per official spokesperson.

He further said that the LG congratulated the whole election machinery on the celebration of foundation day of the Election Commission. He expressed delight to be a part of the celebrations of National Voters' Day and termed the voters as the biggest strength of Democracy.

"Laying special emphasis on increased use of communication technology to make the voters aware and making the electoral process more participative, the Lt Governor observed that this year's National Voters Day theme of "Making our Voters Empowered, Vigilant, Safe and Informed" focuses on to deliver election-related services through IT tools and technological interventions bringing in more efficiency, widespread reach, and accountability, through finest strategies involved in view of the COVID pandemic," he added.

Quoting Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, Sinha observed that Right to Vote is the pillar of democracy, and if anyone is deprived of this right, it will be a blow to the very core of democracy.

"This spirit gives India's democracy a separate place in the whole world. It was the foresightedness of the framers of the Constitution. All this was a concerted effort to strengthen democracy, and today the entire nation is grateful to them," he said, as per the official spokesperson.

He said that that LG highlighted the significance of celebrating the National Voters' Day and said that the electoral system that framers of our Constitution created, the laws that were enacted, were meant to strengthen the right to political equality in our democratic setup.

"It is a matter of pride. The way the Election Commission is constantly enriching the election process, it also inspires citizens. Through, Electronic Electors Photo Identity Card (e-EPIC), a new system made using Digital Voters Card Technology, in which information about the elections to be held in the area will be available along with complete information about the voter", Sinha said.

According to the official spokesperson, LG's advisor Farooq Khan while speaking on the occasion termed the recently held DDC elections as a landmark in the history of J&K. He also lauded the role of the Election Commission and other institutions involved in the successful conduct of elections.

During his welcome address, Hirdesh Kumar, Chief Electoral Officer, J&K gave a brief overview of the National Voters' Day. He mentioned the role of District Election Officers, Election Returning Officers, AEROs at booth level celebrations. Vote of Thanks was presented by Anil Salgotra, Joint Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, the official spokesperson said.

No Coercive Action

as per the statement made by Mehta during the last hearing.

On December 10, Mehta had said that no coercive action would be taken against those

petitioners who have approached the top court in the matter as they were not "land grabbers or unauthorised people".

The top court had asked the Jammu and Kashmir High Court to decide the pleas seeking review of the verdict scrapping the Roshni Act, which had conferred proprietary rights on the occupants of the state land.

The Roshni Act was enacted in 2001 with the twin objective of generating resources for financing power projects and conferment of proprietary rights to the occupants of state land.

The Jammu and Kashmir High Court had on October 9 declared the Act "illegal, unconstitutional and unsustainable", and ordered a CBI probe into the allotment of land under this law.

As many as six pleas were listed for hearing in the top court on Monday and as per Mehta's oral submission, the protection would cover Broadway Enterprises Pvt. Ltd, Nisar Hussain, Danish Aman, Hakim Suhail, Muhammed Muzaffar Shawl, Tejinder Singh Sethi, along with some other co-petitioners.

The top court had said in its December 10 order that it had come to know that review petitions had been filed by Jammu and Kashmir, as well as by some private individuals before the high court and the hearing was coming in the last week of December. Thereafter, it had adjourned the matter for further hearing to the last week of January 2021.

Mehta, while apprising the top court that Jammu and Kashmir had already filed a review petition in the high court, had said the authority was "not against bonafide and common people who are not land grabbers".

The top court had also clarified that the pendency of these special leave petitions before it would not come in the way of hearing of review petitions by the high court. It had granted liberty to the petitioners before the top court to also file review petition(s), if any, before the high court.

On December 7, the high court had adjourned the hearing on a petition filed by the administration seeking a review of its earlier order scrapping the Roshni Act in totality.

The petition, filed by Revenue Department Special Secretary Nazir Ahmad Thakur on December 4 for modification of the judgment, has pleaded that a large number of common people, including landless cultivators and individuals who are themselves residing in dwellings on small areas, would suffer unintentionally.

The Roshni Act initially envisaged conferment of proprietary rights of around 20.55 lakh kanals (102,750 hectares) to the occupants, out of which only 15.85 per cent land was approved for vesting of ownership rights.

Police Attaches

was attached under relevant provisions of law for providing logistic support to militants of Jaish-e-Mohammad.

He said that property has been attached in connection with crime No. 03/2020 of police station Khrew, Awantipora.

