

Maximum : 8.9°
Minimum : -3.1°
Humidity : 96%
SUNSET
Today 06:03 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 07:28 AM

P4 WORLD

MYANMAR'S TAINTED TORCH
BEARER FOR DEMOCRACY DETAINED
AGAIN IN COUP

US President Joe Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, says dealing with China, Afghanistan

P7 THINK

COMMERCIALISATION

NECESSITIES LIKE SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS ETC SHOULDN'T BE VULNERABLE TO PROFIT MAKING

There's a rapid trend of advertisements and banners being raised at every nook and corner. All is well until one....



P11 SPORTS

J&K WINS NATIONAL ICESTOCK
SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP
2020-21 AT GULMARG

The 7th National Icestock Sports Championship 2020-21 concluded here at Ice Rink, Gulmarg....

Widom
Quote!Youth is easily
deceived because it is
quick to hope.

— Aristotle

NEWS DIGEST

VDC Member Held
For Shooting Father

JAMMU: A village defence committee (VDC) member allegedly shot at his father in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. Balkar Singh opened fire from his 303 rifle on his father, Krishan Singh, after an altercation between them over some domestic issue at village Dasanu in Dingaamb area of Hiranagar sector, they said. Krishan (78) was seriously injured in the incident, officials said. [▶ More On P10](#)

Army Rescues British
Citizen In Gulmarg

SRINAGAR: Army on Monday claimed to have rescued a British national from Apharwat slopes in the tourist resort of Gulmarg. In a statement issued here, an army spokesperson said that British national Lachlan Stewart, who was on a ski trip to Gulmarg, lost his track while skiing at Apharwat on January 31. After struggling for two hours in heavy snow, Stewart, the army statement said, [▶ More On P10](#)

Forest Fire
Rages Along LoC

POONCH: A massive fire broke out on Monday in the forest area along the Line of Control (LoC) in Mendhar area of Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, but there were no casualties. Official sources said that smoke filled the air after the forest area caught fire. They said that it seems fire erupted on the side of Pakistan and later spread to the Indian part. Sources added that there were no reports [▶ More On P10](#)

Car Rolls Into
Ravine, 2 Dead

SRINAGAR: Two people, including a young woman on Monday were killed in a road accident in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. An Alto car (HR51-7420) carrying five people skidded off a bridge and fell into a ravine in Kralgund area of Kupwara around 7:10 am on Monday, reports said. Army and locals, the report said, immediately swung into action and started [▶ More On P10](#)

Jackal Injures
Three In Handwara

SRINAGAR: A jackal entered a residential house in north Kashmir's Handwara on Monday and injured at least three inmates before the beast fled away. Abdul Majeed Wani, his son Umar Majeed and daughter Najma Bano were attacked and injured by the jackal at their home in Haril area of Langate on Monday afternoon, [▶ More On P10](#)

BUDGET 2021-2022
Centre Allocates
Rs 30,757 Cr For J&K

KO Web Desk

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Monday allocated Rs 30,757 crore for Jammu and Kashmir in

the Budget for 2021-22 presented by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

According to the budget, Rs 30,757 crore has been [▶ More On P10](#)

Healthcare Spending Hiked

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Following are the highlights of the 2021-22 Budget presented by Finance

Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament on Monday: Fiscal position and health outlay: Spending on healthcare hiked by 137 per cent [▶ More On P10](#)Gas Pipeline Project
For J&K Announced

KO Web Desk

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said that a gas pipeline project will be taken up in Jammu and Kashmir. "An independent Gas Transport System Operator will be set up for facilitation and coordination of booking of common carrier [▶ More On P10](#)

J&K Trade
Bodies 'Unhappy'
Agencies

The traders in Jammu and Kashmir Monday took a dig at the union government, stating that there was no mention of the business community and the much-needed upgradation of the Srinagar-Jammu national highway, [▶ More On P10](#)

AC And Refrigerator
To Be Costlier;
Gold And Silver
To Be Cheaper

Press Trust Of India

A large number of commonly used items, including refrigerators, air conditioners, LED lights and mobile phones, will become more expensive due to hike in customs duty on imported parts, as proposed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Union Budget for 2021-22. However, gold and silver will become cheaper as a result of rationalisation in customs duty on imports of these precious metals. Following is a list of imported items that will become costlier:

- Compressors for refrigerators and air conditioners
- LED lamps, parts and spares such as printed circuit board, Raw silk and cotton
- Solar invertors and lanterns
- Automobile parts such as safety and toughened glasses, windscreen wipers, signalling equipment
- Mobile phone parts like PCBA, camera [▶ More On P10](#)

Snowfall Breaks
Cold Wave

Raises Night Temperature In Kashmir



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Residents of Kashmir got a major respite from the intense cold wave conditions on Monday as the minimum temperatures across the Valley rose by several degrees

amid fresh snowfall in many areas, including Srinagar, officials said.

A thin layer of snow on city roads, caused inconvenience to the motorists due to the snowfall since Sunday night. Authorities had to resort to [▶ More On P10](#)

Landslide Halts Highway Traffic

The authorities on Monday briefly movement of traffic on Srinagar-Jammu highway on Monday was briefly stopped after a landslide hit the road in Banihal. Traffic was first halted on Srinagar-Jammu for a few hours after landslides blocked the road at Shahbanbas in Banihal, officials said. [▶ More On P10](#)

No Let Up In Cross-LoC Firing

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: For the consecutive day Monday, India and Pakistani troops traded gunfire and mortar shells along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district.

Pakistan army on Monday violated the ceasefire and shelled forward posts along the LoC in Poonch district, officials said.

The Indian Army retaliated befittingly to the Pakistani

aggression, they said.

"At about 1745 hours today, Pakistan army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and intense shelling with mortars along the LoC in Mankote sector, Poonch," a defence spokesman said.

On Thursday, a 20-year-old man was injured in Pakistani shelling along the LoC in Shahpur sector of Poonch.

Jammu and Kashmir saw over 5,400 instances [▶ More On P10](#)

3 Of Family
Injured In
Rajouri Blast

Three members of a family were injured in a blast in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said on Monday. A boy picked up an object from a field and it exploded when he threw it on [▶ More On P10](#)

Schools Reopen After
10 Months In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Government and private schools reopened for Classes 9 and 12 on Monday in the summer zone of the Jammu region amid strict COVID-19 protocol, over 10 months after remaining closed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration had on Friday last ordered the reopening of all government and recognised private schools for senior classes in the summer zone of the Jammu division from February 1. [▶ More On P10](#)

PAHALGAM LAND USE CHANGE

High Court Seeks 'Outcome'
Of FIR Filed In 2008

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Monday directed government to file status of the investigation into an FIR registered more than 12 years ago against officers and officials allegedly involved in giving

undue benefit to beneficiaries by making "mischievous reports" regarding change of land use under erstwhile Master Plan, Pahalgam. The FIR no.(27/2008) was filed under Section 5(1)(d) read with Section 5(2) of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act, Samvat 2006, and Section [▶ More On P10](#)



Bird Flu Cases Confirmed In Srinagar

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The district authorities on Monday confirmed first cases of avian influenza from the samples taken from dead crows at the two different places in this summer capital. Samples from dead crows lifted near the Delhi Public School at Athwajan and the Flood Spill Channel at Peerbagh have tested positive for avian influenza - H5N8 strain - as per a report received from the ICAR-NISHAD Bhopal.

"Now in accordance with

the stipulated guidelines a 10-kilometer radius area around each of the said locations has been declared as alert zone - where among other measures surveillance and sampling will be conducted to ascertain and prevent the spread," the report added.

Earlier, authorities had confirmed Avian Flu (Bird Flu) among the crows and migratory birds in the Valley on 23th of December

in Anantnag, Pulwama, Kulgam and B u d g a m districts in Kashmir. The Bird Flu cases were confirmed days after the ban on import of poultry was lifted in the Union Territory.

Acting swiftly, Government has directed for surveillance within one km radius where the cases were reported and asked for samples from Poultry farms also, they said. Meanwhile Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr Shahid Iqbal [▶ More On P10](#)

No Covid-19 Death In
J&K, 44 New Cases

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Monday recorded 44 fresh coronavirus cases, raising its tally to 1,24,550, while no death due to the infection took place in the past 24 hours, officials said.

Of the fresh cases, eight were reported from the Jammu division and 36 from the Kashmir division of the union territory, they said.

The officials said Srinagar district recorded the highest of 15 cases, including seven travellers.

Except for Jammu (seven) and Ramban (one) [▶ More On P10](#)

Amid 'Lone' Exit And 'Group' Entry, Will PAGD Survive?

Aaqib Javed

When reports came from Delhi that Omar Abdullah has sent his emissaries to North Block for "doing business together", National Conference distanced itself from their vice president's week-long capital engagement.

The denial, however, is being termed as an attempt to cover up some covert parleys by some miffed members of Peoples' Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), an amalgam of Jammu and Kashmir's unionist parties demanding restoration of Article 370. "Alliance partners are suspicious of some activities of former chief minister Omar Abdullah, who seems to be only working on strengthening the party at ground level," a PAGD leader said.

Even Omar left nothing unsaid about his motives when he addressed party workers at



Nawa-e-Subha soon after the District Development Council (DDC) results. (The six parties in the PAGD had recently fought DDC polls together—"to keep the BJP away"—and swept ballot even in the BJP constituencies of Jammu.) "These elections are not the success of Dr Farooq, Omar, Sagor or any other NC leader, but it's

the victory of our ground level worker," Omar addressed his party convention.

Some reports even suggest that Omar has asked his father Dr. Farooq Abdullah to concentrate more on the party at the ground level.

"Since the day the property of Dr Farooq Abdullah was attached,

he has been conspicuous for his silence," said Majid Hyderi, a scribe-panelist.

"Even Abdullah's son has gone so soft towards the rightwing government that he now openly defends Modi Govt."

While Omar is reportedly trying to break ice with Delhi, Sajjad Lone deserted the PAGD.

Lone wrote to the alliance chairperson, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, saying that his outfit decided to part ways over the issue of fielding proxy candidates by constituent parties against the officially mandated candidates of the alliance during DDC elections.

"There is no substance in the claims of Sajad Lone and others," Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi, the alliance coordinator, told Kashmir Observer.

"Our party only contested in less than 50 per cent seats in Kashmir because everyone was accommodated." [▶ More On P10](#)

ON THE EVE OF
**WORLD
CANCER
DAY**
4TH FEBRUARY
2021

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Consultation shall be provided by reputed oncologists & other reputed
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Venue: - 4-Bagh-i-Islam Colony Lal Nagar, Chanapora, Srinagar 190015.
TIME: - 10:00AM TO 2:00PM
For prior appointment contact :- 0194-2441899/2430899

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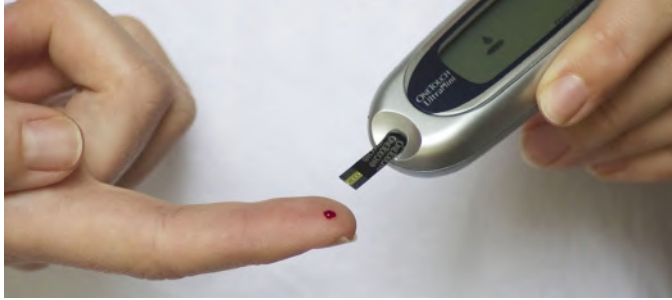
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2

Diabetes during pregnancy linked to heart disease risk



Agenceis

NEW YORK: Expecting mothers, take note. A new study indicates that diabetes during pregnancy may increase the risk of heart disease.

The study suggests that women with a history of diabetes during pregnancy (gestational diabetes) are twice as likely by mid-life to develop calcium in heart arteries -- a strong predictor of heart disease -- even if healthy blood sugar levels were attained many years after pregnancy.

"We were surprised to discover that women with a history of gestational diabetes are at a significantly greater risk of heart artery calcification, even if they maintain normal blood sugar levels after pregnancy," said co-author Erica P. Gunderson from Kaiser Permanente in California, US.

For the study, published in Circulation: Journal of the American Heart Association, the team enrolled approximately 1,100 women without Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes who subsequently gave birth at least once during the 25-year study period, which ended in 2011.

Blood tests were performed from before to after pregnancies at five-year intervals to determine if women had normal blood sugar levels, intermediate elevations in blood sugar levels (pre-diabetes) or they had developed overt Type 2 diabetes.

Heart scans were performed to measure coronary artery calcium, a strong predictor for heart disease, at exams 15, 20 and 25 years after the baseline, the first exam of the study. At the 25-year follow-up, the participants' median age was 48 years, and 12 per cent of the women in the study had a pregnancy complicated by gestational diabetes.

The prospective analysis found that women with a history of gestational diabetes had a two-fold higher risk of coronary artery calcification whether they had healthy blood sugar levels, pre-diabetes or Type 2 diabetes.

Of women with previous gestational diabetes, 36 per cent developed pre-diabetes and 26 per cent developed Type 2 diabetes, compared to 35 per cent and 9 per cent of women with no history of gestational diabetes, the researchers said.

Adding Mushroom To Your Diet Makes It More Nutritious: Study

Agenceis

NEW YORK: Adding a mushroom serving to the diet can increase the intake of several micronutrients, including shortfall nutrients such as vitamin D, without any increase in calories, sodium or fat, a new study suggests.

The findings indicated that adding an 84 grams serving of mushrooms increased several shortfall nutrients including potassium and fiber. This was true for the white, crimini and portabella 1:1:1 mix and oyster mushrooms.

"This research validated what we already knew that adding mushrooms to your plate is an effective way to reach the dietary goals identified by the DGA," said Mary Jo Feeney, nutrition research coordinator to the Mushroom Council in the U.S.



THIS RESEARCH VALIDATED what we already knew that adding mushrooms to your plate is an effective way to reach the dietary goals identified by the DGA."

who funded the study.

For the study, published in the journal Food Science and Nutrition, the team modeled the addition of mushrooms to National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) 2011-2016 dietary data.

The team looked at a composite of white, crimini and portabella mushrooms at a 1:1:1 ratio; one scenario including UV-light exposed mushrooms; and one scenario includ-

ing oyster mushrooms for both 9 to 18 years and more than 19 years of age based on an 84g or half cup equivalent serving.

The addition a serving of 84 grams of mushrooms to the diet resulted in an increase in dietary fiber (5 per cent-6 per cent), copper (24 per cent-32 per cent), phosphorus (6 per cent), potassium (12 per cent-14 per cent), selenium (13 per cent-14 per cent).

It also showed increase in zinc (5 per cent-6 per cent), riboflavin (13 per cent-15 per cent), niacin (13 per cent-14 per cent), and choline (5 per cent-6 per cent) in both adolescents and adults; but had no impact on calories, carbohydrate, fat or sodium.

A serving of UV-light exposed commonly consumed mushrooms decreased population inadequacy for vitamin D from 95.3 per cent to 52.8 per cent for age group 9-18 years and from 94.9 per cent to 63.6 per cent for age group more than 19 years.

This Alternative Surgery May Prevent Total Knee Replacement



Agenceis

TORONTO: An underused type of knee surgery in younger patients shows considerable success in reducing the need for total knee replacement, a new study suggests.

The surgery, named high tibial osteotomy, is a knee surgery aimed at younger patients in the earlier stages of knee osteoarthritis, according to the study published in CMAJ (Canadian Medical Association Journal).

"One of its goals is to prevent or delay the need for knee replacement," said co-author Trevor Birmingham from the Western University in Canada.

"In some ways, it's like performing a front-end alignment on your car to stop asymmetric wear on your tires and increase their longevity," Birmingham added.

Knee osteoarthritis is a common cause of pain and disability and puts tremendous burden on health care systems. Total knee replacement is frequently performed on older patients with end-stage

disease and limited mobility.

Of the patients in this study getting high tibial osteotomy (643 knees in 556 patients), 95 per cent did not need a total knee replacement within 5 years, and 79 per cent did not get a total knee replacement within 10 years.

Even in patients traditionally not considered ideal candidates for high tibial osteotomy (e.g., women and patients with later-stage disease), about 70 per cent did not get a knee replacement within 10 years.

The procedure is particularly suitable for people who are younger, have less severe joint damage and who may be more physically active.

"Those patients especially contribute to the burden of knee osteoarthritis," the researchers said. "There is a treatment gap between exhausting non-operative treatments and appropriateness for joint replacement, resulting in many years of pain, lost productivity and associated costs," they added.

CLUSTER UNIVERSITY SRINAGAR

Gogji-Bagh, Srinagar, 190008

Website: www.cusrinagar.edu.in Email: info@cusrinagar.edu.in

Selection Notification No. 29 P. G. Programmes Session-2020

Consequent upon the vacancies which remained unfilled due to non-completion of admission formalities by some candidates selected vide Selection Notification No.23 dated:24-12-2020, the candidates whose particulars are mentioned below are provisionally selected for admission to 2-year Post-Graduate Programmes for the Session-2020 on the basis of merit obtained in the Entrance Test conducted by the University. The provisionally selected candidates are directed to approach Principals of the respective College shown against each Programme for completion of their admission formalities from 30th January, 2021 to 8th February, 2021 (3.00PM), along with:-

- all the relevant original documents (Marks Card of Qualifying Examination, Character, Provisional Certificates and Migration Certificate of the University last attended) and Category Certificate, if any, along with self-attested Xerox Copies of the above mentioned documents for verification of the eligibility of the candidates.
- "Prescribed Admission Fee" to be deposited in the bank after verification of the documents by the Admission Committee of the College, Fee Details are available on University website: www.cusrinagar.edu.in.

Programme: M. A. Education
College Allotted: Institute of Advanced Studies in Education (IASE) erstwhile Govt. College of Education (M.A. Road Srinagar).

S.NO	Entrance Roll No	Full Name	Category	Points obtained
1	200335	NAHIDA NAZIR	OM	35.5
2	200289	FATIMA BANO	OM	35.5
3	200273	AKHTER JAAN MARJEENA	OM	34.75
4	200283	RAFIYA ISMAEL	OM	34.75
5	200426	AQSAA SYED SEDIQI	OM	34.75
6	200154	AJAZ AHMAD BHAT	OM	33.75
7	200344	ZUBEEDA BAQIR	OM	33.25
8	200326	ASIMA SHAREEF	OM	33
9	200409	FAISAL FAYAZ	OM	32.5
10	200370	SURIYA HILAL	OM	32.25
11	200442	ASMA LATEEF SHAH	OM	32.25
12	200319	TAHIRA AKHTER	OM	31.75
13	200288	SHAHID SHAFI	OM	31
14	200318	RUHIA KHAZIR	RBA	25

Programme: M.ED
College Allotted: Institute of Advanced Studies in Education (IASE) erstwhile Govt. College of Education M. A. Road Srinagar.

