

Maximum : 2.5°
Minimum : -0.4°
Humidity : 92%
SUNSET
Today 06:05 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 07:26 AM

P3 NEWS

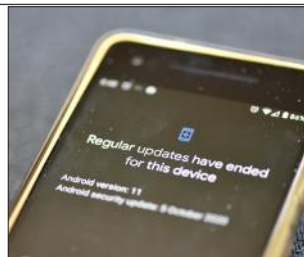
41ST INDIA CARPET EXPO WITNESS 292 OVERSEAS BUYERS FROM 51 COUNTRIES

The five-day 3rd Virtual Edition of 41st India Carpet Expo has received an overwhelming response from around 292 overseas buyers from 51 countries and 81 Buying....

P5 THINK

UPGRADE RAGE: WHY YOU MAY HAVE TO BUY A NEW DEVICE WHETHER YOU WANT TO OR NOT

We've probably all been there. We buy some new smart gadget and when we plug it



P7 WORLD

HAZARAS FEAR FOR FUTURE AS AFGHANISTAN RISKS SLIPPING INTO CHAOS

The choice was straightforward for Hamidullah Asadi, a member of Afghanistan's minority...

Widom
Quote!

Angry people
are not
always wise.
— Jane Austen

DIGEST

Man Held For Duping Job Aspirants

Jammu- The crime branch of the Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday arrested a man for allegedly forging government appointment orders to cheat unemployed youth in the union territory, officials said. Manzoor Hussain Qadri along with co-accused Mush-taq Ahmed Ganai and Fayaz Ahmed Dar used to lure • More On P6

'Mirwaiz Remains in House Detention'

Srinagar: The moderate faction of the Hurriyat Conference on Wednesday alleged that its leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq was still under house arrest and demanded his release. The amalgam contested Union Minister of State G Kishan Reddy's statement in Parliament that no person is currently under house arrest in Jammu • More On P6

4.5 Magnitude Earthquake Hits J&K

SRINAGAR: A slight intensity earthquake was recorded in J&K on Wednesday while officials said no reports of any casualty or damage to property were received from anywhere so far. An official of the met office said an earthquake measuring 4.5 on the Richter scale occurred at 7.59 p.m. "The coordinates of the earthquake are • More On P6

Man Found Dead In Kupwara Hospital

SRINAGAR: An elderly man from Karnah village along the Line of Control (LoC) was found dead inside Sub-District Hospital Kupwara on Wednesday, Raj Mohammed Ghorsi of Amrohi, Karnah was found dead inside the health facility on Wednesday morning by the attendants of • More On P6

Minor Found Hanging In Her Home

JAMMU: A minor girl was found hanging in her house here on Tuesday, officials said Wednesday. They said that the minor girl (name withheld) was found hanging in her room in Bakshi Nagar area. The family members took her to hospital. However, the doctors who attended upon her, declared her dead on arrival. • More On P6

Train Services Likely To Resume By Feb 17

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir administration in collaboration with the Railway authorities is mulling to resume the train services by February 17 after a gap of ten months, official sources said. People from different areas of Kashmir said that public transport is normally functional and now the government has also decided to open educational institutions, then why only services have • More On P6

J&K Fully Integrated With India: Govt Tells RS

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have been fully integrated into the mainstream of the nation after the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of the erstwhile state, Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy told Parliament on Wednesday.

Replying to another question, Reddy said after the constitutional changes and reorganisation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir,

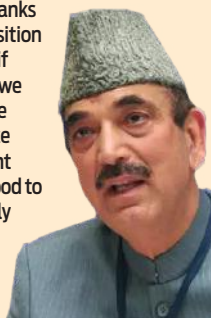


the UTs of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have been fully integrated into the mainstream of the nation. • More On P6

Azad Seeks Bill On Restoring Statehood

Observer Monitoring Desk

Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad on Wednesday asked the government to bring a bill in Rajya Sabha proposing restoration of statehood for Jammu and Kashmir. Speaking during the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Azad said, "I appeal to you, if Jammu and Kashmir has to progress and if we have to fight our enemies at the borders, we need to take our own people into confidence and give them love." He said the government should "bring a bill in the House and statehood to be restored" adding that legislative assembly elections must be held after statehood is restored for Jammu and Kashmir. "Apart from Delhi, if the world • More On P6



J&K Logs 3 More Covid Deaths

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Wednesday three more deaths due to coronavirus, while 65 fresh cases of Covid-19 were detected across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

The victims include a 65-year-old woman from Anantnag, an 80-year-old man from Srinagar and 55-year-old man from Kathua, officials said.

With these deaths, the fatality count has reached 1941 in J&K—1219 in Valley and 722 in Jammu division, the officials said. Srinagar district with 458 deaths tops the • More On P6



Snowfall Disrupts Air Traffic, Raises Mercury In Kashmir



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Most parts of Kashmir received fresh

snowfall on Wednesday causing disruption in air traffic and resulting in significant improvement • More On P6

Govt Amends Closure Order, Highway Open Today

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday amended the order announcing the closure of highway for repairs on Thursdays, while the traffic department urged commuters to avoid journey on the vital road link on February 4 in wake of the weather forecast "That every Friday falling on every 5th, 12th, 19th • More On P6

Amarnath Yatra To Be Held Under Drone, CCTV Surveillance

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday ordered fool-proof security arrangements during the annual Amarnath Yatra, including aerial surveillance through drones, night dominations besides installations of CCTVs in all areas during the pilgrimage period.

The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Wednesday chaired a meeting of officers to take stock of security arrangements to be put in place for smooth conduct of Amarnath Yatra and directed concerned to ensure fool-proof

security arrangements including aerial surveillance through drones, night dominations, installations of CCTVs in all areas is held during the Yatra period, an official spokesperson said.

During the meeting, he said, Pole impressed upon acting on all directions on the ground in letter and spirit to ensure all arrangements are made available at all places for hassle-free conduct of the yatra.

"During the meeting deficiencies faced during Yatra-2019 were discussed threadbare and on spot directions were given to the concerned to ensure better facilities are made available • More On P6

Use Social Media To Remove J&K's 'Negative Publicity': MPs Panel

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A parliamentary panel has recommended that the Jammu and Kashmir administration, the Ministry of Tourism and other stakeholders must try to remove "negative publicity" in the press of the region and use social media to "promote" a more positive image of it.

The 280th report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture—"Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/ Observations of the Committee Contained in its Two Hundred and Seventieth Report on 'Development of Tourism in

Jammu and Kashmir" said that industry bodies should also be encouraged to hold meetings and visit the region.

"The committee recommends that the state government, Ministry of Tourism and the various other stakeholders must endeavour to remove the negative publicity in the press by finding innovative means to engage with the world at large via the social media.

"In this age of You Tube and social platforms like Instagram and Snapchat, social media influencers may be engaged to promote a more positive image of the state," the panel said. It recommended • More On P6

KISAN MAHAPANCHAYAT

Tikait Holds Show Of Strength

Warns Centre Of 'Gaddi Wapsi'



Press Trust Of India

JIND (HARYANA): In a show of strength by protesting farmers, Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait on Wednesday

addressed a massive rally and warned the government it could find it difficult to stay on in power if the new agri-marketing laws are not repealed. Just before Tikait • More On P6

LS Adjourned Twice As Oppn Protests

New Delhi: Lok Sabha proceedings were adjourned twice on Wednesday as the protesting opposition members demanded a separate discussion on the farm laws issue. • More On P6

India 53rd In EU's Democracy Index

India slipped two places to 53rd position in the 2020 Democracy Index's global ranking, according to The Economist Intelligence Unit, which said the "democratic backsliding" by authorities and "crackdowns" on civil liberties has led to a further decline in the country's ranking. However, India is ranked higher than • More On P6

Pak Army Chief Bats For Peaceful Solution To Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and India must resolve the Kashmir issue in a "dignified and peaceful manner", Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa said on Tuesday.

General Bajwa was addressing the graduation ceremony at the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Asghar Khan Academy in Risalpur in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, according to the Army.

Pakistan and India must resolve the longstanding issue of Jammu and Kashmir in a

dignified and peaceful manner as per the aspirations of people of Jammu and Kashmir..., he said. Pakistan is a peace-loving country that has rendered great sacrifices for regional and global peace, he said.

We stand firmly committed to the ideal of mutual respect and peaceful co-existence. It is time to extend a hand of peace in all directions, he said.

However, we will not allow anybody or any entity to misinterpret our desire for peace as a sign of weakness, Bajwa said.

Mehbooba Alleges Para Tortured, Police Junks Charges

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday claimed her party's youth wing president Waheed Para, arrested by the Jammu and Kashmir Police last month, was being kept under "inhuman conditions and tortured" to compel him to admit to false indictment, a charge denied by the police as "unfortunate".

The 61-year-old former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir took to Twitter on Wednesday morning alleging that the Criminal Investigation Department of the police had



been torturing Para and that he was also being kept under inhuman condition.

"JK CID has joined the list of central agencies that work to terrorise Kashmiris and falsely implicate them. • More On P6

THE WEBSITE WAS COMPLETELY IDENTICAL

to the official passport website. Eventually, I filled in all the required information, including my personal details."



"I Googled 'Passport Apply' And Was Duped": Kashmir In 'Dark Web'

Romaan Arora

Cooling his heels for a call from the Regional Passport Office (RPO), a middle-age man was growing restless in his office on a chilling January morning in Srinagar.

The man known for his social sway was recently tricked by a network of fake websites, when he tried to renew

his passport.

"I googled 'passport apply' and that proved to be fatal," said Showkat Ahmad, a victim of the passport fraud.

"The website was completely identical to the official passport website. Eventually, I filled in all the required information, including my personal details."

Soon after paying Rs 3000 for his passport renewal, a reference number was generated. After waiting for a few days for a call from RPO Srinagar, he subsequently decided to visit.

His in-person visit to the RPO Srinagar revealed that he was

duped by a small yet dangerous online fraud network in Kashmir.

Showkat was victimised by the portal: www.portalpassportindia.in. It's one of the many fake websites that have conned Kashmiris in last few years.

Some other 'quite popular', yet fake websites, include—www.indiappassport.org, www.online-passportindia.com, www.passportindiaportal.in, www.passportindia.in, www.passport-seva.in and www.apply-passport.org.

Popular among Kashmiri techies as 'Passport Fraud', a network of websites, impersonating as official passport portals, has been actively deceiving more than 150 Kashmiris each year.

But now, the number is escalating, especially after the valley was stripped of its high-speed internet connection on August 4, 2019.

Opening a website on a 2G connection is in itself a big deal. And when the page opens, some fake websites pop up higher in the search

result as compared to the official passport portal.

"It's because of the payment that is made by these counterfeit websites to Google that they always appear on top of the search results," Tahir Ashraf, SSP Cyber Police, told Kashmir Observer.

"But there's no passport racket, not at least in Kashmir," he added. So far, the officer said, no complaint has been filed or forwarded to the cyber police department since its foundation last year.

"We act upon complaints," SSP Tahir said. "Be it an ordinary complaint or a complaint from our own 'reliable sources'." • More On P6



To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Novel Injection To Treat Skin Cancer



Agencies

Researchers are developing a skin cancer treatment that involves injecting nanoparticles into the tumour, killing cancer cells with a two-pronged approach, as a potential alternative to surgery.

The results, published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, indicates that an injection-based therapy would also mean that patients could have multiple tumours treated in a single visit.

According to the researchers, for the treatment, tumours are injected with polymer-based nanoparticles carrying a chemotherapy agent.

Key to the treatment's success is that the nanoparticles are bioadhesive -- that is, they bind to the tumours and remain

attached long enough to kill a significant number of the cancer cells, the researchers said.

"When you inject our nanoparticles into a tumour, it turns out that they've retained within that tumour very well," said co-author Mark Saltzman from the Yale University.

"They accumulate and bind to the tumour matrix, so one single injection lasts for a very long time -- the particles stay there and slowly release the compounds. You need that to get rid of the lesion," Saltzman added.