"Pertinent to mention that one Army Jawan and one policeman achieved martyrdom while fighting militants in the incident covered by the said case and two militants of proscribed outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad were killed," the police spokesperson said.

J&K Reports 64

highest 23 cases followed by 22 in Srinagar district.

Bandipora, Kulgam, Rajouri, Doda, Kathua, Samba, Kishtwar, Poonch, and Reasi districts did not report any new case, an official said.

The number of active COVID-19 cases stood at 1,084, while 1,21,070 patients have recovered so far, the officials said, adding the death toll was 1,929. (PTI)

Coal Heater

Both mother and daughter, they said, were immediately shifted to a nearby hospital where Masooda was declared brought dead; her daughter responded to the treatment given by doctors and was later discharged from the hospital.

A police official while confirming the incident said that a case has been registered and investigations are underway to ascertain the cause of death, "Apparently the death has occurred owing to suffocation due to Bukhari (coal burning heater) but further investigations are underway, the police officer added.

Guns Roar Along

of Poonch district targeting Indian army locations, an official told news agency KDC. He said that the firing was underway from both the sides.

"Indian army is retaliating effectively to the unprovoked firing with no immediate reports of any loss," he added.

PAK Vs SA

Babar Azam 'Proud' To Make Test Captain Debut In Pakistan

Agencies

KARACHI: Babar Azam will make his Test captaincy debut on Tuesday against a tough South Africa team that is touring Pakistan for the first time in more than 13 years.

Azam has recovered from a thumb injury that kept him out of the two-Test series in New Zealand, which Pakistan lost 2-0. "I missed the series against New Zealand, but it's a proud moment for me that I am doing my captaincy debut in my own country," Azam said Monday.

"South Africa is a good team. You can't take them lightly, but conditions suit us more because most of us have played here." South Africa last toured Pakistan in 2007 because the country was forced to organize its "home" Test series in the United Arab Emirates following a terrorist attack on a bus carrying the Sri Lanka team in Lahore in 2009.

The second Test will be played in Rawalpindi from February 4, followed by the three-match Twenty20 series in Lahore from

for the first Test — when South Africa toured in 2007.

"We should not think about past, we should focus on what's ahead of us," Azam said.

"It's a fact that we don't have a good record against them, but we have prepared well and we hope to give our best against them this time." Pakistan has included six uncapped players in a 17-man squad. Opening batsman Imran Butt and left-arm spinner Nauman Ali could make their Test debuts on Tuesday.

Azam also said Pakistan might go with an additional spinner along with Yasir Shah.

"We have practiced here for a week now and the wicket looks a bit slow," Azam said.

South Africa also has left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj to pose problems for the home team. The tourists have been practicing for the last six days to get used to the conditions.

Only South Africa coach Mark Boucher has previously played red-ball cricket in Pakistan, while the experienced Faf du Plessis has twice toured Pakistan over



February 11-14.

Pakistan is out of the race to qualify for the World Test Championship final at Lord's in June while South Africa has only a mathematical chance to make it with India, New Zealand, Australia and England among the top contenders.

Azam was well aware of Pakistan's poor Test record against South Africa, winning only four of 26 against the Proteas. One of Pakistan's 15 losses came at the National Stadium — the venue

the last four years but played only in the Twenty20 format. Du Plessis led a World XI team to Pakistan for three Twenty20s in 2017 and then last year represented Peshawar Zalmi in the Pakistan Super League play-offs.

"I'm sure this Pakistan team is going to be tough," South Africa captain Quinton de Kock said when the team arrived.

"I think our biggest challenge is the conditions that we could face, the unknowing of the things that we have to deal with."

SQUADS

PAKISTAN: Babar Azam (captain), Abid Ali, Imran Butt, Azhar Ali, Fawad Alam, Saud Shakeel, Faheem Ashraf, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Nauman Ali, Sajid Khan, Yasir Shah, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Shaheen Afridi, Tabish Khan.

SOUTH AFRICA: Quinton de Kock (captain), Temba Bavuma, Aiden Markram, Faf du Plessis, Dean Elgar, Kagiso Rabada, Dwaine Pretorius, Keshav Maharaj, Lungi Ngidi, Rassie van der Dussen, Anrich Nortje, Wiaan Mulder, Lutho Sipamla, Beuran Hendricks, Kyle Verreynne, Sarel Erwee, Keegan Petersen, Tabraiz Shamsi, George Linde, Daryn Dupavillon, Marco Jansen.