S.NO		Full Name	Category	Points Obtained
1	200511	SALMA BEGUM	OM	23.5
2	200592	SYED MOHAMAD ASLAM	OM	19.75
3	200550	AASIYA ALTAF	OM	19.50
4	200324	NEELOFAR YOUSUF	OM	18.75
5	200471	SHAMEEMAH AKHTER	RBA	18
6	200490	MASRAT JAN	OBC/WUP	17.25
7	200512	ZEENAT MANZOOR	RBA	11.75
8	200519	FATIMA NISSA	RBA	10.50
9	200476	RIZWANAH MEHRAJ	RBA	10.25
10	200481	HAFIZA BANO	RBA	7.75
11	200472	AQIBA JAN	RBA	7.50
12	200498	RUHEENA AKHTER	RBA	7.25
13	200510	ISHRAT MAQBOOL	OBC/WUP	6.5
14	200522	SAYEEDA BANOO	ST	6.25
15	200447	NAAZEERA SALAM	RBA	5.75

Sd/- Assistant Registrar
(Coordinator Admission)
Dated: 30-01-2021

No: CUS/Adm/PG/ 296-305 /2021
DIPK-NB-5365/20

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information to the general public that I, Touseef Rashid Dar S/o Abdul Rashid Dar R/o Sanat Nagar Srinagar has sold a car to Intiyaz Ahmad Ganie S/o Ghulam Nabi Ganie R/o Methan Chana Pora on 01-02-2021. Particular of the vehicle is as Hyundai-110, Chasis No: MALAM51BLAM661172 Engine No: G4HGAM058878 RC No: JK01P-2113 on the name of Ghulam Mohidin Shah S/o Mohammad Yousuf Shah R/o H.NO 74 Housing Colony Baghi Mehtab Srinagar. Therefore now onwards all the responsibility belongs to the new owner namely Intiyaz Ahmad Ganie S/o Ghulam Nabi Ganie.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 10th pass marks card under roll no 5212473, session 2017. Now i want to apply for the duplicate of the same if any having and objection in this regard he/she may file his /her objection in the office of the Board of school education Be-mina Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of his notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Jahangir Ahmad Bhat

S/o Gulam Rasool Bhat

R/O SERAJ PORA HANDWARA

DEMISE

With profound grief, we inform the demise of our beloved Mother **Mrs. Late Sheikh Gh. Rasool** (Gardisaz) R/o Hawal Srinagar on 31st of January 2021

The congregational Faten Khawani will be held on 3rd of February 2021 (Wednesday) at 11:00 AM at their ancestral graveyard **GOJWARA** near **Hakeemshah**
Ladies are requested not bring any kind of eatables etc.

Bereaved: Sheikh Family

9622345674, 7780845922, 9906915580.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of pesticides license for my business unit. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the of the Agriculture Officer Lalmandi Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Iftikhar Ah Shah
S/O Mohd Sultan Shah
R/o Kanilbagh Baramulla

AMS

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار اہست باگ با اجلاس زیر ہدایت صاحب

درخواست نمائند: عمران رسول بٹ و اختر رسول بٹ پسران غلام رسول بٹ مکان انزول تحصیل ضلع اہست باگ بغرض حصول بیک وارڈ انیئر یا سرٹیفکیت اہست آراء 294/167

اشتہار برآء گا ہی ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن صدر نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول بیک وارڈ انیئر یا سرٹیفکیت بغرض ہازہ میں پیش کیا ہے حسب رپورٹ پٹواری حلقہ تفصیل افراد کتبہ بڈیل درج ہے۔

نام صاحب کتبہ و دلد بیت	عمر	پیشہ	رشتہ برادر ہوتوئی
غلام رسول دلد بیت	58 سال	چھین بیٹی	4000
تسلیمہ باؤڑیہ غلام رسول بٹ	52 سال	کھریلو کام	
عمران رسول بٹ پسر۔۔۔	28 سال	تعلیم یافتہ پیرہ و زکار	
اختر رسول بٹ پسر۔۔۔	26 سال	مزدوری	6000
رونی جان دختر اختر رسول	25 سال	کھریلو کام	
نسب اختر دختر اختر رسول	02 سال	شیر خواہ	

اسکے علاوہ اور کوئی فرد کتبہ میں موجود نہیں ہے ساکن کتبہ سالانہ آراء 135000 تک ہے اس حوالے سے اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو مزید سرٹیفکیت اجراء کرنے میں کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دان کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض دفتر ہازہ میں پیش کریں۔ معیار گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تقریر الصدر نائب تحصیلدار اہست باگ

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار اہست باگ با اجلاس زیر ہدایت صاحب

درخواست نمائند: نجمہ عاس ریشی ولد محمد عبداللہ ریشی ساکن قصبہ بانات چینی چوک تحصیل ضلع اہست باگ بغرض حصول بیک وارڈ انیئر یا سرٹیفکیت

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول بیک وارڈ انیئر یا سرٹیفکیت پیش کیا ہے حسب رپورٹ پٹواری حلقہ سے ساکن کا بھائی کی بیتر احمد ریشی ولد محمد عبداللہ ریشی مورخہ 18/10/2020 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے

نام صاحب کتبہ و دلد بیت	عمر	پیشہ	رشتہ برادر ہوتوئی
صفیہ بیگم بیوہ بیتر احمد ریشی	55 سال	کھریلو کام	بیوہ ہوتوئی
محمد عاس ریشی پیر محمد عبداللہ	58 سال	دوکانداری	بھائی ہوتوئی
امینہ بیگم دختر۔۔۔	70 سال	کھریلو کام	بہن ہوتوئی
شکیلہ دختر دختر۔۔۔	65 سال	---	---
زبیدہ دختر دختر۔۔۔	62 سال	---	---
زایدہ بیوہ دختر۔۔۔	55 سال	---	---
نصحت بیوہ دختر۔۔۔	52 سال	---	---

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی فرد کتبہ میں موجود نہیں ہے لہذا اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو مزید سرٹیفکیت اجراء کرنے میں کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہوگا تو ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر دفتر ہازہ میں پیش کریں بعد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تقریر الصدر نائب تحصیلدار اہست باگ

از نیابت نائب تحصیلدار اہست باگ با اجلاس زیر ہدایت صاحب

درخواست نمائند: شکیلہ اختر بیوہ محمد اقبال کلیم ساکن ریل پان اہست باگ تحصیل ضلع اہست باگ بغرض حصول ڈیپنڈنسی سرٹیفکیت

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول ڈیپنڈنسی سرٹیفکیت پیش کیا ہے حسب رپورٹ پٹواری حلقہ سے ساکن کا شوہر سہی محمد اقبال کلیم مورخہ 31/12/2020 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے ساکن کا اثبات ہے کہ کوئی کا کتبہ موتی کے آمدنی پر ہی انصار رکھتے تھے اور موتی کے ڈیپنڈنسی بڈیل درج ہے۔

نام صاحب کتبہ و دلد بیت	عمر	پیشہ	رشتہ برادر ہوتوئی
شکیلہ اختر بیوہ محمد اقبال کلیم	41 سال	کھریلو کام	بیوہ ہوتوئی
انشاء اقبال دختر۔۔۔	26 سال	تعلیم	بھتیجہ ہوتوئی
اقرا دختر دختر۔۔۔	23 سال	---	---
فضلا دختر دختر۔۔۔	15 سال	---	---

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی فرد کتبہ میں موجود نہیں ہے لہذا اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو مزید سرٹیفکیت اجراء کرنے میں کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہوگا تو ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر دفتر ہازہ میں پیش کریں بعد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تقریر الصدر نائب تحصیلدار اہست باگ

Frozen Dal Lake Makes Life Harder For Inhabitants

SRINAGAR: The frozen Dal Lake has made life harder for inhabitants of the famed water body in Srinagar.

The Dal Lake has frozen several times in the past during chilly winters. However, this year, it has restricted tourists to roam in the Dal Lake. Life of those dependent on water transport has become equally very difficult.

"A lot of tourists have come here to see snowfall. Due to the frozen lake, we are not able to row boats. Many tourists feel disappointed after not taking a Shikara ride due to the frozen lake," Mohammad Yusuf, a Shikara owner said.

However, people believe that things would get better in the coming days when frozen water starts melting due to increase in temperature.

More than 40,000 people live on Dal Lake including Shikara owners, houseboat owners, vegetable growers, businessmen dealing with handicrafts, and fisherfolk. Tourism, agriculture, and fishing form the backbone of the economy on the lake.

There are more than 4500 registered Shikaras owners. However, at present less than 800 are associated with it as others have switched to other



Ko Photo Abid Bhat

jobs due to decline of tourist arrivals post August 2019.

"We are entirely dependent on tourism. Our sector was badly hit post abrogation of Article 370, then COVID pandemic and now we have been affected due to frozen lake," he added.

Kashmir has been under intense cold since the second week of January. Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir has recorded a low of minus 8.8 degrees celsius,

which was the coldest temperature in 30 years.

Last week, Javid Ahmad, 40, an inhabitant of the lake had to purchase home necessities from the market, which is a kilometer away from his home. Normally, it would take him 15 minutes to reach there on the boat.

"It took me more than two hours to break the ice and then to reach the market. This winter has been the hardest ever

for us in the last three decades due to freezing of the lake. Not only our livelihood has been hit, we are even not able to buy things," Ahmad said, who deals with Kashmiri handicrafts.

Similarly, vegetable growers would sell their produce at the floating vegetable market on the Dal Lake early in the morning. However, these days they are finding it difficult to reach to vegetable gardens and then sell in the market.

Vegetables including tomatoes, carrot, turnips and Nadru (Lotus root) traded in this floating market are supplied to Srinagar and many towns across the Kashmir valley.

Ghulam Mohammad, a 55-year-old fisherman, would catch three kilogram of fish each day. However, he said for the last 10 days since the lake was frozen, he caught less than 12 kilogram of fish. "When we are not able to roam around the lake how can we catch the fish? To catch fish, we have to break ice for hours," he said.

There are also photographs of the frozen Dal Lake with selfie taking tourists and locals are trending on social media.

Meanwhile, authorities have issued an advisory asking people not to roam around on the frozen waters of the lake. The Srinagar district administration in an advisory asked people not to walk or play on the frozen parts of the Dal Lake. "We have clearly asked the people not to venture out on the frozen parts of Dal Lake as there is melting of the frozen parts happening. This can be dangerous. We have deployed quick reaction teams at the lake," said Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary. (KINS)

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
- PAMPOR: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

This Day in History

- 1141 - Battle of Lincoln: King Stephen captured by forces loyal to Empress Matilda and commanded by Robert, 1st Earl of Gloucester
- 1349 - By this date at least 200 people a day were being buried in London as a result of the Black Death
- 1536 - Pedro de Mendoza founds Argentine city of Buenos Aires
- 1742 - British government of Robert Walpole resigns
- 1878 - Greece declares war on Turkey.
- 1892 - Longest boxing match under modern rules; 77 rounds in Nameoki, Illinois between Harry Sharpe & Frank Crosby.
- 1901 - Mexican government troops are ambushed by Yaqui Indians, 100 killed.
- 1920 - Estonia declares its Independence from Russia (Dorpat Peace)
- 1920 - France occupies (German) Memel territory
- 1923 - US signs friendship treaty with Central American countries
- 1924 - International Ski Federation (FIS) forms
- 1925 - Belgian episcopacy rejects liberalism, communism & socialism
- 1931 - 1st use of a rocket to deliver mail (Austria).
- 1932 - Geneva disarmament conference begins with 60 countries
- 1932 - Reconstruction Finance Corp organized
- 1935 - Leonarde Keeler first use of his polygraph machine on criminals later convicted of assault on its findings (Portage Wisc).
- 1942 - LA Times urges security measures against Japanese-Americans
- 1942 - US auto factories switch from commercial to war production
- 1943 - Cubs return to original uniform after experimenting with a vest
- 1943 - German 6th Army surrenders after Battle of Stalingrad in a major turning point in Europe during World War II
- 1944 - 4th US marine division conquers Roi, Marshall Islands
- 1944 - Allied troops 1st set foot on Japanese territory
- 1946 - The Proclamation of Hungarian Republic is made.
- 1948 - President Harry Truman urges congress to adopt a civil rights program.
- 1954 - President Eisenhower reports detonation of 1st H-bomb (done in 1952).
- 1957 - UN adopts a resolution calling for Israeli troops to leave Egypt.
- 1958 - Syria joins Egypt in United Arab Republic
- 1958 - WRIK (now WLWZ) TV channel 7 in Ponce, PR (PTC) begins broadcasting.
- 1962 - 8 of 9 planets align for 1st time in 400 years.
- 1962 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalitinsk USSR.
- 1966 - Pakistan suggests a six-point agenda with Kashmir dispute as number one item for the proposed Indo-Pak ministerial talks after 1965 war.
- 1967 - Bolivia adopts its constitution.
- 1975 - Army offensive against rebels in Eritrea.
- 1977 - Burn up of Salyut 4 Space Station (USSR).
- 1977 - Radio Shack officially begins creating TRS-80 computer.
- 1982 - Government troops and Muslim fundamentalists battle in Hamah, Syria.
- 1984 - Lebanese army fights in Beirut.
- 1995 - US space shuttle Discovery launched.
- 2013 - 23 people are killed and 8 are injured after militants attacked an army base in the Lakki Marwat District, Pakistan.
- 2013 - 18 people are killed and 34 are injured after a bus catches fire after falling down a ravine in Gansu province, China.
- 2014 - Protests in Ukraine turn violent after parliament passes legislation that outlaws protest.
- 2016 - First case of Zika contracted on US mainland (Texas) and second known sexually transmitted case confirmed in Texas.



HIJRI
CALENDAR

19

JAMADI
-UL-SANI

1442

PRAYERS

FAJR
6: 02
ZUHR
12: 44
ASR
4:23
MAGRIB
6:05
ISHA
7:27

'Give Us Citizenship Or Repatriate Us'

Pakistani Brides Of Ex Militants Stage Protest In Srinagar, Seek Deportation



Photo Courtesy: Social Media

SRINAGAR: Pakistani women married to former Kashmiri militants, who had arrived in Kashmir Valley under government's rehabilitation policy in 2010, Monday once again staged a protest in the capital Srinagar.

Holding placards, and raising slogans, these women asked the Government of India either provide them citizenship rights or deport them back to Pakistan.

The protesting women along with their kids assembled here at Press Enclave and appealed both India and Pakistan to think about

them and do justice to them on humanitarian grounds.

They said when they are not entitled to citizenship how come a Pakistani woman was allowed to contest DDC polls.

"We are suffering badly. Please send us back or give us citizenship rights. We appeal both India and Pakistan to think about us. We want to visit our home," the protesting women said.

"Our appeal to the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan is to address our issues sensibly. We are living a miserable life here, and

our future seems bleak. Please help us and deport us," they said.

They said scores of Pakistani women who had arrived in Kashmir along with their former militant husbands through India-Nepal border under the government's rehabilitation policy in 2010 are treated as "second-class citizens".

"We are also human beings and want to be treated justly. What is our fault? We were promised something but got another thing. Now our husbands are living peacefully, but we are suffering. We are out of touch with our families and on humanitarian grounds, we should be allowed to go back to Pakistan or be given citizenship rights," they said.

Hundreds of Kashmiri men who went to PoK for arms training in the 1990s and early 2000s came back with wives after then Omar Abdullah-led J&K government introduced a "rehabilitation scheme" in 2010 for those who had crossed over to the other side of the LoC between 1889 and 2009.

However, a decade later, the policy has left behind a trail of broken families, domestic abuse, unemployment and for many wives of former militants, a yearning for their home.

LAWDA Holds 24th BoDs Meeting



SRINAGAR: The 24th Board of Directors meeting of Jammu and Kashmir Lake and Waterways Development Authority (J&K LAWDA) was held in Jammu on Monday under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary Housing and Urban Development Department, Dheeraj Gupta.

Senior officers from various departments like Revenue, Forest, Finance, Tourism, Planning, SMC, UEED and Town Planning attended the meeting while Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, P K Pole, Deputy Commissioner, Shahid Iqbal Choudhary and other Kashmir based officers participated through video conferencing.

Vice Chairman, LAWDA, Tufail Matto, highlighted the achievements and presented the agenda during the meeting through a power point presentation. He elaborately explained various points pertaining to conservation and management of Dal

and Nigeen Lakes.

Some of the important issues discussed in the meeting included procurement of lake cleaning machinery, installation of Bio-Digestors and construction of Western Foreshore Road, construction of weed unloading points, re-organization of the Authority, Rehabilitation and Resettlement plan, scientific disposal of weeds and other related concerns. Besides, decision on enhancing the Financial powers of Vice Chairman, LAWDA and action plan to reinforce the enforcement wing was also discussed during the meeting.

All members of the Board put forth their view points and suggestions pertaining to the subject.

While stressing on effective preservation of the prestigious lake, the Chairman directed the Authority to work with zeal and dedication and give thrust on lake cleaning operations.

Mirwaiz Listed Among 10 Influential Muslim Politicians

SRINAGAR: Kashmir head cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has for the seventh consecutive time been chosen among 500 most influential Muslim personalities across the globe by the Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Centre, Jordan.

As per a statement, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has been listed among the world's 10 influential Muslim politicians for the seventh consecutive year by RISSC, Jordan.

Pertinently, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq continues to be under house arrest for more than 18 months.

Commenting upon the Mirwaiz, RISSC Jordan said that "He has been advocating dialogue with both India and Pakistan so that the aspirations of the Kashmiri people may be realised."

Coach Abid Nabi Suspended For 'Misconduct' by JKSC

SRINAGAR: Government on Monday placed under suspension Abid Nabi Jr Cricket Coach under suspension for alleged misconduct even as it appointed Joint secretary (K) J&K sports council as an inquiry officer.

"Pending enquiry into his misconduct, Shri Abid Nabi Jr Cricket Coach is hereby placed under suspension in terms of provisions of J&K classification control and Appeal rules with immediate effect," reads an order issued by Secretary J&K sports council. "The suspendee (Abid) is attached with divisional sports officer(K) J&K sports Council. Joint secretary (K) J&K sports council shall conduct enquiry and submit report within a period of 15 days," the order added.

Will Fight For Art 370 Restoration Even If Left Alone: Mehbooba

RAJOURI: Former Chief Minister and President Peoples Democratic Party Mehbooba Mufti on Monday said that ruling Bharatiya Janata Party was tearing apart the very spirit of India to build its organisation in furtherance of what she described as "vindictive and fanatic political agenda."

"Journalists and columnists are being booked for reporting facts, farmers are being targeted and defamed for seeking their rights, students and minorities are being pushed to walls. NIA, CBI, ED and every agency was being used to settle political scores and curb democratic voices", she said.

Mehbooba was addressing workers convention in this border township for the first time after abrogation of special status of erstwhile state.

"The sole purpose of this brazen use of muscle power and government machinery to squeeze political space in the country is aimed at strengthening BJP as organisation", she



File Photo

said adding "Unfortunately this is being done at the cost of India's interests both internally and externally". She said that the plans of fanatic forces to enforce majoritarianism have not succeeded anywhere in the world and it is bound to fail here too.