For comparison, the same drug was injected freely into tumours of control models without the nanoparticles.

They found that the tumours were significantly more diminished when the drugs were delivered by nanoparticles.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

NOTICE



Where as a joint application has been recieved from owner. Shri : M/S Rising Star Stone Crusher R/o : Malik Bagh Kralpora Budgam as Transferor) & Shri. Ishfaq Hussain Khan S/o Gh Hussain Khan R/o



Garand Kalan as Transferee) for transfer of Tipper Carriage route permit No.941/Gc/ Budgam vehicle No. JK04A -9483 As well as HPA Endorsement with Rajouri Hire Purchase and Finance Ltd B/u New Nehru Market Jammu. Now it is therefore notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit/vehicle shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

**Sd/- Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir**
No. ARTO/ BUDGAM. 2405 Dated 03/02/2021

LOST OF RC

I have lost the Registration Certificate of my vehicle Wagan R, Model 2006 Bearing Registration No.DL9CK-4292.Now applied for its duplicate if anybody has any objection in this regard may file at Police Station Shairbagh Anantnag within Seven (7) days after that no objection shall be entertained.
Name:-Lalat Kumar S/O Lal Bahadur

LOST OF DRIVING LICENSE

I have lost my Driving License Bearing Registration No.JK0320180000820.Now applied for its duplicate if anybody has any objection in this regard may file at ARTO Anantnag within Seven (7) days after that no objection shall be entertained.
Name:-Shakeel Ahmad Chuhan S/O Gh Mohi u din Chuhan R/O Chirpora Shangus Anantnag

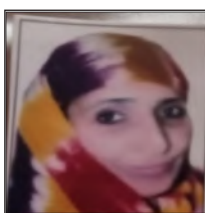
LOST OF DRIVING LICENSE

I have lost my Driving License Bearing Registration No.JK0320120020656.Now applied for its duplicate if anybody has any objection in this regard may file at ARTO Anantnag within Seven (7) days after that no objection shall be entertained.
Name:-Javid Ahmad Allaie S/O Gh Mohd Allaie R/O TB Shah Anantnag



علی محمد صوفی انتقال کر گئے
یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ علی محمد صوفی ولد احمد صوفی، ساکن ہیرک آباد شایرامری گھر 2 فروری 2021ء بمطابق 19 جمادی الثانی 1442ھ بروز منگلوار کو انتقال کر گئے۔
إِنَّا لِلّٰہِ وَاِنَّا اِلَیْہِ رَاجِعُونَ مرحوم شریف انسن، خوش اخلاق، صوم وصلوٰۃ کے پابند تھے۔ اس سلسلے میں مرحوم کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی اُن کے آبائے مقبرہ (خربوئی) شایرامری گھر میں 5 فروری 2021ء بمطابق 21 جمادی الثانی 1442ھ بروز منگلوار المبارک دوپہر 2 بجکر 30 منٹ پر انجام دی جائے گی۔
سوگواراں
محمد شفیع صوفی، بلال احمد صوفی (فرزند ناں)

(نوٹ: مستورات سے گزارش ہے کہ وہ اپنے ساتھ میوہ جات وغیرہ نہ لائیں۔)



REMEMBERING HAMIDA BANO ON HER 9TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

It's been 9 years since you have left for heavenly abode but we still miss your presence and you are deeply remembered for your generosity and love.

DEEPLY MISSED AND REMEMBERED BY NAZIR AHMAD DAR(HUSBAND) AND CHILDREN

R/O NUNDRESHI COLONY BEMINA
CONTACT NUMBER:- 7889774238

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE ANANTNAG, J&K (CAMP OFFICE : MMAB,ASSOCIATEED HOSPITAL ,GMC ANANTNAG)

Phone No. 01932-227624/Fax .01932-227625
e-mail: gmcanantnag2018@gmail.com

EXTENSION NOTICE

Subject:- e -NIT no.03 GMCA of 2021 Dated : 08.01.21 for the supply of Hearing Aids under DEIC (District Early Intervention Centre) required in Audiology Section ,Department of ENT ,Govt ,Medical College ,Anantnag -Extension of last date thereof

Due to the partial response to our e- NIT No.03 GMC of 2021 Dated: 08.01.2021 for the supply of hearing Aids under DEIC (District Early Intervention Centre) required in Audiology Section ,Department of ENT ,Govt ,Medical College ,Anantnag , the last date for submission of Bids is extended up to 06.02.2021 (3.00PM) .Date of opening of Bids is 08.02.2021 , all other terms and conditions shall remain same

Sd/ Principal/Dean
Govt Medical College ,Anantnag

NO:- GMCA /Plg/06/453337 Dated 01.01.2021

DIPK-12389/20

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION BRANCH OFFICE , SOPORE

I have lost my 12t h class marks card under roll no 3180233 ,session Annual regular 2018 .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 Branch office Sopore, within a period of Seven days from the date of publication of his notice .After that no objection shall Be entertained.
Shakir Hussain S/o Fida Hussain Ahanger
Sd/ Assistant Secretary Branch Office Sopore



THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION BRANCH OFFICE , SOPORE

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claimin. To have lost his marks card certificate of class 10th under below mentioned particulars Name . Aadil Mohi - ud Din Fathers Name. Gh Moho ud Din Ghanai Mothers Name. Fareeda Begum RollNO. 3203258 , Session / Year Regular 2019 Now the candidate has applied for the duplicate marks certificate before the same is processed And issued to the candidate , anybody having any objection in this regard may file the same Before the under- signed in writing with in seven days from the date of Publication of this notice . Besides the original marks certificate be treated as cancelled.



Sd/ Assistant Secretary Branch Office Sopore

Government of Jammu and Kashmir OFFICE OF THE JOINT DIRECTOR J AND K FUNDS ORGANIZATION KASHMIR DIVISION, SRINAGAR.

Subject: - SMS Alert Service for G.P Fund subscribers.

CIRCULAR

Attention of all Drawing and Disbursing Officers of Kashmir Province is invited to the fact that Funds Organization had started SMS Alert Service in respect of G.P Fund subscribers in the year, 2019, so as to facilitated them to view their GPF credits/debits and balances on their mobile phones. However, all the Drawing and Disbursing Officers have not come forward to provide the mobile number of their employees as a result lot of subscribers are not getting their SMS facility. So in order to update the data with regard to the Mobile number of all the valuable G.P F subscribers, it is again enjoined upon all the Drawing and Disbursing Officers to furnish the particulars of officers/officials of their establishment who are not registered for SMS service on the devised format mentioned below to the respective District Fund Offices within 15 days so that GPF subscribers are provided the facility of SMS alert at the earliest.

S. No.	Name of the officer/Official	Designation	Date of birth	Computer code number (GP Fund)	Mobile No.
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DIPK-12483/20

Sd/- Joint Director, J&K Funds
Organization, Kashmir Srinagar.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, KPDCL, ED-2ND, RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR

e-NIT No: ED-II/30 of 2020-21

Dated : 01/02/21

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of UT of J&K, e-bids are invited (in two cover system) from Registered Class-"A" Electrical Contractors for "Providing of Power Supply including Electrical Infrastructure for Installation of LED Type Lighting Fixtures on 9 mtr.long Octagonal Poles from Batamalo Chowk to Shamsan Ghat and Batmaloo Chowk to Labour Commission (under PMDP)"

1	Name of Work	Providing of Power Supply including Electrical Infrastructure for Installation of LED Type Lighting Fixtures on 9 mtr.long Octagonal Poles from Batamalo Chowk to Shamsan Ghat and Batmaloo Chowk to Labour Commission Office (under PMDP)
2.	Authorization of Work	Accorded
3.	Position of Funds	Available
4.	Estimated Cost	Rs 23.65 Lacs
5.	Period of completion of work	45 days

The tender document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view or download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to date as per the details mentioned in the table below:

A	Date & Time of Downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 02/02/21; 10:00 AM
B	Clarifications Start Date	02/02/21; 10:05 AM
C	Clarifications End Date	03/02/21; 04:00 PM
D	e-Bid Submission (Start) Date & Time (Submission of e- tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	03/02/21; 04:05 PM
E	e-Bid Submission (End) Date & Time (Submission of e- tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	17/02/21; 03:30 PM
F	Online e-Bid Opening Date & Time	19/02/21; 12:30 PM
G	Venue of Opening of Technical & Financial e-Bids	Office of the Executive Engineer, KPDCL, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar
H	Cost of e-Bid Document	Rs. 1000/- (Rupees One Thousand Only) (Non-Refundable)
I	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 47,400/- (Rupees Forty Seven Thousand and Four Hundred Only)

- The bidders need to submit the proof/Cost of e-Bid document as stated in the above table through e-Challan/Treasury Receipt pledged to Executive Engineer, KPDCL, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar to be Credited to M.H-0801-Power payable at Srinagar. The scanned copy of the e-Challan/Treasury Receipt must be enclosed along with the e-Bids. No Demand Draft shall be accepted.
- All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/ FDR/Bank Guarantee only, pledged to the Executive Engineer, KPDCL, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar. No Interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department.
- Hard Copy of original instrument of EMD needs to be submitted only by the Lowest Tenderer instantly after Opening of e-NIT and must be pledged to the Executive Engineer, KPDCL, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar.
- The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the identified venue on indicated date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder's representative will be required to be produced.
- The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of department will be final and binding.
- In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared a holiday/closed day for department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the appointed time and place.
- All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD. Also, Signed and Stamped Copy of SBD is required to be uploaded.
- To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate' - (DSC) Class-III (b) as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.
- Hard Copy of requisite documents shall be required to be submitted only by the Lowest Tenderer with original CDR and e-Challan/ Treasury Receipt instantly after opening of e-NIT pledged to Executive Engineer, KPDCL, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar.
- The Name of the Work/Job along with e-NIT reference should be superscripted in Bold letters on the envelope and the Name/Firm of the Lowest Bidder should be clearly written on the cover.
- It may be noted that the hard copy should be an exact replica of the uploaded offer documents by the Lowest Tenderer. Documents uploaded on the website shall be treated as final.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

DIPK-NB-5396/20

Sd/- Executive Engineer
KPDCL, ED-2nd, Rajbagh Srinagar

LOST OF RC

I have lost my RC Bearing Registration No. JKO1L .3999. Now applied for its duplicate if anybody has any objection in this regard may file at ARTO Srinagar within seven (7) days after that no objection shall be entertained
Name. Tabassum Nisar W/o . Syed Zahid
R/o . Hassan abad Rainawari Srinagar

JAMMU & KASHMIR (UT) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECHANICAL DIVISION SOUTH AWANTIPORA

Telefax: 01933/295537;
Email Id: phemechsouth@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM

Ref: JSD/PHE/MSDA/

e-NIT No: 91 of 2020-21 DATE:22 -01-2021

Due to poor response the above

said NIT is hereby extended up to 08/02/2021 i.e last date of uploading.

Sd/ Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti PHE Mech.
Div South Awantipora

DIPK-12454/20

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER FLOOD SPILL CHANNEL DIVISION NARBAL

Fax/Phone: 01951-260223

Email: exenfscdnarbal@ifckashmir.com
floodspillchannelnarbal@gmail.com

CANCELLATION OF WORK

Subject: - e-NIT No. FSCDN/20 of 2020-21,
dated: 25/01/2021

Reference: This office endstt. No. FSCDN/ CS/6708-24, dated: 25/01/2021.

Due to typographical error for uploading of BOQ on the official website i.e www.jktenders.com for the work listed at serial No. 01 of the above mentioned e-NIT is hereby cancelled. However all terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Flood Spill Channel Division, Narbal.

No: -FSCDN/CS/6883-90 Dated: - 02/02/2021.

