



Maximum : 5.2°
Minimum : -2.4°
Humidity : 82%

SUNSET
Today 05:57 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 07:32 AM



P3 NEWS

ADVISOR BASEER KHAN UNFURLS
TRICOLOR AT SRINAGAR

Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan, today unfurled the Tricolor and took salute at the march-past during Republic Day celebration....

P5 THINK

PARENTING: ROLE
AND RESPONSIBILITY

Children are blessings for the parents in this world and a gift of God to mankind. The joy and jubilation of a child's birth in our societies is limitless. Those who are devoid....



P6 NEWS

WORLD LOST EQUIVALENT OF
255M JOBS LAST YEAR: UN

The coronavirus pandemic took a huge toll on global jobs last year, the United Nations said on Monday, with the equivalent of more than....

Widom
Quote!

Wisdom is having things right in your life and knowing why.

— William Stafford

NEWS DIGEST

One Way Traffic On
Highway Today

SRINAGAR: Traffic will play from Srinagar towards Jammu on Jammu-Srinagar highway, the only road link connecting Kashmir with the outside world, on Tuesday, the officials said. "Tomorrow (January 27) subject to fair weather and better road condition only one way traffic shall be allowed from Srinagar towards Jammu including Banihal-Ramban (local traffic) on Jammu-Srinagar NHW," traffic officials said, adding, "No vehicle including live stock/ fresh perishable shall be allowed in the opposite direction. TCU Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the traffic." (GNS)

Co-Pilot Of Crash-
Landed Chopper Critical

JAMMU: The condition of a co-pilot continues to be critical on Tuesday after a Dhruv helicopter crash-landed in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district the previous day, officials said. A pilot was killed after the Indian Army's advanced light helicopter, which was coming from Pathankot, made a crash-landing in Basholi belt, police had said. The co-pilot, Captain Anjani Kumar Singh, is still critical, a Northern Command spokesperson said. The mortal remains of Lt Col Rishabh Sharma is shifted to Delhi by service aircraft, accompanied by his wife, five-year-old son and parents who were incidentally at. ● More On P2

Grenade Recovered
In Baramulla

SRINAGAR: Government forces on Tuesday recovered a grenade in Baramulla district of north Kashmir, reports said. A joint team of Special Operations Group (SOG) of police and the personnel of CRPF 53 Battalion recovered the grenade at Sherpora Nallah in Chandoosa area of the district on Tuesday, news agency GNS reported while quoting unnamed officials. The grenade, the report said, was recovered during patrolling by the joint team.

131-Foot High Tricolour
Unfurled At IB

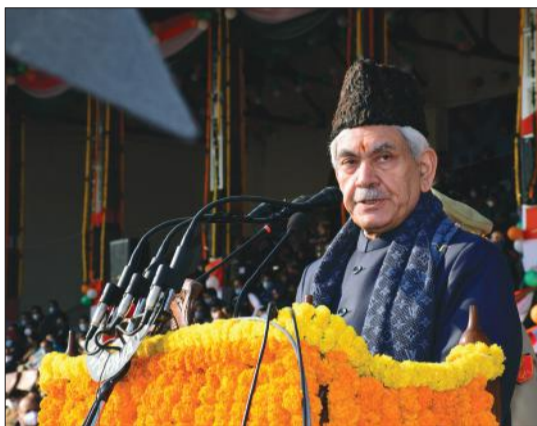
JAMMU: The Border Security Force unfurled a 131-feet-high tricolour along the Indo-Pak border in Jammu district on R-Day on Tuesday, officials said. The flag measuring 30x20 feet is the tallest in the Jammu region, flying at a 131-feet-high pole, which can be seen even from a distance in Pakistan, the BSF officials said. Inspector General of BSF Jammu frontier NS Jamwal hoisted one of the largest tricolours along the International Border (IB) at Octroi border out post (BoP) in the R S Pura belt with great fervour and. ● More On P2

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Invoking the ancient text "Rajtarangini" by terming Kashmir as a holy and beautiful place on earth, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said all the people living in villages and towns have started building a new Jammu and Kashmir to fulfil their ambitions and those of the nation.

The LG assured all citizens that the political conspiracies and nefarious designs of a neighbouring country will never be allowed to succeed in this land of great persons and warriors.

Amid tight security arrangements, the 72nd Republic Day was celebrated with traditional



fervour across Jammu region on Tuesday with the Lt Governor unfurling the national flag at the main function in Jammu.

Wearing a black Karakul cap and black suit, Sinha unfurled the tricolour at a jam-packed Maulana

Azad Stadium in the heart of the city, inspected the parade and took salute at an impressive march past of J&K Light Infantry.

"With the Constitution of India in one hand and the Tricolour in the other, all the people ● More On P2

'Every Inch Of
Your Land Is Safe'

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has assured people about safety of every inch of land in Jammu and Kashmir saying that the newly introduced land laws were meant for the agricultural and industrial development since the old laws were a hindrance.

In his address on the eve of Republic day, Sinha allayed the fears of people saying that the new land laws have been introduced for agricultural and industrial development in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The old laws were a hindrance to the development and hence, have been abolished. In order to promote industries, a land bank is being created at a massive level and we are proud that two big and five small industrial ● More On P2

R-Day Held
Amid Tight
Security

The 72nd R-Day was celebrated in Kashmir on Tuesday amid tight security, with the main event in the valley being held at SK Cricket Stadium. The lieutenant governor's advisor Baseer Khan presided over the function. Advisor Khan took the salute ● More On P2

Mobile
Internet
Suspended

Internet services on mobile phones were restored in Kashmir after remaining suspended for over 12 hours as a precautionary measure for ensuring smooth passage of Republic Day celebrations on Tuesday, officials said. However, the calling service on mobile phones had remained ● More On P2

Statehood To
J&K Soon: BJP

SRINAGAR: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday said that the Statehood will be given back to Jammu and Kashmir soon, adding that the report about the delimitation process should be submitted at earliest.

Pertinently, BJP observed 72nd R-Day in Srinagar today where party's General Secretary (Organization), Ashok Koul hoisted the tri-color.

Koul told media persons here that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah have on the floor of the house promised that Statehood to J&K will be given ● More On P2

India Displays Military Might At R-Day Parade

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The newly inducted Rafale fighter aircraft was the show-stopper as India displayed its military might and vibrant cultural heritage on Rajpath on the 72nd Republic Day on Tuesday, with the ceremonial event this year being drastically scaled down in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

India also displayed its key assets from the Army, including T-90 tanks and BrahMos missile system, BMP-II, two Pinaka multiple launch rocket system, two bridge laying tanks, electronic warfare equipment Samvijay' and one upgraded Schilka air defence weapon



system, the last one being Captain Preeti Choudhary from 140 Air Defence Regiment (Self Propelled).

The Rafale fighter aircraft featured for the first time in the Republic Day flypast as it carried out the 'Vertical ● More On P2

Polls For DDC Chairpersons
To Be Held In February

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The election for the offices of chairpersons of district development councils (DDCs) in Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory is likely to take place next month, sources disclosed.

Highly placed sources said that proposal for the reservation of offices of DDC chairpersons is expected to be finalized in the first week of February.

"The State Election Commission is expected to come up with the final

proposal in the first week of February after considering objections, if any, to draft reservation of offices of chairpersons of DDCs," they said, adding that elections would be held within 20 days after the SEC comes up with the final order on the reservations.

Going by the rules governing election for the posts of DDC chairpersons, the deputy commissioner concerned shall call a meeting of all elected members to elect one of its members to be ● More On P2

Kashmir Gets Slight Respite From
Cold As Night Temperature Rises

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: There was some respite from cold wave conditions in Kashmir on Tuesday as the minimum temperature surged at most places in the valley, officials said.

Srinagar city -- the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir -- recorded a low of minus 2.4 degrees Celsius, up from minus 5.2 degrees Celsius the previous night, the officials said. Qazigund recorded a



File Photo: Abid Bhat

minimum temperature of 2.8 degrees Celsius up from minus

5.5 degree Celsius the previous night, they said. ● More On P2

Farmers Storm Into
Barricaded Delhi,
Hoist Flag On Red Fort

NEW DELHI: Wielding sticks and clubs and holding the tricolour and union flags, tens of thousands of farmers atop tractors broke barriers, clashed with police and entered the city from various points to lay siege to the Red Fort and climb the flagpole on Republic Day on Tuesday.

While farmer leaders, who have been spearheading the two-month protest at the

national capital's border points to demand a repeal of the farm laws, disowned the protesters, one young man was seen hoisting a yellow Sikh religious flag at the flagpole the centrepiece of the country's Independence Day celebrations.

The protesters were later removed from the premises of the Red Fort.

Eclipsing the ● More On P2



Internet Snapped In Parts Of Delhi

The government Tuesday ordered suspension of internet services in parts of Delhi-NCR as a tractor parade by protesting farmers turned violent at several locations in the national capital, officials said. The internet shutdown will be ● More On P2



Amit Shah Briefed On Situation

Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla on Tuesday briefed Home Minister Amit Shah about the situation in Delhi where the farmers' tractor rally against the agri laws turned violent, officials said. The meeting came after a large ● More On P2

Tableau Row: Kargil
Celebrates R-Day Separately

Agencies

KARGIL: Amid bone-chilling cold, the Anjuman Jamat-e-Ulama Isna Asharia Katol on Tuesday celebrated the 72 R-Day separately as a mark of protest against the administration.

Prominent leaders and organizations in the Kargil district had expressed their dismay

and termed the first Tableau display in New Delhi a partial representation of the region by ignoring the socio-cultural heritage of Kargil.

President, Anjuman Sheikh Nazir Mohammadi said that Kargil today marked history with the maiden unofficial R-Day celebrations with the participation of ● More On P2

J&K Logs 74
New Cases, One
Covid-19 Death

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Tuesday one more coronavirus death even as 74 more fresh cases, including twenty-five travelers were detected across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

Among the fresh cases, the officials said that 23 were from Jammu Division and 51 from Kashmir Valley, taking the overall tally to 124157. ● More On P2



KASHMIR In Capital: South Delhi's Samaritan Shawl-man

Romaan Arora

As home to some proficient Kashmiris, Lajpat Nagar is a specimen of the skilled valley in the capital. One of the upholders of this craft spirit is Basharat Saleem Sheikh, an erstwhile resident of Rawalpura locality in Srinagar.

Basharat was 24 when he came to Delhi, and it took him 28 years of toiling and tireless efforts to reach the place where he stands today.

In October 1992, he arrived in the capital after braving the brunt of offensive back home.

"I was badly thrashed by security forces in Maharaj Bazar soon after a

firing incident," Basharat recalls. "I was on my scooter and was trying to escape from that mishap. But the government forces got hold of me and started beating me, even though I was innocent."

After this dreadful incident, his father sent him to New Delhi and got him a shop on lease in Hauz Khas locality where he worked for eight years till the year 2000.

His slog and single-minded devotion clicked his capital dream.

"It was a friend of mine who suggested me to buy a shop in Lajpat Nagar as it was emerging as a prominent marketplace during early 2000," remembers Basharat, now in



his early 50s.

"Since the owner was a friend of mine, he gave me five months to pay the complete amount."

At that time the demand for Kashmiri Shawls was at a peak in Europe. He exported a good number of them and paid the complete amount to his buddy landlord.

"Not only that," he adds, "I also bought an adjacent basement at the double rate."

In the span of almost three decades, Basharat has noticed quite a few differences between working in Kashmir and Delhi.

The first difference is of artisans, he says. "I've searched the whole

of India but have never seen anyone matching the craftsmanship of Kashmiri artisans."

Also, he asserts, Kashmiris are more honest. "Be it a businessman, or a customer, they all are honest. In fact, Kashmiris are respected in every part of the world not just in India. We've earned a global image because of our distinct features such as our state of the art handicrafts and our hospitality."

Even the Amritsari shawls, he says, are sold in the name of Kashmir. "Our own distinct identity is responsible for this brand Kashmir fascination and appeal."

Besides honesty, it ● More On P2

People Building

of villages and towns, with dreams of progress in their eyes, have started building a new Jammu and Kashmir to fulfil their ambitions and those of the nation,” Sinha said while addressing the Republic Day function here.

He said 2020 has been a year of unprecedented change in Jammu and Kashmir. “Through a continuous process of change, the roots of progress have been planted in the new Jammu and Kashmir,” he said.

“The security agencies have effectively controlled violence and those who are trying to fulfil their political motives with the help of this proxy war are being given a befitting reply,” he said.

Invoking Kalhana's Rajtarangini, the LG said the breeze of Jammu and Kashmir has the words of sages and, in its mountains lies the music of Sufi mystics.

“There is art in its soil and the light of lotuses in its rivers. For this reason, the great Kalhana in his book ‘Rajtarangini’, while mentioning Jammu and Kashmir, has written Tadvina Nagram Kutra Pavitra . Except this place, is there any city on the earth where such holy and beautiful rivers can be accessible?,” he said.

The LG says Kalhana writes further, “I have not seen such a city where the glory of planets in the sky is clearly visible.”

“Therefore, in every corner of it, we can find the culture of thoughtfulness and soulful experience of our ancient civilisation. Who can forget the words of famous Sufi saint Amir Khusroo ‘Gar Firdous Bar Rue Zami Ast. Hami Asto, Hami Asto, Hami Ast ! If there is heaven on earth, it is here, it is here, it is here”, he said.

On the occasion of Republic Day, he said, “I bow down to the bravery of police personnel and our security forces working day and night to create a conducive atmosphere for smooth day-to-day life and maintaining a peaceful environment”.

On behalf of the entire Jammu and Kashmir, I pay homage to all the warriors who have sacrificed everything for the honour of our tricolour, he added.

The LG said that for a long time, the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir were denied grassroots democracy. “We have been successful in conducting a violence free, free and fair elections to District Development Councils. We assure all the elected representatives that with your support, administration will bring the fruits of development to the last person standing in the queue”, he added.

The LG said the horrific tragedy due to the coronavirus shook our economy and social life badly for some time. “But now the darkness has been dispelled. With the dawn of a new morning, we are taking forward the economy and the social welfare programmes of Jammu and Kashmir”, he added.

Sinha said a new revolution has started with the Ayushman Bharat Sehat scheme in the field of public health. “This health insurance scheme is the first of its kind in the country and the world, where under all the 1.3 crore J&K citizens will be benefited without any discrimination,” he added.