Reiterating her stand about the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, abrogated by union government, Mufti said that her party shall carry forward the struggle even if it is left alone to fight. "I have

made it clear that my personal struggle is only for restoration of dignity and honour of people. My party and our workers have pledged to be with me in the fight which is surely going to be long and tough. I want to assure you that we shall not give up and I am confident that the day will come when New Delhi will restore everything forcibly and unconstitutionally snatched from us along with interests", she said while urging people to stand firm and united.

From KO Archives

MILITANTS DISARM COPS, SPOS IN TANGMARG

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR - In a dare-devil overnight strike, militants disarmed the policemen guarding the houses of migrant Kashmiri pandits in a Tangmarg village yesterday. They decamped with the arms and ammunition without causing any physical harm to their victims.

According to reports, a group of heavily armed militants swooped on a security picket established to guard a cluster of migrant houses at Tarhama near Kunzar in Tangmarg area of Baramulla district late last evening. After ordering the policemen out of the post, they relieved them of their arms and ammunition.

Reports said the intruders decamped with an SLR and its 20 rounds, three conventional .303 guns and their 150 ammunition rounds, uniforms and identity cards of the personnel. Five personnel present at the security post at the time were Firdous Ahmad (belt No 2092), officer in charge, constable Fayaz Ahmad (No 62/B), and three special police officers (SPOs), Muhammad Ayub (No 553), Ayaz Ali (No 603) and Muhammad Abdullah (No 507).

They are believed to have offered no resistance. The additional superintendent of police, Sopore, told Kashmir Observer the intruders spoke Punjabi and Urdu.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 02 February, 2001)

How To Apply For UAE Citizenship Under Amended Rules? Here Is All You Need To Know



Agencies

With the aim to attract talent, the United Arab Emirates on Saturday approved law amendments allowing citizenship to distinguished professionals including scientists, doctors, authors.

In a tweet, UAE Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum said, "We adopted law amendments that allow granting the UAE citizenship to investors, specialized talents and professionals including scientists, doctors, engineers, artists, authors, and their families. The new directives aim to attract talents that contribute to our development journey."

He further said that the UAE Cabinet, local Emiri courts and executive councils will nominate those eligible for the citizenship under clear criteria set for each category. "The law allows receivers of the UAE passport to keep their existing citizenship," he added.

According to reports, it wasn't immediately clear if the citizenship also would grant rights to the UAE's cradle-to-grave social programmes for its nationals.

Who is eligible for UAE's citizenship?

Investors, doctors, scientists or researchers, creative talents like authors, inventors, and their families are eligible to be nominated for citizenship by the UAE cabinet, local

emiri or rulers' courts, and executive councils of the seven emirates.

According to a statement on UAE state news agency WAM, the conditions that must be met to secure citizenship are:

Investors are required to own a property in the UAE.

They must obtain one or more patents that are approved by the UAE Ministry of Economy or any other reputable international body, in addition to a recommendation letter from the Economy Ministry.

Doctors and specialists must be specialised in a unique scientific discipline or any other scientific principles that are highly required in the UAE, the applicant must have acknowledged scientific contributions, studies and research of scientific value and a practical experience of not less than 10 years, in addition to obtaining membership in a reputable organisation in his field of specialisation.

Scientists are required to be an active researcher in a university or research centre or in the private sector, with a practical experience of not less than 10 years in the same field. They also should have contributions in the scientific field such as winning a prestigious scientific award, or securing substantial funding for their research during the past ten years, it is also mandatory to obtain a recommendation letter from recognised scientific institutions in the UAE.



FILE PHOTO: Pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi walks to take an oath at the lower house of parliament in Naypyitaw May 2, 2012 Reuters

Myanmar's Tainted Torch Bearer For Democracy Detained Again In Coup

Agencies

The daughter of independence hero Aung San, who was assassinated in 1947, Suu Kyi survived an assassination attempt in 2003 when pro-military men attacked a convoy she was travelling in Aung San Suu Kyi, who spent 15 years under house arrest in the struggle to bring democracy to Myanmar, has been detained along with other leaders of her political party in a military coup.

Beloved in Myanmar as "the Lady", Suu Kyi fulfilled the dreams of millions when her party won a landslide election in 2015 that established the South-east Asian nation's first civilian government in half a century.

But the Nobel laureate appalled the world two years later by denying the extent of a sweeping military-led crackdown against the Rohingya Muslim minority which forced hundreds of thousands to flee the country.

In Myanmar, Suu Kyi remains adored but she has failed to unite its myriad ethnic groups or end its decade-long civil wars. She also oversaw tightening restrictions on the press and civil society and has fallen out with many former allies.

The daughter of independence hero Aung San, who was

assassinated in 1947 when she was two years old, Suu Kyi spent much of her young life overseas.

She attended Oxford University, met her husband, the British academic Michael Aris, and had two sons.

Before they married, she asked Aris to promise he would not stop her if she needed to return home. In 1988, she got the phone call that changed their lives: her mother was dying.

In the capital Yangon, then Rangoon, she was swept up in a student-led revolution against the military junta that had seized power after her father's death and plunged the country into a ruinous isolation.

Suu Kyi, the spitting image of the idolized Aung San and an eloquent public speaker, became the leader of the new movement, quoting her father's dream to "build up a free Burma".

The revolution was crushed, its leaders killed and jailed, and Suu Kyi was imprisoned in her lakeside family home. Speaking her name in public could earn her supporters a prison sentence, so they called her "the Lady".

Slightly built and soft-spoken, she played a crucial role in keeping world attention on Myanmar's military junta and its human rights record, winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991.

Aris died in 1997 but she did not attend his funeral, fearful she would not be allowed to return.

For years, the army led a relentless smear campaign against Suu Kyi, whom they dubbed an "axe-handle of the West."

During a brief release from house arrest in 1998, she attempted to travel outside Yangon to visit supporters and was blocked by the army. She sat inside her van for several days and nights, despite dehydration in the sweltering heat, and was said to have caught rainwater in an open umbrella.

She survived an assassination attempt in 2003 when pro-military men wielding spikes and rods attacked a convoy she was travelling in. Some of her supporters were killed or badly wounded.

The army again placed her under house arrest and from behind the gates, she gave witty weekly addresses to supporters, standing on rickety tables and talking about human rights and democracy under the watchful eyes of the secret police. A devout Buddhist, she sometimes spoke of her struggle in spiritual terms.

From revered to reviled
In 2010, the military began a series of democratic reforms and Suu Kyi was released before thousands of weeping, cheering supporters.

News Analysis: Poetic Justice In Myanmar?

Agencies

Not only has she dismissed and denied the rights of the Rohingya, she has gone as far as to downplay and defend the pogrom against them at the International Court of Justice.

Back in 2015, in advance of the elections that brought her to power, I wrote what was then one of the first critical takes on Aung San Suu Kyi for the New York Times.

Even then, Suu Kyi's failure to stand up for the rights of the Rohingya in the face of the shocking persecution that they were facing was noticeable and reason, to my mind, to call into question her sainted image in the western media.

The most charitable explanation for her silence then was that it was cold political calculation and that she did not have the political capital to spare on an unpopular cause.



This was not reasoning I found particularly persuasive or praiseworthy.

As I wrote in the NYT: "If Suu Kyi is remaining silent on the plight of the Rohingyas because she's afraid that speaking out would cost her an election, she doesn't deserve to come to power. And if her silence leads to the deaths of more and more innocent people, she doesn't deserve our respect either."

The rest is, as they say, history. Though perhaps it would be more accurate to state that for the Rohingya, who had to suffer a brutal pogrom in 2017 that

saw thousands raped and killed and three quarters of a million driven from their homes to seek refuge in Bangladesh across the border, where they remain, it is very much the present.

In one of her most celebrated essays, Suu Kyi famously wrote: "It is not power that corrupts, but fear. Fear of losing power corrupts those who wield it and fear of the scourge of power corrupts those who are subject to it."

How true and how poignant those words ring today. Who knew when she wrote those words in 1991 that she would be speaking about herself?

Suu Kyi's continued silence about the extent and nature of the genocide against the Rohingya has long ago shattered the credibility and respect of this Nobel Peace Prize laureate, leading to her being stripped of her Ambassador of Conscience award, Amnesty International's highest honour, in 2018.

Biden's New Iran Envoy Upsets Pro-Israeli Groups



Agencies

With his new assignment, the veteran diplomat will take on a leading role in one of most daunting and politically divisive foreign policy challenges facing the new administration.

Veteran US diplomat Robert Malley, who has been named at the new special US envoy to Iran, has drawn criticism from some Republican lawmakers and pro-Israel groups that expressed concern that he would be soft on Iran and tough on Israel.

Malley was a key member of former President Barack Obama's team that negotiated the 2015 nuclear accord with Iran and world powers, an agreement that former president Donald Trump abandoned in 2018 despite strong opposition from Washington's European allies.

With his new assignment, the veteran diplomat will take on a leading role in one of most daunting and politically divisive foreign policy challenges facing the new administration.

The post would make Malley the point person in Biden's efforts to deal with Iran after years of worsening relations under Trump, who, after pulling out of the 2015 nuclear deal with Tehran, reimposed crippling economic sanctions.

Even amid criticism from pro-Israel groups, a number of foreign policy veterans rushed to his defense, praising him as a respected, even-handed diplomat.

"Secretary Blinken is building a dedicated team, drawing from clear-eyed experts with a diversity of views. Leading that team as our Special Envoy for Iran will be Rob Malley, who brings to the position a track record of success negotiating constraints on Iran's nuclear program," the State Department official told Reuters.

"The Secretary is confident he and his team will be able to do that once again," the official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said, referring to Biden's Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

He held numerous senior positions in the Democratic administrations of Obama and former President Bill Clinton with a focus on Middle East and Gulf policymaking and informally advised Biden's team during the 2020 campaign.

Most recently, he was the president of the International Crisis Group, a non-profit organization focused on global conflict.

Crafting Iran policy
Malley's expected appointment comes as Biden and his foreign policy aides move to craft their approach to Iran. Malley is expected to report directly to Blinken, a source familiar with the matter said.

Biden's top diplomat on Wednesday stuck to the new administration's stance that Tehran must resume complying with the Iran nuclear deal before Washington would do so.

Making his first public comments on Iran as secretary of state, Blinken reiterated Biden's policy "that if Iran comes back into full compliance with its obligations under the JCPOA, the United States would do the same thing."

But Iran's foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, said on Twitter on Thursday that the United States should make the first move by returning to the nuclear pact.

The nuclear deal, formally called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), was struck by Iran and six major powers and committed Iran to restricting its nuclear program in return for sanctions relief from the United States and others. Israel and Gulf Arab states strongly opposed the deal as not stringent enough on Tehran.

Malley, the son of an Egyptian journalist and Iran expert, was an informal adviser to Obama's 2008 campaign but resigned after it emerged he had met with representatives of the Palestinian militant group Hamas while working for the International Crisis Group.

Malley was later brought into the Obama administration, in which Biden served as vice president, as a top Middle East adviser.

21% China Sailors Suffer From Mental Health Problems



BEIJING: One in five sailors serving with China's submarine force, especially nuclear submarines in the disputed South China Sea, are experiencing mental health problems, according to a new research.

China in recent years focussed its military deployment in the South China Sea (SCS), which has become a new theatre of conflict with frequent forays by US naval

vessels to assert freedom of navigation in the region.

China claims almost all of the 1.3 million square mile South China Sea as its sovereign territory. China has been building military bases on artificial islands in the region also claimed by Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam.

A study by Naval Medical University in Shanghai of more than 500 servicemen and officers claims to be the first of its kind to highlight the psychological problems the troops working in the disputed waterway are facing. 21% of respondents were found to be suffering from some degree of mental health problems. — PTI

NEWS MAKERS

Elon Musk's Latest: "Happy Monkey" With Wires In Brain To Play Video Game

Agencies

Elon Musk says one of his start-ups has a monkey with wires going into its brain that's able to play video games.

"He's a happy monkey," said Musk, the chief executive officer of electric-vehicle maker Tesla Inc. and backer of numerous other futuristic projects, including Neuralink Corp., a startup focused on developing a brain-computer interface.

He said videos would be released soon, perhaps in around one month, showing the wired monkeys.

Musk was speaking on Clubhouse, a private social app where users host off-the-cuff, informal conversations. He was asked about the latest developments at Neuralink, which was unveiled in



2017. The entrepreneur, who also founded rocket company Space Exploration Technologies Corp. and is now the world's richest person, is known for his wide interests, from artificial intelligence to underground highways.

"We have a monkey with a wireless implant in their skull with tiny wires who can play video games with his mind," Musk told several thousand listeners in a Clubhouse

chatroom. "You can't see where the implant is and he's a happy monkey. We have the nicest monkey facilities in the world. We want them to play mind-Pong with each other."

Musk explained that the "idea with neural link is addressing brain and spinal injuries" and making up people's lost capacity with an implanted chip.

"There are primitive versions of this device with wires sticking out of your head, but it's like a Fitbit in your skull with tiny wires that go into your brain," he said.

Although Clubhouse seems like nothing more than an app to hop onto various conference calls, it has become a popular platform for an estimated 5 million users, a jump from 3 million 10 days earlier.

Alexei Navalny, WHO And Thunberg Among Nominees For Nobel Peace Prize

OSLO: Russian dissident Alexei Navalny, the World Health Organization and climate campaigner Greta Thunberg are among those nominated for this year's Nobel Peace Prize, all backed by Norwegian lawmakers who have a track record of picking the winner.

Thousands of people, from members of parliaments worldwide to former winners, are eligible to propose candidates. Nominations, which close on Sunday, do not imply an endorsement from the Nobel committee.

Norwegian lawmakers have nominated the eventual laureate every year since 2014, with the exception of 2019, said Henrik Urdal, Director of the Peace Research Institute Oslo.



"The pattern from recent years is quite stunning."

The Norwegian Nobel Committee, which decides who wins the award, does not comment on nominations, keeping secret for 50 years the names of nominees.

But nominators can choose to reveal their picks. According to a Reuters survey of

Norwegian lawmakers, nominees include Thunberg, Navalny, the WHO and its COVAX programme to secure fair access to COVID-19 vaccines for poor countries.

Thunberg was named as one of "the foremost spokespeople in the fight against the climate crisis", with the campaigning group she co-founded, Fridays for Future, also receiving a nod.

Navalny, nominated by Russian academics, was named for his "efforts for a peaceful democratisation of Russia" by Norwegian former minister Ola Elvestuen.

The battle against COVID-19 is front and centre, including a nomination for the GAVI vaccine alliance.

Other names are Belarusian activists Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, Maria Kolesnikova and Veronika Tsepikalo for their "fight for a fair election and inspiration for peaceful resistance", one nominator, Geir Sigbjørn Toskedal, said.

Another, Jette Christensen, also named the Hungarian Helsinki Committee, a human rights group, and IUSTITIA, a group of Polish judges defending civil rights.

Elections For DDC Chairpersons By Feb 20



SRINAGAR: Setting the stage for holding elections for offices of chairpersons of district development councils in Jammu & Kashmir, the State Election Commission Monday overruled all the objections filed against the draft reservation for these posts, stating that all of them

were devoid of merit.

The SEC found that none of the objections/representations so received had any merit, news reports quoting an SEC order said.

"No infirmity, leave alone irregularity was brought out in the draft notification for reservation dated 25th January, 2021," reads the order.

According to the order, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Shopian, Ramban and Kishtwar have been reserved for women, while Poonch has been reserved for women from Schedule Tribe Category.

The order further reveals that Anantnag and Rajouri have been reserved for STs while Jammu and Udhampur seats have been reserved for SCs.

With unveiling of the final reservation order, the election for electing DDC chairpersons has to be held by February 20—Agencies

End Winter Vacation For Doctors In Kashmir: DAK Urges Govt

SRINAGAR: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Monday urged the government to end the practice of winter vacation for doctors in the valley.

"Patients face immense hardships due to the long winter break of doctors," said DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

"It is ironic that senior doctors in Kashmir valley are allowed for holidaying 'en masse' at a time when their services are needed the most," he said.

"Come winter, senior doctors abandon their places of work to evade the harsh winter of the valley and go on sojourn within and outside the country."

The DAK President said every year, faculty of referral hospitals go for two month winter vacation leaving patients to fend for themselves.

"Patients are left to die due to non-availability of senior doctors during harsh winter when Kashmir remains cut-off from rest of the world," he said adding that "hundreds of patients, every day turn up at these hospitals from far flung areas only to be told that senior doctors are on leave."

"As doctors go on leave, there is a problem in conducting outpatient and inpatient services in hospitals," Dr Nisar said.

"Planned surgeries are cancelled and procedures are further delayed."

"In absence of senior doctors, hospitals are run by junior doctors who find it difficult to cope with the rush of patients and are unable to handle complicated cases," he said.

Dr Nisar said winter brings



more patients to hospitals and they are left uncared as doctors are on holidays.

"The number of heart attacks and strokes doubles in winter and there is increased mortality among these patients due to non-availability of senior doctors," he said.

"There are increased numbers of pneumonia cases and hospitals are flooded with asthmatics and chronic lung disease patients during winter."

"There are far more fire-related cases and a fair amount of accident cases due to slip or skid on icy streets," he added.

"And, we have Covid-19 this year that is still raging and every day, many severely ill patients related to the virus continue to get admitted in hospitals."

"Though, this winter SKIMS hospital has cancelled winter vacation for doctors in view of Covid-19 crisis, doctors at GMC Srinagar and its associated hospitals are enjoying winter holidays," said Dr Nisar.

Dozens Of Sheep Stolen From Bandipora Village

BANDIPORA: At least forty five sheep worth lakhs of rupees were stolen from Naidkhai village of North Kashmir's Bandipora district.

The victim's family member Yousuf Lone said that unknown burglars broke into the cowshed of Abdul Wahab Lone in Bathipora area of Naidkhai village and decamped with 45 sheep.

Lone said the incident oc-

curred during the intervening night of January 31- Feb 1.

He said "Thieves might have used a heavy motor vehicle for the purpose, adding that stolen sheep were the entire local breed.

Meanwhile, Police have taken the cognizance of the incident and have registered a report in this regard and further investigations have been taken up.



Terminated teachers of Muslim Educational Institute (MEI), Pampore protest in Srinagar demanding their reinstatement. Photo Courtesy: Social Media

Dialing LG's Grievance Cell Costs Job To 16 Teachers In Pulwama

Teachers Stage Protest In Srinagar, DC Orders Enquiry

SRINAGAR: Sixteen teachers who have been disengaged by a local educational institution here in Pampore area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Monday staged a protest in Srinagar demanding justice.

Reports said that sixteen teachers have been disengaged from their service by the authorities at Muslim Educational Institute (MEI), located in Pampore.

All the terminated teachers on Monday assembled here at Press Enclave Srinagar and staged a protest demonstration demanding reinstatement.

A protesting teacher said that disengaged staff are frustrated after not getting their salary for the last several months and in-

stead of addressing their issue, authorities at MEI have disengaged all them.

As per the protesting teachers they were continuously holding classes via Zoom App in Covid-19 lockdown and school authorities too have collected more than 90% fee from the students of the institution.

"After collecting 90% fee from students, the authorities despite our repeated pleas did not bother to clear our pending wages. Then we approached LG Grievance cell which infuriated the school authorities and we all 16 teachers were disengaged," he said.