DIPK-12473/20

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

New Campus, Bemina Bye-Pass Srinagar.
Estates Section Kashmir Division

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders affixed with a revenue stamp of Rs:5/- are invited from reputed registered canteen catering service providers for running of canteen at JKBOSE Bemina Srinagar. The interested tenderers shall collect the complete tender document from the Office of the Assistant Secretary Estates-KD on any working day during Office hours or download the same from the Official Website of JKBOSE viz. jkbose.ac.in. The last date for submission of tenders is 22-02-2021. Terms and conditions Apply.

Sd/- Joint Secretary Estates-KD

No.F(Esstt-A)/BKD/Canteen/04/21

Dated:01/02/2021

DIPK-NB-5402/20

41st India Carpet Expo Witness 292 Overseas Buyers From 51 Countries

NEW DELHI: The five-day 3rd Virtual Edition of 41st India Carpet Expo has received an overwhelming response from around 292 overseas buyers from 51 countries and 81 Buying Representatives from across the world.

The exclusive trade fair for Handmade carpets and other floor-coverings was organized by Carpet Export Promotion Council which was inaugurated on 27th January, 2021 by Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), GoI, Shantmanu.

During the course of five-days, over 150 prominent Member-Exporters from major carpet belt of Bhadohi, Mirzapur, Varanasi, Agra, Jaipur, Panipat and Jammu & Kashmir were participating.

Top 5 visitor countries were USA, Germany, Australia, U.K., Canada and the response of the exhibitors was encouraging, almost every participant had substantial Video Conferencing Meetings with overseas buyers and buying representatives.

Siddh Nath Singh, Chairman, CEPC informed as per the feedback received from the Exhibitors - There are huge demand for Hand-knotted high end carpets as well as tufted Carpets, he added. He also mentioned that this is



Representational Photo

the start of a new era which opens the global business opportunities for the Handmade Carpet Industry with the use of new technology, the success of this Expo will prove to be the milestone.

During the Expo Council organized a Webinar on "Importance of Trend Insights in Design of Handmade Carpet & Rugs" for the benefit of the participants and Member-Exporters.

Sunil Sethi, Managing Director of M/s Sunil Sethi Design Alliance & Alliance Merchandising Co. and past Chairman, Fashion Design Council; Sohan Kumar Jha, Sr. Director O/o. the DC (Handicrafts) and Sanjay Gupta, Vice-Chancellor, World University of Design also spoke on the conclusion session of the expo.

Dr. Kaustav Sen Gupta, Associate Professor NIFT, Chennai

and Dr Shalini Sood Sehgal Prof, NIFT, New Delhi made a powerpoint presentation on Importance of Trend Insights in Design of Handmade Carpet & Rugs and requested Members to create their own design to communicate the feelings, environment, cultural appropriation in design, learn to appreciate and use what is available locally, material innovation in design.

For the Second time Council organized "Design Awards - 2021" in the third Virtual Exhibition - 41st India Carpet Expo on 30th January, 2021 through video conferencing with a view to appreciate and recognize the hard work of participants especially the younger generation in the industry for their participation in Virtual Exhibition - 41st India Carpet Expo organized by CEPC.

Seven Members Selection Committee/ Juries of eminent Designers and Professors and eminent personalities in the field of Fashion and designing selected the Awardees.

It has emerged once again undisputedly that India Carpet Expo has established as Asia's biggest Handmade carpet show with its ever growing patronage from buyers all over the world.

India Carpet Expo provides tremendous business opportunities for participating manufacturers and exporters as prominent Overseas Handmade Carpet Buyers from all over the world are attending this Expo. It also provides an excellent opportunity for the importers of carpets to meet exporters from all over India under one roof and to pick-up the latest products of innovation and trends and place them on the spot orders.

TOP 5 VISITOR COUNTRIES WERE USA, GERMANY, AUSTRALIA, U.K., CANADA AND THE RESPONSE of the exhibitors was encouraging, almost every participant had substantial Video Conferencing Meetings with overseas buyers and buying representatives.



A TOURIST COUPLE playing with snow inside the Cheshma Shahi Mughal garden in Srinagar on Wednesday following fresh snowfall. KO Photo Abid Bhat

Amarnath Yatra-2021: Div Com Reviews Preparations



SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole today chaired a meeting of officers to take stock of the arrangements to be put in place for smooth conduct of annual Shri Amarnath Yatra- 2021.

During the meeting, the Div Com impressed upon acting on all directions on the ground in letter and spirit to ensure all arrangements are made available

at all places for hassle-free conduct of the yatra.

During the meeting deficiencies faced during Yatra- 2019 were discussed threadbare and on spot directions were given to the concerned to ensure better facilities are made available in advance during the current year.

The Div Com emphasized on providing better mobile network, PF Hut accommodation, toilet fa-

cilities, health-care, LED lights, effective PAS system, parking facilities, pre-paid services, registration centers and better accommodation arrangements to yatis at all camps.

He directed concerned to ensure permanent toilet facilities are created enroute from Shaitani Nallah and at all designated points and road repairing and widening is completed well before the commencement of annual pilgrimage.

He said that teams of doctors with basic medical facilities shall remain available for pilgrims at all campsites while teams of NDRF and SDRF shall also be kept stationed at all landslide prone areas for rescue if any exigency like situation arises during the yatra period.

The Div Com instructed concerned to ensure the permanent toilet facility works are taken up on priority under the Swachh Bharat Mission.

Habitual Drug Peddler Booked Under PSA

PULWAMA: Police today booked a 'notorious' drug peddler under Public Safety Act.

A police official said that the said drug peddler was involved in multiple drug related cases while in the recent past he was yet again arrested in a similar case and a formal FIR was lodged against him at Police Station Awantipora.

The official identified the drug peddler as Waseem Ahmad Trag, a resident of Tral area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district.

The police official said that the general public of the Tral area appreciated the role of police for the actions against drug peddlers.



Representational Photo

"General Public of Tral, Awantipora, Pampore and Khrew are requested to come forward with any information regarding drug peddlers in the neighborhood area. Persons found indulging in drug peddlers will be dealt strictly under law.

Key Indicators Under ADP

DDC Kupwara Reviews Progress



KUPWARA: The District Development Commissioner (DDC), Kupwara, Imam Din today convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the key indicators of Aspirational District Programme (ADP).

It was informed in the meeting that the district was

awarded Rs.3 crore cash under ADP during last year for achieving first rank out of 112 districts in the country.

The meeting held threadbare discussion regarding the guidelines laid down by NITI AAYOG for implementation of Aspirational District Programme across the district.

It was given out in the meeting that Most Backward Blocks (MBB) in the district have been identified for necessary upliftment on the development picture.

The DDC directed the concerned officers to work on poor performance indicators in MSBs in the district. He asked them for proper coordination to keep the first rank of the district intact.

DC Budgam Holds Public Meet

BUDGAM: As part of Block Diwas, the District Administration Budgam today conducted a public interaction programme to take appraisal of public issues and grievances at DC Office complex, here.

The public interaction programme was chaired by District Development Commissioner (DDC) Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmad Mirza and people hailing from different areas of the district apprised him of their issues related to availability of drinking water, restoration of power supply in the areas affected by fresh snowfall and frost, besides restoration of road connectivity of remote areas.

While interacting with the public, individually as well as in deputations, the DDC reaf-

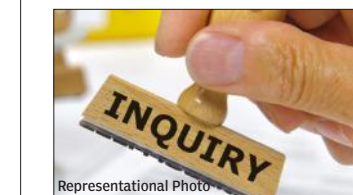
firmed the commitment to mitigate their issues related to water, power and road connectivity.

He also sought detailed action taken report from the concerned XENs of PDD, R&B and PHE regarding steps and action taken recently to ensure availability of basic amenities to the public throughout the district.

The DDC addressed many issues of urgent nature on the spot however, other demands that required nod from the higher authorities were forwarded to concerned on priority.

The programme among others was attended by CPO Budgam, CEO, XENs of PDD, R&B and PHE, ALC Budgam and other concerned officials.

ACD Shopian Orders Enquiry On Verification Of Job Cards



SHOPIAN: The Assistant Commissioner Development, Shopian today ordered enquiry over allegations of issuance of job cards in favour of the minors/ students at Panchayat Halqa Heerpora.

The enquiry was called after

a complaint was received on 2 February, 2021 regarding the subject after which ACD constituted a committee vide order no ACD/SPN/20/3753-57 to investigate the matter and the committee was directed to submit the report within 5 days.

Meanwhile the concerned three (3) employees of Panchayat Halqa Heerpora were attached to ACD office Shopian till the investigation gets completed. It was given that if at all, anything found illegal, action will be taken as per law against the accused.

DIAL-EMMA

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS



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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

This Day in History

- 1454 - In the Thirteen Years' War, the Secret Council of the Prussian Confederation sends a formal act of disobedience to the Grand Master
- 1508 - Maximilian I assumes imperial title without being crowned
- 1600 - Astronomers Tycho Brahe and Johannes Kepler meet for the first time near Prague
- 1620 - Prince Bethlen Gabor of Hungary signs peace with Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand II
- 1699 - 350 rebellious Streltsi executed in Moscow
- 1783 - Worst quake in 8 years kills some 50,000 in Calabria, Italy
- 1789 - 1st US electoral college chooses George Washington as President and John Adams as Vice-President
- 1794 - French National Convention proclaims abolition of slavery
- 1797 - Earthquake in Quito, Ecuador kills 41,000
- 1859 - One of the oldest known copies of the Bible, "The Codex Sinaiticus" (Sinai Bible), is seen in Egypt by Constantin von Tischendorf who takes the manuscript home with him
- 1861 - Confederate constitutional convention meets for 1st time; Jefferson Davis elected President of Confederacy (US Civil War)
- 1922 - After boycotts and international pressure, Japan agrees to return Shantung Province to China.
- 1933 - German President Paul von Hindenburg limits freedom of the press
- 1938 - Adolf Hitler seizes control of German army and puts Nazis in key posts
- 1941 - British tanks occupy Maus, Libya
- 1941 - Former Dutch premier De Geer flies to Berlin
- 1941 - United Service Organization (USO) founded
- 1942 - Clinton Pierce becomes 1st US general wounded in action in WW II
- 1945 - Franklin D. Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin meet at Yalta in the Crimea to discuss the final phase of World War II
- 1949 - Failed assassination attempt on Shah of Persia Mohammad Reza Pahlavi
- 1961 - Sputnik 7 launches into Earth orbit; probable Venus probe failure
- 1967 - US launches Lunar Orbiter 3
- 1969 - The Palestine National Congress appoints Yasser Arafat chairman of the PLO
- 1971 - British car maker Rolls Royce declared itself bankrupt
- 1971 - The NASDAQ stock exchange, the second-largest in the world - behind the New York Stock Exchange - is founded in New York City
- 1973 - An international inspection team is sent to Vietnam to observe progress on the Paris truce agreement
- 1976 - 7.5 earthquake kills 22,778 in Guatemala & Honduras
- 1976 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1976 - Hua Guofeng becomes Premier of the People's Republic of China
- MVP: David Thompson, Denver Nuggets, SG
- 1980 - Bani Sadr sworn in as premier of Iran
- 1987 - US President Reagan's veto of Clean Water Act is overridden by Congress
- 1991 - NZ cricketers Martin Crowe and Andrew Jones make a world record 467 run stand, against Sri Lanka at the Basin Reserve in Wellington
- 1993 - Russian space agency tests a 82-foot wide space mirror
- 1995 - Zimbabwe's 1st Test Cricket victory, over Pakistan by an inning
- 1997 - En route to Lebanon, two Israeli Sikorsky CH-53 troop-transport helicopters collide in mid-air over northern Galilee, Israel killing 73.
- 1997 - After at first contesting the results, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic recognizes opposition victories in the November 1996 elections.

From KO Archives

COUNTER-INSURGENTS FORM JOINT FRONT IN JK

Observer News Service

JAMMU - In a bid to counter the growing menace of foreign militants of yesteryears under eleven different counter insurgency groups have joined hands and formed Muttahida Quomi Mahaz (Joint National front).