‘Every Inch

estates will be completed by March 2021. Dismissing all rumours and apprehensions, I fully assure you the safety of every inch of your land,” he said, as per an official spokesperson. (Text of LG's speech on page 5)

R-Day Held

at the march past after unfurling the tricolour. Braving chilly weather conditions, contingents of police and other state forces took part in the parade after Khan was given the guard of honour.

A state forces personnel, who was part of the R-Day parade, collapsed apparently due to hypothermia, officials said.

The jawan collapsed while waiting in the grounds of the SK Cricket stadium for the march past to begin, they said.

The unidentified jawan was rushed to a nearby medical facility for treatment, they said adding that he was discharged after his condition stabilised.

A brief cultural programme was held after the parade to mark the occasion.

R-Day functions were also held at other district headquarters and tehsils of the valley, the officials said.

Stringent security arrangements were in place to ensure that the celebrations passed off peacefully, they said.

They said state forces were deployed in strength across the city while security barricades were erected along the routes leading to the stadium. The officials said drones were also used to maintain a hawk's eye vigil on any suspicious movement.

As part of the security drill, internet services on mobile devices were temporarily suspended, they added.

Mobile Internet

unaffected. “The mobile internet telephone services have been now restored. The services were temporarily suspended early in the morning in the valley for ensuring peaceful Republic Day celebrations,” the officials said.

Suspension of mobile phone and internet services on January 26 and August 15 have been part of the security drill in the Valley since 2005 when militants used a mobile phone to trigger an IED blast near the venue of an I-Day programme.

Farmers Storm

annual show of military might at Rajpath, the farmers who were supposed to take out a tractor parade on pre-decided routes after the Republic Day event was over breached both conditions. Clashes and lathi-charges broke out in many places between a section of the protesters, many of them young, vocal and aggressive, and police personnel.

If police used teargas shells to disperse the restive crowds in some places, hundreds of farmers in ITO were seen chasing them with sticks and ramming their tractors into parked buses. A protester died after his tractor overturned.

ITO resembled a war zone with a car being vandalised by angry protesters and shells, bricks and stones littering the wide streets, testimony to the fact that the farmer movement

that had been peaceful for two months was no longer so.

As the day progressed and thousands of farmers roamed restlessly, thousands more congregated at the Red Fort on foot, tractor and some even on horses -- about four kilometres from ITO.

In unprecedented scenes, protesters entered the complex of the Mughal era monument and attempted to climb the domes and the ramparts, some clambering up the flagpole to hoist a flag from the same place the prime minister unfurls the tricolour from on Independence Day.

Tension spiralled as the crowds swelled. Pushed back by the police from ITO, some protesting farmers drove their tractors to Red Fort complex. Uniformed security personnel could be seen looking on as people gathered in larger numbers.

Though there were no immediate reports of injuries, ambulances could be seen entering the Red Fort complex. There was a mild lathi-charge with police removing protesting farmers from the Red Fort.

The tension was mirrored elsewhere in the city too.

Police baton charged farmers at Chintamani Chowk in Shahdara when they broke barricades and smashed window panes of cars. A group of ‘Nihangs’ (traditional Sikh warriors) clashed with security personnel near Akshardham Temple. And at Nangloi Chowk in west Delhi and at Mukarba Chowk farmers broke cemented barricades and police used tear gas to disperse them.

As chaos reigned with flashpots aplenty, farm union leaders distanced themselves from what was going on.

“We condemn violence against farmers, appeal to all to maintain peace,” Balbir Singh Rajewal, one of the leaders, told PTI. He added that no one from the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha, an umbrella body of 41 unions, went to Outer Ring Road.

Swaraj India leader Yogendra Yadav also said he was appealing with folded hands for peace. Today is Republic Day, he said.

A member of the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha, an umbrella body of 41 unions, leading the protest against the three central farm laws at several border points of Delhi, said those who broke the barricades at Tikri border points belonged to the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee.

He said the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha's tractor parade would start as scheduled after police give farmers way. The Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee on Monday announced that they would hold their march on Delhi's busy Outer Ring Road on Republic Day.

The day began on a celebratory note with farmers chanting ‘rang de basanti’ and ‘jai jawan jai kisan’ crossing the national border on tractors, motorbikes, horses and even cranes for their proposed parade.

Locals stood on both sides of the roads at various locations showering flower petals on the farmers amid drum beats.

Standing atop vehicles decked up with flags, protesters could be seen dancing to the tune of patriotic songs such as Aisa desh hai mera and Sare jahan se achcha .

But the mood changed soon after.

Delhi Police appealed to protesting farmers to not take law into their hands and maintain peace as the violence broke out..

The police also asked the farmers to head back to their pre-decided routes for the tractor parade.

Union Minister of Tourism and Culture Prahlad Patel condemned the actions of a section of farmers who entered the Red Fort as part of their tractor rally and said it violated the symbol of dignity of India's democracy.

“The Red Fort is a symbol of the dignity of our democracy. The farmers should have stayed away from it. I condemn the violation of this dignity. It is sad and unfortunate,” Patel said in a tweet.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said violence is not the solution to any problem.

“If anyone gets hurt, the damage will be done to our country. Take back the anti-agricultural laws in national interest,” he said in a tweet in Hindi.

Taking up cudgels on behalf of the farmers, the CPI(M) lashed out at the Centre over the treatment meted out to protesting farmers during their tractor rally, and said tear gassing and lathicharging them is “unacceptable”.

The entry and exit gates of more than 10 metro stations in central and north Delhi were temporarily closed following the trouble.

Farmers, mostly from Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh, have been camping at several Delhi border points, including Tikri, Singhu and Ghazipur, since November 28, demanding a complete repeal of three farm laws and a legal guarantee on minimum support price for their crops.

Internet Snapped

effective till midnight Tuesday in Delhi's Singhu, Ghazipur, Tikri, Mukarba Chowk, Nangloi and their adjoining areas. An order issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs said the decision has been taken in exercise of the powers conferred by section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act 1855.

It said the suspension of internet services was necessary and expedient in the interest of maintaining public safety and averting public emergency.

The order will be in force in from 12:00 hours to 23:59 hours on January 26, the MHA said.

People residing close to farmers protest sites said they are getting SMSes informing them about the suspension of internet services in their area.

“As per the government instructions, the Internet services have been temporarily stopped in your area because of which you are not able to use these services. You will be able to use the Internet services once we get directions from the government,” an SMS sent by a telecom operator read.

Meanwhile, an MHA source said Rapid Action Force personnel have been repositioned in the national capital and vigil has been intensified in view of the evolving situation.

Wielding sticks and clubs and holding the tricolour and union flags, tens of thousands of farmers atop tractors broke barriers, clashed with police and entered the city from various points to lay siege to the Red Fort and climb the flagpole on Republic Day on Tuesday.

While farmer leaders, who have been spearheading the two-month protest at the national capital's border points to demand a repeal of the farm laws, disowned the protesters, one young man was seen hoisting a yellow triangular flag at the flagpole - the centrepiece of the country's Independence Day celebrations.

The protesters were later removed from the

premises of the Red Fort.

Amit Shah Briefed

number of farmers with their tractors broke police barricades and entered central Delhi areas, including Red Fort and ITO.

The Home secretary met the home minister and apprised him about the prevailing situation in the national capital and the steps being taken by the Delhi Police to maintain peace, an official said.

A few other officials were also present at the meeting.

The Union Home Ministry has already ordered a temporary suspension of the internet in parts of Delhi.

Wielding sticks and clubs and holding the tricolour and union flags, tens of thousands of farmers atop tractors broke barriers, clashed with police and entered the city from various points to lay siege to the Red Fort and climb the flagpole on Republic Day.

Farmers, mostly from Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh, have been camping at several Delhi border points, including Tikri, Singhu and Ghazipur, since November 28, demanding a complete repeal of three farm laws and a legal guarantee on minimum support price for their crops.

Statehood To

back. “We believe that our leaders will fulfill the promises. We believe that the Statehood will be restored soon,” he said.

He added all the political parties as well as the people have the right to speak about their sentiments and demands & meet any top leader, adding that former minister and Apni Party president Syed Altaf Bukhari too has met the PM to express his views and raise his demands.

Koul also said that the situation has improved and will improve further in J&K.

Asked about the delimitation process, Koul said that the government has already constituted a delimitation commission and State Election Commission (SEC) in this regard. “I believe the work has been started already and they should submit the report in this regard at earliest,” he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Koul said that India is a Republic country and believes in democracy. “Today, Indians across the globe especially in India are celebrating the day. On this occasion, I congratulate people especially Kashmiris on this day and pray for the prosperity and peace for Kashmir,” he said.

He said the deadly pandemic seems at the verge of culmination as less than 100 cases are now surfacing in J&K. “I wish the peace will once again return Kashmir,” he said—(KNO)

India Displays

Charlie' in a fitting finale.

Besides, it also flew as part of the ‘Eklavya’ formation with two Jaguar jets and two MiG-29 aircraft. A total of 38 IAF aircraft participated in the flypast.

The ceremony began with Prime Minister Narendra Modi leading the nation in paying homage to the martyrs by laying a wreath at the National War Memorial. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat, Army chief Gen M M Naravane, Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh and IAF chief Air Chief Marshal R K S Bhadauria were also present on the occasion.

The parade, commanded by Lt Gen Vijay Kumar Mishra, with Maj Gen Alok Kacker as the second-in-command, began with President Ram Nath Kovind taking the salute. The national flag was unfurled followed by the national anthem, synchronised with a 21-gun salute.

Another first at the ceremony was a 122-member marching-cum-band contingent of the Bangladesh armed forces taking part in the parade.

The Bangladeshi tri-services contingent was the first marching contingent to walk down the ceremonial boulevard.

Lt Col Abu Md Shahnoor Shawon of the Bangladesh army, who spearheaded the parading contingent said, “It was an honour for us to be part of this august ceremony of India, and that too in the 50th year of our Independence. And, India gave us the honour to lead the parade.”

The Bangladeshi military band right behind the marching contingent played six tunes in all, including some of the iconic ones like war song ‘Chal Chal Chal’ by poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, and ‘Shono Ekti Mujiborer’.

Known otherwise to witness huge bustling crowds across many age groups, the annual ceremonial event at Rajpath was scaled down this time in view of the coronavirus pandemic,

with spectators' size drastically cut to 25,000 from about 1.25 lakh last year.

From members of contingents to spectators, everyone wore masks, the audience maintained the mandated distance while sitting, and standing spectators were not allowed.

The marching contingents' route was also curtailed and they stopped at the National Stadium this year instead of following the regular route all the way to the Red Fort.

The size of the marching contingents was also reduced from regular 144 to 96 so that they could maintain social distancing, a senior official said.

Due to COVID-19 safety norms, gravity-defying stunts by motorcycle-borne men -- a major attraction for the crowd at Republic Day celebrations on the Rajpath -- were also missing this year.

Depicting the nation's rich cultural heritage, 17 tableaux from states and Union territories, and nine from different Union ministries and paramilitary forces took part in the 72nd Republic Day celebrations.

Six tableaux from the defence arm, including one each from the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Navy, were also part of the parade. Flt Lt Bhawana Kanth, the first woman pilot of the IAF was part of its tableau, which depicted scaled down models of Light Combat Aircraft, Light Combat Helicopter, Su-30 MKI and Rohini radar.

The Navy's tableau displayed models of Indian naval ship (INS) Vikrant and naval operations that were conducted during the 1971 India-Pakistan war.

India is currently celebrating the Swarnim Vijay Varsh -- the Golden Jubilee year -- commemorating the country's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war that led to the creation of Bangladesh.

Young Union territory of Ladakh made its debut in the extravaganza on Rajpath with a beautiful tableau depicting the iconic Thikse Monastery and its rich cultural heritage.

The Union Territory of Ladakh was created in 2019 after the central government bifurcated the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Other states and Union territories which showcased the diversity of India included Gujarat, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Tripura, West Bengal, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Delhi.

Ancient city Ayodhya's heritage, replica of a Ram temple, glimpse of ‘Deepotsav’ and various stories from Ramayana epic were depicted in the tableau of Uttar Pradesh in the parade.

The CPWD float paid tribute to the sacrifices made by heroes of the armed forces, with a special floral tableau, while Delhi tableau depicted the pedestrianisation project of Chandni Chowk.

Bajasal, a folk dance from Kalahandi in Odisha, and performances themed on Fit India Movement and Aatmanirbhar Bharat were also presented on Rajpath

Tableau Row:

thousands of people.

“It was a clear message to the administration and central government that partial share cum representation isn't acceptable to people of Kargil,” Mohammadi said.

He said that despite having no such experience the occasion was celebrated in a great manner with people's participation.

“People in thousands joined the celebrations at Isna Ashri Chowk Kargil and the tricolour was unfurled at 10:45 am that started with the recitation of Quran,” he said.

He said that the occasion was celebrated as a make of protest only because the people of Kargil are being ignored at every front by the Ladakh UT administration.

“Injustice with Kargil must end and there should be an equal share of rights under the Indian constitution and this celebration sends a clear message to both UT administration and central government,” he said.

Mohammadi, while addressing the gathering said that India in a year celebrates two occasions including the 26th of January and 15th August but the administration is deliberately ignoring the constitutional rights to Kargil.

These constitutional rights teach us about the rights, justice and none is superior to others. We demand equal rights under the constitution,” he said.

He said that “We demand equal share and rights and don't ask for more than deserved under the constitution.”

Mohammadi said that instead of equal stay at both the districts, LG hardly visits Kargil.

“After giving UT status to Ladakh it was promised that there will be an equal share of directors and duty rosters were also finished but still, the people of Kargil are made to travel to Leh for any official work,” he said.

“We will continue to fight for equal rights,” he said.

J&K Logs 74

Giving district wise details, Srinagar reported 37 cases, Baramulla 3, Budgam 2, Pulwama 3, Kupwara 1, Anantnag 2, Ganderbal 1, Kulgam 1, Shopian 1, Jammu 20, Udhampur 1, Poonch and Reasi one each.

There was one death report due to the virus

after two days and the victim was a resident of Srinagar, taking the fatality count to 1930—1210 in Valley and 719 in Jammu division.