The disengaged teachers have appealed the LG led administration to look into the

matter and redress their grievances as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, sources said that DC Pulwama Raghav Lankar has taken cognizance of the matter and has constituted an enquiry committee to address the issue.

"Two member enquiry committee of CEO Pulwama and Assistant Labour Commissioner Pulwama has been constituted to address the matter," sources added.

Meanwhile, Director School Education Kashmir Mohammad Younus said that I have informed the management of MIE Pampore to be present here day after tomorrow for their version and will handle the matter appropriately. (KDC)

In Death, Comrade Sethi Keeps His Promise, Donates Eyes

SRINAGAR: Comrade Krishan Dev Sethi is no more, however, his eyes, which saw so much in his lifetime will continue to see.

Family sources said that the 93-year-old Sethi, who was the last surviving member of J&K's constituent As-

sembly, had pledged to donate his eyes.

"Within hours of his death on January 28, his corneas were removed and successfully transplanted to two persons suffering from corneal blindness," they said adding that the corneal transplant took

place a day after his death.

93 year old Sethi breathed his last on Thursday morning.

Born in Mirpur on January 1, 1928, Sethi was a popular leader there. He also remained state general secretary of the Democratic Conference. Agencies

Apni Party Concerned Over Drinking Water Crisis Across Kashmir

SRINAGAR: Apni Party Provincial President Kashmir Mohammad Ashraf Mir on Monday raised serious concerns over the water crisis across the valley especially in Srinagar city due to below freezing points.

"The frosty winter has wreaked havoc in the Kashmir division that has resulted in freezing of various water bodies including Dal Lake. People across the valley especially in Srinagar city are suffering immensely for want of drinking water," he said, in a statement issued here.

Referring to lackadaisical approach of Jal Shakti Department (JSD), Mir said that people in the city and other parts of the valley are grappling with the immense water shortage as water supply lines, taps and water motors remain clogged due to freezing temperatures.

"We acknowledge that the harsh winter has created serious problems for everyone, even the PHE Department but this is where the administration has to prove its agility and concern for the welfare of people. However, the Jal Shakti

department has taken an easy-going stance over the situation arising due to the plummeting temperatures," Mir regretted.

He beseeched the intervention of the Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha regarding the current water crisis across Kashmir: "I humbly request the Lt. Governor JK to take the cognizance of the current situation and direct the concerned Jal Shakti department to take prompt measure like dispatching of water containers to the affected areas mitigating the grave problems faced by the people at large."

Couple Arrested For Implicating Men Falsely In Sexual Harassment Cases

URI: Uri Police on Monday busted a gang of family members that used to extract money from people by threatening to implicate them in false sexual harassment and rape cases.

Police officials said that the accused person along with his wife were arrested. "Both are hailing from Uri", he said.

A case FIR No 09 dated 30/01/2021 has been lodged under sections 420, 506 and 120-B of the IPC, while the accused have been remanded in police custody, an official said.

According to police, few mobile phones and signed bank cheques were seized from the accused persons. "The accused women used to get contact numbers of men from public places like banks, shops etc who was calling them later on to lure/honeytrap them, record their conversations and later



threaten them with implication in false sexual harassment/rape case etc to extract money from them through her husband", official said.

"One such case came to light on January 29, when a shop keeper/ blacksmith of Lagama village approached police that he was trapped by the said woman and later threatened him to pay Rs 40 thousand, failing which he would be framed in a false sexual harassment case. The gang has duped many men in the area, but they failed to report out of shame or threat", he said.

Budget 2021-22, A Colossal Betrayal Of People: CPI (M)

SRINAGAR: The Union Budget 2021-22 is a betrayal of the people caught in the double crisis of pandemic and recession. It is a classic illustration of the Modi Government's unshakeable commitment to promoting the interests of a handful of big business houses at the expense of increasing distress and misery for the working people. This was stated by CPI (M) in a statement on Monday.

"The budgeted Central Government's total expenditure of 34.8 lakh crores in 2021-22 is identical in nominal terms to that in 2020-21 – which amounts to slashing expenditure in real terms. This represents the complete abrogation by the Government of its responsibility towards the people but shoring up the fortunes of a privileged few including through their greater control over the nation's productive assets", it said.

The apparent increase of the fiscal deficit to GDP ratio of 9.5 per cent in the year ending (2020-2021) which the Government claims because of increased expenditure is primarily on account of revenues collapsing. This collapse happened despite the Government's cynical imposition of a heavy additional tax burden on common people through the sharp increase in taxes on petrol and diesel. Moreover total transfer of resources to states and UTs has gone down in this budget from last year's revised estimates by more than forty thousand crores. Not only has there been a big shortfall in corporate and income taxes in 2020-21, the Government is also keen to acknowledge the 'distress' of the corporate sector and the rich by not expecting them to pay in 2021-22 even the taxes they paid in the pre-Covid period. While the Budget Estimates for Corporate Tax and Income Tax in 2020-21 were 6.81 and 6.38 lakh crores respectively, the same figures for 2021-22 are 5.47 and 5.61 lakh crores.

Even the Revised Estimates of Government's expenditure in 2020-21 of 34.5 lakh crores represents an inflation of the actual expenditure, and till the end of

December 2020 only 22.8 lakh crores has actually been spent. The supposed increase of about Rs. 4 lakh crores in Revised Estimates of the Central Government expenditure difference over the Budget Estimates is mainly on account of Budget Provisions flowing from the discontinuation of NSSF loan to FCI for food subsidy and transferring it to the budget. And this budget provision for food subsidies is also destined to be cut by 41% in 2021-22 as compared to 2020-21.

What the Finance Minister's speech did not reveal was that under several heads, expenditure in 2020-21 was actually lower than budgeted. These include Agriculture, Education, Social Welfare, Women and Child Development, Scientific Departments, Urban Development, Pensions and Disability Affairs etc. Not only are these cuts being carried forward into the next year too, even in the few heads of increased expenditure in 2020-21, like Health and Rural Development, the Budget proposes to cut down expenditures. Despite the Finance Minister's claim that health expenditure is being increased significantly, the Budget documents show otherwise. The budget allocation for Health for 2021-22 is 74,600 crores which is 8000 crores less than the last year's revised estimates. It is through such cuts that the Finance Minister is achieving the cut in total expenditure. This is a gigantic hoax being played on the people!

The panacea for this Government is to sell off India's national assets and privatize even profit making public sector companies. The monetisation project announced in the budget included sale of valuable land held at present by public sector companies. The target is to mobilise 1.75 lakh crores through disinvestment. The increase in FDI in insurance to 74 per cent is highly objectionable. This drive for privatisation is a subversion of the national interests and a mockery of the slogan of atma nirbharta.

NEWS MAKERS

CUK's Holds Art And Craft Competition

SRINAGAR: Despite harsh climatic conditions, School of Education, Central University of Kashmir (CUK) is fulfilling its social commitment by providing education and mentorship to hundreds of students belonging to SEDG;s across Jammu and Kashmir.

In that connection, a camp established by the varsity in collaboration with Government Senior Secondary School Natipora organised an art and craft competition for the students of 6th, 7th and 8th classes, which was supervised by Dean and Head School of Education, Dr. Syed Zahoor Ahmad Geelani.

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir, who graced the occasion, through video conference, lauded the efforts of the Department and praised the teacher Trainees who organised the event. Prof. Mir assured that the varsity shall continue



to serve the community at the grassroots level as envisaged in the NEP-2020.

Takya-Tenghar Bridge At Pulwama

PULWAMA, FEBRUARY 01: The District Administration, Pulwama today achieved a bigger milestone by getting the last unconnected habitation of village Takya connected with the Pulwama town via Tenghar through Takya-Tenghar Bridge under PMGSY-I in a record time.

The Takya-Tenghar Bridge was inaugurated by District Development Commissioner (DDC) Pulwama, Dr Raghav Langer in presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner, Executive Engineer, PMGSY (JKRRDA) Division, Pulwama.

An official spokesperson said that earlier the DDC in a review held in the month of September 2020, had set a timeline to connect the habitation of 250 souls by the end of January, 2021 which was accomplished in the record time by PMGSY Department while ensuring work in double shifts amid harsh weather conditions.

It was given out that an amount of Rs.167.57 Lacs was sanctioned for the completion of the project including construction of road from Tenghar to Takya (1.5 Kms) with major component of the scheme being construction of 1x15 mtr Span Minor – Bridge over 'Nallah Sasar'.

Offline Classes Start In GMC Doda

DODA: Regular offline classes were started by Government Medical College Doda after the Hippocratic Oath to the first year Medical students.

The offline classes of 1st yr MBBS started in the Makeshift College Campus Government Medical College Doda.

The classes started with the administering of Hippocratic oaths to students by Coordinator Medical education Unit.

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K O V I E W

A Long, Cold Winter

This winter Kashmir has been in the grip of a severe cold wave. This is the harshest winter in Kashmir in thirty years. The night temperature in Srinagar has progressively plummeted to upwards of minus 8 degree Celsius and each new night beats the previous night's record. In popular memory, the bone chilling cold and the recent heavy snowfall has come as a throwback to the storied old winters with their feared Chillai Kalans. It is after many years that one can witness the long icicles hanging off the eaves. Most taps, water bodies, including the Dal Lake have frozen. People are experiencing the severe hardships with water pipes freezing in houses and in many cases bursting. There are also instances of the bursting of water tanks in many homes. Besides, due to lack of clearance of snow, many villages in south, central and north Kashmir remain cut off from district headquarters. The freezing temperature has also slowed down the traffic movement.

But the exceptionally severe nature of the winter has hardly made the government more sensitive towards the needs of the people. In fact, this winter the administration seems more distant than ever. The people have more or less been left to fend for themselves.

Compared to past winters, nothing has changed for the better on the ground. In fact, in some aspects, the situation is only worse off. The power supply has reduced to a trickle in parts of the Valley, with long unscheduled power cuts the order of the day - albeit, in some urban areas including the situation on power front has been relatively better. Both metered as well as unmetered areas have already been slapped with a drastic load-shedding schedule. The only parallel state of affairs that comes to mind is the mid-nineties when power during a brief period of the winter was supplied for one hour a day. And ironically, this is happening at a time when the state is ruled by the centre,

Now that the 40-day long period of harsh winter cold known locally as the 'Chillai Kalan' has ended, there's hope that the situation will improve going forward. According to Meteorological Department, the temperature will gradually improve. One benefit of a snow-bound winter has been that there is a marginal rise in the arrival of tourists. But the economy already reeling from the successive lockdown of the past one and a half year has been dealt a fresh blow. Here's hoping that with improvement in temperature and peace holding, the businesses will also do well.

OTHER OPINON

Undeclared emergency?

Is India in a state of 'undeclared emergency'? Several media organizations — the Press Club of India, Editors Guild of India, Indian Women's Press Corps, Indian Journalists Union are among them — think this is, indeed, the case. Their concerns cannot be brushed away. 'Democratic' India has developed a new brash rash of intimidating members of the fourth estate who still have the spine left to be objective and critical. Legal provisions, some of which are legacies of colonial law, are being blatantly used to impose a culture of silence.

Consider the latest transgression — the media bodies were protesting against this — of the slew of sedition cases filed against several senior journalists as well as a prominent member of the Opposition across five states for their alleged 'misleading' tweets on the violence and the death of a farmer during the disturbances on Republic Day. This particular incident reveals the dual nature of the challenge that confronts Indian media today. First, a partisan, competitive ecosystem and commercial imperatives are forcing journalists to express opinions that do not, on some occasions, reflect ground realities. The faulty interpretation of the death of the farmer — one of the accused acknowledged the credibility of the police version quickly — is a case in point. The occasional slip of veracity — this cannot be ruled out, as the Editors Guild rightly pointed out, during a fluid situation — has been exploited by a cynical administration to slap serious charges, ranging from sedition to the endorsement of communal tensions, against the accused. Yet, the twisting of facts by a media fraternity perceived to be the cheerleaders of the present dispensation is seldom scrutinized. This is unmitigated hypocrisy and intimidation. Worse, it has acquired a pattern. Data from the National Crime Records Bureau in 2019 indicated that there had been an astonishing 165 per cent rise in cases of sedition, many of which targeted journalists. The weaponization of sedition — a point that the Editors Guild has drawn attention to — as well as of other draconian legislations can have only one intent: the stifling of expression of independent, critical opinion not just by journalists but also comedians and citizens. This warrants serious reflection on the part of institutions that claim to be the custodians of democracy.

Telegraph India

Send your write ups and feedback at
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Waiting for a Page

Why wait for a month to get one page doc under RTI ? Government officials misinterpreting RTI law by making applicants wait for 30 days !



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

By not providing information which is neither to be created nor collected as expeditiously as possible, the Public Information Officers (PIOs) are violating RTI Act 2005. This is not being taken seriously by Information Commissions as well.

Right to Information Act 2005 (RTI) is in operation for more than 15 years now. After so many years of enactment of this act, the citizens are made to believe that after filing an application under RTI, the information seeker has to wait for 30 days to get the response. This is not the case at all. To know about the time period for disposal of request by the designated Public Information Officer (PIO), we need to go through section 7 of RTI Act 2005 which reads as:

“Subject to the proviso to sub-section (2) of section 5 or the proviso to sub-section (3) of section 6, the Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be on receipt of a request under section 6 shall, as expeditiously as possible, and in any case within thirty days of the receipt of the request, either provide the information on payment of such fee as may be prescribed or reject the request for any of the reasons specified in sections 8 and 9. Provided that where the information sought for concerns the life or liberty of a person, the same shall be provided within forty-eight hours of the receipt of the request “

Explanation

During the last 15 years, I along with my colleagues have filed hundreds of RTI applications before state and central Government organizations. We hardly came across a single case wherein the designated state or central Govt officer provided the information within a week or 10 days. Even if the information consists of a single page document only and the same is very much available with the PIO , the officer still dispatches it to the RTI applicant on 28th or 29th day. This is because an officer believes that he is supposed to provide information after a month. Those who drafted this act incorporated the 30 days provision of responding to RTI requests for such cases wherein information is to be created or collected from other sections of the office. Unfortunately, even our educated people well versed with law don't carefully go through the provisions of the RTI Act. We have been made to believe that one can get the information under the RTI Act 2005 only after a 30 days time period which is not true at all.

An information which has to be prepared, collected, typed, photocopied has to be provided after two or three weeks time. We cannot force an officer (PIO) to provide this information within a week or ten days, but the designated PIO is grossly violating RTI Act 2005 if they dispatch some official circulars or orders after 25 or 26days when the same is readily available in his office ? Why shall he wait for four weeks to send Information to the RTI appli-

cant ? Why has then the word, “as expeditiously as possible” been incorporated in the RTI law ?

Why make delays ?

Why shall RTI applicants be made to wait for 30 days to get the beneficiary list under rural or urban housing scheme for poor under the PM Awas Yojna (PMAY-Gramin / Urban) or the list of MG-NREGA works executed in a village or money utilized on a road project or a school building or beneficiary list under PM-KISAN scheme ? In-fact, these details have to be made proactively available in the concerned Government offices under section 4 (1) (b) of RTI Act 2005 and not dispatching it within few days or even after a week's time is an open violation of RTI Act 2005 and Information Commission must penalize the erring PIOs for making unnecessary delays. The aim of subsuming this very term in the RTI Act is to ensure fast disposal of RTI applications and not implementing this legal term is itself a violation of this act.

For even a single paged document, the Government officers have a habit of dispatching it to the information seeker (RTI applicant) only after completion of 25 to 30 days. This is still appreciated by the poor information seekers , but in the majority of the cases the PIO takes more than 30 days to send the information and after abrogation of article 370 the information is not provided. I have already written a lot about it. The Deputy Commissioner's office in Budgam hardly disposes RTI requests. The Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) who is the designated PIO in the office has sat over at least 6 RTI applications during the last 4 months. This was reported by several media outlets and I too wrote a lot on this. Mushtaq Ahmad Lone from Batwoddar Bonen village in Budgam who has filed at least 4 RTI applications in the DC office Budgam in the last 5 months has not been provided any information. Mushtaq has now moved to Central Information Commission (CIC) with the 2nd appeal as his first appeals were also not disposed off by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) , the designated First Appellate Authority (FAA) in DC office Budgam.

RTI Act 2005 section 7 says that if the information is not provided within a time frame of 30 days, no fees (Xerox charges etc) shall be collected from the information seeker. Under rules, an applicant has to pay Rs 10 as RTI application fees and Rs 2/- per page as photocopying fees. If for example an RTI applicant wants 5000 pages of information from a Block Development Office and the concerned officer (BDO) , who is the designated PIO as well fails to provide the information within 30 days , the BDO has to deliver this

huge information free of cost to information seeker after the RTI applicant files 1st appeal or even 2nd appeal before the State (SIC) or Central Information Commission (CIC). The question arises: who shall pay Rs 10,000 (Xerox fees for 5000 pages) ? We haven't seen even a single officer paying this money out of his own pocket ? The officers instead get the photocopies done at the cost of public money which is directly causing a loss to the state exchequer.

Former State Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) G R Sufi had issued a historic order in this regard some years back. The PIO of Directorate of Health Jammu had failed to provide information to an RTI applicant for months together. The information consisted of 118 pages and while issuing the order the CIC not only issued a penalty show cause notice against the PIO but even asked him to pay Rs 236 towards the Government.

The order reads as:

“Information was voluminous and consisted of 118 leaves thereby causing a monetary loss of Rs.236/- to the Government. This loss could have been avoided had the PIO acted in time and as per provisions of the RTI Act. Therefore, Director Health Services, Jammu is directed to look into this and see how he can recover the above said amount from the then PIO Dr. Gurjeet Singh and deposit the same in government account”

Conclusion

By not providing information which is neither to be created nor collected as expeditiously as possible, the Public Information Officers (PIOs) are violating RTI Act 2005. This is not being taken seriously by Information Commissions as well. I know many cases wherein a simple information is needed by information seekers from Govt offices and they are made to wait for months. The Government needs to address these issues by holding training sessions and workshops for the PIOs. The solution lies within the law itself by digitizing the official record and making this available on the website. This is explained under section 4 (1) (b) of RTI Act 2005 as well. The literal meaning of as expeditiously as possible is swift or quick; making people wait for 30 days for a one or two paged information is not reflective of this norm.

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

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Response to “Fall of Knitting Culture”

This is in regard to the news article published today in your newspaper titled 'Fall of Knitting Culture Fading Wool and Warmth in Kashmir'.

The said news article has, indeed, highlighted a significant issue. The art of knitting has vanished rapidly from our Kashmiri homes and society in general. Knitting was one of the specialities of Kashmiri culture

and women never missed to utilise this craft during winters.

It was a cherishing and stress busting activity that used to fill love and warmth all around.

The article took me back to those golden and nostalgic days when the Old City used to be full of woollen shops and women always looking for needles and colourful yarns. We would often gather at evenings and

discuss the new or trending knitting designs and flaunt our newly knitted stuff to each other.