This group will give a befitting reply to Pakistan's Inter service Intelligence (ISI) and militants and agents in the state, chairman of the front and National Conference MLC Javed Hussain Shah told reporters here yesterday.

Shah, who also heads a counter insurgency group, national security organisation, said efforts were also on to bring J and K Awami League supreme Jamsheed Shirazi alias Kukka Parrey and Liaquat alias Hilal Haider in the new front.

He said the centre should not be soft toward the Hurriyat Conference and demanded arrest of the Hurriyat leaders who he alleged are involved in anti-national activities.

Besides holding rallies and mass contact programmes, the Mahaz would appeal to people to come to the streets against the Hurriyat and ISI.

Organisations which have joined the Muttahida Quomi Mahaz front include national security organisation of Javed Hussain Shah, all J and K People's patriotic front of Nabi Azad, Jammu Kashmir welfare forum of Sammad Khan, militancy Mukhalif Morchha of Ch Jalal-ud-Din, Sada-i-Kashmir of Shabnum Shafiq, Aman Conference of Majid Khan, Muslim Mujahideen of Mukhtar-ul-Aziz, Kashmir Liberation council of Mushlaq Ahmed Lone, Secular Awami Tehreek of Abdul Ahad, J and K Ikhwani of Bashir Ahmed Khan and Awami Tehreek headed by Wali Mohammad Wani.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 04 February, 2001)

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Engage The Farmers

The farmers' protest has got some more international attention with global pop star Rihanna tweeting in their support. Similarly, environment activist Greta Thunberg has also extended her support. Other personalities who have spoken for farmers include the niece of US vice president Kamala Harris who, in a statement said that "the most populous democracy is under assault". She also drew the attention towards contentious farm laws. This led to a heavy social media trolling of these celebrities and individuals. Also, ministry of external affairs has slammed foreign individuals and entities for comments on the farmer protests, saying it was "unfortunate to see vested interest groups trying to enforce their agenda on these protests, and derail them." In a detailed statement, the MEA stressed that the Parliament of India had passed reformist legislation relating to the agricultural sector only after a "full debate and discussion".

On the other hand, the farmers protest is only intensifying. The government's attempt to delegitimise it following the violence on Republic Day hasn't succeeded. The recent weeks have witnessed the rise of a new farmer leader Rakesh Tikait. Addressing a farmers' mahapanchayat at Haryana's Jind district on Wednesday Tikait asked the people to stand united and support the farmers' cause. A large number of farmers riding in tractors, trolleys, and their personal vehicles had come to listen to him. Earlier speaking at Ghazipur border near Delhi, Tikait said that the farmers protesting against the three central farm laws will take out a pan-India tractor rally if the government doesn't listen to them.

If anything it shows the protests are only going to gather further momentum in near future. With the farmers from Uttar Pradesh also joining the protest in a big way, pressure on the government is only going to increase. This has hardened the stand of farmers who are not ready to join fresh talks until the government removes the barricades on the borders put up recently to deter farmers entry into Delhi.

But the government, on the other hand, is showing no signs of backing down. The prime minister Narendra Modi in his recent Mann ki Baat speech reiterated the offer of suspending the farmer laws for one and a half year. Farmers, however, have rejected this offer and they want nothing short of the repeal of the laws. It remains to be seen how the government responds to the mounting protests. More so, with the protests drawing international attention and support. It would be great if the government shelves the laws and then engages farmers in a discussion on them to mobilize support for their enactment in future.

OTHER OPINION

Setback In Myanmar: On Military Coup

In one swift operation, Myanmar's military establishment has wiped out a decade of the country's democratisation process. By arresting President Win Myint, State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and the rest of the ruling National League for Democracy (NLD) leadership, and declaring military rule under a state of emergency for at least a year, General Min Aung Hlaing has made it clear that it is the military that is in charge, and he is not particularly concerned about the opposition to or condemnation of the move. The immediate reason for the coup was that the newly elected National Assembly was due to meet in Naypyidaw on Monday, despite the Tatmadaw's (Army's) claims that the November general elections had several irregularities, and its contestation of the NLD's landslide victory. Ms. Suu Kyi had refused to bow to Gen. Hlaing's demand that the results, which also saw the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party with a reduced strength in Parliament, be set aside. Clearly, the Army, which still nominates a fourth of the parliamentary seats and retains the important Defence, Borders and Interior portfolios, felt it was better to dismiss the NLD government before it increased its clout. Gen. Hlaing is due to retire this year, and it is possible that the move was meant to extend his longevity in power. Backed by a silent Beijing, the junta leadership may also have gambled that it was better to take drastic action against the democratic leaders before the new U.S. administration finds its feet. The return to Army rule was also helped to some extent by Ms. Suu Kyi, who came to office in 2015, but has lost opportunities to put her country more firmly on the road to democracy. She has accepted a dual power system in the state. Daw Suu, as she is known, has also failed to bring democracy to her party, and been criticised for her autocratic style. Her refusal to rein in the Generals when the Tatmadaw unleashed a pogrom on the Rohingya between 2016-17, had lost the Nobel Peace laureate much international support.

The Hindu

Indian Muslims: Dilemmas and Panacea

Indian Muslims Since 1947 Have Faced A Continuous Onslaught On The Community, Which Have Increased In Recent Times, But The Way Forward Has To Be Found By The Community Itself

Asad Mirza

AT THE POLITICAL level, people who do not represent the community sincerely should not be promoted and tolerated as representing the community. Only sincere, committed and result-oriented individuals should be allowed to be part of the decision-making and delivery mechanism process on behalf of 14 million Muslims



It seems as if the Indian Muslims are under a collective siege from the external as well as internal forces and pressures. External pressure is being applied from the outside to weaken it psychologically, lessen the morale of its followers and instead of allowing them to focus their energies on the community's and country's progress, they are thrown challenges continuously, to counter which a lot of energy and resources of the community are ill spent.

However, it would be better if the Muslim community instead of turning the issues into an existential one, introspects and analyse the factors which are responsible for the community's current fate and dilemmas faced by it. The strategy to tackle the issues should be a multi-pronged one, with clear and identifiable inputs, ensuring maximum tangible outcomes. The problems faced by Indian Muslims are social, political, economic and religious, thus the strategy to handle them should be a multi-pronged one.

The political developments during the last five years, and in particular since last May '19 in India, have forced almost all Muslims, community's intellectuals, sympathisers, leaders and well-wishers to turn into a pessimist. They brood on many recent political developments and reaction of the Muslim religious and community leaders to the issues. However, this brooding is not accompanied by any affirmative action by them. This pessimist attitude and a feeling of despondency do not bode well for the community. Instead, what is needed at the moment is neither self-pity nor brooding, but to self-introspect sincerely. Identify and analyse the issues, which afflict the community, and seek out pragmatic solutions, which may bode well for the community and the country, both.

The answer to most of the ills faced by the community lies in introspection and analysing the issues, which have held the community despondent and backward so far, in depth and with sincerity. The first step should be to prioritise the issues. Altruistically speaking, first, the community should try to present a unified image, not fraught by sectional differences.

Issues faced by Muslims
A movement should be started within the community to eschew its sectional and denominational divide, by its religious leaders. Others see the Muslims as a monolith community, not a faction ridden one. So, if we are seen as one, then we should act as one. This is easier said than done and would require a lot of efforts and tolerance amongst our clerics and their followers.

Key to Emancipation
As far as being an active player in the country's political process is concerned, we should nurture and motivate our youngsters to involve themselves in the political activities, shoulder to shoulder

Secondly, the community should adopt a proactive approach not a reactionary one to handle issues at hand. At the political level, people who do not represent the community sincerely should not be promoted and tolerated as representing the community. Only sincere, committed and result-oriented individuals should be allowed to be part of the decision-making and delivery mechanism process on behalf of 14 million Muslims.

Thirdly, it should try to forge sustainable links with other minorities in the country like Parsis, Sikhs and Christians. It should try to learn from these minorities, as to how they have fared well in educational, social and economic sectors, utilising their community's resources and guidance by their leaders. This collaboration will also help further the principles of tolerance and coexistence.

Fourthly, Muslims should engage in sincere self-introspection and try to reform the community of customs and practices, which are detrimental to the growth of the community as a whole, besides being un-Islamic, such as curbing wasteful expenditure on marriages and other religious functions. They'll have to focus more on image building of the community by promoting cleanliness and education, two issues that have been stressed again and again in the Holy Quran.

And lastly, the message to change the community's psyche and approach on issues facing it should be conveyed in a logical and easily understandable format to all, by a committee of elders representing all the factions and schools of thought of the community besides the political and social activists.

At the political front, Muslims should adopt a multi-dimensional strategy, strengthening the secular and democratic forces of the country, assured of the support of 63% secular and right thinking population of India.

Views expressed are author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

with the secular forces. We seldom engage with our political representatives constructively. We should try to form a proactive relationship with the politicians, to ensure that besides raising our grievances with our representatives we are seen as part of the team, which delivers the results on their behalf in their constituency. We'll have to build a committed cohort of leaders, who reflect the true aspirations of the community besides striving to empower it both educationally and politically.

A key factor identified for the plight of the community is the lack of education amongst Muslims. In reality, during the last 25 years or so the educational consciousness amongst Muslims has increased and the community is much more educated than previously. However, we still have to focus our energies on and plan for educating the children at the lowest rung of the social and economic ladder. We need to strengthen our schools and colleges at village and district level, ensure delivery of quality education to all sections of the community, besides a zero dropout rate. This will need coordinated efforts and counselling, both. For this to be achieved, instead of looking up to the government, we should initiate our own efforts.

It's a fact that Muslims have a school and college in every city and town of India. But most of them are not equipped to the modern standards or don't have the faculty which could ensure delivery of quality education. The need is to chart out a comprehensive plan for making these institutes functional and productive. This could be achieved through an all-India umbrella body, which should be tasked to ensure how to impart quality education to all at the lowest cost through available infrastructure.

During the last 25 years or so, a number of educational and social organisations managed by Muslims have sprung-up in every nook and corner of the country. But in reality, most of these initiatives are confined to individual self-promotion and lack enough professional attitude and commitment to perform and deliver. The task should be to bring all such organisations at a common platform, and pooling their human and financial resources, hammer out a deliverable strategy which is in tune with the current demands and aspirations of the people and which fulfil the community's and society's needs pragmatically.

Besides education, the proposed all-India body should also represent the Muslims at every conceivable charity work, whether be it a natural calamity or supporting the government's various social drives or feeding the poor or providing care to the ailing. We need to emerge as a community, which should be seen at the forefront of every welfare event, helping out shoulder to shoulder with our brethren.

Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. He was also associated with BBC Urdu Service and Khaleej Times of Dubai. He writes on Muslims, educational, international affairs, interfaith and current affairs. Email: asad.mirza.nd@gmail.com



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Our Wetlands

Without water we cannot imagine a world. We are all aware that water plays a pivotal role in the sustenance of life. But very few are worried about the wetlands devastation and it is main source of freshwater. Only 2.5 % of water is freshwater mostly stored in glaciers and only 1 % of water is stored only in the forms of rivers, ponds, stream, lakes, marshes and estuaries etc. Wetlands can be saltwater or freshwater, inland or coastal natural or human made. Freshwater wetlands include rivers, lakes, pools, floodplains, marshes, swamps. Saltwater includes estuaries, saltwater marshes, mangroves, lagoons, coral reefs. Human made wetlands include fishponds, reservoir etc. By 2050 our global population is expected by 10 billion so that 70% more food and 14% more water for agriculture is required for sustainable development. Nearly 75% of natural disasters are water related.