IT'S A FACT THAT WE DON'T HAVE a good record against them, but we have prepared well and we hope to give our best against them this time."

Man United Come From Behind To Knock Liverpool Out Of FA CUP

Agencies

MANCHESTER: A scream from Andy Robertson was a forlorn attempt to distract Mason Greenwood beginning Manchester United's comeback. The defender won't be the only one shrieking at Liverpool after going out of the FA Cup.

Not that everything went wrong for Liverpool, with Mohamed Salah scoring twice.

The Liverpool striker's opener was cancelled out by Greenwood and he levelled after Marcus Rashford put United in front. But Bruno Fernandes bent in a free kick in the 78th minute to send United into the fifth round with a 3-2 victory on Sunday.

Losing compounded a miserable 70 hours that also saw Liverpool beaten at home by Burnley on Thursday in a further blow to its title defense. It was a 0-0 draw with United a week ago that helped Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side stay top of the standings in the pursuit of the team's first Premier League title since 2013.

We have to sort it together and that's what we will do, Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said.

The excitement lacking in the Anfield league encounter was on show a week later at a freezing and fan-free Old Trafford with the highest scoring match between these



fiercest of English rivals since 2010. United was joined by Chelsea, Everton, Leicester and Burnley on Sunday in advancing to the round of 16 where it will play West Ham next month.

"We gradually layer by layer are getting better and better and winning tight games," Solskjaer said. "So the morale and the confidence of course is very good."

Liverpool has gone 483 minutes

without a league goal but remembered where the net is in the cup. Roberto Firmino thread a pass to Salah who lifted a shot over Dean Henderson from close range in the 18th minute.

But the lead lasted only six min-



England Win 2nd Test Against Sri Lanka By 6 Wickets To Sweep Series 2-0

Agencies

GALLE: England completed a 2-0 series victory over Sri Lanka on Monday by winning the second Test by six wickets with a day to spare.

Set a target of 164, the English lost four wickets for 89 runs but an unbroken 75-run stand for the fifth wicket by Jos Buttler (46) and Dom Sibley (56) finished it off.

Sibley only managed six runs in three innings but he returned to form with a much needed half-century in the final innings.

England were still batting in their first innings when the fourth day began. The tourists managed to add only five more runs to their overnight total as they were bowled out for 344 to concede a first innings lead of 37 runs.

Sri Lanka then produced some sloppy batting with some turn and

bounce for the spin bowlers. The hosts lost six wickets quickly in the morning session.

England's spinners had gone wicket-less in the first innings but they came through in the second with Somerset duo Sibley and Jack Leach taking four wickets apiece. Sri Lankans are used to playing on slow bouncy surfaces, but they failed to handle the pressure.

Tail-ender Lasith Embuldeniya, who finished with 10 wickets, came to Sri Lanka's rescue with the bat by posting a career-best 40 off only 42 deliveries.

With things drifting away slightly as Embuldeniya was involved in a 48-run stand with Suranga Lakmal, England captain Joe Root brought himself on. The Yorkshireman polished off the tail by claiming two wickets in two balls.

England were positive in the run

chase, cashing in when boundaries were on offer and picking up the singles.

Sri Lanka had a slight chance when Root was dismissed while trying to play his favourite sweep shot with still 80 runs required for the victory. However, the spinners weren't able to defend 164.

It was England's sixth win in a row in Sri Lanka. The tourists won all three tests during their last tour in 2018. Prior to that, they won the second Test in 2012 in another two-match series.

Root was the captain in five of those wins, matching Virat Kohli's record for an overseas captain in Sri Lanka.

Root finished the series with 426 runs in four innings. He was named man of the match and player of the series.

England will now head to Chennai for a four-Test series against India.

Joe Root Century 'A Great Learning Experience For Everyone,' Says Sangakkara

Press Trust of India

GALLE: In awe of Joe Root's performance in the ongoing series against Sri Lanka, Kumara Sangakkara said the way the England Test skipper handled himself on day three of the second Test was "a great learning experience for everyone".

After notching up a double century in the series opener, Root continued his brilliant run by hitting 186 in the second Test to lift his side from a spot of bother.

"Outstanding. Everyone has been amazed at how easy he has made it look. Not just in this innings, which is probably an easier pitch at this stage, but also the first Test," Sangakkara said on 'Sky Sports'.