At home, all women would knit together while sipping a cup of kehwa and the children would observe us, play with the woollen yarns and eagerly wait to wear the knitted apparels.

Undoubtedly, the advancement in technology has replaced many ac-

tivities and knitting being one among them.

I believe that we should try to preserve and promote such activities and inculcate the art of knitting among the young generation.

Such news articles take us back into our good old days.

Sakeena Shafi
sakeenashafi2@gmail.com

Commercialisation

Necessities like schools, hospitals etc shouldn't be vulnerable to profit making

Mohammad Mus'ab Tali

There's a rapid trend of advertisements and banners being raised at every nook and corner. All is well until one desires to expand commercial establishments like hotels and restaurants, malls, stores, warehouses and so on via all such means.

What surprises me are the rapid advertisements of education institutes, hospitals etc. Such institutes are increasing in number as are undergoing fission. Every institute is in a race to establish more and more branches in different areas, irrespective of the quality being offered. And with the unexpected mushrooming of such institutes, it becomes liable to them to go for advertisement to promote their new ventures – thus flooding the entire print and social media space.

Privatization is a must in the modern day world. The public can not wholly and solely depend on government resources for their daily living. To overcome this extra burden, privatization comes to a rescue. For it provides opportunity to hundreds to meet daily needs by employing them in various sectors. But complete dependence on privatization is monopolizing things by taking a mode of rapid commercialization.

Everything, if brought under the purview of privatization (usually leading to massive commercialization with time), can be, but there should be impunity for the basic necessities of millions of people like food, schools, hospitals etc.

Food makes one's survival possible. A stomach remaining hungry is a curse for any system. Every seed sown by a farmer is a hope for hundreds. It's the basis of sustenance.

Education is a right of every child. It's not merely about enrollment in a school rather it is providing quality education there, involving a procedure that is not as simple as we've taken it. Education is hope for millions to make a quality



change for generations to come. A living with ignorance is living life nothing more than that of an animal.

Health facilities serve as a guardian. They act as saviors of human lives. In absence of such facilities, humans are always surrounded with an invisible threat.

The commercialization of education, health and other welfare structures has given a financial dimension to all these at each level. The effects of this are reverberated everywhere. Commercialization means advertising the product in a way that appeals to the consumer. The money put in advertising and infrastructural investment, is then realized from the consumers. Thus, if consumers seek better

The commercialization of these fields has a dreadful effect, which is so subtle that it is often unrealized. By putting free services offered in government institutes at back foot, services in the private sector are sparkling and achieving their peak.

education, health facilities and other resources, they have to spend bigger bucks.

The commercialization of these fields has a dreadful effect, which is so subtle that it is often unrealized. By putting free services offered in government institutes at back foot, services in the private sector are sparkling and achieving their peak.

The day to day happenings are an eye opener. Recently, when one Deputy Commissioner visited one of the district hospitals, he found most of the staff absent; many of whom were later on found busy with their private practices. What does it imply? Simply private sector services are thriving at the cost of utilization of human resources, which is actually meant to offer services in government insti-

tutes.

Likewise, during my Higher Secondary stage, I received coaching from some well known coaching centers of the valley and the staff there was mostly borne from Government Higher Secondary Schools and Government colleges. One day, one of our college teachers said, "my conscience everyday curses me, because the time I am teaching here (coaching center), I should've been actually teaching students in my college, from where I am receiving a hefty monthly salary". His conscience did seem hurt, but not to an extent that could've stopped him from getting lured by mazuma.

Happenings like these in any field are doubling the magnitude of loss incurred – first the human resource meant for providing quality services in government institutes is turning in vain; and second the employment opportunity available in private institutes for many deserving candidates are also being occupied up.

After passing my High School level, I was enrolled in one of the well known private higher secondary schools of the valley. But the irony is that I still had to join some coaching centre. The reason is obvious. The curse many of us see in winter. What would a student do for months at home, that too at the beginning of the school session?

Everything continues in winter then why not school work? Snow is not a curse. Wisdom lies in creating a balance with this beautiful element of nature by using modern tools, so our daily activities/ services won't suffer anymore. Whatever you can do in your individual capacity for benefitting people with many available "free of cost services" do that. Don't wait for the system. You are the system!

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The Burn Out Generation



Steven David Hitchcock

Scholars in the 1960s were already raising concerns about the impact so much information could have on people, and in turn, society. We as humans are social and curious creatures, but how much news, connection and information is good for us?

In her new book, Can't Even, American journalist Anne Helen Petersen writes of how Millennials have become "the burnout generation".

[It's] feeling that you've hit the wall exhaustion-wise, but then have to scale the wall and just keep going. There's no catharsis, no lasting rest, just this background hum of exhaustion.

The book, recently released in Australia, builds on the viral essay Petersen wrote in 2019.

At its heart, the book is a critique about the nature of modern workplaces and the modern economy.

As Petersen recently told Vox,

There's a feeling of instability that's the baseline economic condition for many, many millennials, and it's enhanced by these other components of our lives that make it harder to turn away from.

Petersen argues Millennials, born between the early 1980s and mid-1990s, have come of age in a world where more and more of their time is being demanded by not just work, but by life.

Technology means work follows us everywhere, at all hours, while leisure time happens (or is "performed") on social media. Meanwhile, homes are turned into Airbnb rentals, cars become rideshare services.

What's age got to do with it?

Petersen tells real and important stories about the frustration, anxiety, and malaise of herself and her contemporaries. However, she does us all a disservice by framing this as particularly "Millennial problem".

While Petersen does acknowledge burnout impacts everyone, she assumes Millennials are a concrete group of people whose experience of burnout is exceptional.

The idea of clear generational groups, each possessing defining characteristics seems intuitive. It makes sense a group of contemporaries who had similar experiences in their formative years, would come to have similar attitudes, values, and beliefs.

But many scholars are uncertain that the generational groups as we know them — such as Millennials, Gen X or Baby Boomers — are as real or useful as we might think.

Empirical research to prove generational groupings has produced "highly mixed and contradictory results". So, many academics aren't convinced birth-year groups even exist — there are too many variables.

For example, if a 20-year-old today doesn't follow office etiquette, is this a product of them being Generation Z? Or because this person is new to the workforce?

More broadly, the majority of research about generations have been undertaken across Europe, North America, and Australia/Oceania. Given these three regions combined make up less than 18% of the world's population, it becomes clear how little we know.

So, while the frustrations of Petersen and her contemporaries are real — it is important to emphasize they are something everyone is facing.

'Feelings of energy depletion'

Burnout has historically been studied in relation to workplace stress, particularly where employees are in a caring role.

Healthcare workers in the USA observe a silence to honour COVID victims.

It is defined by World Health Organisation as (a) feelings of energy depletion or exhaustion; (b)



increased mental distance from one's job, or feelings of negativism or cynicism related to one's job; and (c) reduced professional efficacy.

But medical experts are starting to see burnout as a society-wide issue, particularly as people find themselves overwhelmed and fatigued by COVID-19. Similarly, mental health groups have identified burnout as a product of long-term, or chronic, stress.

That is to say, scientists and support services are coming to understand burnout is not necessarily a product of the workplace specifically — but everything going on in someone's life — from how much technology they use, to how many commitments they have.

Everyone is over it

In 2020, who of us can say they aren't feeling burned out?

After a summer of bushfires, we had (and still have) a pandemic. For many, the boundaries between work and life have collapsed as we have needed to work, care, and relax at home — sometimes in the same room.

COVID has been accompanied by a seemingly permanent state of angst, as we all found ourselves doomscrolling for the latest updates. Many people have also lost income and job security. And more than 2 million people around the world have lost their lives.

Burnout is about more than the pandemic

But it is not "just 2020". The past several decades have seen huge changes to the way that we live, and engage with those around us.

For example, social media has had a profound effect — and not always for the better in terms of our mental health.

In the workplace, an "overtime culture" has blossomed. As of 2019, about 13% of Australia's workforce was working more than 50 hours a week.

The rise in casual employment may have allowed for more flexibility, but it has increased insecurity — with no paid leave, and unstable work schedules.

Here it is important to note, in 2020, those aged 15-24 made up less than 40% of all casual jobs. While the casual workforce is skewed towards younger workers

- the casualisation of the workforce impacts all of us.

On top of all of this, we have seen rising levels of student and household debt, skyrocketing house prices, and the increasing effects of climate change.

We all have plenty of reasons to feel bombarded by life.

How do you solve burnout?

So, what do we do? It goes without saying, widespread burnout due to social, economic, and political forces in the middle of a pandemic is a complex problem to solve.

At an individual level, resources do exist to help us address our mental health and support those around us.

However, systemic change is far more complex. Academics and world leaders have suggested reducing the work week might be an important step. Though, as noted by Peterson, it's no longer just work demanding our time, energy, and attention.

As Peterson points out, one area that may need reimagining is how much and how often we consume information. Scholars in the 1960s were already raising concerns about the impact so much information could have on people, and in turn, society.

We as humans are social and curious creatures, but how much news, connection and information is good for us?

Comparing generations is a trap

As Slate journalist Shannon Palus observes, Petersen deserves credit for identifying big problems about a culture that constantly asks for more access to every aspect of our lives.

However, framing this issue as one belonging to, or uniquely impacting Millennials is a trap. It encourages us to compare different generations to see who is the least or most burned out.

Really, our attention should be devoted to working together to reduce burnout for everyone.

By arrangements with
The Conversation

Scientists Decode How Coronavirus Damages Lung Cells Within Hours

Press Trust Of India

Following months of interdisciplinary research assessing tens of thousands of lung cells infected with the novel coronavirus, scientists have created one of the most comprehensive maps to date of the molecular activities that are triggered inside these cells at the onset of the viral infection, an advance that may lead to the development of new drugs to combat COVID-19.

From their analysis, the scientists, including those from Boston University in the US, discovered close to 18 existing drugs approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that could potentially be repurposed to combat COVID-19 soon after a person becomes infected.

They said five of these drugs could reduce the spread of the coronavirus in human lung cells by more than 90 per cent.

In the research, published in the journal Molecular Cell, the scientists simultaneously infected tens of thousands of lab-grown human lung cells with the SARS-CoV-2 virus, and tracked what happens in these

cells during the moments after infection.

They said these engineered cells are not completely identical to the living, breathing cells inside our bodies, but are the "closest thing to it."

"What makes this research unusual is that we looked at very early time points [of infection], at just one hour after the virus infects lung cells. It was scary to see that the virus already starts to damage the cells so early during infection," said study co-author and virologist Elke Muhlberger from Boston University (BU).

According to the researchers, "the virus does wholesale remodeling of the lung cells."

"It's amazing the degree to which the virus commandeers the cells it infects," said Andrew Emili, another co-author of the study from BU.

Since viruses cannot replicate themselves, they hijack the host cell machinery to make copies of its genetic material.

In the study, the scientists found that when SARS-CoV-2 takes over, it completely changes the cells' metabolic processes.



The virus even damages the cells' nuclear membranes within three to six hours after infection, which the team said was very surprising.

In contrast, "cells infected with the deadly Ebola virus don't show any obvious structural changes at these early time points of infection, and even at late stages of infection, the nuclear membrane is still

intact," Muhlberger said.

The scientists explained that the cell's nuclear membrane surrounds the nucleus, which holds the majority of the genetic information, and controls and regulates normal cellular functions.

With the nucleus compromised by the coronavirus, they said "things rapidly take a bad turn for the entire cell."

The lung cells -- which normally play a role in maintaining the essential gas exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide that occurs when we breathe -- die under this siege, the study noted.

According to the researchers, the cells also emit distress signals which boost inflammation as they die, triggering a cascade of biological activity that accelerates more cell death.

This eventually leads to pneumonia, acute respiratory distress, and lung failure, they explained.

"I couldn't have predicted a lot of these pathways, most of them were news to me. That's why our [experimental] model is so valuable," said Andrew Wilson, one of the study's senior authors.

WHAT MAKES THIS RESEARCH UNUSUAL IS THAT WE LOOKED AT VERY EARLY TIME POINTS [OF INFECTION], AT JUST ONE HOUR AFTER THE VIRUS infects lung cells. It was scary to see that the virus already starts to damage the cells so early during infection," said study co-author and virologist Elke Muhlberger from Boston University (BU).

Nearly 3 In 4 Indians Feel Safe While Joining Telegram

Agencies

Nearly 3 in 4 Indians feel safe while joining any group or channel on Telegram as they don't need to reveal their phone number to strangers, according to a new survey.

Telegram, which has crossed 600 million users globally, scores over Signal in terms of awareness (55 per cent) and actual usage (39 per cent).

Over the past one year, 37 per cent of users in India have actually used Telegram, compared to a mere 10 per cent for Signal, a rather nascent messaging app that is enjoying a spike in downloads in recent days, according to the survey by CyberMedia Research (CMR).

"As WhatsApp eventually moves into a much closer integration with the Facebook ecosystem from hereon, it risks an erosion in brand trust and brand loyalty— both key determinants for enduring competitive market advantage," said Prabhu Ram, Head-Industry Intelligence Group (IIG), CMR.

According to the findings, majority of users on WhatsApp and FB Messenger do not feel convenient and safe while storing their chat backup on third party or non-end-to-end encrypted platforms such as Google Drive or iCloud.

Among the alternatives, Telegram users retain high trust in the dedicated cloud that Telegram offers (49 per cent).

Nearly 55 per cent of WhatsApp users face the challenge of media



files (photos, videos, documents, PPT) from messenger apps, eating up phone memory.

"Almost 50 per cent of those surveyed have received suspicious messages from unknown numbers, with potential phishing, malicious links. The occurrence of phishing is high among WhatsApp users (52 per cent), and lowest amongst Telegram users (28 per cent)," the survey noted.

The occurrence of spam is high with incumbents, with nearly 50 per cent of WhatsApp and FB Messenger users facing spams daily.

"For instance, 73 per cent of WhatsApp users feel helpless to counter illegal, abusive and copyrighted content, whereas Telegram users are most acknowledged while reporting such content through in-app buttons, and an Abuse Notification Channel," the CMR 'Social Safe' survey mentioned.

Telegram, in particular, has gained traction among users over the past year, much before the "recent WhatsApp PR fiasco".

"While Signal has enjoyed a recent burst in its popularity, it has not been able to scale swiftly enough, and users have faced challenges with it," Ram said.

Researchers Study How Facial Ageing Is Accelerated By Fat Loss

Agencies

Researchers during a recent study have tried to determine how the signs of facial ageing are accelerated due to fat loss and how it's treated by plastic surgeons.

The traditional theory is sagging: the facial soft tissues simply yield to the effects of gravity over time. And while the idea that weakening ligaments in the midface could result in soft tissue descent still has merit, more recent studies point in another direction. Perhaps the real culprit behind facial ageing is the loss of fat - both near the surface of the skin and in deeper areas.

In a new study featured in the February issue of 'Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery', the official medical journal of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS), Aaron Morgan, MD, of the Medical College of Wisconsin and his colleagues studied 19 patients who underwent computed tomography (CT) scans of the head on two occasions at least a decade apart.

Although the patients weren't undergoing facelift surgery or any other cosmetic procedure, scans proved useful for measuring changes in fat deposits in the midface - the area between the eyes and mouth - over time. The patients averaged about 46 years at the time of their initial scan and 57 years at follow-up.

While the findings varied among patients, the results showed a "definite and measurable loss of midface fat volume." The total volume of facial fat decreased from about 46.50 cc (cubic centimeters) at the initial scan to 40.8 cc at the follow-up scan: a reduction of about 12.2 per cent.

However, the amount of reduction wasn't the same at all levels. Fat volume in the superficial compartment, just under the skin, decreased by an average of 11.3 per cent. That compared to an average 18.4 per cent reduction in the deep facial fat compartment.

The findings provide direct evidence to support the 'volume loss' theory of facial ageing - and may help in understanding some of the specific issues that lead patients to seek facial rejuvenation. "In particular, we think that deep facial



fat loss closer to the surface makes the cheeks appear deflated."

Variations in fat volume loss can also explain ageing-related hollowing around the eyes and the heaviness of the jowls. "The upper face has less fat, to begin with, so fat loss is more apparent," said Dr. Morgan.

Morgan noted that in contrast, the cheek or buccal area has relatively little fat loss, so that area appears fuller as changes occur in other areas of the midface.

This study could help plastic surgeons identify techniques to replace or reposition the midface fat in a more "physiologic" way. "We think that our findings will help plastic surgeons design more natural approaches to facial rejuvenation, with the aim of re-creating the facial fat distribution of youth," said Dr. Morgan.

"This proves there is volume depletion and not just laxity of tissues with ageing. So, volume replacement should be used in addition to surgical procedures to attempt to recreate the youthful face," concluded Dr. Morgan.

Study Reveals 'Weak', 'Strong' Cells Bonding Boosts Body's Diabetes Fight

Agencies

Scientists have broadened understanding of how 'weak' cells bond with their more mature cellular counterparts to boost the body's production of insulin, improving our knowledge of the processes leading to type 2 diabetes.

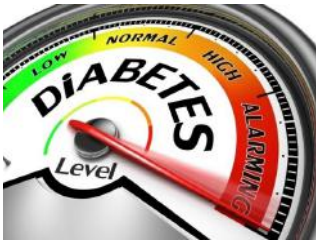
An international research team - led by scientists at the University of Birmingham - have discovered that immature b-cells (PDX1LOW/MAFALOW) are able to overcome their relative deficiencies by partnering with 'stronger' counterparts to drive insulin release.

Type 2 diabetes mellitus occurs when b-cells cannot release

enough insulin - a tightly controlled process requiring hundreds of such cells clustered together to co-ordinate their response to signals from food, such as sugar, fat and gut hormones.

Publishing their findings today in Nature Communications, the researchers reveal that subtle differences in the levels of PDX1 and MAFA proteins (found only in b-cells), and more broadly, differences in b-cell maturity, contribute to how clusters of insulin-producing cells, known as islets, function.

The corresponding author David Hodson, Professor of Cellular Metabolism, at the University of Birmingham, commented: "Our



research shows that differences in b-cell maturity, defined using PDX1 and MAFA levels, are needed across the islet for proper insulin release. Unexpectedly, increases in the proportion of mature b-cells is associated with islet failure. It seems that, rather like society, the islet needs cells with all ages to be properly functional.

"Redressing the balance between immature and mature b-cells restores islet function under conditions of metabolic stress - an excess of sugar and fat in the diet - providing evidence that both 'weak' and 'strong' b-cells could contribute to proper islet function and insulin release.

"This is the first glimpse that immature cells might contribute to the regulation of insulin release across the islet. Our study indicates a promising line of investigation that could be leveraged to make islets more resilient during type 2 diabetes or when generating new islets in a 'dish' for the purpose of transplantation."

Normally, mature and immature b-cells co-exist within the adult islet and can be grouped into subpopulations according to differences in their levels of specific genes and proteins. Immature b-cells are generally considered to be poorly functional when viewed alone, as single cells.

Researchers found that islets containing proportionally more PDX1HIGH and MAFAHIGH b-cells showed defects in cell function (metabolism, ionic fluxes and insulin secretion). The team believes maintaining a mix of 'strong' and 'weak' b-cells is important for effective insulin production.