World Wetland Day is observed to raise awareness about the importance of wetlands for people and our planet. Water insecurity is causing threat to nearly 45 countries around the world and

millions of people's life is in threat due to floods, saltmarsh and seagrass loss. Millions have lost their lives by floods and droughts in 20 years causing havoc economic damage. World Wetland Day also pinpoints the signing of Ramsar Convention on wetlands. India has 42 Ramsar Wetlands sites. Ladakh's Tso Kar Wetland is added in previous year. The ecology of these sites is preserved under the convention across the globe. The selfless service to nature of few Indians are really commendable and praiseworthy in saving the mother earth. Our wetlands are primary source of water cycle, flood control and water supply and dealing with climate change.

Preserving Wetlands is our primary concern in saving the life cycle of our earth. Our motherland needs humanitarian service from individual and society. Our wetlands require less salinization, water pollution and excessive development. We are in water crisis with severe concern about ecosystem and our wetlands serve the purpose of gratification. Millions and millions of water are consumed daily and by the increase of global population we

require more and more water for the billions of people around the globe. Our increasing demands of fresh water putting extra pressure on these wetlands which are enormously getting polluted by man-made hazards and by the release of harmful chemicals, plastic and toxic elements in our fresh water resources.

People struggle to drink safe water and getting effected by waterborne disease easily. Our freshwater sources are getting diminished day to day due to human interference in our natural resources. They are getting polluted and depleted very easily raising our sincere care and utmost attention is the demand of the hour. Rainwater harvesting, storing and filtering when it is needed can be better available options for the people. These Wetlands are the constant source of freshwater which are constantly getting contaminated by our irrational behaviour and recklessness. India being an agriculture based country needs these water for irrigation, energy production and maintaining the natural earth cycle.

Water dependence is separable for 40%

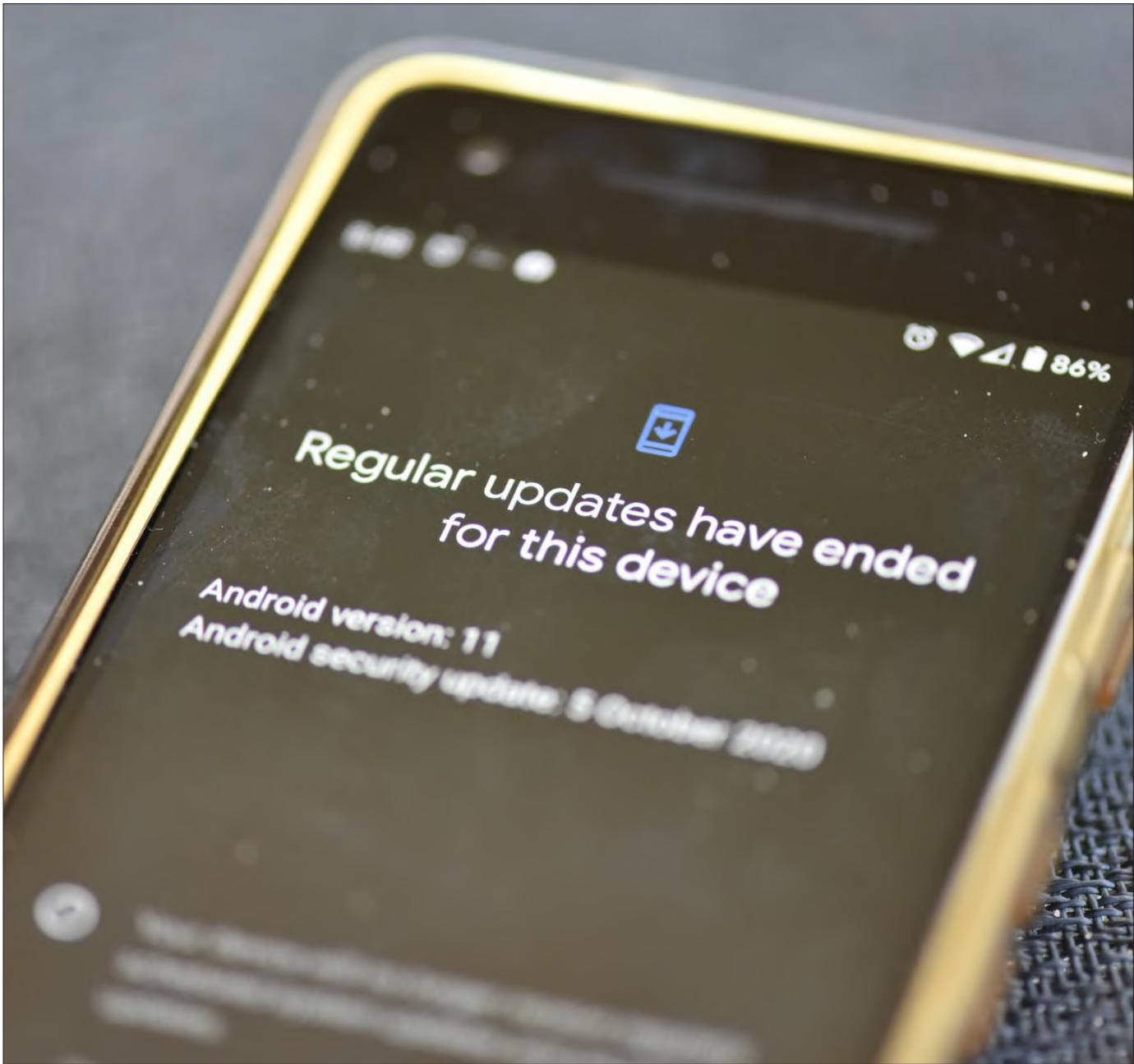
world species depending on wetlands which we have to preserve for present and future water. Efficient and proper use of wetlands can be managed effectively. Industrial sectors must minimize the use of water and release of toxic elements upto limited extent. Our aim should be to minimise the use of fresh and usable water for future use and priority would be in restoring wetlands. Our collective responsibilities is in saving water and conserving wetlands. Stringent government steps and investment are required in preserving our natural solutions for water management in making a green economy. On the 50th anniversary year of the Ramsar Convention of wetlands our aim of capturing and storing rainwater and groundwater, regularizing water quantity and supply by releasing water at right time and right place and improving water quality by removing and absorbing pollutants. Our wetlands provide us seafood like fish and 40% of world species live in wetlands with 200 new fish species discovered in freshwater.

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Upgrade Rage: Why You May Have To Buy A New Device Whether You Want To Or Not

Michael Cowling

SO WHAT'S THE solution to this problem of disposable and expiring technology? One suggestion is that manufacturers move to making devices more modular, comprised of several detachable components



We've probably all been there. We buy some new smart gadget and when we plug it in for the first time it requires an update to work. So we end up spending hours downloading and updating before we can even play with our new toy. But what happens when we can't update our gadgets any further? **Vintage technology** Every year vendors such as Apple and Google add to their list of vintage devices that no longer get operating system or security updates. For example, owners of the Pixel 2 smartphone (released by Google in 2017) were told in late 2020 they would no longer receive regular scheduled system updates and security updates. Upgrading to Google's newest smart-

phones won't insulate them from this problem for long. Owners of the latest Pixel 5 are told to expect this device (released in October 2020) to be made vintage in 2023. While Apple has a reputation for supporting devices for longer than Google and Samsung with Android, even Apple owners are occasionally in for a shock, such as those users who bought the Apple Watch SE or Apple Watch 3 late last year only to discover it only works with an iPhone 6s or above. Even if an operating system vendor still supports a device, this presumes the apps and network connections will still work for older devices, which is not always the case. **The unrelenting march of technology** Technology is not what it used to be. Twenty years ago, we could buy a laptop and everything would work pretty much the same for over a decade. For example, switch on an old Windows

XP machine (no longer supported by Microsoft) and any installed Word and Excel software will be there just as we left them, still available for your document and spreadsheet needs. (We need to be careful about updating any software as then it might not work on the XP machine.) If we want to play some old computer games, there's an argument that an old machine or operating system will be a better choice to play on as a newer machine will run the game too fast, or be incompatible and not run it at all. But the world of technology has changed in the last ten years or so. More and more apps need a network connection to operate, or take advantage of new features in the software or hardware that didn't previously exist such as augmented reality (AR), so they need a new device to work. **Cables, chips and wireless networks**

Even on the hardware front, there are concerns. Try and attach our old fitness band to our new smartphone and we might find the Bluetooth protocol it uses to communicate is no longer supported, or the servers they used to run were attacked and taken down by hackers. Backers of the original smartwatch, The Pebble, found themselves on the wrong end of this situation when the company was bought by Fitbit, who decided to shut down the Pebble servers. This effectively turned all Pebble watches into paperweights, although an unofficial fix was developed. Assuming the hardware works, we might find the network connection deserts us. The WiFi Alliance last year announced a new WiFi standard, increasing speeds for countries that support it. But it's already the case that older WiFi devices running on older standards can have trouble connecting to new networks, and even if they can they are likely to slow down the whole network. In the world of cellular networking, some parts of the old 3G network (famous for powering the iPhone 3G released a little more than ten years ago) has been shut down in some countries (including Australia), with the whole service destined for the dustbin in several years. Even if we could power up that old iPhone, it wouldn't get any phone service. **A call for sustainable technology** So what's the solution to this problem of disposable and expiring technology? One suggestion is that manufacturers move to making devices more modular, comprised of several detachable components. Components could then be replaced as they expire, just like we are able to do with desktop computers by replacing the video card, sound card or other components. Some manufacturers, such as Essential, Motorola and Google have all tried this approach with a modular phone but with limited success. The modularisation process results in a larger, more cumbersome device in a world where thin and svelte is everything. Perhaps the best we can hope for is for manufacturers to work harder to recycle and upgrade devices for consumers. Companies such as Apple already do this, with machines that can disassemble iPhones and remove the precious metals and components for recycling, but more work needs to be done. In particular, the commercial aspect of these initiatives likely still needs to be worked out. Some service providers offer trade-in in deals for old phones but you still have to pay for a new phone. Many people aim to use older devices to avoid paying for a new device after all. Until manufacturers are willing to perhaps just do a straight swap of that old gadget for a new model with no money down, it's likely we will still live in our expiring device culture for a while yet.

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The Conversation

Nature's Bountiful Montage Of Diversity

Whatever Floats Your Boat Shouldn't Be Bothering Me

Annie Mathew, Special to Gulf News

IMAGINE THE scenario when an extrovert and an introvert end up being together! Will they perfectly complement each other or their traits will rub off on each other? Whatever happens, we must know that there's space and acceptance for all kinds of people in our vast world

He was at the pinnacle of his career, excelling at all he did. People spoke about him in awe and predicted that he will further go places, blazing a trail of successes and reaping laurels, that's when he dropped the bombshell - he was going in for an early retirement. He was only in his mid-fifties. Why? Even the people who barely knew him joined in the chorus, seeking reasons. He neither owed an explanation nor did he give one, he didn't seek validation for his decision but simply walked away from the industry that he was part of and that was a part of him all these years. What does he do now? Lives a life of freedom, of free will, a life not dictated by alarms and diktats, deadlines and targets. He catches up on all the books he had left untended in the steep climb up the corporate ladder. He reads at leisure and for pleasure, watches the classic movies and the latest blockbusters as it suits him. He travels untethered, unbound, by the chains of time and duties.....He lives, nay flies as free as a bird, beyond the borders set by human greed and fallacies! 'If I don't do it now, I may never be able to do it', he says. At the other end of the spectrum is a man well into his seventies. He says his work is his life and the daily juggle with numbers makes him feel alive and important. He had tried to retire but found that life had suddenly become dry. He felt there were no people to interact and communicate with, no mails to reply



to, no messages demanding his attention, just nothing to do! His job and workplace were where his happiness lay. So he returned to work and was happy again. To each his own, who are we to judge! **Extreme diversity all around** We notice this kind of extreme diversity all around us and in all aspects of life. It adds variety and spice to existence, makes each one of unique! I know of a couple who are at ex-

treme poles when it comes to brands. The wife prefers locally made, durable stuff that can encourage small cottage industries while her better half adorns himself only with expensive brands. They decided early in their marriage not to let this difference in choice create major upheavals in their lives. There's the occasional argument and disagreements but life is more or less sailing on smooth waters, brand or no brand.