Srinagar district with 454 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (370), Baramulla (173), Budgam (117), Kupwara (95), Pulwama (88), Anantnag (84), Doda (64), Bandipora (61), Udhampur (57), Kulgam (54), Rajouri (55), Kathua (51), Ganderbal (46), Shopian (39), Samba (39), Poonch (24), Ramban (21), Kishtwar(22), and Reasi (15).

Meanwhile, the officials said, 54 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals— 21 from Jammu Division and 33 from Kashmir Valley. (With GNS inputs)

Kashmir Gets

The minimum temperature at the Gulmarg skiing resort, in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, settled at minus 11.5 degrees Celsius on Monday night.

Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 7.1 degrees Celsius, rising over four degrees from the previous night's minus 11.9 degrees Celsius.

Kupwara recorded a low of minus 1.4 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag, in the south, registered a minimum temperature of minus 9.0 degrees Celsius.

Minimum temperatures are expected to remain below freezing point for the next week as the weatherman has forecast the possibility of a western disturbance hitting the valley on February 2.

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

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

Polls For DDC

chairperson of DDC and another to be vice-chairperson of DDC.

If the number of candidates for these posts is more than one, then election will take place through secret ballot.

The State Election Commission on Monday unveiled a draft proposal for reservation of offices of chairpersons of DDCs.

According to the proposal, posts of DDC chairpersons of Ganderbal, Shopian, Ramban and Kishtwar have been reserved for women, while Poonch has been kept exclusively for women from Schedule Tribe(ST) Category.

Similarly, offices of chairpersons of Anantnag and Rajouri have been reserved for STs while Jammu and Udhampur seats have been reserved for SCs.

As per the SEC's order, objections, if any, to the draft reservation of the offices of the chairperson shall be submit to the body by January 30, 2021—(KNO)

KASHMIR In Capital

was his fixed price policy that acts as a USP for his brand in Delhi.

“Different price for different buyers harms your own reputation,” Basharat, a ‘Samaritan’ in Delhi circles, says.

“I believe that giving a gift to the customer is much better than giving a discount as it strengthens the relationship between the seller and the buyer.”

But settling down in Delhi was not a cake-walk for him. The struggle was especially searing during the initial phase. Being new to the city's culture and living habits, he had no idea how to survive in the blistering capital.

“The culture was a hurdle here,” he says. “In Srinagar, you can't put up till late, but here, you've to work late till 12 in the midnight to earn a satisfactory living.”

But while struggling for his brand building, he never faced any untoward incident in his life.

“I've seen all kinds of people in my life,” he says. “But luckily, I never faced any serious issue.”

While scripting his own capital success, he never felt any regret about his decision.

“Since the day I came in Delhi,” he says, “I've only prospered. There was never any incident that could have forced me to introspect my decision.”

But all these years, he could also not take his birthplace out of his mind.

“In Kashmir,” Basharat says, “I've people who can risk their own life for me. And that is something which makes the feeling of homeland strong and special.”

Co-Pilot Of

Pathankot on a visit.

“The cremation is at his hometown in Faridabad,” the spokesperson said.

Officials are investigating into the reason behind the mishap

131-Foot High

enthusiasm, they said.

The IG BSF before hoisting the tricolour at Octroi unfurled the national flag at the BSF headquarters in Jammu.

The hoisting of the flag at Octroi was possible because of the sponsorship of the Lupin Foundation, the J-K tourism and the administration, the officials said.



انتقال پر ملال

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ و افسوس کے ساتھ

دی جاتی ہے کہ عبدالرشید ڈا عرف قلو ولد

محمد سبحان ڈار ساکنہ مائتمہ سرینگر

مورخہ 25 جنوری 2021ء بروز سوموار اس دنیا فانی سے رحلت کر

گئے۔ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحوم کو جنت الفردوس نصیب کرے۔ مرحوم کی اجتماعی

فاتحہ خوانی اُن کے آبائی مقبرہ واقع ملہ ٹینک ڈکلیٹ میں مورخہ

27 جنوری 2020ء بروز بدھوار صبح 10.30 بجے انجام دی جائے

گی۔

سوغواراں: - دا عجاز احمد، جاوید احمد



AS PART OF JANUARY 26 celebrations, Kashmiri folkdance was performed at S.K Stadium, Srinagar. KO Photo Abid Bhat



IN CITY CENTRE LAL CHOWK, government forces enforced restrictions on January 26. KO Photo Abid Bhat

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)



HIJRI
CALENDAR

13

JAMADI
-UL-SANI

1442

This Day in History

- 661 - Rashidun Caliphate, then the largest empire in history, ends with death of Ali. Succeeded by the Umayyad Caliphate
- 1695 - Mustafa II becomes the Ottoman sultan in Istanbul on the death of Ahmed II. Mustafa rules until his death in 1703.
- 1880 - Thomas Edison patents electric incandescent lamp
- 1897 - British troops occupy Bida Gold Coast (Ghana)
- 1926 - US Senate agrees to join World Court
- 1926 - Physicist Erwin Schrödinger publishes his theory of wave mechanics and presents what becomes known as the Schrödinger equation in quantum mechanics
- 1945 - Soviet troops liberate Auschwitz and Birkenau Concentration Camps in Poland
- 1967 - Treaty signed banning military use of nuclear weapons in space
- 1973 - US & North Vietnam & #39;s; William Rogers & Nguyen Duy Trinh sign cease-fire, ending longest US war and military draft
- 1976 - Morocco-Algeria battles in West Sahara
- 1985 - 15th Space Shuttle (51-C) Mission-Discovery 3 returns to Earth

PRAYERS

FAJR

6: 06

ZUHR

12: 42

ASR

4:18

MAGRIB

5:59

ISHA

7:22

From KO Archives

900 Britons Join Fight Every Year

GIVING UP LUXURY TO
FIGHT FOR KASHMIR

Dalip Singh & James Clark

LONDON- At least 900 young British Muslims are leaving the country each year to take part in the battle for Kashmir, with many using holidays from good jobs to fight in what they regard as a holy war, an investigation has revealed.

Recruited in mosques, bookshops and community groups, they spend three months being trained in mountain camps on the side of Pakistan border before entering the conflict against India.

Delhi is so angry about the increasing numbers of fighters being trained, and the (POUND) 7m raised in Britain to "defend" Kashmir, that a private meeting has been called in the Indian capital with representatives of the British Foreign Office and MI5, the security service.

Indian officials will demand that Britain take stronger action to stop recruitment and, fundraising, which they claim foes directly to terrorism and sees up to 1,800 Britons making the journey each year.

MI5, which has a special section dedicated to looking into the problem, disagrees with the Indian estimates. However, a security source said". There are about 900 UK citizens who make this trip for training each year. About 10% of those stay and fight, the rest take their political and religious indoctrination and bring it back to their own communities, mostly for fundraising and recruitment."

He said the service was acutely sensitive to accusations that it was targeting Muslims, but insisted that it was targeting terrorists regardless of colour.

The Sunday Times spoke to three men in north. London, all university graduates from middle-class British families, two of whom held down highly paid jobs. All three had trained or fought in Kashmir. Abu Yahya, 27, said. "I have just returned from Pakistan. I joined Islamic camps and met Islamic leaders. There I was trained with movements like Lashkar-e-Taiba, Harkat-ul-Jehad-Islami and Harkat-ul-Ansar. We were trained to use Kalashnikovs, make bombs, everything that an army would need to wage battle."

Izzadeen Abdullah, a 28-yr-old white former Christian with a degree in optical engineering, adopted Islam, had also recently returned. "I crossed the border in Kashmir. I think for any Muslim, the most eagerly awaited opportunity is to kill the enemy. The Indian soldiers don't deserve any mercy and I'm happy to say that I took part in wiping them out."

"We are planning to go there next month. I'm an engineer in fibre optics so I just contract out for a couple of months from a work."

Also in the house was Abu-Ibrahim, a 29-yr-old computer engineer. "You would be surprised to know that there are many computer guys in place like Canary Wharf who are involved in these kinds of activities. I have had training here in the Territorial Army and again in Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan."

The one thing all three have in common is a fear of the government's new anti-terrorism act, due to come into force this year. They believe it will lead to them being jailed in Britain, if they continue to travel to Pakistan and Kashmir. (Courtesy- Sunday Times London.)

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 27 January, 2001)

Advisor Baseer Khan Unfurls Tricolor At Srinagar

J&K Marching Fast Towards Growth, Development With Tremendous Support From Center

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan, today unfurled the Tricolor and took salute at the march-past during Republic Day celebration at S.K stadium, Srinagar.

Later, Advisor inspected the parade on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Advisor said that Jammu and Kashmir is marching fast towards rapid growth and development and the Government of India is leaving no stone unturned to make the UT progressive and prosperous.

"On this great occasion, I would like to highlight some major achievements of government like recently launched healthcare scheme Sehat under which each individual will get Rs. 5 lakh cover as health benefit across the country," asserted the Advisor. He also made a mention of other healthcare measures like establishment of new medical colleges and BSC nursing colleges in the UT," said



Advisor.

He said that the J&K administration exhibiting great courage and prompt response fought the unseen war against Covid-19 pandemic. He praised all Deputy Commissioners, health functionaries, doctors, paramedical staff, other concerned departments for fighting the pandemic together.

He said as the 70 percent of population is dependent on agriculture and its allied sectors, all efforts are afoot to ensure target of doubling the income of farmers is achieved in the UT. Advisor said that the facility

of Elevated Rail System is also expected to be launched in the UT by ending 2024. Besides, every household shall be provided with tap water facility by 2022 in J&K. He also deliberated on several revolutionary measures launched in the power sector.

Advisor said that successful conduct of first ever DDC polls is another achievement which shall provide people an opportunity to be part of the development initiatives in their areas at the grass root level. Appreciating security forces for their selfless services, Advisor said that "Our security forces are alert and have been successfully foiling all attempts of miscreants and dealing up professionally to maintain peace and tranquility in the UT."

Advisor also deliberated on progress and achievements made under PMGSY, Digital India Record, PMAY, MGNREGA, projects for up gradation of transmission lines, development of sports infrastructure, promotion of handicrafts and handloom sectors and other areas of development. Advisor paid rich tributes to the martyrs who laid their lives for the cause of the country. Organized by Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, (JKAACL), a variety of cultural programmes was also presented by both male and female artists on the occasion. Meanwhile, a special yoga training session was demonstrated by young yoga trainees, who received appreciation for their skilful performances.

Later, Advisor also felicitated the participants with certificates and trophies. Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole, IGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary and various senior civil administration and police officers were present on the occasion.

5 SMC Corporators Hoist Tri-color at Gupkar Road

SRINAGAR: Five Corporators from Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) unfurled tricolor for the first time at high security Gupkar Road in Srinagar upotown.

The tri-color was hoisted near the residences of two former Chief Ministers of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah.

Top politicians of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir including Mehbooba Mufti have their residences on the Gupkar Road.

Eyewitnesses said that five independent Corporators assembled at Gupkar and hoisted tri-color in presence of security personnel.

All these Corporators are in-



dependent. Aquib Renzu Shah, one of the Corporators who was present on the occasion said that besides him, there were

Corporators Asif Beigh from Jogi Lankar Ward, Muhammad Saleem Bhat from Mehjoor Nagar Ward, Inayat Ahmed from Nawab Bazar Ward and Shaheena Bhat from Raj Bagh Ward who hoisted tri-color and showered flower petals on the eve of Republic Day.

Meanwhile, the newly elected Mayor Junaid Azim Mattu also unfurled the national flag and inspected the J&K police march past at the SMC complex at Karan Nagar today.

"Mayor Junaid Mattu presided over a rousing Republic Day function held at Srinagar Municipal Corporation Head Office at Karan Nagar this morning," tweeted Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

LG hosts Republic Day 'At Home'

JAMMU: Celebrating the 72nd Republic Day, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha hosted 'At Home' at the Lawns of Raj Bhavan, Jammu.

The Lt Governor interacted with the invitees and exchanged Republic Day greetings with them.

Among those who attended the 'At Home' were State Election Commissioner; Advisors to the Lt Governor; Judges of the J&K High Court; Mayor Jammu Municipal Corporation; Members of Parliament; Chief Secretary; Vice Chancellors; DGP; elected representatives of ULBs and PRIs;



former Legislators; serving and retired senior Civil, Police, Central Armed Police Force, Army and Air Force officers; Republic Day Parade Commanders; ex-Servicemen, outstanding achievers in various arenas, leaders of various social and political organizations and media persons. War-widows were the special invitees for 'At Home'.

Div Com Kashmir Hosts At Home In Srinagar



SRINAGAR: On the occasion of 72nd Republic-Day celebrations, the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole hosted 'At Home' at Shere-e-Kashmir International Convention, Centre (SKICC), here today.

Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Mayor Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Junaid Azim Mattu, IGP, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar, Vice Chancellors of University of Kashmir, SKUAST, Central Uni-

versity Kashmir, Vice Chairperson, KVIB, Dr Hinna Bhat, DDC Chairpersons, SSPs, PRIs and BDC Chairpersons, corporates besides other senior officers attended the function.

The 'At Home' was also attended by young entrepreneurs, progressive farmers and serving and retired senior Civil, Police, officers and prominent citizens from all walks of life.

Later, the Advisor accompanied by Div Com and IGP interacted with the guests.

Justice Magray Unfurls Tri-Color At High Court

SRINAGAR:- In connection with 72nd Republic day celebration, a grand function was held at J&K High Court premises Srinagar today.

On the occasion, Jammu and Kashmir High Court Judge, Chairman Juvenile Justice Committee (JJC) High Court of J&K, Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey unfurled the National flag and took salute at the March Past.

At the outset, Justice Magray congratulated the gathering present at the function and spoke about the role of judiciary in the country. He said the judiciary is a very important component of the constitution.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr Shahid Iqbal Chowdhary, senior functionaries of Judiciary and others, besides



officers of Police and CRPF were present in the function.

Meanwhile, Tri-colour was also hoisted at the premises of several Government offices including office of the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir and Civil Secretariat.

At the Divisional Commissioner office, Additional Div Com, Tasaduq Hussain Mir, un-

furled the tricolor and took salute at the March Past.

Similarly, a flag hoisting ceremony was held at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

On the occasion, Additional Secretary Social welfare Department, Khurshid Ahmad Sanai unfurled the national flag and took salute at the March Past.