Genetic Screening Before Prescribing Medicines Could Be More Helpful, Says Study

Agencies

The research from the University of East Anglia (UEA) in collaboration with Boots UK and Leiden University (Netherlands), was published in the British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology.

Researchers looked through 2019 NHS dispensing data across the UK to see how many patients are started on new prescriptions each year that could be potentially optimised by genetic testing.

They studied 56 medicines, including antidepressants, antibiotics, stomach ulcer treatments and painkillers where there are known drug-gene interactions.

And they found that in more than one in five occasions (21.1 per cent) there was the potential for a doctor or pharmacist to take action under international pharmacogenetic guidelines.

If this screening was applied to all new prescriptions, an estimated one in 11 (9.1 per cent) would lead to a change of drug or dose, affecting over five million dispensed items.

Depending on the results of individual pharmacogenetic tests, they might either get a higher or lower starting dose than normal or be more closely monitored during the early stages of treatment.

Pharmacogenomic testing

services already working in the Netherlands show that specially-trained GPs and pharmacists can carry out pre-prescribing tests and use the results to give advice on safer and more effective prescribing, delivering better patient outcomes.

Essra Youssef, a research pharmacist at UEA's School of Pharmacy, said: "We know over 95 per cent of the population carry a genetic marker that predicts an atypical response to at least one medicine.

"Our study looked at nine of these genetic markers, affecting 56 medicines that are commonly dispensed by community pharmacies in the UK. The most



common of these are weak opioids, antidepressants and proton-pump inhibitors, which are prescribed to reduce stomach acid.

"We wanted to see how pharmacogenetic testing, before be-

ing prescribed common medicines, could benefit patients.

"We found that around four million patients annually in the UK could benefit from having this new technology.

"Better selection of medicines based on a patient's genetic information could mean less side-effects and better treatment outcomes. This not only benefits the patient but also the NHS, as patients may not need to return to their GP so often to change their medication.

"It could also reduce hospital visits related to side effects of medicines. The testing process is quite simple in most cases, with a cheek swab sample collected and DNA analysed for genes related to medicines. As the cost of this testing continues to drop, the technology is more likely to represent good value for the NHS."

Marc Donovan, Chief Pharmacist at Boots UK, said: "We

strongly believe that pharmacy has a key role to play supporting the wider accessibility and use of pharmacogenomics.

"Our work shows the benefits that patients and the NHS could get from rolling out a national screening programme as part of their plans to embed pharmacogenomics in clinical practice by 2025, and that this testing could be effectively delivered by community pharmacists.

"Last year, around four million people could have had a change in their prescribing, according to our figures. This would have reduced their risk of side effects and could have led to better clinical outcomes."

Budget 2021 Disinvestment Target At Rs 1.75 Lakh Crore; LIC IPO Next Fiscal



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The government on Monday budgeted Rs 1.75 lakh crore from stake sale in public sector companies and financial institutions, including 2 PSU banks and one insurance company, in the next fiscal year.

Unveiling the PSE policy in Budget 2021-22, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said barring four strategic areas, public sector companies in other sectors will be divested. The policy would give a clear roadmap for disinvestment in strategic and non-strategic sectors.

She said strategic sale of IDBI Bank, BPCL, Shipping Corp, Container Corporation, Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd, among others, would be completed in 2021-22 fiscal year beginning April 1. Also legislative amendments required for LIC IPO would be brought in 2021-22.

She said NITI Aayog has

been asked to work on next list of central public sector companies for strategic disinvestment.

Sitharaman said a revised mechanism for fast-tracking closure of loss making PSUs would be worked out and an incentive package would be developed to incentivise states to sell stake in state PSUs.

To monetise lands owned by CPSEs, a special purpose vehicle (SPV) would be developed.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had in her previous budget for 2020-21 set a target of raising Rs 2.1 lakh crore from privatisation and sale of minority stakes in state-owned companies. This include Rs 1.20 lakh crore from selling stake in CPSEs and Rs 90,000 crore from stake sale in financial institutions.

So far this fiscal, the government has garnered Rs 19,499 crore through minority stake sale in CPSEs and share buybacks.

Sensex Skyrockets 2,315 Pts As Market Cheers Budget 2021; Bank Stocks Sparkle



MUMBAI: The BSE benchmark Sensex skyrocketed 2,315 points on Monday, propelled by gains in financial stocks, as market participants cheered a growth-oriented Union Budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

After touching an intra-day high of 48,764.40, the 30-share Sensex ended 2,314.84 points or 5 per cent higher at 48,600.61.

The broader Nifty soared 646.60 points or 4.74 per cent to finish at 14,281.20.

On the Sensex chart, IndusInd Bank was the top gainer, rallying over 14 per cent, followed by ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finserv, SBI, L&T and HDFC.

On the other hand, Dr Reddy's, Tech Mahindra and HUL were the laggards.

Indian markets opened on a positive note tracking positive global bourses. During the afternoon session, the markets reacted positively to the Union Budget, traders said.

All the key market indices witnessed a sharp rise as investors welcomed the big in-

frastructure and healthcare boost provided in the Budget.

"This is indeed a bold growth-oriented budget. Absence of the much-feared COVID tax and the surcharges on income tax is a great relief. Privatisation of two nationalised banks and proposal of monetisation of assets like land are clear positives," said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

"Raising FDI in insurance from 49 per cent to 74 per cent is welcome. Market response to the Budget reflects growth optimism. In brief, the FM has presented a pragmatic, bold and visionary budget in these difficult times," he added.

According to Lav Chaturvedi, ED and CEO at Reliance Securities, the single securities market code announced in the Budget speech will bring about ease of doing business in the Indian financial markets.

This, along with FDI regime and development financial institution, would be transforming for the financial markets, he added.



Budget Has Villages, Farmers At Its Heart: Narendra Modi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday hailed the Union budget, saying it has the vision of Aatma Nirbharta (self-reliance) and addresses all sections of society, while keeping farmers and villages at its heart.

"This budget has a special focus on strengthening the agriculture sector and boosting farmers' income. Villages and farmers are at its heart," Modi said.

The budget will bring several

positive changes for individuals, investors, industry and infrastructure sector, the prime minister said in his televised remarks on the Union budget 2021-22 presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament.

Modi said the budget has been presented in extraordinary circumstances and has a sense of reality as well as a confidence of development in it.

"It has the vision of Aatma Nirbharta and addresses all sections of society," he asserted.

"We have taken the approach of widening new opportunities

for growth, creation of new opportunities for our youth, giving a new dimension to human resources, developing new sectors for infrastructure development and moving towards technology and bringing new reforms in this budget," he said.

"It's a pro-active budget that gives boost to wealth as well as wellness," Modi said.

"This budget talks of all-round development for all parts of country," he said, adding that it has provided for a record increase in allocation towards infrastructure building.

No Rise In Retail Petrol/Diesel Prices Despite New Cess In Budget

NEW DELHI: The government on Monday imposed agriculture and infrastructure development cess at the rate of Rs 2.5 per litre on petrol and Rs 4 per litre on diesel to mobilise additional resources required for massive investment required in these two key segments of the economy that hold the key to bringing back the country on the path of growth.

However, to prevent the additional cess from impacting the retail price of two petroleum products that have already reached historically high levels across the country, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that rates of basic excise duty and special additional excise duty on petrol and diesel are being reduced from the existing levels.

Overall, while the agriculture and infrastructure cess will raise the level of taxation on the auto fuels, reduction in excise duty will make the taxation proposal in the budget tax neutral that would keep oil marketing companies away from raising the retail price of petrol and diesel based on the new imposition.

The rise in petrol and diesel prices is on hold for the last five days, but before that it had risen 10 times in January with the two auto fuels increasing by Rs 2.59 and Rs 2.61 per litre respectively this month. Petrol continues to



be available at new record high of Rs 86.30 a litre in Delhi while diesel is available in the city at Rs 76.48 a litre. The high retail price in the country is despite the global crude price at \$55 per barrel, a lot lower than \$80 a barrel in October 2018 when petrol and diesel prices had first reached historic high levels.

"The current rate of taxation of petrol and diesel is the prime reason for its high retail prices now. Government should have given a thought to this and reduced taxes so that auto fuels prices remain under check. High prices of fuel have a multiplier effect and impacts pricing of various segments and aids inflation," said an industry

expert asking not to be named.

In the budget proposal, while agriculture and infrastructure development cess at the rate of Rs 2.5 per litre on petrol and Rs 4 per litre on diesel has been levied, government has reduced basic excise duty (BED) on petrol from Rs 2.98 a litre to Rs 1.4 a litre and special additional excise duty (SAED) from Rs 12 a litre to Rs 11 a litre. Similarly, for diesel BED has been reduced from Rs 4.83 a litre to Rs 1.8 a litre and BAED from Rs 9 a litre to Rs 8 a litre.

Minor correction in retail prices even after this change is expected to be absorbed by oil marketing companies keeping consumers from any further increase in petrol and diesel prices. — IANS

THE CURRENT RATE OF TAXATION OF PETROL AND DIESEL IS the prime reason for its high retail prices now. Government should have given a thought to this and reduced taxes so that auto fuels prices remain under check. High prices of fuel have a multiplier effect and impacts pricing of various segments and aids inflation,"

Finance Minister Announces Voluntary Vehicle Scrapping Policy



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday announced the much-awaited voluntary vehicle scrapping policy to phase out old and polluting vehicles.

Presenting the Budget for 2021-22 in Parliament, Ms Sitharaman said that under voluntary vehicle scrapping policy, personal vehicles would undergo fitness test after 20 years while commercial vehicles would require it after completion of 15 years.

Welcoming the policy, Road Transport, Highways and MSMEs Minister Nitin Gadkari said the policy will lead to new investment of around 10,000 crore and create as many as 50,000 jobs.

He further said the policy would cover over 1 crore light, medium and heavy motor vehicles.

"The policy would cover an estimated 51 lakh light motor vehicles (LMVs) that are above 20 years of age, while another 34 lakh LMVs are above 15 years. It would also cover 17 lakh medium and heavy motor vehicles, which are above 15 years, and currently without valid fitness certificates," Mr Gadkari said.

These vehicles are estimated to cause 10-12 times more pollution than the latest vehicles, he said.

Outlining the benefits of the policy, Mr Gadkari said it would lead to recycling of waste metal, improved safety, reduction in air pollution, lower oil imports due to greater fuel efficiency of current vehicles, and stimulate investment.

He said the finer details of the pol-

icy will be unveiled within 15 days.

During her speech, Ms Sitharaman said that details of the scheme will be separately shared by the Road Transport and Highways Ministry.

"We are separately announcing a voluntary vehicle scrapping policy to phase out old and unfit vehicles. This will help in encouraging fuel efficient, environment friendly vehicles, thereby reducing vehicular pollution and oil import bill," she said.

Vehicles would undergo fitness tests in automated fitness centres after 20 years in case of personal vehicles, and after 15 years in case of commercial vehicles, she added.

On July 26, 2019, the government had proposed amendments to motor vehicle norms to allow scrapping of vehicles older than 15 years in a bid to spur adoption of electrical vehicles.

"We have submitted the proposal and I am expecting that we will get approval as early as possible for the scrapping policy," Mr Gadkari had said on January 15.

The minister had also said that once the policy is approved, India will become an automobile hub and there will also be reduction in the prices of automobiles.

He had said recycled material from old vehicles will help reduce the prices, adding that the automobile industry's turnover, which is 4.5 lakh crore with 1.45 lakh crore exports, will get a boost.

Earlier, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said that a policy for scrapping of old vehicles "is in the works" and will be announced after ministries concerned "fine-tune" it.

J&K Tourism Participates In ITM, Ahmadabad

AHMEDABAD: Gearing up its promotional programmes outside JK, the J&K Tourism department participated in the 3-day India Travel Mart (ITM) held from 29 January-31 January here.

Pahalgam Development Authority CEO Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani, Dy Director Tourism Publicity Jammu Anil Kumar Chandail represented the J&K Tourism in the travel show and interacted with the travel and tour operators, media persons from Gujarat and various other State tourism boards.

The focus during this ITM was to bring stakeholders together to promote domestic tourism in a unique style while also following COVID-19 protocols.

Various State tourism boards, representatives from the hospitality sector, inbound, outbound, domestic and specialised tour organisers, aviation industry, and all other professionals related to tourism industries from the country participate in the event to showcase their products and interact with their counterparts.

On the concluding day of the Travel Mart, the J&K Tourism also organised a press meet to apprise the media about tourism infrastructure development in J&K and Government's initiative to open up

new tourist areas for the travellers.

During the meet, they also highlighted effective measures taken by the administration to contain COVID-19 and ensure safe and hassle-free travelling.

A separate interaction of the J&K officials with the prominent tour operators of Gujarat was also held to seek their support for inclusion of the J&K's travel destinations in their travel itineraries.

The regional travel agents promised full support to J&K Government in promoting the UT as the choicest destination among the potential travellers from Gujarat.

Director Tourism Kashmir Dr G N Itoo said Gujarat is one of the main and oldest markets for J&K where a large number of travellers visit the UT for holidays.

He said the target group to the department, travel and hospitality sector to publicise their destinations, various products and facilities among the target group at one place.

Dr. Itoo said the department's officers had an excellent opportunity to showcase all tourism products to the visitors during the show and assured them that all COVID 19 protocols are followed to ensure the safe holiday of the travellers in JK.

NEWS MAKERS

Role Of Nanotechnology In Agriculture Training Program Commences At SKUAST-K

SRINAGAR: With an aim to enhance higher-order professional skills of the students, a 10-day training programme on 'Role of Nanotechnology in Modern Agriculture' commenced Monday at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Kashmir.

The training has been organised by the university's Division of Plant Pathology, Faculty of Horticulture under the World Bank-ICAR funded National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) for the institutional development of SKUAST-K.

About 250 students and scholars from 23 agricultural

universities and other institutions from across the country are participating in the training. Participants were chosen from 600 applicants.

More than 20 nanotechnology experts including five renowned international academicians will be delivering the lectures and conducting the training covering a wide range of topics in the broader realm of nanotechnology.

Director Education and Dean Faculty of Fisheries, Prof MH Balkhi, who was the chief guest at the inaugural function, while lauding the organizers for conducting the training on nano-



technology which is most relevant in the present times, said

it should be used for the benefit of humanity.

He said nanotechnology should help the farmers in reducing the use of problematic pesticides as rampant use of chemical pesticides has harmed human health and imbalanced the ecology. Therefore, the focus should be on efficient nanopesticides, which are safe for human life and the environment, he added.

Director Planning and Principal Investigator IDP-NAHEP for SKUAST-K, Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai said such skill trainings are important for shaping the students of the university for the future. He said the earlier thrust of the students was on

the public sector employment but those jobs have squeezed now. Presently, it is all knowledge-based economy and students have to compete in the private sector which is driven by the 4th generation industrial revolution, he said.

"To compete in the knowledge economy, students need to have higher-order professional skills in nanotechnology, automation, artificial intelligence, block chain etc.," Ganai said, adding, "Agriculture is a thriving sector with a lot of innovation opportunities for the farm up to when the food reaches a mouth and nanotech-

nology has an important role to play in it all."

Head Division of Plant Pathology, Prof Nisar Ahmad Khan talked in detail about the role of nanotechnology in modern agriculture. Prof Tariq Ahmad Shah in his welcome address provided a detailed overview of the 10-day programme.

Dr Tariq A Sofi presented the vote of thanks. Dr MD Shah, Dr Mushtaq A Bhat, Dr Afaq Hamid of Plant Pathology and Dr Shabir Ahmad Bangroo of Soil Sciences, besides a number of faculty members and students, participated in the inaugural function.

Pakistan receives first batch of COVID vaccines from China

Press trust of India

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday received the first batch of 500,000 doses of the coronavirus vaccine donated by its closest ally, China, as the country gears up to kick start its immunisation drive later this week.

The vaccines were flown in from China on a special plane of the Pakistan Air Force. The consignment was formally handed over to Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi by Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong at Nur Khan Air Base in Rawalpindi.

Alhamdulillah (by the grace of Allah) the first batch of Sinopharm vaccine has arrived! Grateful to China and everyone who made this happen. I salute our frontline health-care workers for their efforts and they will be first to get vaccinated,"

tweeted Dr Faisal Sultan, Advisor on Health to Government.

Pakistan will start its vaccination drive later this week, beginning with frontline health workers. So far, over 400,000 health professionals have applied for the jabs. Next, citizens over 65 years would be vaccinated; their registration will start in 10 to 15 days, according to Planning Minister Asad Umar.

Apart from the free vaccine doses which arrived on Monday, Pakistan will buy another 1.1 million jabs from China, while international vaccine alliance Covax has promised 17 million doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine in the first half of the year.

At the ceremony in Nur Khan Air Base, Qureshi said China had once again given practical demonstration of its friendship with Pakistan.

"This year is even more significant as it marks 70 years since we established diplomatic ties. We have planned to celebrate [the milestone] and open new doors of cooperation and friendship," he said.

The minister appreciated the top Chinese leadership and its Army for critical help in tackling the pandemic. Chinese Ambassador Rong said Pakistan is the first country to receive the COVID-19 vaccines for free from the Chinese government.

He said China sees Pakistan as its "closest friend" and "priority for cooperation".

On 70 years of diplomatic ties, Rong said, "Our friendship is higher than mountains, deeper than the sea and sweeter than honey. Our hearts grow closer in the joint fight against COVID-19."

Prime Minister Imran Khan said that his government would provide anti-coronavirus vaccine to everyone without any discrimination.

"Rich and poor will not matter. We will try to cover as many people as possible," he said.

The government plans to administer the vaccine to the entire population during the current year, Radio Pakistan quoted Khan as saying.

Khan also said that the frontline health workers would be vaccinated in the first phase followed by elderly people and those with medical conditions.

Meanwhile, all education institutions in Pakistan, from nursery to university level, were reopened on Monday following an over two-month closure due to a second wave of the coronavirus.

UN Chief Strongly Condemns Detention Of Political Leaders, Transfer Of Powers To Military In Myanmar

Press Trust of India

United Nations: The top United Nations leadership has strongly condemned the detention of Myanmar's State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, President U Win Myint and other political leaders, as UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres voiced concern over transfer of powers to the military, calling it a serious blow to democratic reforms in the country.

"The Secretary-General strongly condemns the detention of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, President U Win Myint and other political leaders on the eve of the opening session of Myanmar's new Parliament, a statement issued by Stephane Dujarric, Spokesman for the Secretary-General, said on Sunday.

Guterres expressed his grave concern regarding the declaration of the transfer of all legislative, executive and judicial powers to the military and said these developments represent a serious blow to

democratic reforms in Myanmar.

According to media reports, an announcer on Myanmar's military-owned Myawaddy TV declared on Monday morning that the military had taken control of the country for one year.

Myanmar's leader Suu Kyi and other senior figures from the ruling party have been detained in an early morning raid, the spokesman for the governing National League for Democracy (NLD) was quoted as saying in the media.