Imagine the scenario when an extrovert and an introvert end up being together! Will they perfectly complement each other or their traits will rub off on each other? Whatever happens, we must know that there's space and acceptance for all kinds of people in our vast world. Among a large group of friends, extreme diversities in likes and dislikes often make plans fall flat. Simple decisions like going out for some fun and

food may materialise only after long winding discussions and discourses. Some may prefer malls while others may suggest beaches and some might just like to sit put at home! Once the spot is decided the next would be food....since options are too many, something to cater to everybody's choice would be hard to find, and the discussions begin again....only to finally decide to have it one's own way! Many a time the build up and the preparations are more fun than the actual event. As family too, some of these decisions are hard to arrive at....as each member will have his/her own preference and that's how children learn conflict resolution and to take turns to decide. I remember planning a surprise party for the matriarch of the family for her seventy fifth birthday, a few years ago. In our excitement to make it a big event we didn't pay attention to the fact that she was someone who never preferred the lime light or that she never was a fan of parties. As the surprise unfolded on the eventful day, she expressed her displeasure in no uncertain terms and the party had to be called off. No doubt, we were disappointed to say the least, but now looking back I realise that none of us had showed the maturity to think from her perspective at the time! For her the joy was having a quiet birthday with family at home. Different strokes for different folks! We are all alike in some way, but different in many ways. We become tolerant when we learn to accept people the way they are. We may incorporate what we like and refrain from commenting on what we don't. Whatever floats your boat shouldn't be bothering me. We progress better as a society when we practice this doctrine.

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Gulf News

J&K Fully Integrated

"As a result, all the rights enshrined in the Constitution of India and benefits of all the central laws that were being enjoyed by other citizens of the country are now available to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh," he said.

Reddy said the change has brought about socio-economic development in both union territories, empowerment of people, removal of unjust laws, bringing in equity and fairness to those discriminated since ages who are now getting their due. These, along with comprehensive development, are a few of the important changes that are ushering both the new UTs towards the path of peace and progress.

With the conduct of elections of Panchayati Raj Institutions such as Panches and Sarpanches, Block Development Councils and District Development Councils, the three-tier system of grassroots level democracy has now been established in Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

Reddy also said the Jammu and Kashmir administration has approved a business revival package of Rs 1,352.99 crore on September 25, 2020.

An amount of Rs 434.08 crore was released up to December 31, 2020, out of which Rs 250 crore was as economic package and Rs 184.08 crore as COVID-19 relief. The amount of Rs 434.08 crore has been fully utilised by December 31, 2020, he said.

183 Still Under

were taken in the interest of security and public order which included preventive detention of certain persons.

"Since August 1, 2019, 613 persons including separatists, overground workers, stone pelters, etc. were detained at various points of time. Out of these, based on regular review and ground situation, 430 persons have been released till date, he said in written reply to a question.

The minister also said that the Jammu and Kashmir administration has further reported that no person is under house arrest in the UT.

In March last year, the government had informed Lok Sabha that a total of 451 people were under detention in J&K, including 396 under Public Safety Act.

The authorities took 7,357 persons in preventive custody since August 2019 when the special status of the erstwhile state was abrogated and it was divided into two Union Territories—J&K and Ladakh, the minister had said on 11 March 2020.

The minister had said the detentions were made under section 107 of the CrPC, as also under the J&K Public Safety Act, 1978.

Azad Seeks Bill

knows any state of India it is Kashmir. And it is because only of the historical background and beauty it has. Any foreign minister or the head of the state visiting India knows Kashmir and there won't be any who don't but the full-fledged state has been bifurcated into a Union Territory," he said.

"I still fail to understand why the J&K state was bifurcated into two union territories even now there is no improvement in law and order as it used to be during the elected government including the militancy that was very lowest but the same stands heights now," he added.

He said any measure that upsets the people residing in the Northeast and border areas, including Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Punjab, should not be taken.

Referring to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Azad said she taught him that "we cannot fight on multiple fronts with Pakistan and China".

The Congress leader claimed that the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh are not happy as outsiders can now buy their land and work there, unlike in the past.

"The people of Ladakh are not happy with the UT status. With the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A, anyone can buy their land. Job opportunities were earlier exclusively available for J&K residents. Jammu people aren't even happy as the maximum land will be borrowed there alone with Punjab near it", he said.

"Earlier some advertised posts were repealed immediately after resentment in Jammu as it invited applications Pan-India. Some national-level interviewers published were also withdrawn", he said, adding "Transporters, Shopkeepers, and Unemployed in Jammu are unhappy. No one in Ladakh, Kashmir, and Jammu are happy with the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A."

Arguing against Jammu and Kashmir being converted into a Union Territory, he also claimed that the law and order situation in Kashmir was 100 times better when it was a state as compared to now, militancy was at its lowest and development works were at their best, irrespective of whichever government was in power in the state.

"Developmental works were best during the elected local government while there is no developmental work at all and the parameters of health, education, and others is worse", he said.

He alleged that tourism industry in Kashmir was now finished, along with education as schools and colleges are closed for almost two years, while it also lags behind in key parameters like health.

However, Azad congratulated the Narendra Modi-led government for executing the long standing demand that panchayati raj system be implemented in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking after him, A Navaneethakrishnan of the AIADMK expressed gratitude to the prime minister for enacting the Tamil Nadu Protected Agricultural Development Zone Act, addressing the apprehensions of farmers in the Cauvery delta.

The Act prohibits all kinds of activities that are harming agriculture in the Cauvery delta, he said, adding that as many as 15 members from both Houses are from the Cauvery delta area.

In 2019, the Centre revoked Article 370 which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated the state into two union territories, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. (With PTI inputs)

Tikait Holds

was to begin his speech at the "mahapanchayat" in Kandela village, the makeshift stage on which the farmer leaders had gathered collapsed under their weight.

Nobody was reported hurt and Tikait went on to address the gathering. But the episode triggered a commotion and he and the event organisers had to repeatedly tell people to maintain calm.

Calling for a wapsi (withdrawal) of the new central laws, Tikait indirectly warned the Narendra Modi government that it could lose its gaddi (power) if the agitation continues.

We have so far talked about "bill wapsi" (repealing the farm laws). The government should listen carefully. What will you do if the youth call for gaddi wapsi (removal from power)? he said.

He asked the Centre to repeal the three laws and frame a new one to assure continuation of the minimum support price (MSP) system.

The BKU leader from Uttar Pradesh has been camping at Ghazipur on the Delhi-UP border as part of a campaign by farmer unions against the central laws enacted in September.

Farmers, mainly from Punjab and Haryana, are also massed at Tikri and Singhu on the Delhi-Haryana border for two months.

After violence on Republic Day, police barricaded these protest sites with cement barriers and spikes on the roads leading to them.

Criticising the restrictions, Tikait said, When the king is scared, he secures the fortress.

He suggested that he would lay down on the nails embedded on the roads there so that others can cross them by stepping on him.

He said the Centre must talk with the farmer unions spearheading the agitation.

The "mahapanchayat" was attended by Haryana BKU chief Gurnam Singh Chaduni and BKU leader from Punjab, Balbir Singh Rajewal. Over 50 khap" leaders were also present.

Last week, a large number of farmers participated in a mahapanchayat in UP's Muzaffarnagar in support of the BKU-led protest at Ghazipur.

Jind is often considered part of Haryana's political heartland and the "mahapanchayat" was meant to muster support for the farmers' agitation. It was organised by Sarva Jatiya Kandela Khap headed by Tekram Kandela.

Five resolutions were passed at the mahapanchayat. These urged the government to repeal the new laws, give a legal guarantee on the MSP, implement the Swaminathan Commission report, waive farm loans and release farmers arrested after the events in Delhi on January 26.

Tikait said the campaign against the farm laws was going strong. The way we are getting support from khap panchayats, we will win this fight.

He urged everyone involved, particularly the youth, to keep protesting in a peaceful manner and assured victory will be theirs.

He underlined the role played by farmers and their unions from Punjab. We need their help. Haryana and Uttar Pradesh will back them. We will maintain the prestige of the farmer's turban, he said.

Seeking to project unity among the farmer unions, Tikait referred to BKU (Rajewal) chief Balbir Singh Rajewal as our leader.

Tikait, whose show of emotion recently appeared to have helped revive the farmers' agitation after the violence on Republic Day, said there are 40 unions spearheading the protest and decisions will be taken collectively.

Rajewal accused the Modi government of behaving with farmers in a manner that no other government in the world would.

Centre brought laws which will destroy farmers and this country. We began this agitation several months back in Punjab, it has now spread to entire country, he told the mahapanchayat.

On the new police barricades, Rajewal said the government has turned protest sites into a kind of open jails.

Khap leader Kandela said the prime minister and the Union home minister should talk directly with the protesting farmers.

LS Adjourned

As soon as the House met at 4pm, Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury tried to raise the issue of farmers' agitation, saying that the matter is maligning the image of the country.

"We are concerned," he said.

Urging members to return to their seats, Speaker Om Birla said they should maintain the dignity of the House or else he will have to take disciplinary actions against those who violate norms.

He said the Question Hour is important and it should go on.

But opposition members refused to relent, forcing him to adjourn the proceedings till 4.30pm.

Following the first adjournment when the house reassembled at 4:30pm, Chowdhury demanded that there should be a separate discussion on the Presidential address and the farmers' issue.

The Speaker said the members should maintain the dignity of the House and return to the seats. He said that sufficient time and opportunity would be given to them to express their views.

Birla urged AAP leader Bhagwant Mann to go to his seat if he wants a discussion and warned him of action.

But the opposition members refused to relent forcing him to adjourn the proceedings again till 5pm.

Several farmer unions have been staging protests at various border points of Delhi since late November demanding the repeal of the farm laws.

Members of the Congres, DMK, Trinamool, and Bhagwant Mann of the AAP were at the forefront of raising slogans against the farm laws and the treatment meted out to the protesting farmers.

India 53rd

most of its neighbouring countries.

India's overall score fell from 6.9 in 2019 to 6.61 in the Index that provides a snapshot of the current state of democracy worldwide for 167 countries.

"With mounting pressure on India's democratic norms, India's score fell from a peak of 7.92 in 2014 to 6.61 in 2020 and its global ranking slipped from 27th (in 2014) to 53rd as a result of democratic backsliding" under the current regime, The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) said.

Norway topped The Economist Intelligence Unit's latest Democracy Index report titled "Democracy in sickness and in health", with Iceland, Sweden, New Zealand and Canada making up the top five.

Out of 167 countries, the Democracy Index classifies 23 countries as full democracies, 52 as flawed democracies, 35 as hybrid regimes and 57 as authoritarian regimes. India has been classified as a 'flawed democracy' along with countries such as the US, France, Belgium and Brazil.

The EIU report said that in India and Thailand, "democratic backsliding by the authorities and crackdowns on civil liberties led to a further decline in their global rankings".

It further alleged that the Narendra Modi-led government has "introduced a religious element to the conceptualisation of Indian citizenship, a step that many critics see as undermining the secular basis of the Indian state".

"The authorities' handling of the coronavirus pandemic led to a further erosion of civil liberties in 2020," the report said.

India was ranked 51st in the 2019 Democracy Index. Among India's neighbours, while Sri Lanka, at 68th rank, is classified as a flawed democracy, Bangladesh (76), Bhutan (84) and Pakistan (105) are classified in the 'hybrid regime' category. Afghanistan is ranked 139th and classified as an 'authoritarian regime' in the index.

The EIU report looks at the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on freedom and democracy around the world. The Asia and Australasia region includes top-scoring New Zealand, which retained its fourth position in the global ranking (out of 167 countries), and persistent laggard North Korea at the bottom of the global ranking in 167th place, the EIU said in a statement.

The region's overall score fell in 2020, but it now has five full democracies with Japan, South Korea and Taiwan moving up the rankings compared with

2019.