"Magnificent game-plan, execution was clinical, the use of the sweep, the reverse sweep, the rotation of strike, the technique, the poise, the calmness, everything was incredible. It was brilliant to watch and to learn from," he added.

Asked what he had learned from watching Root bat, Sangakkara said: "You can score runs

but maybe not have that same poise or ease that Joe Root had."

"He has worked on it and read the situation and pitch and he was in total control. For me or anyone batting or a coach, the execution and way he handled himself all throughout the day was a great learning experience."

Root and Jos Buttler (55) stitched a 97-run stand, helping England register 344 in their first innings. The skipper faced 309 balls and was also struggling with a cramp before he was run out in the final over of the third day.

Teammate Buttler termed Root's innings as a "masterclass against spin", adding that it was a "great education" to watch the 30-year-old bat.

"To back up his double hundred in the first Test, to show the physical and mental application to go and do it again it was a masterclass in batting against spin."

"It has been a great education for all of us and we have thoroughly enjoyed watching him and gutted for him to get out in that fashion at the end of the day," Buttler added.



Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy Knockouts: Final Chance For Domestic Players To Impress

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: It will be the last chance for the domestic players to impress before the all-important IPL auction when the knock-outs of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy begin here from Tuesday.

While Karnataka will go all out looking to retain the title, the seven other teams which have made it to the quarter-finals, will be itching to make an impact and get their names inscribed on the trophy.

The event marked the resumption of the much-delayed 2020-21 domestic season in the country.

A mighty Punjab team stands between Karnataka and their title defence as the two teams will square-off in the first quarter-final, which is expected to be an even battle.

Punjab made it to the knock-outs from Elite Group A after winning all their five games in the league stage, while Karnataka also scraped to the final eight, despite being second on the points table in Group A, having lost one game.

The match could be touted as battle of openers as Punjab possesses the young Prabhsimran Singh, who is in good form, with 277 runs, while Karnataka will bank on the stylish southpaw Devdutt Padikkal, who has 207 runs from five games.

Both the sides have an equally strong middle-order. However, Punjab could have a slight edge in their pace attack with Sidharth Kaul (10 wickets) and Sandeep Sharma in their arsenal.

Sharma in particular is lethal in the shortest format of the game. But Karnataka have the likes of Abhimanyu Mithun and Prasidh Krishan, who can be equally dangerous.

Even the contest is somewhat equal among the spinners as Punjab has Mayank Markande while Karnataka will bank on the lead spin duo of experienced J Suchith and Shreyas Gopal.

In the second quarter-final, for Tamil Nadu, who were runners-up last season, attacking opener N Jagadeesan, who is the leading run-getter in the tournament so far with 315 runs and skipper Dinesh Karthik, will again be the key players in their clash against Himachal Pradesh, who came through from Elite Group C.

The TN bowling unit did a superb job for skipper Karthik though it was without ace spinner R Ashwin, yorker specialist T Natarajan and all-rounder Washington Sundar who were away on national duty in Australia.

Leg-spinner M Ashwin and left-arm spinner R Sai Kishore were quite a handful but it was Baba Aparajith, who was the surprise packet, taking the new ball and enjoying a great degree of success too.

The trio will have a crucial role to play in the knock-outs if TN has to go all the way as would the pacers-Sandeep Warrier, M Mohammed and Aswin Crisp.

In the third quarter-final too, it could be tough for Baroda to overcome the challenge of Haryana, without the services of the Pandya brothers — Hardik and Krunal.

While Hardik did not play the tournament as he was practising for the white-ball series against England, Krunal had to leave the tournament mid-way following his father's demise.

Haryana have been in splendid form and it is their spinners — India player Yuzvendra Chahal, Jayant Yadav and Rahul Tewatia, who will give them an upper hand against Baroda.

But Baroda led by Kedar Devdhar, who has amassed 226 runs in five games, can spring a surprise. And for that to happen, left-arm inform pacer Lukman Meriwala (11 wickets) and Atit Sheth (8 wickets) hold the key against a vulnerable Haryana top-order.

In the fourth quarter-final, Rajasthan, who qualified from Group D, will be the run-away favourites against Bihar, who have qualified from the Plate Group.

The Mushtaq knock-outs, will also be the first time that matches will be played at the refurbished Sardar Patel Motera Stadium. It will be interesting to see how the pitch behaves with the two Tests between India and England to follow at the venue.