KASHMIR OBSERVER

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Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja

Switchboard: (0194) 2106304

Editorial: (0194) 2502327

Email editorial: editor@kashmirobserver.net

K O V I E W

Lingering 4G ban

Jammu and Kashmir administration has extended the ban on 4G mobile data services across the union territory till February 6. The government reasoning remains the same: the order has cited threat perception on the security front in the union territory to not restore high-speed internet services on the mobile phones. This means, the internet speed will continue to be restricted to 2G in all districts, except Ganderbal and Udhampur where the 4G services were reinstated in August 2020. The service was snapped on August 5, 2019 when Article 370 was revoked.

Meanwhile, the Private Schools Association of Jammu and Kashmir has filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking restoration of high speed mobile Internet. The Association has pleaded that the children of J&K have already lost two academic years as it was "impossible to conduct online classes using video-conferencing tools such as Zoom or WebEx at 2G mobile Internet speed". The Association has also highlighted the prolonged closures of schools after August 5, 2019 and then on account of COVID-19 pandemic.

But the government remains unmoved. It is in no mood to restore the high speed mobile internet anytime soon. Last year, speaking in parliament, the minister of state for home GK Reddy said that the high-speed internet was already available in Kashmir on fixed line. Reddy further said that, "E-learning apps and education and e-learning websites of the government are accessible over 2G internet for downloading e-books and other study material". Similarly for the minister "the 2G mobile internet speed is not an impediment in Covid control measures including dissemination of information to general public as well as health workers".

But ask the teachers and pupils in J&K, they would hardly agree with the union government on this. Truth is, it is certainly not feasible to study online with 2G speed. For one, it is challenging to attend the video classes which are a critical component of online education. Such classes enable a direct interaction of the students with their teachers and allows them to ask questions and seek clarifications. On 2G speed, the schools can send only a textual study material to students through mail. And that is as good as studying text books at home.

It is thus important that the government restores the high speed mobile internet. It is the best solution to lack of physical schooling. The government needs to rethink the internet ban in its entirety. Eighteen months ban on the service and ever since a severely curbed mobile internet is the longest denial of what the apex court has termed as a fundamental right.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Widening gulf

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to what has arguably been the most unequal recession in recent history, exacerbating inequalities along several axes. While millions of Indians, especially those in the informal sector, lost their jobs, and had to dip into whatever meagre savings they had to finance their consumption, the richest Indians have continued to prosper. According to a report by Oxfam, the wealth of billionaires in the country increased by 35 per cent during the lockdown. While this is an increase in wealth, not income, to put this in perspective, the increase in the wealth of India's top 100 billionaires would have been enough to give each of the country's 138 million poorest a transfer of Rs 94,045.

The corporate results also bear out this facet of the economic crisis. Firms have protected their bottom lines by drastically slashing expenditure, mainly through a combination of job and salary cuts. This implies that the distribution of income, which was already skewed in favour of capital, will get even more unbalanced. Even more worrying is the fact that despite economic activities largely reverting back to pre-COVID levels, labour market dislocations persist — demand for work under MGNREGA continues to outstrip that observed last year by a wide margin, suggesting continuing lack of absorptive capacity in both urban and rural areas. But, worsening labour market inequality is just one part of the larger socio-economic consequences of the pandemic. The pandemic has also impacted access to education, health, and has led to a worsening of gender disparities. As the Oxfam report notes, during the pandemic, as education shifted online, the digital divide widened inequalities. Considering that only 3 per cent of India's poorest 20 per cent households had access to a computer, and 9 per cent had access to the internet, the difficulties faced by the poor and the historically deprived in accessing education have worsened. The impact on the female workforce has been equally grim. Not only has the unemployment rate among women worsened, but 83 per cent of those who managed to retain their jobs, saw a salary cut, the report noted.

The full economic impact of the labour market scarring, the worsening of inequalities in access to education and health and the growing gender disparities will be visible over the medium-to-long term. But as evidence mounts of a K-shaped recovery, where the fortunes of those at the top and bottom end of the income distribution diverge, the government must unveil measures that address these issues in the upcoming budget.

Indian Express

Protector of Muslims?

Saudi Arabia Redefines Role As World's Defender Of Muslims



DONNA ABU-NASR
Bloomberg

The Saudis may be losing the soft-power game to Turkey at the moment. But they're probably valuing other games. Turkey has economic limits as to how much it is willing to sacrifice its own economic interests in pursuit of gaining the soft power. This is never a zero sum game"

When Chinese diplomat Tan Banglin defended his country's treatment of Muslims amid an international outcry, his comments were less remarkable than where he made them.

In a column last July for one of the most widely read newspapers in Saudi Arabia — the traditional protector of Muslims worldwide — Tan talked about how the Communist Party had united with people in Xinjiang province, leading to "great" changes. That's as nations including the U.S. were accusing China of putting Uighurs into detention camps.

The voice given to China's consul general in Jeddah, less than 70 kilometers from Islam's holiest city of Mecca, reflects the new political reckoning under Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman as he prioritizes more secular national interests at a critical juncture for the kingdom. And it's one that may serve him well as the administration changes in Washington, despite U.S. opposition to Beijing's actions in Xinjiang.

The Saudi world view is being shaped more by hard-nosed business calculations, shifting geopolitical realities and the emergence of clean energy as a competitor to oil while facing a challenge from Turkey for leadership of the Sunni Muslim sphere.

The kingdom has been less vocal on the Palestinian issue, which for decades was its cause celebre. Saudi support for the Muslim population has been conspicuous by its absence in Kashmir, with the Pakistan government turning to Turkey while Prince Mohammed increases trade with India.

"Saudi Arabia suffered from transnational political Islamism where some of its citizens were among the first to travel to help fellow Muslims, but not much identify with their own national causes," said Prince Abdullah bin Khaled, a Saudi academic. "A change of course was required and very much welcomed."

U.S. President Joe Biden has vowed to treat Saudi Arabia as a pariah after four years of cozy relations with his predecessor, Donald Trump. Conversations on issues on human rights, its devastating war on Yemen and rivalry with Iran are likely to be uncomfortable when they eventually happen.

There could also be more tension over the 2018 killing of critic and columnist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul after Biden's nominee for national intelligence director this week pledged to release a report on who was responsible for the murder.

But retrenching from intervening abroad under the guise of supporting fellow Muslims — like

Turkey is doing — may score some points with the Biden administration, according to Emily Hawthorne, a Texas-based analyst with Stratfor, which advises clients on geopolitical risks.

"Saudis might see that becoming more of an economically focused modernized nation as more important than continuing to always nurture that leadership role in the broader Muslim world," said Hawthorne. "It's a gamble, but it might turn out well for them in terms of earning Saudi Arabia some clout."

Until a few years ago, it would have been rare to see warm praise for a communist party in print in Saudi Arabia, not to mention one from the representative of a country that's been censured for its alleged persecution of Muslims. In the 1980s Saudis sent money, and later their sons, to Afghanistan to join the fight against Soviet occupation of that country.

Saudi relations with China have strengthened beyond supplying oil. King Salman, who took the throne in 2015, and the crown prince have paid separate visits to Beijing. On his trip in 2019, the prince appeared to defend China's alleged repression of Muslims and signed a deal to build a \$10 billion refining and petrochemicals complex.

This month, China's Huawei launched its largest flagship store outside China in the Saudi capital, Riyadh. Investment Minister Khalid AlFalih tweeted the news, saying he was "delighted" with the announcement.

It's been a journey that started slowly after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks by 19 hijackers, 15 of them Saudi, and accelerated under Prince Mohammed.

Under pressure to curb extremists, Saudi Arabia waged a successful campaign against radicals in the 2000s. Significantly, the late King Abdullah made Saudi National Day on Sept. 23 a holiday, angering radicals who believe Muslims should not be divided by borders.

As he rose to power four years ago, Prince Mohammed curbed the influence of the powerful religious establishment, gave women more freedoms and allowed concerts and movie theaters. He also tightened control of how financial aid is distributed abroad, making it largely to governments rather than directly to Muslim groups. Alcohol, which the Koran forbids, remains banned.

The change was not an abandonment of Muslim issues but rather "balancing support for them with the imperatives, sensitivities and priorities of the state, knowing that different contexts dictate different realities," said Prince

Abdullah, the academic.

Indeed, Saudi Arabia used to be the first country to be blamed for fueling Islamist terrorism. Yet following a series of gruesome attacks by jihadists in France last year, it was Turkey that French President Emmanuel Macron singled out as an instigator.

Saudi Arabia will always have the physical claim to Islam. Prince Mohammed, through his actions and decisions, has made it clear that the kingdom's duty is to care for the two holy mosques in Mecca and Madinah and make them accessible to Muslims worldwide. One of the goals of his plan to restructure the economy is expanding the two sites and increasing the number of pilgrims.

At the same time, the leadership has signaled it's not the kingdom's duty to fix the problems of Muslims worldwide.

When India revoked almost seven decades of autonomy held by the restive, Muslim majority Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan, which also claims the region, had hoped that Saudi Arabia would galvanize Muslims around this issue. The kingdom, the biggest source of remittances into Pakistan and among its largest creditors, didn't.

Instead, trade with India, which the kingdom sees as an important economic powerhouse, has thrived since then as Saudi Arabia seeks to deepen its foothold in that country. In the third quarter of 2020, India, along with Egypt, drove an increase in foreign investment in the kingdom, a key pillar of the crown prince's economic diversification plan.

In the meantime, Turkey has been boosting ties with Islamabad. Its foreign minister, Mevlut Cavusoglu, opened a new consulate in Pakistan this month, promised to send investors to explore opportunities and presided over the signing of agreements in the movie industry.

Turkish-Pakistani relations are "unique and enviable" Muja-hid Anwar Khan, Pakistan's chief of air staff, told Turkey's state-run Andalou Agency this month. He thanked the Turkish leadership for its "supportive statements" on Kashmir.

The Saudis may be losing the soft-power game to Turkey at the moment, said Hawthorne. "But they're probably valuing other games." "Turkey has economic limits as to how much it is willing to sacrifice its own economic interests in pursuit of gaining the soft power. This is never a zero sum game."

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



OBSERVER
MAIL

All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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P.O.Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001
email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

Snow filled SideWalks

Snow is not new to Kashmir and neither are the challenges that it brings along with it. One would have thought that by now we would have found ways to avoid winter nuisances. However, on the contrary, our administration still needs a nudge to awaken from the hiatus of other seasons and prepare for winter woes.

The first snow of Kashmir was particularly cumbersome as the best the administrators could do was to

play a blame game instead of getting things done. The roads were cleared off snow with a snail's pace and even this wasn't done properly. Consequently, Srinagar had to witness a nightmare of traffic jams even as snow was long gone.

On the other end, however, side-walks were left unattended. These led to a number of pedestrian accidents, who slipped and were either run over by vehicles or broke a bone or two on the frozen sheets of ice.

Are we to always be a victim of the system's unpreparedness? Why must we bear the cost of mishaps they've caused? While the world is grappling with a mutating virus, why must we lose our precious time and health to the callousness of the administration?

Why did the unavailability of snow clearance machines dawn upon officials when we were ankle deep in snow? Why weren't JCBs used as before? Why wasn't there better coordination between R&B officials and the SCM?

We're not out of the winter yet. It will probably snow again and while we might see better preparedness related to vehicular movement, this might not be the case for footpaths and sidewalks. Pedestrians will not be safe and traffic will continue to be a mess. Let's hope that nature has mercy on us because we're not prepared for its wrath.

Tanveera Jehan
Tanveerj@rediffmail

Parenting: Role and Responsibility

MIR BASIT

One common problem among people is the unnecessary yelling or shouting, whether on other family members or on the children. Regular yelling makes it a nuisance which isn't the way of dealing with things. No doubt, we should always mend the ways of our children, but by love and affection

Children are blessings for the parents in this world and a gift of God to mankind. The joy and jubilation of a child's birth in our societies is limitless. Those who are devoid of this blessing know its value more than anyone else. Those parents, who have been blessed, must understand that with blessings comes a responsibility, the responsibility of raising your child with right care and ensuring all round development. The hierarchical development of a child is natural and a duty which every parent must perform.

Caring and raising a child is not always an easy job because through the child a parent gets joy and sometimes somberness. Through a child, parents are put to great trials. Islam, being a complete way of life (Din), guides us in every aspect of our lives. It, thus, provides us rules and guidelines on how to raise and develop a child. But unfortunately people have forgotten those principles and have instead adopted a so-called modern approach, which is just a big deceit.

Dear Parents! If you are serious and concerned about the better future of your child, then there is an added responsibility on you to make it happen. It is seen that parents, these days, tend to shy away from this responsibility and adopt a lenient approach which often leads to the dark future of their child. They don't realize that it is they, who will be held accountable on behalf of their children on the Day of Judgment, as the Quran clearly mentions: "O you who believe! Ward off yourselves and your families against a Fire (Hell) whose fuel is men and stones, over which are (appointed) angels stern (and) severe, who disobey not, (from executing) the Commands they receive from God, but do that which they are commanded" (Quran 66: 6). Firstly, you (parents) have to live and follow the righteous path and then necessarily your children ought to follow it; only you (parents) being on the right path is not acceptable as far as Islam is concerned. That's the beauty of Islam/ Deen, where it cares for everyone.

A child has a fresh brain where he can accept anything without differentiating between right and wrong; whatever he observes around him, he starts imitating it. He perceives things and accordingly builds his mind. So, it is important for the adults to behave in a proper ethical way, one good for their lives and secondly leaving a good impression on their child which they will automatically inherit.

If you are habitual in lying, your children will automatically procure it, because they being immature would surely copy their parents. It becomes obligatory then to speak truth always in your life and then endorse it on your children. Use of slangs, bad language should also be avoided in their presence. One common problem among people is the Unnecessary yelling or shouting, whether on other family members or on the children. Regular yelling makes it a nuisance which isn't the way of dealing with things. No doubt, we should always mend the ways of our children, but by love and affection. Be-



Islam, being a complete way of life (Din), guides us in every aspect of our lives. It, thus, provides us rules and guidelines on how to raise and develop a child. But unfortunately people have forgotten those principles and have instead adopted a so-called modern approach, which is just a big deceit

cause children deserve that love and a necessary balance should be maintained between love for your children and the responsibilities.

Any parent, poor or rich, would never wish anything bad for their child. But sometimes the love for them blinds them to a certain extent. Take the example of use of mobile phones. It has become like oxygen for our children and they eat their food only when provided the phone but easily it can be avoided, instead one can use that mobile phone in a positive way to shape the future of their child.