Australia retains its full democracy status and high ranking (9th).

Japan and South Korea both returned to the full democracy fold for the first time since 2014. Taiwan attained full democracy status for the first time following a spectacular jump up the rankings.

Despite these upgrades, Asia's average regional score deteriorated to its lowest level since 2013 as official measures taken to combat the coronavirus pandemic led to some of the most severe constraints on individual freedoms and civil liberties in the world, the EIU said.

China, Singapore and others went much further than the rest of the world in tracking and policing their citizens and locking them down in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, it said.

Joan Hoey, Editor of The Economist Intelligence Unit's annual Democracy Index report, said, "The symbolism of Asia gaining three new 'full democracies' in 2020 and western Europe losing two (France and Portugal) was apt, as the coronavirus pandemic has accelerated the shift in the global balance of power from the West to the East."

"Asia continues to lag behind the West in democratic terms having only five 'full democracies', compared with western Europe's 13, but the region has, so far, handled the pandemic much better than virtually any other, with lower infection and mortality rates and a fast economic rebound," she said.

Asian governments reacted decisively (albeit deploying coercive powers in some cases), benefited from well-organised health systems and retained the confidence of their populations, she said.

By contrast, European governments were slow to act, some health systems came close to collapse and public trust in government declined, Hoey added.

The Economist Intelligence Unit (The EIU) is the world's leading research for economic and business research, forecasting and analysis, a statement said.

Snowfall Disrupts

in the minimum temperature across the valley much to the relief to the residents, officials said.

The snowfall began during the night and continued at many places when last reports came in, the officials said.

The snowfall affected the flight operations at Srinagar airport in the morning, causing some flight delays.

The flight operations were hampered due to the accumulation of snow on the runway and poor visibility due to the bad weather.

The MET Office said the famous ski-resort of Gulmarg, in north Kashmir, received about six inches of fresh snowfall, while Kupwara, also in the north, recorded about three inches.

Other places, including Srinagar, experienced very light snowfall, the officials said.

They said there are reports of fresh snowfall in many other areas in the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir.

The fresh snowfall, however, did not affect the movement of traffic on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway.

An official of the traffic control room said the highway was through for one-way traffic from Srinagar towards Jammu.

The minimum temperature across the valley rose significantly on Tuesday night, providing huge relief to residents.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 0.4 degrees Celsius last night over four degrees up from the previous night's minus 4.6 degrees Celsius.

Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 3.9 degrees Celsius over five degrees down from the previous night's minus 9.3 degrees Celsius.

The minimum temperature at the Gulmarg skiing resort, in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, settled at minus 5.2 degrees Celsius last night up from minus 7 degrees Celsius the previous night.

The resort was the coldest recorded place in Jammu and Kashmir.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of 2.8 degrees Celsius up from minus 4.5 degrees Celsius the previous night, they said.

Kupwara town, in north Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 1.2 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag, in the south, minus 4.5 degrees Celsius.

The MET Office has forecast the possibility of light to moderate snow/rain at scattered to fairly-wide-spread places of J-K till Thursday.

Govt Amends Closure

and 26th of February 2021 would be traffic dry day on NH-44 for undertaking major repairs and maintenance works on NH-44," reads a new order issued by R&B Department on Wednesday.

Pertinent to mention, in an earlier order the J&K government had modified the previous order and had decided to suspend the Traffic movement on Srinagar-Jammu highway on every Thursday.

An official also said that the order has been re-modified and dry day for the month of February will be on every Friday.

Meanwhile, officials said that traffic will be allowed tomorrow on highway from Jammu towards Srinagar subject to fair weather and better road conditions "No vehicle including fresh perishables shall be allowed in the opposite direction," officials said.

J&K Logs

list followed by Jammu (371), Baramulla (174), Budgam (118), Kupwara (95), Pulwama (88), Anantnag (86), Doda (64), Bandipora (61), Udhampur (57), Kulgam (54), Rajouri (55), Kathua (53), Ganderbal (46), Shopian (39), Samba (40), Poonch (24), Ramban (21), Kishtwar(22), and Reasi (15).

Meanwhile, twelve travelers were among 65 fresh covid-19 cases reported in J&K in the last 24 hours, officials said. Among the fresh cases, 16 were from Jammu division and 49 from Kashmir Valley, taking the overall virus tally to 124659.

Giving district wise details, they said, Srinagar reported 23, Baramulla 3, Budgam 5, Pulwama 2, Kupwara 1, Anantnag 6, Bandipora 2, Ganderbal 7, Jammu 9, Udhampur 6 and Poonch 1 new case of Covid-19.

Moreover, they said, 61 more patients have recovered and discharged from various hospitals— 27 from Jammu Division and 34 from Kashmir valley. (With GNS inputs)

Amarnath Yatra

in advance during the current year," he added.

He further added that the Div Com emphasized on providing better mobile network, PF Hut accommodation, toilet facilities, health-care, LED lights, effective PAS system, parking facilities, pre-paid services, registration centers and better accommodation arrangements to yatriss at all camps.

As per the official spokesperson, Pole directed concerned to ensure permanent toilet facilities are created enroute from Shaitani Nallah and at all designated points and road repairing and widening is completed well before the commencement of annual pilgrimage.

"He said that teams of doctors with basic medical facilities shall remain available for pilgrims at all

camp sites while as teams of NDRF and SDRF shall also be kept stationed at all landslide prone areas for rescue if any exigency like situation arises during yatra period," he said, adding "The Div Com instructed concerned to ensure the permanent toilet facility works are taken up on priority under the Swachh Bharat Mission,"

For smooth to and fro travel, the official spokesperson said that the facility of helicopter service from Srinagar Airport to Baltal were also discussed during the meeting.

"Besides the Div Com also stressed on safe regulation of convoys, tagging of vehicles, addressing space issues and advanced asset creation is done to ensure better facilities are made available to yatriss," he added.

The meeting, among others was attended by IG CRPF, DC Srinagar, DIGs CRPF Operation, South and North Srinagar, Commissioner SMC, SSP Srinagar, CE R&B, CE PDD and other concerned officers. While as DC Ganderbal, DC Anantnag, concerned SSPs and other concerned from SASB also attended the meeting through videoconferencing.

Use Social Media

that the state government engage with ASSOCHAM, CII and FICCI to invite and encourage companies to host meetings and visits in the region.

"The committee feels that websites of the Ministry of Tourism and its various arms should be made interactive and user-friendly. Mobile applications and social networking sites like Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, etc. should be harnessed as a quick and cost effective medium for tourism marketing," the panel said.

The ministry in its reply said that it proactively leverages the potential of social media in marketing and promotion of India, both in the domestic as well as in the overseas markets. It also said that it maintains accounts in leading social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, Vimeo and Periscope.

"Since, May 2016, a professional social media agency has been appointed to manage the social media activities on ministry's social media handles. A large number of posts/tweets/messages are regularly posted/tweeted on various facets of India including Jammu and Kashmir with a view to provide wide publicity about various destinations in India, it said.

The committee, headed by Rajya Sabha MP TG Venkatesh presented its 280th, 281th, 282th, 283th, 284th, 285th and 286th reports to Parliament on Wednesday.

Another recommendation of the committee is that in order to provide safety against accidents to the tourist vehicles especially after sunset till sunrise, mobile ambulances should be made available with a facility to provide immediate first aid to injured tourists on the spot and carry them later to the nearest hospital for further treatment. A toll-free helpline number can also be launched, it said.

The parliamentary committee also recommended that a web-based monitoring system be developed to review the physical progress of road projects in pilgrimage destinations and border towns of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The panel , in another report on cargo handling at major ports, has also recommended that to boost cruise tourism at NMPT, a separate task force on cruise tourism should be formed jointly by the Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Shipping with representatives of all major stakeholders. The committee would like the ministry to furnish the details of cruise terminal projects and related infrastructure projects sanctioned to the Mangalore Port.

The panel has also advised the relevant department to prepare an analysis report of all the major ports and also those minor ports which are situated near ecologically sensitive regions like protected areas, wildlife sanctuaries, ecological hotspots and marine ecosystems.

The study should focus on causes and remedial steps taken by the authorities concerned to tackle oil spillage, hazardous cargo, dirty and dusty cargo, it said.

On basis of such report, an Action Taken Plan must be prepared to prevent such unforeseen situations in future so as to protect the environment, it added.

Mehbooba Alleges

After failing to substantiate charges against PDP's @parawahid, CID replaced the SIT head because he refused to be an accomplice in framing invented charges," she claimed.

She claimed that "Waheed is being persecuted and tortured to admit the false allegations. Since an admission didn't happen he is being kept under inhuman conditions. This investigation has been fraudulent and politically motivated from day one."

Mehbooba said the norm of "dictating such deceitful investigations is 'Show me the man and I'll show you the crime'. Shameful and appalling that these actions discredit and bring disrepute to the institutions meant to uphold law and order".

Later in the day, the Jammu and Kashmir Police without naming the former chief minister termed the comments "unfortunate" and said "the CID is answerable to the courts on all aspects including whether amenities and rights available to a person under custodial investigation and his legal obligations to cooperate in the investigation are being complied."

In an apparent reference to Mehbooba's remarks, police said, "Recent comments about the CID investigations in the public domain through social media are unfortunate for two reasons: for being factually incorrect and making the CID officers vulnerable to increased threats and enhanced risks."

"It is also fraught with the risks of adversely influencing the witnesses and the course of investigation. It is factually incorrect that an under-investigation person was tortured. The CID investigations are done professionally and as per law," the police said in a statement in Jammu.

The police said each and every arrested person is presented before competent court periodically as per law. "Every arrested suspect has access to health care and doctors. It is neither proper nor lawful to discuss and pass verdict-like remarks in the public domain about ongoing complex investigations," it said.

It said, "The CID is answerable to the courts on all aspects including whether amenities and rights available to a person under custodial investigation and his legal obligations to cooperate in the investigation are being complied."

Para was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on November 25 last year in a case related to his alleged links to the Hizbul Mujahideen outfit. He was later granted bail by an NIA court on January 9.

However, the PDP youth leader, who won the District Development Council (DDC) elections held in November-December last year, was arrested by the police shortly after he walked out of a jail in Jammu and continues to remain in custody.

‘I Googled ‘Passport

Also, he added, a major chunk of these fraud websites operates outside India.

"Therefore, until and unless a formal complaint is made, no strict action can be guaranteed."

The changing nature of the fraudulent websites equally makes it hard for the cyber police to track them down.

"As a result," the cyber cop said, "the department isn't able to take suomoto cognizance."

Inside RPO Srinagar, located on the iconic Boulevard Road, Passport Officer Brijbhushan Nagar told Kashmir Observer that during his 4 year tenure, he has only received two passport fraud complaints.

"I forwarded them to the cybercrime department for the necessary cognizance and action," Bhushan said.

"I ask people that if they notice any wrongdoing regarding passport issuance, come to me and register a complaint, even though it's not under my jurisdiction."

But how far the passport officer can go, as cyber crimes are rising daily, he said, showing a recent phone message he received.

The text said that Rs 6,00,000 has been sanctioned in the officer's new credit card.

"But the truth is," he said, "I never applied for it!"

Amid these daily deceptive messages, the passport officer says that people should directly visit RPO than getting their application done from cyber cafes.

"Multiple cyber cafes, across the region, ask for Rs500 or even more for applying for a passport, from a common citizen. This is contrary to what they should ask, that's anywhere between Rs 50-100," he said.

This illegal practice, he added, compels the common Kashmiri to Google the passport websites and fall into the malicious trap.

"Don't Google anything," the passport officer warned. "Just visit www.passportindia.gov.in."

Man Held For

unemployed youth on the pretext of arranging jobs in the forest department and various other government departments, they said.

A written complaint was lodged with the crime branch in Jammu by Raman Kattru and others, alleging that the accused persons on the pretext of arranging government jobs duped them after issuing fake appointment orders in their favour, they said.