Line Ups:

- Quarter-final 1, January 26: Punjab vs Karnataka
- Quarter-final 2, January 26: Tamil Nadu vs Himachal
- Quarter-final 3, January 27: Haryana vs Baroda
- Quarter-final 4, January 27: Rajasthan vs Bihar.

Dubai's Newest Hindu Temple To Open Its Doors For Worshippers By Diwali 2022



Press Trust of India

Dubai's newest Hindu temple to open its doors for worshippers by Diwali next year. A majestic new Hindu temple with a distinct Arabian look is expected to open its doors for worshippers in Dubai by October next year during Diwali, according to media reports here.

The temple is being constructed adjacent to the Guru Nanak Darbar in Jebel Ali, making the locality a multi-religious corridor in the city.

The temple is an extension of the Sindhi Guru Darbar Temple in Souq Baniyas, Bur Dubai, one of the oldest Hindu temples in the United Arab Emirates, open since the 1950s.

According to a report in Khaleej Times in February last year, the 25,000 sq.ft. temple will be built at an estimated cost of Dirham 75 million (Rs 1,48,86,24,396).

Raju Shroff, an Indian businessman and one of the trustees of the Sindhi Guru Darbar Temple, announced on Sunday that the construction of the temple is underway, and the basement of the structure is complete.

Piling, shoring and casting of basements one and two are complete as of now. We are on track to open during Diwali 2022, Khaleej Times quoted Shroff as saying.

The temple's foundation-

stone-laying ceremony took place in February last year.

Once complete, there will be several churches, the Sikh Guru Nanak Darbar, and a Hindu temple in the same location, Shroff said.

The temple will be home to 11 Hindu deities, he added.

The temple's architecture will have a distinct Arabian look.

We want to give back to the local economy and this our way to repay the gratitude we have for the UAE leadership for celebrating religious tolerance, Shroff said.

He added that worshippers could use the spacious 4,000 sq ft banquet hall for cultural events, religious gatherings and community get-togethers. The temple intends to display a subtle blend of contemporary Hindu and Arabic elements, Gulf News said.

The temple is an east-facing structure, designed as per norms of Indian Temple Architecture and Hindu Vastu Shastra. The temple structure includes two basements, a ground floor and first floor. The total height of the temple is 24 metres, it said.

The columns on the faade and interior take inspiration from the traditional columns of the Somnath Temple in Gujarat.

The main dome is inspired by the Nagara style of Hindu temple architecture found predominantly in north India.



Igloo Café in Gulmarg Attracts Crowds

Kashmir's first Igloo Café in the ski resort of Gulmarg is attracting widespread attention. 22 feet wide and 13 feet high from inside the Igloo Café can accommodate 16 people at a time. According to the Cafe owner Wasim Shah, it took 15 days to build what he describes as Asia's largest Igloo.

Indian Billionaires' Wealth Rose By 35% During Lockdown Even As 12.2 Crore People Lost Jobs: Oxfam

Press Trust of India

India's 100 top billionaires have seen their fortunes increase by Rs 12,97,822 crore since March last year when the COVID-19 pandemic hit the country and this amount is enough to give 13.8 crore poorest Indians a cheque for Rs 94,045 each.

The latest India supplement of the Oxfam report "The Inequality Virus" said it would take an unskilled worker 10,000 years to make what businessman Mukesh Ambani made in an hour during the pandemic and three years to make what he made in a second.

The report has been released on the opening day of the World Economic Forum's "Davos Dialogues".

Calling the coronavirus pandemic the world's worst public health crisis in a hundred years, the report said it triggered an economic crisis comparable in scale only with the Great Depression of the 1930s.

"India's 100 billionaires have seen their fortunes increase by Rs 12,97,822 crore since March last year which is enough to give every one of the 138 million poorest Indians a cheque for Rs 94,045 each," the report said.

The new global survey of 295 economists from 79 countries, commissioned by Oxfam, reveals that 87 per cent of respondents, including Jeffrey Sachs, Jayati Ghosh and Gabriel Zucman, expect an "increase" or a "major increase" in



income inequality in their country as a result of the pandemic.

"India has the world's fourth lowest health budget in terms of its share of government expenditure," it said. "If India's top 11 billionaires are taxed at just 1 per cent on the increase in their wealth during the pandemic, it will be enough to increase the allocation of Jan Aushadi Scheme by 140 times, which provides affordable medicines to the poor and marginalized."