Children who are addicted to cartoons can easily be redirected to good content, which in a sense will entertain them and will prove fruitful for their future. Every technology is like a double edged sword, so the responsibility of parents increases double-fold: whatever we will feed them they will accept it. Now it is up to the parents what sort of content they will feed them they will grow up around that.

The Prophet (pbuh) said: "Each of you is a shepherd and each of you is responsible for his flock. The ruler is a shepherd and is responsible for his flock. A

man is the shepherd of his family and is responsible for his flock. A woman is the shepherd of her husband's household and is responsible for her flock". So if the children are reared as righteous ones, their benefits will be enjoyed by their parents in longer run and contrastingly if bad habits are inflicted into the children, on the Day of Judgment their parents will surely be held accountable. One can't act in oblivion. Islam has laid the guidelines how to up bring and nurture the child from the primary stages of love to ultimately aggressive approaches if needed, but the responsibility lies on parents.

Make you child better in worldly affairs and also the religious affairs and follow the principles of Islam where success is guaranteed. I end this write-up with this famous Turkish proverb: "If there are no sounds of children laughing in the back as you are praying in a mosque, fear for your next generation".

The author is pursuing a Masters in Mechanical Engineering

LG Manoj Sinha's Republic Day Address

On the occasion of the 72nd Republic Day of India, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha addressed the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Following are extracts from his speech.

My dear brothers and sisters,

On the auspicious occasion of 72nd Republic Day, I convey my best wishes and congratulations to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

1. On this day, the policy makers of the constitution sowed the seeds of justice, freedom, equality, social democracy and prosperity of brotherhood for all people, so that from Kashmir in the north to Kanyakumari in the south, the flag of development and glory of new India keeps flying high. Today on the occasion of Republic Day, every citizen should imbibe truth, non-violence, self-reliance of Mahatma Gandhi and the constitutional ideas of Baba Sahib Ambedkar.

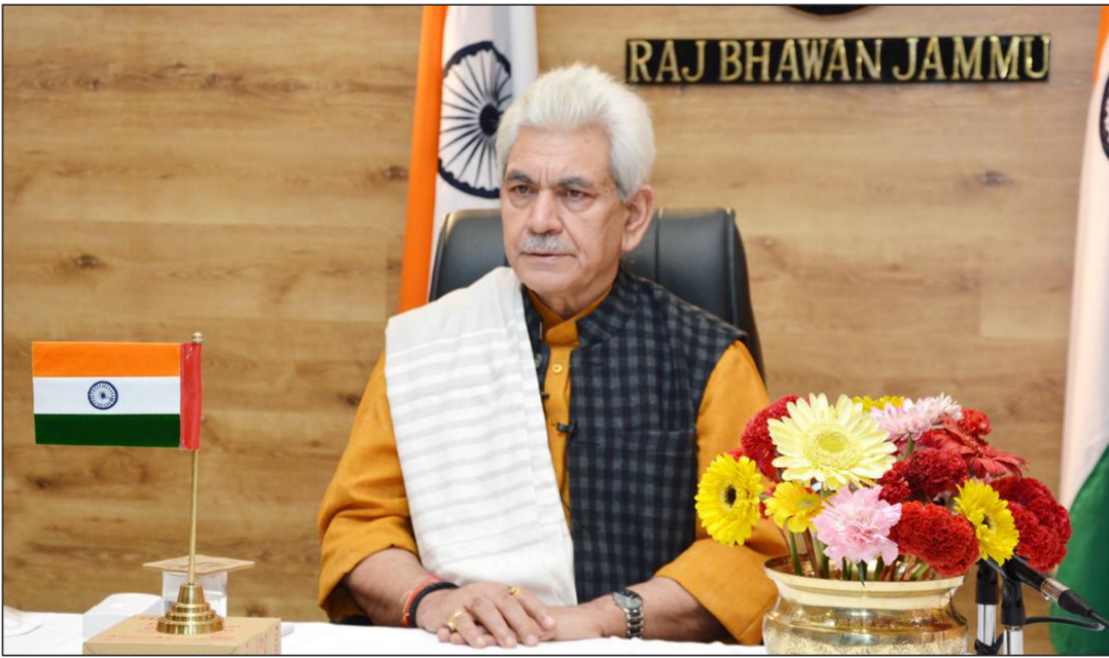
2. Dear brothers and sisters, we have emerged as the largest, most successful and vibrant democracy in the world by preserving the values of equality of all religions, restraint, sacrifice, discipline, unity in diversity and spirit to serve.

3. The year 2020 has been a year of unprecedented change in Jammu and Kashmir. Through a continuous process of change, the roots of progress have been planted in the new Jammu and Kashmir. With the Constitution of India in one hand and the Tricolour in the other, all the people of villages and towns, with dreams of progress in their eyes, have started building a new Jammu and Kashmir to fulfil their ambitions and those of the nation.

4. For a long time, the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir were denied grassroots democracy. We have been successful in conducting a violence free, free and fair elections to District Development Councils. The high turnout of voters broke the records of many previous elections. I specially congratulate the enlightened citizens, all voters, Central Security Forces, Army, Police and Administrative officials for this. We assure all the elected representatives that with your support, the Jammu and Kashmir Administration will bring the fruits of development to the last person standing in the queue.

5. On the auspicious occasion of Republic Day today, I bow down to the bravery of police personnel and our security forces working day and night to create a conducive atmosphere for smooth day-to-day life and maintaining a peaceful environment. On behalf of entire Jammu and Kashmir, I pay homage to all the warriors who have sacrificed everything for the honour of our Tricolour.

6. We want to assure all citizens that the political



conspiracies and nefarious designs of a neighbouring country will never be allowed to succeed in this land of great persons and warriors. The security agencies have effectively controlled violence and those who are trying to fulfil their political motives with the help of this proxy war, are being given a befitting reply.

7. The breeze of Jammu and Kashmir has the words of sages and, in its mountains lies the music of sufi mystics. There is art in its soil and the light of lotuses in its rivers. For this reason, the great Kalhana in his book 'Rajatarangini', while mentioning Jammu and Kashmir, has written "Tadvina Nagram Kutra Pavitra". Who can forget the words of famous Sufi Saint Amir Khusroo "Gar Firdous Bar Rue Zami Ast. Hami Asto, Hami Asto, Hami Ast ! If there is heaven on earth, it is here, it is here, it is here.

8. The horrific tragedy of the corona virus shook our economy and social life badly for some time. But now the darkness has been dispelled. With the dawn of a new morning, we are taking forward the economy and the social welfare programs of Jammu and Kashmir. With the spirit of "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhina, Sarve Santu Niramaya", we have started the

corona virus vaccination programme in Jammu and Kashmir giving top priority to public health workers. But the fight with corona is not over yet. Therefore, while repeating the words of Hon'ble Prime Minister, I would like to urge all of you – Dawaai bhi – kadaai bhi. It must be strictly followed.

9. A new revolution has started with the Ayushman Bharat SEHAT Scheme in the field of Public Health. This health insurance scheme is the first of its kind in the country and the world, where under all the one crore thirty lakh citizens of Jammu and Kashmir will be benefited without any discrimination.

10. Several decisions have been taken to make health facilities world class, and these are being implemented on the ground. Human resource is the biggest asset of our democracy. Therefore, the free facility of Raj Bhawan Helicopter has been provided for treatment of poor people in far-flung areas who often get stranded due to heavy snowfall. We are aware of the difficulties faced by you due to snowfall, and express our sympathies. I have personally been visiting and reviewing the situation on ground and have

issued directions to the administration for providing all possible facilities. This year has seen better power supply compared to the previous ones, but a lot needs to be done. We are trying our best.

11. With the dream of a healthy, prosperous and successful Jammu and Kashmir, the people of the Union Territory have voluntarily turned the two most important programmes of mass participation, 'Back to Village' and 'My Town My Pride' into a mass movement.

12. Even today, this programme of mass participation is going on continuously as 'Block Diwas' and under this programme, the government is reaching to the doorsteps of people. The facilities being provided by the government in an accountable and transparent manner, sports promotion and cleanliness campaigns are bringing good results. Under the 'Back to Village' programme, more than 15000 young men and women have been provided financial assistance to become entrepreneurs. Under various government schemes like MGNREGA, 14th Finance Commission and District Capex Budget, more than 25,000 new projects have been started for the development of villages.

13. Under the 'My Town My Pride' programme, at least ten young men and women from each Municipality have been identified and provided opportunities to become entrepreneurs.

14. In September last year, the Government had provided an economic package of Rs. 1350 crore for immediate relief to businesses and people associated with it who were suffering from the distress of corona virus. Both small and big businessmen and business establishments were given a record 5% interest subvention. On the other hand, 50% relief was given in electricity and water bills for industrial and commercial consumers.

15. In the beginning of this year, we have announced a New Industrial Development Scheme 2021 amounting to Rs. 28,400 crores to attract the country's major industries and investment in Jammu and Kashmir and expand existing industries. This scheme, which will continue till 2037, will take industrial investment to the block level so that the goal of equal, balanced and sustainable economic development can be achieved.

To read the extracts of the entire speech, visit our website www.kashmirobserver.net

R-day Celebrated With Gaiety Across Kashmir

SRINAGAR: 72nd Republic-Day functions were held across Kashmir Division on Tuesday.

At Budgam: The main function was organized at Sports Stadium Budgam where District Development Commissioner (DDC) Budgam, Shabaz Ahmed Mirza unfurled the tricolor, took salute on the march past.

Addressing the gathering, the DDC said that the constitution has given equal rights to all citizens living in the country besides envisaging opportunities for sustainable development and progress. It shall be our sincere endeavor to strengthen its roots and follow constitution

organized at DPL Pulwama, where Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr Raghav Langer unfurled the National Flag and took salute at March past.

In his address, the DC said that Pulwama has become synonymous with Industrial growth, excellence in education and entrepreneurship. He highlighted various developmental works and achievements of the district particularly in Agriculture, Horticulture, Industry, R&B and other sectors.

In the education sector, he said the district has a special significance as the students have brought laurels to the district by achieving top positions in different National and UT



principles in letter and spirit.

During the celebration a variety of cultural programmes were displayed/ presented jointly organized by Department of Education and YSS besides the Information department.

In conclusion, awards for meritorious services were distributed among concerned officers and officials for demonstrating excellence in their respective fields.

The DDC also felicitated District Information Centre Budgam, its whole team for sustained and timely effective coverage of all events particularly during recently held DDC elections, besides during the testing time of unprecedented snow fall.

The function among others was attended by SSP Budgam, Amod Ashok Nagpure, ADC Budgam, Dr. Nasir Ahmad, ACR, ACD and other officers/ officials besides DDCs, prominent political persons and general public.

At Ganderbal: A grand function was organised at Qamaria ground, Ganderbal where, District Development Commissioner (DDC), Ganderbal Shafqat Iqbal unfurled the National Flag and took salute at the March past.

Highlighting the development in the education sector in the district, the DDC said that the Ministry of Ayush has approved the first batch of 60 students in Govt. Unani College and Hospital Nawabagh Ganderbal. He also said 3 more Govt. Women colleges are coming up in the district at Ganderbal, Gund and Wakura for which land is already identified besides Govt. Architecture College at Safapora has also been approved and will be constructed on 100 kanals of land.



To give a flip to the developmental activities in the district, the DDC said that under the Languishing project scheme, 71 projects are being approved to the tune of Rs 207 crore and work on several other projects under different departments is also in full swing. Besides, other departments like Fisheries, FCS&CA, Labour and Employment, ULB, ICDS, Revenue, PDD, etc. have worked diligently to provide basic facilities at the door steps of people.

DDC said that under Back to Village, 389 works have been approved among which 116 works are completed besides during My Town My Pride program several works were identified of public importance which are also at different stages of completion.

The function concluded with distribution of prizes among participants and students who excelled in different fields.

At Pulwama: A grand function was

level competitions. He said that the district has been abode of renowned educationists, sufi saints and poets. He praised the institutions like IUST, upcoming AIIMS, IGC Lassipora, and historical Monument at Awantipora.

He said that Youth of district are creating models of entrepreneurship by establishing their own income generating units through Govt of India flagship programmes like PMEGP, MSME and JKREGP. He recalled the recent Central Governments Industrial package for UT announced by Lt-Governor which will also benefit the district in Industrial Development.

On the occasion, Local Artists presented various Cultural items like songs, skits, chakri, Ladishah and Bangra.

At Baramulla: The main function was held at District Police Lines, Baramulla where the Additional District Development Commissioner Baramulla Aijaz Abdullah Saraf unfurled the tricolor and inspected the parade.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADDC extended his warm greetings to the people and highlighted the importance of R- Day in the history of India. He enlisted various achievements recorded by the district in different sectors and said that several developmental projects of great public significance have been completed by the administration.

Meanwhile various colorful cultural programmes were presented at the event which evoked quite applause from the audience.

Later, a prize distribution ceremony was organized during which different functionaries viz officers/officials, COVID-19 warriors, best performing

cultural artists, parade commanders among others were felicitated.

At Anantnag: The main function was held at District Police Lines (DPL), Anantnag, where Deputy Commissioner, Anshul Garg unfurled the tricolor and took salute at the March past presented by the contingents of CRPF, Executive Police, IRP, District Ladies Police, Home guards and District Police Band.

In his speech, the DC highlighted the achievements of the district under various sectors including, Education, Healthcare, Communication, Agriculture & Allied Sectors, Rural Development, Road Connectivity, creation of Durable & sustainable assets.

He said that 254 works have been completed so far, which were demanded by the general public during the first two phases of the B2V programme and a target of 1050 works has been set to be achieved during the current financial year under the said programme.



World Lost Equivalent Of 255M Jobs Last Year: UN

Agencies

GENEVA: The coronavirus pandemic took a huge toll on global jobs last year, the United Nations said on Monday, with the equivalent of more than a quarter of a billion lost. In a fresh study, the UN's International Labour Organisation (ILO) found that a full 8.8 per cent of global working hours were lost in 2020, compared to the fourth quarter of 2019.

That is equivalent to 255 million full-time jobs, or "approximately four times greater than the number lost during the 2009 global financial crisis", the ILO said in a statement.

"This has been the most severe crisis for the world of work since the Great Depression of the 1930s," ILO chief Guy Ryder told reporters in a virtual briefing.