Guterres underscored that the November 8, 2020 general elections provide a strong mandate to the NLD, reflecting the clear will of the people of Myanmar to continue on the hard-won path of democratic reform. The new parliament was scheduled to convene on Monday.

The Secretary-General urged the military leadership to respect the will of the people of Myanmar and adhere to democratic norms, with any differences to be resolved through peaceful dialogue.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Centre Allocates

allocated to Jammu and Kashmir and Rs 5,958 crore for Ladakh -- the two newly created Union Territories.

The grant for Jammu and Kashmir is equal to last year's transfers. This means that there is unlikely an increase in Jammu and Kashmir's Budget, likely to be presented later this month in the Parliament.

Finance Minister also announced a gas pipeline project for Jammu and Kashmir.

Healthcare Spending

to over Rs 2.23 lakh crore.

Rs 35,000 crore outlay for COVID vaccine in fiscal beginning April 1.

Today, India has 2 vaccines available, 2 more vaccines are expected soon.

Sharp increase in capital expenditure for next fiscal to Rs 5.54 lakh cr, up from Rs 4.39 lakh cr of last fiscal

Fiscal deficit for current fiscal at 9.5 pc, against 3.5 pc budgeted

Fiscal deficit for next fiscal pegged at 6.8 pc, government to borrow Rs 12 lakh crore

Committed to bring down fiscal deficit below 4.5 pc of GDP by 2025-26

TAX PROPOSALS:

ITR filing not mandatory for senior citizens above 75 years, banks to deduct TDS

Time bar for reopening I-T assessment cases halved to 3 years, for serious frauds it is 10 years

Income tax return filers increased to 6.48 cr in 2020 from 3.31 cr in 2014.

Agri infra cess of 2.5 pc on gold, silver and dore bars; 35 pc on apples

Agri infra cess of 30 pc on Kabuli chana, 10 pc on peas, 50 pc on Bengal gram/chickpeas, 20 pc on lentil (mosur); 5 pc on cotton

Rs 2.5 per litre agri infra cess on petrol, Rs 4 on diesel

New Agri Infra Development Cess to be applicable from February 2

Tax deptt to notify rules to remove hardships of double taxation faced by NRIs

Tax holiday for startups, capital gains exemption extended by 1 yr

Tax exemption for aircraft leasing cos; tax exemption for notified affordable housing for migrant workers.

Rs 1.5 lakh tax deduction on payment of interest for affordable housing extended by 1 yr

Exemption from tax audit limit doubled to Rs 10 cr turnover for companies doing most of their business through digital modes

Proposes review of over 400 customs duty exemptions; to begin extensive consultation from October 2021

Customs duty on certain auto parts, solar equipment raised Allocation and reforms:

FDI in insurance increased to 74 pc from 49 pc

Disinvestment target pegged at Rs 1.75 lakh crore

BPCL, IDBI Bank, two more PSU banks, one insurance company to be privatised among others

PSU Bank recapitalisation pegged at Rs 20,000 crore next fiscal

Aatmanirbhar health programme with an outlay of Rs 64,180 cr to be introduced

Budget proposals rest on 6 pillars-- health and well-being, physical and financial capital and infra, inclusive development for aspirational India, human capital, innovation and R&D, Minimum Governance and Maximum Governance

Govt to introduce a bill to set up development financial institution with an outlay of Rs 20,000 cr

Voluntary vehicle scrapping policy to phase out old vehicles; fitness tests after 20 yrs for personal vehicles

National monetisation pipeline for potential brownfield infrastructure assets

Rs 3,726 cr for forthcoming Census which will be the first digital census.

AC And Refrigerator

module, connectors, back cover, side keys, -Mobile phone charger components

Inputs or raw materials of Lithium-ion battery

Ink cartridges and ink spray nozzle

Finished leather products

Nylon Fibre and Yarn

Plastic builder wares

Cut and polished synthetic stones, including cut and polished cubic zirconia

List of imported items goods that will become cheaper

Gold and gold dore

Silver and silver dore

Other precious metals like platinum and palladium; medical devices imported by international organisation and diplomatic

missions.

Gas Pipeline Project

capacity in all-natural gas pipelines on a non-discriminatory open access basis," Sitharaman said while announcing the Union Budget for 2021-22.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha lauded the Central Government for announcing the project.

"I thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shahji for announcing a new gas pipeline project for the development of Jammu and Kashmir in Budget 2021. I congratulate Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharamanji for an inclusive and growth-oriented historic budget for Aatmanirbhar Bharat," an official statement quoted Sinha as saying.

J&K Trade

in the Union Budget despite assurances for the upliftment and development of the UT.

Traders whose flow depends on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway said that there was nothing for Jammu and Kashmir while the lone project sanctioned will benefit the government only as the traders have been neglected.

Arun Gupta, the newly elected president of Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI), said that the required things for J&K were ignored in the Union budget that was presented by the union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman today.

"Other states have got a good share in the budget but our UT has been neglected totally and it must be reviewed at the earliest, which requires the attention of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

He said that the LG must ensure all the requirements are included in the budget, which have been ignored by the central government.

"Everything required must be in the UT budget for development of Jammu and Kashmir. Tourism industry here need a boost but unfortunately it has been ignored in the union budget," he said adding that the national highway has already been announced and the work is underway on a war footing basis.

"We will request the LG of J&K to propose the languishing work of national highway in UT level budget since the deadlines are often missed," he added.

Meanwhile, president Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers cum Dealers Union, Bashir Ahmad said that it was very unfortunate that there was no mention of the national highway in the union budget today.

"We've not read it but it's unfortunate. We have already written about the national highway to the government but of no avail. We had also written about the demand for up-gradation of Mughal road," he said.

"Mughal road just needs a tunnel at Peer Ki Gali since the Srinagar-Jammu highway frequently gets closed even during summers that leads to huge business losses," Bashir said.

Kashmir Traders and Manufacturers Federation president, Yaseen Khan said that the budget has no mention of Jammu and Kashmir while a megaproject announced will benefit the government only.

He said that the budget has nothing related to the upgradation of Srinagar-Jammu national highway. "Jammu and Kashmir needs all-weather connectivity but unfortunately there was no mention of the highway in the budget today," he said.

He said that the budget has nothing for the traders despite assurances from the government ad traders have suffered a significant losses in the past two years.

Yasin said that there is nothing to be happy about the union budget today as nothing has been proposed in the budget to end the miseries and uplift the business community here.

Notably, the union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman Monday unveiled the budget for the next fiscal year and announced 30757 crores grant for J&K and a gas pipeline project--Agencies

Snowfall Breaks

manual snow sprinkling for melting snow as snow clearance machines were proving ineffective.

The respite came a day after Chillai Kalan ended and Srinagar recorded it's lowest minimum temperature -- minus 8.8 degrees Celsius -- in 30 years.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of 7.6 degrees Celsius, down from minus 10.2 degrees Celsius the previous night, they said.

The minimum temperature at the Gulmarg skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district settled at minus 8.2 degrees Celsius. Pahalgam tourist resort recorded a low of minus 6.1 degrees Celsius, up from previous night's

minus 12.0 degrees Celsius.

Kupwara recorded a low of minus 2.9 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag in the south, registered minus 9.5 degrees Celsius.

Landslide Halts

They said men and machinery were pressed in and road was cleared to make highway through for traffic.

Meanwhile, a traffic department spokesperson said Monday that subject to fair weather and better road condition, only one way traffic shall be allowed from Jammu towards Srinagar on Tuesday.

"No vehicle including livestock/fresh perishables" shall be allowed in the opposite direction. TCU Jammu shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the traffic," the spokesperson said.

"Security Forces are advised/requested not to ply against advisory/traffic plan in view of traffic congestion on Jammu-Srinagar NHW and narrowness of Bailey bridge. They may ply from Jammu towards Srinagar after confirming the status of NHW," he added.

The spokesperson further said that Mughal

road remains closed due to snow accumulation.

No Let Up In

of ceasefire violations by Pakistan along the LoC in 2020 -- the highest in the past 19 years. A total of 36 people were killed and over 130 injured.

Meanwhile, the Army on Monday said it was investigating the circumstances in which a soldier died at a forward post along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district.

An Army official said it was clarified that the incident in which the soldier died was "non-operational in nature".

"Circumstances under which Sepoy Nikhil Dayma was found dead on 29 January 2021 at around 1330 hrs while on sentry duty at a forward post along the LoC in Kashmir are being investigated," he said.

Earlier, it was reported that Dayma died in an encounter with militants in Uri sector along the LoC.

Dayma, a resident of Alwar in Rajasthan, had reportedly returned to duty on January 13 after availing leave.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and BJP MP from Tonk-Sawai Madhopur Sukhbir Jaunapuria had paid tributes to Dayma, claiming that he was killed at Uri in an encounter with militants

"Salute the martyrdom of Alwar, #Rajasthan's braveheart Sh. Nikhil Dayma who made the supreme sacrifice in an encounter with terrorists in Jammu & Kashmir. My heartfelt condolences to his family members & prayers that they find strength. We stand with them in this difficult time," Gehlot tweeted on Saturday.

On Sunday, Jaunapuria visited the slain soldier's bereaved family as well.

3 Of Family

the ground, they said.

Three persons, including the boy, a girl and an elderly person, were injured in the incident that took place in the border belt of Nowshera area of Rajouri on Sunday, the officials said.

The injured were shifted to GMC hospital in Jammu, they said.

Sources said it appeared to be a mine blast.

Bird Flu Cases

Choudhary in a tweet had said, "Human or Poultry contact with Wild/Migratory birds (like feeding sources) needs to be strictly avoided,"

Meanwhile, panic has gripped several villages in the border town of Uri in north Kashmir district of Baramulla after dead crows were sighted for the second time in less than a month in three areas.

The locals have appealed to the administration to conduct a thorough investigation into the matter so that if the birds are infected the disease could be stopped from spreading by taking precautionary measures. (With agency

inputs)

No Covid-19 Death

districts, no fresh case was reported from the Jammu division. In the Valley, except Srinagar, all the districts reported fresh cases in single digits, they said.

The number of active cases is 709 in the union territory, while 1,21,905 patients have recovered so far, the officials said.

No fresh death due to the virus was reported in the past 24 hours, keeping the death toll in Jammu and Kashmir at 1,936, they said.

Schools Reopen

Educational institutions across the Jammu region reopened on Monday amid the strict

implementation of COVID-19 Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs), officials said.

Students were enthusiastic as classes resumed in schools.

"We are happy to rejoin our classes, see our teachers and friends. There were strict SOPs. Our fever was checked and we were asked to maintain social distancing and hand and mouth hygiene, a student of a Kendra Vidhalaya said.

The administration, in its order, had said schools, colleges, higher educational institutions and technical or skill institutions will reopen from February 1.

These shall be physically opened in a staggered manner for academic activities for Class 9 to Class 12 with effect from February 1," said the order issued by B K Singh, Administrative Secretary, School Education Department.

In the case of junior classes, while the teachers will start coming to schools from February 1, the students will physically attend from February 8, it added.

The order further said schools in the Kashmir division and the winter zone areas of the Jammu division will reopen as per their respective schedules.

High Court Seeks

120-B, 109 RPC at Police Station Vigilance Organisation (now ACB), in 2008.

Hearing a public interest litigation, a division bench of chief justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Rajnesh 'Oswal granted government month's time to file the status report after additional advocate general M A Chashoo sought the same.

He submits that he may be allowed some time to find out about the status of the investigation pursuant to the FIR.

"Shri Chashoo as prayed is allowed a month's time to file status report regarding the outcome of the investigation pursuant to the above referred FIR," the court said.

The PIL was filed in 2010, praying among others quashing of the Master Plan 2005-2025 prepared by the Pahalgam Development Authority.

"Various compliance reports from time to time have been filed and are on record. Pursuant to the last order, Chashoo has submitted a further report stating that most of the encroachments have been removed from the area of the Pahalgam Development Authority but the work has been stopped on account of snow during the winter season and necessary steps would be taken to remove the remaining encroachments also," the court said, adding, "It is an admitted position that as on date, the Master Plan 2005-2025 is not in existence and that Master Plan 2015-2032 is in place."

In view of the aforesaid facts and circumstances, the court said, apparently only the prayer with regard to the completion of the investigation of the FIR survives. (Agencies)

Amid 'Lone'

The NC's parliamentarian from south Kashmir added that Lone's party has 80 per cent strike rate in the DDC elections and this was only possible as PAGD workers voted him to victory.

"Truth is," Masoodi said, "the performance of PAGD in DDC elections surprised New Delhi and that is why they started to go slow in formations of DDC."

But one among the two PC leaders being named behind Lone's PAGD exit, Imran Ansari lately questioned the recent meeting of the official delegation of NC and CPI (M) leader Yusuf Tarigami with LG Manoj Sinha without informing the alliance partners.

Amid these coalition cracks, PC chief's allies say he might soon make a comeback as chief-tan of a North Kashmir-based coalition.

"BJP has realised that they don't have any chance to form a government in J&K in a face to face confrontation with PAGD," said Dr. Sheikh Showkat Hussain, a political analyst. "So they needed a regional alliance."

Earlier, Dr. Hussain added, BJP were exclusively betting on Altaf Bukhari "but he proved too little because he can't influence masses. So I think they have seen Lone as the fit case for the new grouping."

But whatever the case, Lone's PAGD exit didn't surprise many due to his history. In not-so-distant past, Lone was seen as BJP's man in Kashmir.

After the 2014 general elections, Lone had met PM Narendra Modi and referred him as his "elder brother". However, after the 2018 Faggate, the relations apparently turned sour, ending up his captivity in Centaur Hotel after Delhi abrogated Article 370 in August 2019.

However, Lone's exit from PAGD was only a matter of time, believes Gowher Geelani.

"Unionists who are used to politics of privilege, power and perks, cannot suddenly tread

on the path of sacrifice and resilience," the scribe-analyst said. "It is not their cup of tea."

Lone's leaving aside, some political pundits believe that the alliance is unlikely to collapse for now, as the "strange bedfellows" have their own problems.

"Since, individually, the alliance partners stand marginalized, the PAGD has reasons to be united," said Prof. Noor Baba, a political analyst.

"But as far Lone is concerned," the professor added, "he didn't share conviction, possibly with the other parties, so it's quite clear why he left the PAGD."

Besides Lone's exit, Omar's Delhi entry has only put the alliance in a tight-spot.

Bereft of a clear political roadmap for the restoration of Article 370, the PAGD is already being called out for not living up to the people's expectations.

"We are challenging every confrontation and sticking on our stand that nothing short of restoration of Article 370 will be accepted," Masoodi, the PAGD coordinator, said.

However, a People Democratic Party (PDP) leader said, "We had requested for a meeting of alliance partners many times to PAGD president, but there was no response."

Amid all this, the question is, will PAGD survive?

"Well," Dr. Hussain argued, "it depends on the alliance's sincerity and Delhi's response towards Kashmir."

But Majid Hyderi sees no future of PAGD in "Naya Kashmir".

"Around 50 independents won the DDC elections. It was a simple message that people are fed up of traditional politics and look for new faces and issues," he said.

Beyond statements, added Gowher Geelani, the PAGD hasn't achieved much.

"So, it's unlikely that this alliance will achieve anything at all," he said.

"While the oldest political formation in the conglomerate has gone silent, the other one is already scattered. So, what's left in PAGD now is an occasional noise."

VDC Member Held

The villagers rushed to the spot and overpowered the accused who was later handed over to police along with the weapon of offense.

The injured was rushed to district hospital and later referred to Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu for specialised treatment, they

added. (PTI)

Army Rescues British

reached the other side of Apharwat towards a dense jungle at around 5 pm.

"Having landed up in a 'no telephone signal' zone, the individual was unable to contact his hotel staff or anyone else. He was spotted by an Army patrol party of Gulmarg Battalion and was rescued to their nearest Company Operating Base," the army handout said.

"It was a great relief for the individual as he was drenching wet after negotiating Nalas and snow in the wilderness. The individual was treated with great hospitality as per the ethos of the Army, and was given a new pair of shoes, shocks and warm refreshments," he added.

Later in the evening, the army spokesperson said, Stewart was dropped by the Army to his hotel in Gulmarg.

Forest Fire

of any casualties. They said due to massive snow accumulation it is very difficult to reach the terrain.

"Mine blasts may occur if fire continues to spread in the areas called mine fields," they said.

Car Rolls Into

a rescue operation.

The doors of the car and windshield were broken to pull out the travelers--three men and two women--from inside the car. Later, all the persons were removed to nearby hospital in Kupwara were one of them, Usma (23) daughter of Mohammad Iqbal was declared brought dead, officials told local news agency GNS.

Four other critically injured persons identified as Muhammad Maqbool Bhat, Bashir Ahmad Beigh, Asif Ahmad and Sabeena Begam, all residents of Kralpora were later referred to Srinagar for specialized treatment.

However one of them, Mohammad Maqbool Bhat, succumbed to his injuries at the SMHS hospital Srinagar here, officials added.

Jackal Injures

news agency GNS reported. All the injured were removed to the district hospital Handwara for treatment, while the jackal fled away.

"All of them are out of danger and responding well to the treatment", a hospital official said.

Domestic Stalwarts 'Sad' Over BCCI Shelving Ranji Trophy 2021 Due to Covid-19

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The COVID-19 pandemic has done what even the Second World War could not: bring to a halt the Ranji Trophy's 87-year-old non-stop journey.

And eminent players of the past, many of whom had used the country's premier domestic tournament as a platform to announce their arrival, sympathised with the current lot of cricketers but also agreed with the BCCI's unprecedented decision to not conduct the tournament for the first time since its inception in 1934-35.

"I am sympathetic to what players might be feeling but I think whatever decision BCCI has taken is in the best interest of everyone," former India keeper Chandrakant Pandit, one of the country's finest domestic coaches, told PTI.

The board has informed its affiliates that the truncated season would comprise the Vijay Hazare Trophy, senior women's one-day tournament and the Vinoo Mankad Trophy for under-19 boys.

"I am happy that there is at least two tournaments happening. Could a truncated Ranji Trophy been an option? I don't know but BCCI, in a short span, also had to organise the Vinoo Mankad Trophy keeping the U-19 World Cup in mind."

The BCCI has 38 first-class teams after the inclusion of North-Eastern states and Uttarakhand coach Wasim Jaffer, who has won multiple Ranji titles with Mumbai and Vidarbha, said.

But for someone, who is a bona fide Ranji legend, the premier national tournament's absence does rankle. "I mean still very sad after so many years, for the first time the Ranji is not happening, so it is obviously going to be sad, especially the players who play only red-ball format, they are not going to play red-ball tournament for a good 18 months," Jaffer pointed out the flip side of it.

For a state team regular without a bare minimum IPL contract (Rs 20 lakh), a full season of Ranji, Vijay Hazare, Mushtaq Ali, Duleep Trophy would mean earnings of around Rs 15 to 20 lakh per season and this time it will be less than half. But the BCCI has promised compensation for domestic players and that might bring in some financial respite.