India introduced one of the earliest and most stringent lockdowns in the face of the pandemic and its enforcement brought the economy to a standstill, triggering unemployment, hunger, distress migration and untold hardship in its wake, the report said.

"The rich were able to escape the pandemic's worst impact; and while the white-collar workers isolated themselves and worked from home, a majority of the not-so-fortunate Indians lost their



livelihood," it said.

The report noted that billionaires like Gautam Adani, Shiv Nadar, Cyrus Poonawalla, Uday Kotak, Azim Premji, Sunil Mittal, Radhakrishnan Damani, Kumar Manglam Birla and Laxmi Mittal working in sectors like coal, oil, telecom, medicines, pharmaceutical, education and retail increased their wealth exponentially since March 2020 when India announced world's biggest COVID-19 lockdown and economy came to standstill.

On the other hand, data has shown that 170,000 people lost their jobs every hour in the month of April 2020, the report said.

Findings of the report showed that rich got richer during the pandemic.

"Data shows what Ambani earned during the pandemic would keep the 40 crore informal workers that are at risk of falling into poverty due to COVID-19 above the poverty line for at least 5 months," the report said.

Farmers' Unions Now Announce Plan To March Towards Parliament On Budget Day

Press Trust of India

Ahead of their proposed tractor parade on Republic Day, protesting farmer Unions Monday announced they will march towards Parliament from different locations on February 1 when the annual Union Budget is scheduled to be presented.

Darshan Pal of the Krantikari Kisan Union said the protesting farmers remain firm in their stand of repealing the three new farm laws and their agitation will continue till their demands are met.

"We will march towards Parliament on foot from different locations on the budget day on Febru-

ary 1. As far as tomorrow's tractor rally is concerned, it will give the government an idea of our strength and they will know the agitation is not just limited to Haryana or Punjab but it is an agitation of whole of the country," he said.

Every march or protest will be peaceful as the movement has been so far, he said.

"The farmers who have come for the tractor parade will not go back now and will join the protest. The agitation will continue till our demands met. Our stand remains the same," Pal told a press conference, sharing the farmers' plans to intensify the protest.

Thousands of armed personnel

have been deployed at the Rajpath and several border points of the national capital which has been brought under a multi-layered security cover in view of Republic Day celebrations as well as the proposed tractor parade by farmers on Tuesday.

Protesting farmer unions opposing the three contentious farm laws said their parade will not enter central Delhi and it will start only after the official Republic Day parade concludes.

The unions claimed that around two lakh tractors are expected to participate in their parade which will move into the city from three border points --- Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur (UP Gate).

WhatsApp Treating Indian Users Differently From Europeans: Centre To HC

Press Trust of India

The Centre on Monday told the Delhi High Court that WhatsApp was treating Indian users differently from its European ones with regard to opting out of its new privacy policy, and this was a matter of concern for the government which is looking into it.

The central government told the high court that it was also a matter of concern that Indian users were being "unilaterally" subjected to the change in privacy policy by social networking platform WhatsApp.

The submissions were made before Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva by Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma during hearing of a petition by a lawyer against the new privacy policy of the social networking platform owned by Facebook.

During the hearing, Sharma

told the court that by not giving Indian users the option to opt out of sharing their data with other companies of Facebook, WhatsApp prima facie appears to be treating users with an "all or nothing approach".

"This leverages the social significance of WhatsApp to force users into a bargain which may infringe on their interests in information privacy and information security," he told the court.

Sharma said the government was already looking into the issue and has sent a communication to WhatsApp seeking certain information.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for WhatsApp, told the court that the communication has been received and will be responded to.

The court, thereafter, listed the matter for hearing on March 1.



Andhra Pradesh: Parents Kill Daughters With The Hope Of Bringing Them Back To Life



Agencies

In a bizarre incident, a highly educated couple, had allegedly killed their two daughters in their 20s in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh, hoping that they would come back to life within hours due to spiritual power as the Kaliyuga ends, turning into the Satya Yuga, police said on Monday.

In fact, the man himself was said to have called one of his colleagues over the phone soon after the incident on Sunday night and disclosed the killings.

The shocked colleague immediately tipped off the police, who rushed to the couple's house and found them in a trance.

Police suspect that the family had apparently been following certain occult practices for some time now.

According to Madanapalle Deputy Superintendent of Police Ravi Manoharachari, it was the mother who bludgeoned the daughters to death.