Since surfacing in China just over a year ago, the virus has killed more than 2.1m people, infected tens of millions of others and hampered the global economy.

The UN labour agency explained that around half of the lost working hours were calculated from reduced working hours for those remaining in employment.

But the world also saw "unprecedented levels of employment loss" last year, it said.

Official global unemployment shot up by 1.1pc, or 33m more people, to a total of 220m and a worldwide jobless rate of 6.5pc last year.

Lost talents, skills

Mr Ryder stressed that another 81m people did not register as un-

employed but "simply dropped out of the labour market".

"Either they are unable to work perhaps because of pandemic restrictions or social obligations or they have given up looking for work," he said.

"And so their talents, their skills, their energy have been lost, lost to their families, lost to our society, lost to us all."

The lost working hours last year shrank global labour income by a full 8.3pc, the ILO said.

That amounts to a drop of some \$3.7 trillion, or 4.4pc of overall global gross domestic product (GDP), it added.

The emergence of several safe and effective vaccines against Covid-19 has raised hopes that the world will soon be able to rein in the pandemic.

But the ILO cautioned that the prospects for a global labour market recovery this year are "slow, uneven and uncertain".

The organisation pointed to the uneven impact the crisis had had on the world's workers, affecting women and younger workers far more than others.

Globally, employment losses for women last year stood at 5pc, compared with 3.9pc for men.

Women are more likely to work in the harder-hit sectors of the economy, and also have taken on more of the burden of, for instance, caring for children forced to stay home from school.

'Lost generation'

Younger workers were also far more likely to lose jobs, with employment loss among 15-24-year-olds at 8.7pc globally, compared with 3.7pc for older workers.

Many young people also put off trying to enter the labour market given the complicated conditions last year, the ILO found, warning that there was truly an "all too real risk of a lost generation".

Monday's report also highlighted the uneven impact on different sectors, with accommodation and food services the worst affected, showing a drop in employment of more than 20pc.

By contrast, employment swelled in the information and communication fields, as well as in finance and insurance.

Looking forward, the ILO called on countries to provide particular support to the hardest-hit groups and sectors, and also to sectors likely to be able to generate numerous jobs quickly.

It stressed the need for more support to poorer countries with fewer resources to promote employment recovery.

The report sketched out three recovery scenarios for 2021, depending on support measures provided at the national and international level.

The pessimistic scenario saw an additional 4.6-pc drop in working hours, and even the most optimistic scenario anticipated that working hours would contract by a further 1.3pc this year, corresponding to 36m full time jobs.

UNSC Unable To Address Complex World Issues: India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

UNITED NATIONS: India has said that the UN Security Council is finding itself unable to act effectively to address increasingly complex issues of international peace and security as it lacked inclusivity of those who need to be members of the powerful organ of the world body.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador TS Tirumurti, on Monday said there is no process in the UN that has traversed the "torturous pathways" more than what the process of United Nations Security Council reform has.

India, along with Brazil, Japan and Germany are pressing for urgent reform of the UN Security Council and for a permanent seat in the reformed 15-member top organ of the world body.

Nearly 13 years after the start of the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN), "the process we have is far from a normal United Nations negotiating process," Mr Tirumurti said at the informal meeting of the Plenary on the IGN on the "Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership



of the Security Council".

"While the world is not what it was when we began the process, the objections to moving forward remain frozen in time. While global challenges of the 21st century have multiplied, we have been stopped by the naysayers to even adopt the process in order to move forward," he said.

"It is evident that inaction on our part is not without cost. The Security Council is being called upon to address increasingly complex issues of international peace and security. Yet, it finds itself unable to act effectively, for it is lacking inclusivity of those who need to be there, and therefore lacking leg-

itimacy and credibility," Mr Tirumurti said, emphasising that those who have created this impasse in the IGN should take responsibility for ensuring that the UNSC has come to this pass.

The first IGN meeting on UNSC reform in the 75th session of the General Assembly took place on Monday in which the G4 nations -- Brazil, India, Japan and Germany -- asserted that only two things can save the IGN as a format -- negotiations of a single text with attributions, reflecting various positions taken by member states in the last 12 years and the application of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (GA).

Patriotic Fervour Marks Republic Day In Jammu Division

JAMMU: Patriotic fervor and gaiety marked the 72nd Republic Day Celebrations across Jammu division.

Hoisting of the National Flag was held amid impressive Parades and mega cultural events at all venues of functions organised at district, sub-division, Tehsil and block levels.

Newly elected DDC members, besides the senior officers of civil administration, police, army, CISF, prominent persons of the society, social workers and political leaders among others attended the functions.

At Kathua: A mega function was held at Sports Stadium Kathua where Deputy Commissioner, Om Prakash unfurled the tricolor and took salute at March past comprising contingents drawn from Army, Police, PTS, CRPF, and Boys and Girls wings of NCC battalion.

Greeting the people, the DC said the day has great significance as on this day India became a Secular, Sovereign, Socialistic and Democratic republic.

The DC hailed the cooperation of the people during lockdowns, and listed the achievements of the District Administration in the key sectors and implementation of the flagship schemes.

Republic Day celebrations were also held at Sub-district, Tehsil and

missioner expressed Republic Day greetings to the people and appreciated the communal harmony and unity in diversity displayed by people of the district. She highlighted the achievements of the country since Independence, including the successful 'Mission Mars'.

At Doda: The People in Doda celebrated Republic Day with great gusto, national spirit and enthusiasm.

Deputy Commissioner, Dr Sagar D Doifode, unfurled the tricolor. He paid tributes to constitution makers, Corona warriors and inspected the guard of honour.

The celebration witnessed huge participation with the presences of thousands of people at the venue.

At Samba: The tri-colour in Samba was hoisted by Deputy Commissioner, Rohit Khajuria in presence of Senior Superintendent of Police, Rajesh Sharma here at Sports Stadium, Arazi.

About the development activities in Samba, Deputy Commissioner, said that various works have been completed in the district, including construction of AIIMS at Vijaypur, 05 New Degree Colleges, additional District Hospital Block, Bunkers in the borders and others. He said district Samba has immense tourism potential and in this regard Purmandal-



Block Headquarters of the district.

At each Block level the National flag was hoisted by the concerned chairpersons.

At Udhampur: The 72nd Republic day was celebrated with great patriotic fervor in district Udhampur, where the main function was held in the premises of Government PG College, Boys Udhampur. District Development Commissioner, Dr. Piyush Singla was the chief guest who hoisted the National flag at 9:55 AM and took salute at an impressive march past.

While congratulating the mammoth gathering, the DDC said that the Constitution of independent India was implemented on 26th Jan 1950, which provides fundamental rights to every citizen of the country. He also listed the achievements of the District Administration.

A scintillating cultural programme featuring patriotic songs and folk dance and music besides, theme based Skit on 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, CoronaVirus, were also presented by the students and Artists amid thunderous applause from the spectators.

At Kishtwar: The 72nd Republic Day celebration, at Kishtwar, was marked by great enthusiasm, fervor and national spirit.

District Development Commissioner, Ashok Sharma unfurled the tricolor and took salute at the March past.

The DC congratulated the people of Kishtwar on this auspicious occasion of National importance and aspired all to uphold constitutional values and ethics in letter and spirit.

At Reasi: The 72nd Republic Day was celebrated with patriotic zeal here at General Zorawar Singh Sports Stadium.

The National Flag was unfurled by Deputy Commissioner, Indu Kanwal Chib, while the General Salute was received by SSP, Rashmi Wazir.

In her address, the Deputy Com-

Utterbeni tourism Development DPR for 50 crore has been finalized.

At Ramban: Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Mussarat Islam unfurled the national flag here at District Police Lines to mark the 72nd Republic Day celebrations in presence of huge gathering of people and government functionaries.

After the national anthem and inspection of the parade, he took salute from the marching contingents of JKP, IRP, CRPF, Home Guard and Military Piper Band.

After greeting the enthusiastic audience including the locals, students, officers and government employees, the DDC gave a brief account of the main developmental activities in the district during the current year.

He particularly appreciated the public of Ramban for maintaining peace, communal harmony and brotherhood in the district. The DC mentioned the successful struggle of the district administration in controlling the Covid pandemic and conduct of DDC elections. He reiterated his priority for effective implementation of the flagship public health scheme-PMJAY and SEHAT. A cultural programme based on patriotic and social reform themes presented by the students entertained the limited audience amid Covid restrictions.

Later, prizes were distributed among the performers of the cultural programme and parade by the chief guest. Several officers and officials from civil and police administration and students were awarded for their outstanding performance in their respective fields.

At Rajouri: The Republic Day was also celebrated across district Rajouri with great fervour and national spirit.

The celebrations were held at district Headquarters, all additional districts, sub-divisions and tehsil headquarters.

Loved By Students, Scholars And Writers For 450 Years, Oxford Pub Succumbs To Covid

OXFORD: A historic pub in the centre of Oxford that has served students, scholars and literary greats for over 450 years is to shut down, a cultural casualty of the Covid pandemic.

The Lamb and Flag, once frequented by the likes of "Lord of the Rings" author J.R.R. Tolkien and his friend C.S. Lewis, who wrote "The Chronicles of Narnia", has suffered a disastrous loss of revenues since the start of the pandemic.

The pub first opened in 1566 and was moved to its present location on St Giles, a broad thoroughfare in the city centre, in 1613. It is owned by St John's College, one of 45 colleges and private halls that make up the University of Oxford.

"The Lamb and Flag, like many other businesses in the hospitality industry, has been hard hit by the pandemic," said Steve Elston, deputy bursar of St John's, in a statement announcing the pub would close on Jan 31.

"The trading figures of the last 12 months have meant that the pub is not currently financially viable." England was in lockdown for most of March, April, May and June last year, then again in November, and has been in its third national lockdown since Jan 5. University life has



been severely disrupted even outside of official lockdowns.

Dave Richardson of the Oxford branch of the Campaign for Real Ale said the Lamb and Flag was one of the city's most traditional pubs and it would be a tragedy to see it disappear.

"It has no TV, it has no jukebox, it has no music. It's a place where people come to talk to each other, to enjoy the traditional, historic surroundings. Generations of people have done that, students, townspeople, people from afar," he said.

Named after symbols traditionally associated with St John the Baptist, the Lamb and Flag is rumoured to have hosted the great writer Thomas Hardy, who set his dark novel "Jude the Obscure" partly in a fictionalised Oxford called Christminster.

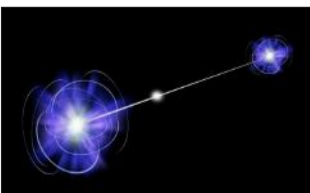
NEWS MAKERS

Iran Tests Home-Grown Quantum Cryptography On Longer Distance

Researchers at the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) have successfully tested a home-grown version of the quantum key distribution (QKD) technology on a relatively long distance of 1,650 meters.

The test carried out on Monday at Tehran's Milad Tower saw researchers use photons to carry a message encrypted through quantum keys between parties stationed at the tower and the nearby AEOI premises.

AEOI chief Ali Akbar Salehi and Iranian deputy president for scientific affair Sorena Sattari attended the ceremony to promote the home-grown QKD.



Researchers had previously tested the technology on shorter distances of two meters and 300 meters.

The tests began in 2018 when Iran announced it will become one of the few countries in the world to develop QKD.

The technology uses quantum physics rules to distribute cryptographic keys to remote parties in

order to make their communication immune to cyberattacks.

Experts believe QKD would grow in significance in the upcoming years amid increasing demand for more secure channels of communication.

AEOI's Salehi said his organization is planning to launch a fourth phase of QKD test on a 7-kilometer distance between the Milad Tower and Azadi Tower in Tehran in the near future.

Salehi said the AEOI hopes it could use the QKD for secure communication between the organization's headquarters in Tehran and a major nuclear site in Fordow in central Iran.

Galwan Hero Colonel Santosh Babu's Father Says, Not "100% Satisfied" With Mahavir Chakra

HYDERABAD: The father of late Colonel Santosh Babu on Monday said he was "not 100 per cent satisfied" with the Mahavir Chakra posthumously awarded to him for his acts of gallantry against the Chinese attack in Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh in June 2020, and that he should have been honoured with the Param Vir Chakra.

"It is not that I am unhappy. But I am not 100 per cent satisfied (with the award of Mahavir Chakra). There is scope for honouring him in a better way. But my opinion is that Santosh Babu should have been named for the highest military award Param Vir Chakra for the gallantry he displayed while discharging his duties," Babu's father B Upendra told PTI.

He said the valor shown by his son had inspired many people, including those working in the defence forces.

Colonel Babu, the commanding officer of the 16 Bihar regiment, was among 20 Indian soldiers who laid down their lives in the fierce hand-to-hand combat on June 15 last year in the Galwan Valley, an incident that marked one of the most serious military conflicts between the two sides in decades.

Netflix's The White Tiger Is An Engrossing Tale Of Servant And Master

REVIEW

Ramin Bahrani, the Iranian-American filmmaker, started out small, with the simple story of a pushcart vendor, a Pakistani immigrant selling coffee and doughnuts in New York, in 2005's "Man Push Cart." In the years since, his films have steadily grown in scale and melodrama, but they've stayed resolutely within the gap separating rich and poor.

Bahrani's last film, 2014's "99 Homes" — a movie dedicated to Roger Ebert, who championed Bahrani's early work — plunged into the heart of the Great Recession in a damning economic parable of foreclosure in Florida, with a titanic performance by Michael Shannon as a predatory real-estate broker.

Bahrani's latest, the India-set "The White Tiger," is a step higher, still, in scope and vigor. "The White Tiger," which debuts Friday on Netflix, is the kind of widescreen epic of class

struggle about an ambitious, cunning climber that has long been a rich domain of movies. Bahrani may have begun as a neorealist but "The White Tiger" finds him reaching for the operatic heights of "Goodfellas."

He doesn't get there. But "The White Tiger," about a loyal chauffeur to a corrupt landlord in India, is an engrossing tale of servant and master that makes a dynamic portrait of the world's largest democracy, and the caste system that divides it.

The film faithfully and affectionately adapts Aravind Adiga's 2008 Booker Prize-winning novel, a book that — since Bahrani and Adiga are longtime friends — was dedicated to Bahrani. We first meet Balram Halwai (Adarsh Gourav), as he sits in regal costume, in the back of a car speeding through Delhi in 2007 on a joyride cut short when a child walks into the road. It's a misleading opening; Balram is the driver, and we'll later learn it's his boss, Ashok (Rajkumar Rao), behind the wheel and Ashok's wife, Pinky (Priyanka Chopra Jonas) in the front seat.