"Playing Vijay Hazare Trophy, you get 35-40,000 per game (Rs 35,000 for Hazare, 17,500 for Mushtaq Ali) and that is not enough. That money also comes in after six-eight months, so the guys who are only dependent on match fees with a family to feed will be in for hard times," Jaffer added.

However, another domestic stalwart Ashok Malhotra, who is also the president of Indian Cricketers' Association (ICA), feels that four months of Ranji Trophy in a bio-bubble was never going to be a sustainable idea. "The BCCI has already discussed in its AGM that a compensation package will be devised. I recently did commentary for BCCI in Mushtaq Ali Trophy, and I was in a bio bubble for a good two and half weeks."

"It is a very tough life even at my age so just think that was it practical to put 800 domestic cricketers in three and half month bio-bubble," Malhotra reasoned. Bengal's bowling coach Ranadeb Bose, a distinguished domestic star in his own right, also had recent experience of staying in a bubble.

"Every second day you are having a swab test, your pulse and oxygen count is being checked and your movements are restricted. Ranji Trophy is a near four-month exercise if you have a full tournament. You bubble is sacrosanct. There are cricketers with aged parents or toddlers at home and you don't get to meet them. You are confined to same hotel room for months. Not great for mental health and I feel BCCI has done the right thing organising Vijay Hazare Trophy," Bose said.



J&K Wins National Icestock Sports Championship 2020-21 At Gulmarg

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 7th National Icestock Sports Championship 2020-21 concluded here at Ice Rink, Gulmarg on Sunday. Jammu and Kashmir emerged as overall champions and Ladakh as runner-ups.

After holding Districts and Regional Championships, the Indian Icestock Sports Federation conducted the national level Championship for all 3 age groups of both genders at Gulmarg from 28th Jan. to 31st Jan 2021.

Nearly 280 boys and girls from 20 states of different age categories took part in these fascinating and thrilling Championships.

Javed ul Rehman, Asstt. Director Tourism, was the Chief Guest on the Closing Function, and distributed the medals among the winners and runners up teams. In his speech, Mr. Javed assured his full support to the association in its future endeavours.

He also expressed his joy for holding Championships among athletes coming from all 20 states at

different levels. He appreciated the Icestock Sports Federation for hosting the Championship at the grand level which will be followed by extravaganza 2nd Khelo India National Winter Games.

President, Indian Icestock Sports Federation and J&K Icestock Sports Association, thanked GDA and Tourism Deptt. for providing the logistic support and also expressed his gratitude to J&K Tourism department for sponsoring all the grand events.

President, Indian Icestock Sports

Federation, expressed his wishes and requested Sarma Hafeez Sahab, Secretary to Government, Tourism and Culture Department, to sanction one artificial turf so that the Sports like Ice skating, Ice Hockey and Icestock will be played during the summer seasons as well.

Indian Icestock Sports Federation is holding a short coaching camp for the state teams as they prepare for the forthcoming Khelo India Winter Games for better results and performance during the games.

All JK Mountaineering Foundation Organises Sunday Trek In Ganderbal



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: With sub-zero temperatures a norm in the Valley, the All Jammu Kashmir Mountaineering Foundation organised a Sunday trek to Dumail, Marchoi from Naranag in Ganderbal district.

22 trekkers from Srinagar and Ganderbal participated in the Sunday trek and hiked approximately 13.5 Kms from Naranag to Dumail and then to Marchoi.

"It was a thrilling day where we had to hike with 4 feet deep snow. We followed it with an ice bath challenge," the Foundation's press release stated.

"While Srinagar recorded its lowest temperatures in 30 years, some of the guys

enjoyed Ice water bath at Dumail. Ahsaan Mohsin, Arsalan Rashid Wani, Adil Siddiq and Emran participated in the ice bath in freezing water."

During winters, the Snow trek to Marchoi is considered to be one of the best treks in Ganderbal District that one can see.

The team was supervised by Managing Director of All Jammu Kashmir Mountaineering Foundation, Danish Dhaar, who was ably supported by Owais Dar in the front and Amir Lateef Dar from the back.

"All the credit to Owais Dar, Faizan Shafi and Waseem for acting as the 'snow clearance machines' of the team! We are thankful to our Executive body and all the participants for making this trek a success," the Foundation said.

INDIA VS ENGLAND 2ND TEST

50 Per Cent Crowd Confirmed, Media Also Allowed To Cover From Press Box

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: The BCCI and the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association have decided to allow 50 per cent spectators at the second India-England Test to be held at the M A Chidambaram stadium here, a top TNCA official told PTI on Monday.

The issue was discussed by the TNCA members after fresh COVID-19 guidelines on easing of public movement and entry of spectators into sporting venues were issued. The move was cleared in a meeting between TNCA and BCCI officials.

"We discussed the issue of allowing spectators for the second India vs England Test following fresh COVID-19 guidelines by the Central government permitting crowds at sporting venues and also the state government's SOPs given on Sunday," the TNCA official told PTI.

"It has been decided by the BCCI and TNCA to allow 50 per cent spectators for the second Test by following all safety protocols."

The M A Chidambaram stadium has a capacity of 50,000.

The first Test begins on Friday while the second match starts on February 13. Crowds have already been allowed for the third and fourth Test in Ahmedabad.



The official also said that media would be allowed to cover both the Tests from the press box at the stadium. However, media conferences would still be held virtually.

The BCCI and the TNCA had earlier decided that the first two matches would be held behind closed doors. But the fresh home ministry guidelines on easing of restrictions on public movement have changed the scenario.

The official said there was little time to allow entry of spectators for the opening Test.

He said even though there was only a gap of three days between the first and second Tests, the TNCA was confident of making arrange-

ments to allow 50 per cent spectators in the stadium.

"There is little time to make arrangements for spectators entry for the first Test so the crowd cannot be allowed. Though the gap between the two Tests is only three days, we are confident that arrangements can be made for (50 per cent) fans in second Test keeping the safety norms in mind," the official added.

The Tamil Nadu government on Sunday announced that for sports, including cricket, 50 per cent occupancy would be allowed in stadiums.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) had requested that matches be played behind closed doors.

PAK VSSA

Pakistan Coach Misbah-ul-Haq Warns Team Against Complacency In 2nd Test

Agencies

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan head coach Misbah-ul-Haq doesn't want his team to get complacent ahead of this week's second Test match against South Africa.

The home side fought back from 27-4 in their first innings at Karachi to beat the Proteas by seven wickets and take a 1-0 lead in the two-match series. The second Test starts at Pindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi on Thursday.

Yasir Shah and 34-year-old left-arm spinner Nauman Ali, playing in his first Test match, shared 14 wickets between them against a struggling South Africa batting line-up.

"It was a much-needed victory," Misbah said.

"The team came back from a difficult position, but we don't want to be complacent. South Africa is a tough team and we know they will come back hard at us."

Since taking over as head coach in 2019, Misbah has lost three away Test series — against Australia, England and New Zealand — but his Pakistan side have beaten less formidable teams like Sri Lanka and Bangladesh at home.

Misbah and bowling coach



Waqar Younis were summoned by the Pakistan Cricket Board after the team lost a Test series 2-0 in New Zealand last month. Both coaches were given another chance, but their longer-term futures were tied to the outcome of the current home series against South Africa.

"My focus is on this series," Misbah said.

"We will put all our energies in this test match and see how we can win. Other things are uncontrollable and there is no point in thinking about it."

Middle-order batsman Fawad Alam's dream return to Test cricket

played a key role in Pakistan putting up a formidable total of 378 in the first innings after South Africa were bowled out for 220 inside two sessions on the first day.

Left-handed Alam, playing in only his eighth Test match in 11 years, made a gritty 109 and revived Pakistan after a top-order collapse with Faheem Ashraf and Azhar Ali also scoring useful half centuries.

But the conditions in Rawalpindi will be much cooler than they were in Karachi and Misbah said Pakistan may change their bowling lineup to include four fast bowlers and only one spinner.

Agencies

MADRID: Lionel Messi showed his worth yet again, scoring a beautiful free kick to lead Barcelona to a 2-1 win over Athletic Bilbao in the Spanish La Liga.

The 650th goal in his Barcelona career came amid the noise prompted by Spanish newspaper El Mundo's report that his contract is worth 555 million euros (673 million).

The Catalan club, mired in debt and political turmoil, had to quickly deny its involvement in the leak.

Antoine Griezmann also scored for Barcelona, which won its fifth in a row in the league and moved into second place for the first time this season. It has the same 40 points as Real Madrid but is ahead on goal difference. Atletico earlier opened a 10-point lead after winning 4-2 at Cadiz with a pair of goals by Luis Suarez.

Messi, who had his request to leave Barcelona denied by the club last season, seemed unaffected by the leak Sunday of his contract details. He played well from the start and was decisive again at the Camp Nou Stadium. The Argentine great opened the

scoring in the 20th minute with a free kick shot that curled over the wall and found the top corner for his 12th league goal.

Athletic equalized with an own-goal by Jordi Alba as the defender tried to clear a cross by Raul Garcia in the 49th, and Griezmann put Barcelona ahead again, completing a cross by scar Mingueza in the 75th.

It was the third meeting between Barcelona and Athletic this month, with the Catalan club winning a postponed league game and losing the Spanish Super Cup final.

Athletic was trying to win its sixth consecutive match in all competitions. The loss was only its second since coach Marcelino Garcia Toral was signed in the beginning of the year the first also was against Barcelona.

It was Barcelona's first home match in 2021. It had played eight consecutive games away from the Camp Nou, including in the Copa del Rey and the Spanish Super Cup.

RED-HOT SUAREZ

Suarez continued his stellar form with Atletico, scoring twice

in the win over Cadiz to help Diego Simeone's team open a huge lead at the top.

Suarez scored a goal in each half to reach 14 league goals this season, marking his best-ever league start in Spain and becoming the league's leading scorer. The Uruguayan striker, who was let go by Barcelona at the end of last season, has scored nine goals in his last eight matches with Atletico.

"When a striker is on a roll, you have to take advantage of it," Suarez said. "You have to enjoy it because it's hard to stay at this level the whole year."

It was the eighth league win in a row for Atletico, which reaches the halfway mark of the season with a 10-point gap over Barcelona and Real Madrid while also having a game in hand.

"Every match is an important step toward reaching our goal," Simeone said. "To continue like this we have to keep focused on match after match."

Simeone's team has 50 points from 19 matches, remaining on pace for a 100-point season for the first time.

"These are important numbers that put us at the top," Suarez said.

Tamil Nadu Defeats Baroda To Be Crowned Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2021 Champions

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: Tamil Nadu produced an impressive batting display after left-arm spinner M Siddharth's four-wicket haul as they lifted the coveted Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy after defeating Baroda by seven wickets in the final here on Sunday.

This was Tamil Nadu's second Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy triumph, after winning their first title way back in 2006-07. Baroda, who had won the title twice in the past (in 2011-12 and 2013-14), ended runners-up this time. Siddharth (4/20) spun his web around the Baroda batsmen to restrict them to a meagre 120 for 9 and then Tamil Nadu overhauled the target in 18 overs, with opener C Hari Nishanth top-scoring with 35.

Chasing 121 for a win, Tamil Nadu lost opener Narayan Jagadeesan (14) early as pacer Lukman Meriwala (1/34) picked up the first wicket, with the opposition at 26/1.

But Nishanth (35; 3x4; 1x6) continued playing his shots and was joined by Baba Aparajith (29 not out off 35 balls) as Tamil Nadu reached 61/1 after 10 overs.

However, medium-pacer Babashafi Pathan removed Nishanth in the 12th over, as he holed out in the deep, to reduce TN to 67/2 and give Baroda a glimmer of hope.

Skipper Dinesh Karthik played his part to perfection with a 16-ball 22 but perished when his side needed 20 runs off 23 balls.

Aparajith and Shahrulkh Khan (18 not out off 7 balls; 2x4; 1x6) then took TN home. Shahrulkh, fittingly, finished the game with a boundary.

Earlier, Siddharth's brilliant bowling upfront enabled TN to restrict Baroda to 120 for 9 on a difficult track.

It was largely due to the 58-run seventh wicket stand between Vishnu Solanki (49 off 55 balls; 1x4; 2x6) and Atit Sheth (29 off 30 balls; 2x4; 1x6) that Baroda after being reduced to 36/6 managed a three-figure total.

Siddharth used the pitch to his advantage by varying the pace of his deliveries and also using the crease well to create awkward angles for the batsmen.

Put into bat on a Sardar Patel Stadium track that offered both turn and bounce, Baroda lost left-handed opener Nishad Rathva (1) early as the move to start with spinners from both the ends paid off for Tamil Nadu.

Surgery by Ayurveda Doctors: IMA begins Nationwide Hunger Strike

The IMA said its members and modern medicine doctors have started a relay hunger strike from Monday at over 50 places across the country in protest against a notification by the Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM) authorising post-graduate practitioners of Ayurveda to perform general surgical procedures.

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) said the new procedure will lead to "mixopathy".

IMA national president, secretary general and other IMA leaders will visit various places across the country to enhance the public safety movement, the doctors' body said in a statement.

The relay strike will continue till February 14, it said. It said the women doctors will lead the nationwide hunger strike on February 7.

The IMA condemns the notification by the CCIM, a statutory body under the AYUSH Ministry, authorising post-graduate practitioners in specified streams of Ayurveda to be trained to perform surgical procedures such as excisions of benign tumours, amputation of gangrene, nasal and cataract surgeries, the statement said. "IMA demands immediate withdrawal of the said impractical, unscientific and unethical notification," it added.

All specialty associations across the country have joined the strike through Federation of Medical Associations under the aegis of IMA. The Dental Association also has joined this national movement, the statement said.

The IMA will launch a massive awareness drive across the country as there is a clear threat to the safety of healthcare of people, it said. The IMA also said it will release awareness posters and banners across the country.

"All IMA members shall update their Members of Parliament and MLAs regarding the true picture of the notification and integration policy," the statement said.

"The IMA will also give its rationale representations to all state governments. Under the Save People Movement, all NGOs will be updated with the core issues," it added.

Internationally, the IMA shall apprise various associations from different countries about this unscientific notification. The global voice of modern medicine shall echo the feelings of the Indian Medical Association and its all members, the statement said.

The IMA asked its Medical Students' Network (MSN), Junior Doctors' Network (JDN), IMA Women's Wing, IMA Hospital Board, in-service doctors, medical colleges to participate in the strike, it said.

Further, the recent policy tilt as evidenced in the medical pluralism advocated by the National Education Policy 2020 and the four committees of NITI Aayog for officially integrating the systems of medicine in medical education, practice, public health and administration as well as research ostensibly for a 'One Nation - One System' policy will ring the death knell of all systems of medicine as a whole, the statement said.



KO Lensman Abid Bhat captures an enchanting view of the snow covered Cheshma Shahi Mughal garden in Srinagar on Monday.

Supreme Court Notice To Centre On Plea Seeking Law To Regulate Social Media To Curb Fake News, Hate Speech

The Supreme Court on Monday sought responses from the Centre and others on a plea seeking framing of law to regulate social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter and make them responsible for allegedly spreading fake news and hate speeches.

A bench comprising Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian issued notices to the Centre and others on the plea and tagged it with a pending petition which has sought setting up of a media tribunal to adjudicate on complaints against the media, channels and networks.

The apex court was hearing a petition filed by advocate Vineet Jindal who has sought directions to the Centre to frame law for prosecuting those involved in spreading hate and fake news through social media platforms.

The plea has sought directions to the authorities concerned for establishing a mechanism for automatic removal of fake news and hate



speeches within a short timeframe.

It said that freedom of speech and expression is a complex right as it may be subject to reasonable restrictions and it is not absolute and carries with it special duties and responsibilities.

The plea, while saying that reach of social media is much wider than traditional media, has also referred to few communal violence incidents in the country where social media was misused.

On January 25, the top court had sought responses from the Centre, Press Council of India (PCI)

and News Broadcasters Association (NBA) on a separate public interest litigation (PIL) which has sought setting up of a media tribunal to adjudicate on complaints against media, channels and networks.

The plea has said that media, particularly the electronic, has become like an unruly horse which needs to be tamed.

It has also sought setting up of an independent committee headed by either a former Chief Justice of India or an apex court judge to review the entire legal framework related to media business regulations and suggest guidelines.

Besides the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, PCI and NBA, the top court had also issued notices to News Broadcasters Federation (NBF) and News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) on the PIL filed jointly by film maker, Nilesh Navalakha and civil engineer Nitin Memane.

The apex court had tagged the PIL with a pending plea on the issue.

Man Sets Himself On Fire Near UP CM Yogi's Office Over Land Encroachment

A man on Monday set himself on fire outside the Lokbhavan in Lucknow to draw the attention of the Chief Minister's Office over a land dispute issue, police said.

Umashankar, 36, a resident of the Indragarh area in Kannauj district, suffered burn injuries and is undergoing treatment at a hospital, they said.

The incident took place in the morning when Umashankar arrived at the Lokbhavan in the Hazratganj area of the city and poured kerosene and set himself afire, police said.

A police team swung into action and doused the flames. The man was rushed to the Shyama

Prasad Mukherjee Civil hospital where he is undergoing treatment, they said. Police said he has suffered 30 percent burn injuries.

Police Commissioner D K Thakur said Umashankar's land was illegally grabbed and he had complained to the village head and Lekhpal (revenue officer) to get the encroachers removed from it but they had not helped him.

He came to Lucknow on a roadways bus in the morning and reached gate number 2 of the Lokbhavan, which houses the CM's Office and other important offices, from Charbagh and set himself on fire, Thakur said.

A probe into the matter is on, police said.

Govt Departments To Add Over 1.4 Lakh Jobs Between 2019, March 1, 2021

NEW DELHI: Over 1.4 lakh jobs are estimated to be created between March 2019 and March 2021 in various central government departments, according to the Union Budget presented on Monday.

The strength of government establishments was 32,71,113 as on March 1, 2019, which is estimated to increase to 34,14,226 by the first day of next month - an increase of 1,43,113, it said.

The budget documents have given a break-up of the jobs estimated to be created in central government departments between 2019 and March 2021.

As many as 2,207 jobs are estimated to be created between March 2019 and March 2021 in the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare. Its actual strength of 3,619 as on March 1, 2019, has been estimated to be increased to 5,826 by March 1, this year.

Similarly, 1,058 jobs are estimated to be created in the

Ministry of Civil Aviation by the beginning of next month. Its actual strength of 1,254 on March 1, 2019, would increase to 2,312 by March 1, 2021, it said.

As many as 12,537 new civil jobs are likely to be created in the Defence Ministry. Its strength was 80,463 in March 2019 and is estimated to increase to 93,000 by March 1, 2021.

The Culture Ministry is estimated to add 3,638 jobs, 2,859 by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, 2,263 by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, 2,204 by the Ministry of External Affairs, 2,139 by the Department of Commerce and 1,452 by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, between this two-year period, according to the Budget 2021-22.

A total of 4,072 jobs are estimated to be created in the Department of Health and Family Welfare, as its actual strength of 20,907 on March 1, 2019, will be 24,979 by March 1, this year, it said.

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