One of the daughters was tonsured before she was killed, he said. The man remained a spectator as his wife went about the alleged killings.

The younger daughter was first killed with a trident.

Then, the elder one was bludgeoned with a dumbbell.

Police sources said the couple had actually planned to kill themselves as well to prove that they would come back alive but

the timely entry of police personnel averted the possible suicide.

V. Purushottam Naidu, M.Sc, PhD, worked as an associate professor in the Government Women's Degree College in Madanapalle.

He was also the college's vice principal.

His wife Padmaja, a post graduate and gold medalist, was correspondent and principal of a local private school.

The eldest daughter Aleikhya (27) was doing her post graduation in Bhopal while the youngest Sai Divya (22) was a ward in the KM Music Conservatory of A.R. Rahman.

The daughters were staying with their parents since the coronavirus-induced lockdown.

According to the DSP, the family apparently "transcended the peaks of spiritualism," going by their interaction.

"They asked us to wait for a day as their daughters will come back to life again," he said.

Manoharachari said the family was well-educated but wondered why they resorted to such an act.

Police have detained the couple in their house and started questioning while forensic teams were examining the closed-circuit television footage to establish if someone else was also involved in the spiritual rituals practised by the family.

Bodies of the victims have been removed for autopsy while police launched a full scale investigation into the case.

Church And Bagels To Go: Joe Biden's First White House Sunday



Agencies

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden attended a church service in Washington's Georgetown neighborhood and stopped for bagels at a hot pink shop named "Call Your Mother" on his first Sunday in office.

Biden waved at a crowd of cheering supporters near the shop, while his son Hunter waited at the takeout window before returning with a bag of bagels and some beverages. Andrew Dana, 35, one of the shop's owners, said the Bidens' visit came as a surprise.

"To have the president out and about visiting local business is real-

ly encouraging," Dana told Reuters.

"We love the positive vibes." Former President Donald Trump rarely frequented local businesses in Washington, often spending his Sundays at the golf club he owns in a Virginia suburb.

Biden was joined at the service at Holy Trinity Church by Hunter and two of Hunter's three daughters - Maisy and Finnegan. Dana said the Bidens ordered four different bagels with cream cheese or butter. "Starting with the staples is good," said Dana, who co-owns four bagel shops in Washington with his fiancée, Daniela Moreira.

Each weekend, they produce over 10,000 bagels a day.

Insecticide On Flowers Can Stop Bees And Flies From Getting Sleep

Agencies

Pesticides used on plant can make flies, like bees, mad without sleep, say researchers who studied the impact of common pesticides on the insect brain.

Just like us, many insects need a decent night's sleep to function properly, but this might not be possible if they have been exposed to neonicotinoid insecticides, the most common form of insecticide

used worldwide, suggests research by academics at the University of Bristol.

Two studies by scientists at Bristol's Schools of Physiology, Pharmacology and Neuroscience and Biological Sciences have shown these insecticides affect the amount of sleep taken by both bumblebees and fruit flies, which may help us understand why insect pollinators are vanishing from the wild.

Dr Kiah Tasman, Teaching Associate in the School of Physiology, Pharmacology and Neuroscience and lead author of the studies, said: "The neonicotinoids we tested had a big effect on the amount of sleep taken by both flies and bees.

If an insect was exposed to a similar

with the normal 24-hour cycle of day and night."

The fruit fly study has been published in Scientific Reports.

As well as finding that typical agricultural concentrations of neonicotinoids ruined the flies' ability to remember, the researchers also saw changes in the clock in the fly brain which controls its 24-hour cycle of day and night.

"Being able to tell time is important for knowing when to be awake and forage, and it looked like these drugged insects were unable to sleep. We know quality sleep is important for insects, just as it is for humans, for their health and forming lasting memories," said Dr James Hodge, Associate Professor in Neuroscience in the School of Physiology, Pharmacology and Neuroscience and senior author for the study.

"Bees and flies have similar structures in their brains, and this suggests one reason why these drugs are so bad for bees is they stop the bees from sleeping properly and then being able to learn where food is in their environment," explained Dr Sean Rands, Senior Lecturer in the School of Biological Sciences and co-author.

"Neonicotinoids are currently banned in the EU, and we hope that this continues in the UK as we leave EU legislation."



amount as it might experience on a farm where the pesticide had been applied, it slept less, and its daily behavioural rhythms were knocked out of synch

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