Bahrani will return to this moment but not before a lengthy flashback that runs at least half of the film. Balram comes from the poor village of Laxmangarh, where his prospects are dim. With an ingratiating smile and

some pandering, he convinces a wealthy landlord known as the Stork (Mahesh Manjrekar) to take him on as a driver. Balram narrates along the way, sharing his strategy for advancement while selling his story as reflect-

ing a much-needed rebellion for India's millions of poor. They are psychologically locked in a rooster coop, he says, too timid to rebel despite knowing their fate.

"Don't believe for a second

there's a million-rupee game show you can win to get out of it," says Balram.

It's a pointed jab at the best picture-winning "Slumdog Millionaire," a movie that — like "The White Tiger" — cast a bright spotlight on India's underclass, but one that offered a more fantastical vision of escape. "The White Tiger," it could be argued, isn't so different as an against-the-odds success story. If "Slumdog" gave us the musical version of uprising in India, "The White Tiger" instead filters modern India through a crime drama like "Scarface."

But "The White Tiger" more rigorously examines and subverts Hollywood (and Bollywood) stereotypes of Indian life. Balram, a self-made hero, capable of ruthlessness and selfishness, is a more complicated protagonist, worthy of empathy and scorn. In "The White Tiger," he represents India's future.

"The Indian entrepreneur has to be straight and crooked, mocking and believing, sly and sincere, all at the same time," he says.

Watching Gourav pull off

such a balancing act is the best reason to see "The White Tiger." An actor and singer, Gourav's charisma animates a film that otherwise can sag with heavy-handedness. Bahrani isn't a director with a light touch, but, then again, he's drawn to subjects that deserve bluntness.

Bahrani, with Paolo Carnera's vivid cinematography, builds a dense, incisive film that nevertheless feels uneven in structure. The movie is so invested in the mentality of the slave-master relationship between Balram and Ashok, the landlord's hipster son, that it overwhelms. Almost as soon as Balram, through bloodshed and Machiavellian guile, achieves independence, "The White Tiger" is wrapping up. Maybe it's too American a thing to say, but it skips over the best part.

"The White Tiger," a Netflix release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for language, violence and sexual material. Running time: 125 minutes. Three stars out of four.

Agencies

Antidepressants ineffectual for back pain and osteoarthritis

Agencies

A study published by the British Medical Journal (BMJ) provides evidence that stimulant medications are generally inadequate for back and osteoarthritis pain, in spite of being broadly utilized for these conditions.

The findings, based on moderate certainty evidence, show that for people with back pain the effects were too small to be worthwhile, but for osteoarthritis, a small beneficial effect cannot be ruled out.

Most clinical practice guidelines recommend antidepressants for long term (chronic) back pain and hip and knee osteoarthritis, yet evidence supporting their use is uncertain.

To address this knowledge gap, researchers led by Giovanni Ferreira at the University of Sydney set out to investigate the effectiveness and safety of antidepressants for back and osteoarthritis pain compared with placebo.

Their findings are based on analysis of published data from 33 randomised controlled trials involving more than 5,000 adults with low back or neck pain, sciatica, or hip or knee osteoarthritis.

The trials were designed differently and were of varying quality, but the researchers were able to allow for this in their analysis. Most of the data came from industry-sponsored trials.

The researchers set a difference of 10 points on a 0 to 100 point scale for pain or disability as the smallest worthwhile difference between groups - a threshold commonly used in other studies of chronic pain.

Results showed that serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs) reduced back pain after three months. But the effect was small - an average difference of 5.3 points on the pain scale compared with placebo - and unlikely to be considered clinically important by most patients.

For osteoarthritis, they found a slightly stronger effect of SNRIs on



Most clinical practice guidelines recommend antidepressants for long term (chronic) back pain and hip and knee osteoarthritis, yet evidence supporting their use is uncertain.

pain after three months - an average difference of 9.7 points on the pain scale compared with placebo - meaning that a worthwhile effect could not be excluded.

Low certainty evidence showed that tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs) were ineffective for back pain and related disability.

Tricyclic antidepressants and SNRIs might reduce pain in people with sciatica, but the evidence was not certain enough to draw any firm conclusions.

The researchers acknowledge several limitations, including the possibility of missing trials and being unable to explore a dose-response relation for most antidepressants because of the low number of studies spread across six different classes of antidepressants.

Nevertheless, the review was based on a thorough literature search with a prespecified threshold for clinical importance used in other reviews of treatments for back and osteoarthritis pain.

As such, they say their review updates the evidence for back pain, sciatica, and osteoarthritis, and could help clinicians and their patients decide whether to take antidepressants for chronic pain.

But they conclude: "Large, definitive randomised trials that are free of industry ties are urgently needed to resolve uncertainties about the efficacy of antidepressants for sciatica and osteoarthritis highlighted by this review."

In a linked editorial, researchers at the University of Warwick call for clearer guidance to inform a consistent approach to the use of antidepressants for people with painful disorders.

They acknowledge that some patients might choose to try antidepressants for a small chance of a worthwhile reduction in pain after three months.

Overall, however, they state that drug treatments are largely ineffective for back pain and osteoarthritis and have the potential for serious harm.

از نیابت ماگام بااعلا س جناب نائب تحصیلدار ماگام

مضمون کاغذات درخواست منجانب ممبر ریاض و توفیق احمد پسران ریاض احمد ساکنہ موضع گیری پورہ بمراء عطا گی بکوارڈ ایرا سرٹیفکیٹ تحت SRO 294

اشتبہار بمراء آگاہی ہر خاص وعام

محاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں درخواست سائل دفتر بذرائیں زیر کاروباری ہے اس سلسلے میں پٹواری حالت سے رپورٹ بشمول ریکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل موضع گیری پورہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کہہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

ریاض احمد ولد عبدالصمد

حیدرنگم زوہ ریاض احمد

مہر ریاض پسر

توفیق احمد پسر

آئینہ ریاض دفتر

46 سال

45 سال

16 سال

13 سال

18 سال

سربراہ کہہ

کھر پلکام

زیر تعلیم

زیر تعلیم

زیر تعلیم

از نیابت درگولہ بااعلا س ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول

مضمون کاغذات درخواست منجانب: شاہد شعبان ولد محمد شعبان ستبر گوجری ساکنہ موضع ہڈی پورہ بمراء عطا گی RBA سرٹیفکیٹ

اشتبہار بمراء آگاہی ہر خاص وعام

محاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں درخواست سائل دفتر بذرائیں زیر کاروباری ہے اس سلسلے میں پٹواری حالت سے رپورٹ بشمول ریکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل موضع ہڈی پورہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کہہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

محمد شعبان ستبر گوجری ولد محمد ستبر گوجری

کھر پلکام

زیر تعلیم

زیر تعلیم

رہا نہ تنگم زوہ محمد شوق احمد

46 سال

26 سال

18 سال

24 سال

کھر پلکام

زیر تعلیم

زیر تعلیم

کھر پلکام

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کہہ نہیں ہے کہہ کی مہارت 5700 روپے ہے سرٹیفکیٹ اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی مامرد دفتر بذرائیں پیش کرے معیار گرنے بعد کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار

از نیابت درگولہ بااعلا س ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول

مضمون کاغذات درخواست منجانب: شاہد شعبان ولد محمد شعبان ستبر گوجری ساکنہ موضع ہڈی پورہ بمراء عطا گی RBA سرٹیفکیٹ

اشتبہار بمراء آگاہی ہر خاص وعام

محاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں درخواست سائل دفتر بذرائیں زیر کاروباری ہے اس سلسلے میں پٹواری حالت سے رپورٹ بشمول ریکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل موضع ہڈی پورہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کہہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

محمد شعبان ستبر گوجری ولد محمد ستبر گوجری

کھر پلکام

زیر تعلیم

زیر تعلیم

رہا نہ تنگم زوہ محمد شوق احمد

46 سال

26 سال

18 سال

24 سال

کھر پلکام

زیر تعلیم

زیر تعلیم

کھر پلکام

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نائب تحصیلدار

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

J&K Services Selection Board

Hema Complex, Sector-03, Channi Himmat, Jammu (www.Jkssb.nic.in)

NOTICE

Subject: Extension in last date of filling of Online Application Form for UT/'Divisional/District Cadre Posts for various categories of posts in different Departments issued vide Notification No. 04 of 2020 Dated: 16-12-2020.

Whereas, the J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB) invited online applications vide Advertisement No. 04 of 2020 dated 16.12.2020 from eligible candidates for participating in the selection process for UT/Divisional/District Cadre Posts of various categories in different Departments; and

Whereas, the last Date for submission of online applications was earlier fixed on 16-01-2021 which has been extended upto 27-01-2021 vide this office's Notification No.SSB/Secy/2021/299-314 Dated 14-01-2021; and

Whereas, the Jammu & Kashmir Services Selection Board has received a lot of representations from the candidates for extension in the last date for filling of online application forms ;and

Whereas, due to variety of reasons including difficulties created by heavy snowfall & its aftermath, the matter has been examined by the Board and it has been decided to extend the last date for submission of online application for various post advertised vide aforementioned notification.

Now, therefore, in the light of above, the last date for submission of online applications for various posts advertised vide Advertisement Notice No. 04 of 2020 dated 16.12.2020 in different Departments shall now be 31.01.2021 instead of 27.01.2021

Sachin Jamwal (KAS)
Secretary
J&K Services Selection Board Jammu

No. SSB/Secy/2021/Advt/ 634-49
dated 25-01-2021

DIPK-12158/20

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
CONSTRUCTION DIVISION KASHMIR,
J & K SPORTS COUNCIL, SRINAGAR

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
Tender Notice:E-NIT No:67of 2020-21
DA T E D: 21.01.2021.

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor, UT of Jammu & Kashmir,e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Government for the following work:-

| S No | Name of work | Adv cost (Rs. in lacs) | Class of Contract | Cost of Tender documents | Technical Sanction No. & date | Administrative Approval No. & date | Time of Completion |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 6 |
| 1 | Development of Play field at Marhama-C (Gujjar Basti) by way of Earth work in Cutting. | 15.00 | BEE / CEE / DEE | Rs.600/- | 22/Esstt 2020-21 dt: 12/2020 | Sports Council Order No: 38 of 2021 dt: 15.01.2021 | 30 days |
| 2 | Development of Play field at Govt. High School Tujjar Sopore. | 6.00 | CEE / DEE | Rs.300/- | 20/Esstt 2020-21 dt: 12/2020 | Sports Council Order No: 38 of 2021 dt: 15.01.2021 | 30 days |
| 3 | Development of Play field at Govt. High School Goripora Sopore. | 6.00 | CEE / DEE | Rs.300/- | 19/Esstt 2020-21 dt: 12/2020 | Sports Council Order No: 38 of 2021 dt: 15.01.2021 | 30 days |

Position of AAA = Accorded
Position of funds = Under Capex 2020-21
1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility Criteria, specification, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O Q) Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website www.jktenders.gov. in asperschedul of dates given below:-
2. Critical Dates Table

| | | |
|----|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Date of issue of Tender Notice. | 21.01.2021 |
| 2. | Period of downloading of bidding documents. | 21.01.2021 from 4.00 PM to 05.02.2021 up 4.00 PM. |
| 3. | Bid Submission Start Date. | 27.01.2021 from 10.00 AM |
| 4. | Bid Submission End Date. | 05.02.2021 upto 04.00 PM |
| 5. | Date & Time of opening of Bids (online) | 06.02.2021 at 11.00 A.M. in the office of Ex. Engineer, Const. Division Kashmir, J&K Sports Council at Administrative Block, Bakhshi Stadium, Srinagar. |

3. The Cost of the tender documents shall be deposited into the bank account by the bidder for which the following information can be used by the bidder. (No Demand Draft shall be entertained).

| | | | |
|----|---------------|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) | Name of Bank | = | J&K Bank Ltd. |
| 4) | Account Title | = | Executive Engineer, Construction Div. Kmr, JKSC3) Account No = CDG-0365010200000842 |
| 2) | Branch | = | Lal Mandi |
| 5) | IFSC Code | = | JAKA05BOARD |

The bidders must upload the scanned copy of bank payment acknowledgment slip.
Hard Copy shall be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as Lowest Bidder (L1) after opening of Financial Bids.

Sd/-
Ex. Engineer, CDK
J&K Sports Council Srinagar

DIPK-NB-5276/20

shk

shk

'Joe Root Can Score More Test Runs Than Sachin Tendulkar,' Says Geoffrey Boycott

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The legendary Geoffrey Boycott believes prolific England captain Joe Root has the potential and talent to surpass Indian great Sachin Tendulkar as the all-time run scorer in Test cricket.

Root, 30, amassed 426 runs in four innings at an average of 106.50 including two centuries with a high score of 228 in the just-concluded 2-0 series sweep over Sri Lanka. Root, whose next assignment is the four-Test series India starting February 5, also became the fourth-highest run-getter in Test cricket for England and the first ever captain to hit two double-hundreds.

"Forget just scoring more Test runs for England than David Gower, Kevin Pietersen and myself. Joe Root has the potential to play 200 Tests and score more runs than even Sachin Tendulkar," Boycott wrote in a column for 'The Telegraph'.

"Root is only 30. He has played 99 Tests and scored 8249 runs already. As long as he does not suffer serious injury there is no reason why he cannot beat Tendulkar's all-time record of 15,921." Boycott, however, doesn't want people to compare Root with stars of bygone eras, saying he should be judged only with his contemporaries.

"His contemporaries, such as Virat Kohli, Steve Smith and Kane Williamson, are wonderful players as well who could also score that many runs. We should enjoy Root and only judge him alongside those guys, not great names of the past because every player is a product of their environment," he said.

The 80-year-old England batting great observed that Root has worked on his batting during the COVID-enforced break but said the right-hander will face his biggest test on Australia soil.

"Until this tour Joe had not been making the big scores that influence matches. Perhaps the COVID-19 lockdowns allowed him time to take stock of his batting. For too long he appeared to be influenced by Twenty20 cricket. He was trying to force his way back into England's T20 side, but that frenetic type of batting is not for him," Boycott said.

"I felt that when playing Test cricket his subconscious was telling him to try to score off almost every ball. He was opening the face of the bat to good length balls trying to run it to third man, working straight balls to leg and even when he defended a really good ball he would set off for a run.

In other words, he was trying to avoid a dot ball. Against top-class Test bowlers that is not possible. "Joe's biggest test will be against pace in Australia but, right now, by not batting in a gung-ho style, he has settled down and is giving himself a chance to bat big."

SYED MUSHTAQ ALI T20 TOURNAMENT

Punjab Defeat Defending Champions Karnataka To Enter Semis

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: Punjab knocked defending champions Karnataka out from the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy as their bowlers set up a comfortable nine-wicket win in the first quarter-final, here on Tuesday. Punjab first dismissed Karnataka for meagre 87 and then overhauled the target in 12.4 overs in what turned out to be a lopsided contest at the Sardar Patel stadium.

Pacers Siddharth Kaul (3/15) and Sandeep Sharma (2/17) ran through the Karnataka top-order after they were sent in to bat. Karnataka was reeling at 26 for three, after openers Karun Nair (12) and Devdutt Padikkal (11) fell cheaply. Pavan Deshpande (0) was dismissed off his second ball, as Mayank Markande took a diving catch.

Kaul dismissed both Padikkal and Deshpande in the fourth over. It soon became 26 for four, as young left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh (2/16) dismissed B R Sharath (2), who was caught in the slip cordon.

All-rounder Shreyas Gopal (13), who has often come to Karnataka's rescue too could not convert his start as he edged to wicket-keeper Prabhsimran Singh off pacer Ramandeep Singh (2/22) as Karnataka lost its half side for 51.

Ramandeep got his second wicket when he sent back J Suchith (8) to leave Karnataka at 72 for six. Leggie Mayank Markande (1/12) then got into the act as he cleaned up a well-set Anirudh Joshi (27). Punjab continued their dominance over their opposition and ran through their lower order.

Punjab lost opener Abhishek Sharma (4) early but Prabhsimran Singh (49 not out off 37 balls) and Mandeep Singh (35 not out) ensured that the chase was walk in the park with their 85-run unbeaten stand for the second wicket.



DPS Srinagar Shines At District Skiing Championship

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In the District Skiing Championship organized by Winter Games Association of Jammu and Kashmir on 19 January 2021 at Gulmarg, DPS Srinagar bagged a rich haul of medals including six

gold medals and one bronze medal.

The winners have all been selected for the UT level championship which is to be held soon.

Commenting on the success of the winners, the vice-principal of DPS School Shafaq Afshan, said "I congratulate the winners and am proud that they continue to

bring laurels to not only the school, but the community at large."

DPS School Chairman Vijay Dhar also congratulated the medallists and said, "It is heartening to see our students are making a mark in less conventional disciplines and inspiring others to follow their lead."

'Nothing Changes, Virat Is My Captain And I'm His Deputy,' Says Ajinkya Rahane

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Ajinkya Rahane has won many a fans with his astute captaincy during the Indian team's epic triumph in Australia but he would like to make it very clear that the undisputed leader of this side is Virat Kohli and he is happy filling in when required.

Come February 5, Rahane will again be the vice-captain of the Test team against England with Kohli back in the saddle. So will things be different now when he once again dons the vice captain's hat?

"Nothing changes. Virat was and will always be the captain of the Test team and I am his deputy. When he was absent it was my duty to lead the side and my responsibility to give my best for Team India's success," Rahane, who was on his way to Chennai, told PTI in an exclusive interview.

For the vice-captain, it was not about being on the hot seat but having the ability to perform the role to perfection that mattered the most.

"It's not the matter of merely being a captain. How you perform the captain's role is what's more important. So far I have been successful. Hopefully, in future also, I will try to give these kind of results for my team," said the man, who has led his country to four wins in five Tests.



Reflecting on his relationship with Kohli, Rahane said it has always been smooth.

"Me and Virat have always shared a good bonding with each other. He has time and again praised my batting. Both of us played memorable knocks for our team in India and overseas conditions. It only helped that Virat comes at No.4 and myself at No.5. We have had a lot of partnerships," the 32-year-old said.

Theirs is a relationship that has been based on transparency and mutual respect.

"We have always backed each other's game. When we are at the crease, we discuss threadbare about opposition's bowling. We caution each other whenever one

of us plays a rash shot."

And how does he find Kohli as a captain?

"Virat is a sharp captain. He takes good on-field decisions. Whenever the spinners are in operation, he is banking on me and he believes that taking those catches at slips off (Ravichandran) Ashwin and (Ravindra) Jadeja is one of my core competence areas.

"Virat expects a lot from me and I try to ensure not to let him down," said Rahane, who is 13 short of a milestone of 100 catches in Test matches as an outfielder.

Rahane's dassy hundred in the Melbourne Test, according to head coach Ravi Shastri, was a catalyst for change.

Having gone through rough patches in the past few years, does

he feel more secure about his place in the Test side now?

"Honestly speaking, I never ever felt that my place in the side was ever in danger. The captain and team management always had faith in me," said the Mumbaikar, who has 4472 runs in 69 Tests with 12 hundreds at an average of 42.58. Rahane believes in the old adage that form is temporary but class is permanent.

"Yes, sometimes in few series, a player is off-colour but that doesn't mean that his class is gone. A player needs only one knock to get back to his form.

"When I was going through a bad patch, my captain boosted my morale. It's always comforting to know that you have his backing and you are then focussed on giving your best without any worries."

People have seen more of a "leader" in Rahane but he downplayed his role.

"With regards to leadership, I can only say that it varies from person to person. A captain is as good as his team. When you win a match or a series, it's always a collective effort and not because of singular man's contribution.

"It's your teammates only, who make you a good leader. The complete credit of this series win belongs to my team," concluded the reticent cricketer.

Virat Kohli Has Made India A Tough Side That Can't Be Bullied: Nasser Hussain



Press Trust of India

LONDON: Former England captain Nasser Hussain feels Virat Kohli has instilled a fighting attitude in the current Indian team, which does not get bullied by adversities, whether on or off the field.

Despite missing some key players to injuries and skipper Kohli, who was on paternity leave, an inexperienced Indian team, led by Ajinkya Rahane, displayed grit and determination to register a historic come-from-behind 2-1 series win over Australia.

Hussain warned England to be ready for a tough one in the four-Test series against India, starting February 5 in Chennai.

"Any side that can go to Australia, go 1-0 down after being bowled out for 36, lose Kohli because he's going home on paternity leave, lose your bowling attack and still come back and win after some of the stuff that went on off the field in Australia, they won't be bullied," he told Sky Sports.

"They (India) are a tough side. I think Kohli has instilled that. Make no mistake, at home, they are a formidable outfit."

Insisting that England will head into the India assignment with plenty of confidence after the 2-0 series sweep of Sri Lanka, Hussain urged the visitors to field their best eleven in the first Test.

Hussain had earlier taken strong objection to England's decision to rest Jonny Bairstow for the first two India Tests.

"That's a really good sign that they're doing that, with harder tasks ahead. The Ashes, India home and away, New Zealand confirmed, but that is great momentum and confidence going into an iconic series which is India away," he said.

"...I was brought up in India and I've always seen India vs England as one of the great series - all I would have asked is turn up to Chennai with your best 13 to 15 players.

"I think England fans have earned the right for their best team to be there that first day. If it means (Stuart) Broad and (James) Anderson playing together because it's a bit green, worry about the Ashes down the line."

ICC Suspends Two UAE Players Found Guilty Of Match Fixing

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: United Arab Emirates (UAE) players Mohammad Naveed and Shaiman Anwar Butt were on Tuesday suspended by the ICC after they were found guilty of trying to fix matches during the T20 World Cup qualifier in 2019. Former UAE captain Naveed and top-order batsman Shaiman were found guilty of two offences each under the ICC Anti-Corruption Code after they exercised their right to a hearing before a tribunal.

"The pair remain suspended and sanctions will follow in due course," the ICC said in a statement following a hearing by an independent Anti-Corruption Tribunal.

The two players were "party to an agreement or effort to fix or contrive or otherwise influence improperly the result, progress, conduct or other aspect(s) of a match or matches at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Qualifier 2019."

The duo is also guilty of "failing to disclose to the ACU full details of any approaches or invitations received to engage in corrupt conduct under the (anti-corruption code)" at the same tournament. Naveed, a seamer, was also found guilty of similar breaches during the T10 League in 2019, which followed the qualifier.

In October 2019, three UAE players, including Naveed and Shaiman, and a participant from Ajman were charged with 13 counts of breaching cricket's anti-corruption rules and the players were provisionally suspended with immediate effect.

PAK VS SA 1ST TEST, DAY 1

Pakistan Batsmen End Day At 33/4 After Bowlers Restrict SA To 220

Agencies

KARACHI: South Africa came back roaring after being skittled out for 220 on a bowler-dominated first day Tuesday of its first test in Pakistan in more than 13 years.

Pakistan was reduced to 33-4 at stumps on a pitch devoid of grass as 14 wickets fell on an eventful opening day of the two-test series.

South Africa fast bowler Kagiso Rabada, playing his first test in a year, removed openers Abid Ali (4) and debutant Imran Butt (9) off deliveries with uneven bounce. Rabada had impressive figures of 6-3-8-2.

Left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj also had captain Babar Azam trapped leg before wicket for 7 off his third delivery, and Andrich Nortje knocked back the stumps of nightwatchman Shaheen Afridi for a duck.

At stumps, Azhar Ali and Fawad Alam were both unbeaten on 5.

Earlier, legspinner Yasir Shah grabbed 3-54 and left-arm spinner Nauman Ali 2-38 on debut to peg back South Africa after it won the toss and started confidently.

Opening batsman Dean Elgar top-scored with 58 off 106 balls with nine fours, and No. 9 batsman



Rabada remained unbeaten on 21 as South Africa, 94-2 at lunch, lost its last eight wickets for 112 runs.

Faf du Plessis and Elgar were using their feet well against the spinners by lunch but Shah brought Pakistan back when he had du Plessis caught behind on 23 in his second over after the break. Du Plessis should have been out on 14 immediately after lunch but Abid couldn't hold on to a sharp catch at forward short leg.

Nauman got into the act in his seventh and eighth overs, mainly because of the Proteas' wrong shot selection. Captain Quinton de Kock, in his 50th test, tried a reckless pull on 15 and was caught at midwicket, then Elgar tried a loose drive and edged into the slips after nearly three hours at 136-5.

Temba Bavuma added 43 runs

with George Linde, but just before tea the diminutive Bavuma couldn't beat a strong throw from Hasan Ali while going for a second run. Bavuma was out for 17.

Linde successfully overturned a lbw decision against him off Shah on 14 before holing out in the deep, which gave Hasan Ali his first wicket in his return to test cricket after two years.

In the last session, Shah picked up two quick wickets but Rabada was missed twice, one of them a drop.

Both teams opted to go with three seamers and two spinners. South Africa, playing its first test in Pakistan since 2007, included two left-arm spinners -- Keshav Maharaj and Linde -- and left out Shams Tabraiz as a third spinner after he had a back spasm just before the toss.

'Better Late Than Never,' PT Usha's Coach O M Nambiar Speaks Out On 'Late' Padma Recognition

Press Trust of India

KOZIKHODE: It was a long time coming, over three decades to be precise. For 88-year-old O M Nambiar, the man who nurtured one of India's greatest athletes in P T Usha, the announcement of his name in the list of this year's Padma Shri awardees is a case of "better late than never".

"I feel very happy for this award though it could have been many years back. Still I am happy. Better late than never," Nambiar, who is battling the Parkinson's disease, told PTI in an interaction from his home in Kozikhode.

Usha was conferred the Padma Shri in 1985 while Nambiar, presented the Dronacharya that year, had to wait for another 36 years before the nation's fourth highest civilian honour came his way.

His affliction will, however, not allow him to receive the honour in person when the President gives it away at the Rashtrapati Bhawan later. But that's not lessened his joy.

"Every medal won by my trainees gives me immense satisfaction. I consider my Dronacharya Award, Best Asian Coach award and now Padma Shri as recognition of my hard work and dedication," said the legendary hailing from Kerala.

Looking back in time, an Olympic



medal for his most famous ward -- Usha -- was Nambiar's "lifetime dream" and he recalled being devastated when she missed the bronze in the 1984 Los Angeles Games by a whisker.

The man, who moulded Usha into one of India's finest athletes during his mentorship from 1977 to 1990, said he couldn't stop weeping once Usha was done with that race.

"It is absolutely true that I wept when we knew that Usha missed the bronze by one-hundredth of a second in 400m hurdles in 1984 Olympics. I was inconsolable," Nambiar said.

"I cannot forget that moment. An Olympic medal for Usha was my biggest lifetime dream," he added.

Usha was beaten by Romanian Cristiana Cojocaru for the bronze medal in a photo-finish, denying India what could have been its first Olympic medal in athletics. The Romanian clocked 55.41 seconds while Usha recorded 55.42 seconds.

Nambiar's son Suresh said that someone from the family will collect the award for him when the ceremony is officially held.

"My father will not be able to collect the Padma Shri. His movement is restricted. Somebody from the family will receive the award," he said.

Nambiar was with Indian Air Force for 15 years and retired as a Sergeant in 1970.

He got a coaching diploma from

the NIS-Patiala in 1968 and joined the Kerala Sports Council in 1971. He was tasked with finding talented athletes in the state.

Besides Usha, some of the international medal-winning athletes he coached include Shiny Wilson (four-time Olympian and 1985 Asia Championships gold winner in 800m) and Vandana Rao.

Recalling the momentous day in Los Angeles 37 years ago, Usha said, "My name came out first on result board but later it was announced that there was some issues. I went to photo control room and there I saw photo finish footage on TV. I was declared fourth."

"I was crying inside but not outwardly. When I came out I saw Nambiar sir crying inconsolably. I consoled him. He was probably more hurt than me. He is a gem of a person and a father figure to me."

It was in 1977 when Usha won a race in the selection trial of a sports school at Kannur that she came under the tutelage of Nambiar.

It was also Nambiar who prepared Usha for 400m hurdles in 1984. She had been a 100m, 200m and 400m runner earlier.

Usha also won four gold medals in the 1986 Asian Games (in 200m, 400m, 400m hurdles and 4x400m relay) under the tutelage of Nambiar.