In 2013, the complainant met Dar, who introduced him to Qadri, and they promised to arrange a government job in the J-K forest department for them, they said.

He was given an appointment order for the post of forester and asked to pay Rs 4,50,000, they said, adding, Kattru managed the money by selling his wife's jewellery.

The accused also duped many other job seekers in a similar way.

Qadri had served as an employee of the forest department but was later dismissed from service. He also has 8 criminal cases registered against him in different police stations, they said.

‘Mirwaiz Remains

and Kashmir.

In a statement issued here, it claimed that a police vehicle has been permanently stationed outside the Mirwaiz's Nigeen residence since August 2019 and he is not allowed to move out.

If that is not house arrest, then what is? If he (Mirwaiz) is not under house arrest, then why is he not allowed to come out of his house? Mirwaiz will complete one-and-a-half years under detention on February 5, the Hurriyat said.

It said instead of such misleading statements", the authorities should immediately end the house detention of the Mirwaiz and also release unconditionally" others arrested on the eve of August 5, 2019

Replying to a question in Rajya Sabha, Minister of Minister for Home Affairs Reddy said the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have been fully integrated into the mainstream of the nation after the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of the erstwhile state.

The minister said various measures were taken in the interest of security and public order which included preventive detention of certain persons.

"Since August 1, 2019, 613 persons including separatists, overground workers, stone pelters, etc. were detained at various points of time. Out of these, based on regular review and ground situation, 430 persons have been released till date, he said in a written reply to a question.

Covid Vaccines May Provide Protection Even As Variants Evolve: Oxford



Agencies

LONDON: COVID-19 vaccines might offer protection against severe disease even as coronavirus variants evolve to better allow continued transmission between people, the head of the Oxford Vaccine Group Andrew Pollard said on Wednesday.

Asked how effective the Oxford/AstraZeneca will be against new variants, he said "they are making changes that

allow them to avoid human immune responses, so that they can still transmit."

"So, that does mean that it's likely over time that the virus will find ways of adapting so that can continue to pass between people," he told BBC TV.

"But that doesn't mean that we won't still have protection against severe disease... The virus is much more about the virus being able to continue to survive, rather than trying to cause harm to us."

Australia Tells Thousands To Leave Homes As Bushfire Threatens Perth



Agencies

SYDNEY: Strong winds threatening to fan a bushfire prompted Australia on Wednesday to urge thousands of people to leave their homes in the provincial capital of Perth, complicating a lockdown after the state detected its first coronavirus infection in 10 months.

The fire in Western Australia has destroyed a swathe of more than 9,000 hectares (22,240 acres) and 71 homes, the authorities say, in a reminder of blazes that destroyed millions of hectares of habitat in the country's east a year ago.

As firefighters battled a blaze in steep, inhospitable terrain, authorities told residents of Bullsbrook, a suburb of 6,600 in Australia's fourth largest city, to ignore a stay-home order and leave immediately as hot, dry weather picked up.

"We know how quickly things can go bad," state premier Mark McGowan told a news conference, adding that one of his personal acquaintances had

lost their home.

"They are expecting extremely strong winds. That is why we are saying, if you can leave, please leave now. Please act to save your life."

At the same time, 2 million residents of the city are under a five-day lockdown until Friday, after a hotel quarantine worker tested positive for the highly contagious variant of the virus first detected in Britain.

The rules require them to stay home, except for essential work, healthcare, grocery shopping or exercise, while visits to hospitals and nursing homes are banned.

"It's important everyone should have a plan and when emergency service personnel ask you to act on that plan, that trumps any lockdown orders," David Littleproud, the emergency management minister, told the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"There should be no confusion about that."

No deaths have been reported from the fires, the origins of which are still unknown.

IT'S IMPORTANT EVERYONE SHOULD have a plan and when emergency service personnel ask you to act on that plan, that trumps any lockdown orders,"

Hazaras Fear For Future As Afghanistan Risks Slipping Into Chaos

Agencies

The choice was straightforward for Hamidullah Asadi, a member of Afghanistan's minority Hazara community – wait for the next deadly attack or join a growing militia.

After spending months recovering from grave injuries after an ISIL (ISIS) suicide attack, he was ready to fight.

"We were forced to take up arms," said Asadi, now a spokesman for the Resistance for Justice Movement – a band of Hazara fighters based in the war-torn country's rugged, snow-capped central highlands.

"Our expectations of those who were supposed to defend us were not met."

Afghan security forces are struggling to hold off an increasingly powerful Taliban as international troops withdraw from the county, with peace talks between the warring sides moving slowly.

Fearing the government will collapse and the country may descend again into civil war, Hazaras are starting to prepare for the worst.



raids on Taliban areas to abduct the relatives of fighters, later to be used as bargaining chips to release Hazara hostages.

The growth of the militia and similar armed outfits are increasingly problematic for the Afghan government, which is wary of allowing independent fighting forces to build up, but also fears a crackdown would ignite a confrontation with the communities that support them.

The Hazaras have had few allies in Afghanistan over the generations.

During the country's vicious civil war in the 1990s, they were mercilessly shelled in factional fighting and later massacred in the thousands amid the Taliban's ruthless conquest of the country.

Few groups, however, have taken as much advantage of the new order established after the overthrow of Taliban rule.

The Hazaras flocked to enrol their children in schools – including their daughters – and entered the political arena in unprecedented numbers. But those achievements remain fragile.

The group has increasingly taken the brunt of rising violence as ISIL suicide bombers attacked their mosques, schools, rallies and hospitals in western Kabul's Hazara enclave of Dasht-e-Barchi, killing hundreds.

The Taliban has also kidnapped and killed Hazaras travelling on the country's perilous roads with near impunity.

"Even with the presence of the US troops or NATO troops in Afghanistan, they were already vulnerable," said Sima Samar, a leading activist and former head of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission.

Some Hazaras have fled the capital for the provinces, including Bamiyan – the Hazara homeland long considered one of Afghanistan's safest enclaves.

Murad Ali Haidari hoped the move would shield his family from the violence; instead, his son was killed in one of two bombings in the region in November.

Now Bamiyan is dotted with checkpoints, with security forces frequently searching cars and questioning passengers.

"We moved from Kabul to Bamiyan to have better security and live in a peaceful place," said Haidari.

"Now when we leave home, it is difficult to imagine returning alive."

Even leaving the country does not guarantee their safety.

A group of Hazara miners – many of whom were Afghan nationals – were brutally massacred in an attack claimed by ISIL in Pakistan last month.

And to the west, thousands of Hazaras who crossed the border to Iran ended up being trained and deployed with Shia fighters in Syria over the past 10 years.

US Moves Carrier From Gulf In A Sign Of Ebbing Tensions With Iran

Agencies

US President Joe Biden's administration has pulled an aircraft carrier out of the Gulf in a move to potentially ease tensions with Iran, which had soared under former President Donald Trump.

Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said on Tuesday the USS Nimitz Carrier Strike Group had sailed from the US military's Central Command in the Middle East to the Indo-Pacific Command region.

Kirby did not confirm reports the Nimitz was headed back to the United States after some nine months at sea.

But he indicated that, after the Trump administration ramped up the US military presence in the Gulf, the Biden administration did not see keeping the carrier there as necessary for US security needs.

Kirby declined to discuss the Pentagon's current assessment of a potential Iranian military threat to



US bases or Gulf allies.

However, he said: "We don't make decisions like this lightly."

Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin "believes that we have a robust presence in the Middle East to respond" to any threat, Kirby added.

"The secretary was mindful of the larger geostrategic picture when he approved the movement of the carrier strike group from the Central Command area of responsibility to the Indo PACOM area of responsibility," he said.

Kirby would not say if the Nimitz would be replaced in the region in the near future, noting the US Navy has a limited number of aircraft carriers.

"We're constantly watching the threat. We're constantly trying to meet that threat with proper capabilities," he said.

'Recent threats' by Iran

The move came after the US reversed a decision last month to bring the aircraft carrier home from the Gulf, with the Pentagon saying due to "recent threats" by Iran, the USS Nimitz would stay in position.

Breast Cancer Overtakes Lung As Most Common Cancer: WHO



Agencies

GENEVA: Breast cancer has overtaken lung cancer as the most common form of the disease, accounting for nearly 12% of new cases each year worldwide, the World Health Organization said on Tuesday.

"For the first time, breast cancer now constitutes the most commonly occurring cancer globally," Andre Ilbawi, a cancer specialist at the WHO, told a UN briefing ahead of World Cancer Day on Thursday.

Lung cancer was the most common type for the last two decades, but is now in second place, ahead of colorectal cancer, which is the third most widespread, Ilbawi said.

An estimated 2.3 million new cases of breast cancer were diagnosed last year, representing 11.7% of all cancer cases, the WHO said in a statement.

"Among women, breast cancer is the most commonly-diag-

nosed cancer and the leading cause of cancer death worldwide," it said.

Ilbawi noted that obesity in women was a common risk factor in breast cancer, and is also driving overall cancer numbers.

As the global population grows and life expectancy increases, cancer is expected to become more common, rising to about 30 million new cases per year in 2040 from 19.3 million in 2020, Ilbawi said.

The WHO, warning against risk factors, said that around one third of deaths from cancer are due to tobacco use, high body mass index, low fruit and vegetable intake, lack of physical activity, and alcohol use.

The coronavirus pandemic is disrupting cancer treatment in about half the countries it surveyed, Ilbawi said, pointing to delays in diagnosis, healthcare workers being under extreme stress and research being impacted.

Saudi Arabia Suspends Entry From 20 Countries Over COVID Fears



Agencies

Saudi Arabia has suspended entry to the kingdom from 20 countries, with the exception of diplomats, Saudi citizens, and medical practitioners and their families, to help curb the spread of the coronavirus, the state news agency reported.

The temporary ban, effective from Wednesday, includes people arriving from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Germany, the United States, the United Kingdom, South Africa, France, Egypt, Lebanon, India and Pakistan.

"The decision will include those travellers coming from other countries if they passed through any of the 20 banned

countries 14 days preceding the request to enter the Kingdom," the Saudi Press Agency reported on Tuesday citing an official source at the Interior Ministry.

"Saudi citizens, diplomats, health practitioners and their families coming from the mentioned countries or those who transited any of those countries during the 14 days preceding their return to the Kingdom will enter the Kingdom in accordance with the precautionary measures imposed by the Ministry of Health," the source added.

The move, which will come into force at 9pm (18:00 GMT) comes as part of the kingdom's precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, the statement said.

SAUDI CITIZENS, DIPLOMATS, HEALTH practitioners and their families coming from the mentioned countries or those who transited any of those countries during the 14 days preceding their return to the Kingdom will enter the Kingdom in accordance with the precautionary measures imposed by the Ministry of Health,"

NEWS MAKERS

Missing Customers, Belgian Restaurateur Serves Mannequins



RIXENSART, BELGIUM,

A Belgian restaurant owner near Brussels says she misses her customers so much since her restaurant was forced to close last October under coronavirus laws that she has replaced them with mannequins.

Therese Mahieu began serving glasses of red wine to dummies with wigs, hats and scarves sitting at the bar this week in protest against Belgium's COVID-19 measures.

The dummies, made of balloons, give her a sense of community that has been lost at restaurant Chez Therese in the town of Rixensart, in Brussels' commuter belt, since clientele were barred from entering to prevent COVID-19 infections.

While Belgium has yet to see a surging third wave of coronavirus cases, the home of the European Union and NATO has one of the world's highest per capita COVID-19 death tolls. — Reuters

Myanmar, Burma And Why The Different Names Matter

BANGKOK: This week, the military upended years of quasi-democratic rule in Myanmar, with soldiers taking control of the country in a carefully orchestrated coup. The military said the seizure of power was necessary because the government had failed to act on its unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud in November elections, which the party of the country's de facto leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, won in a landslide. It claims the takeover was legal.

But where exactly did the coup happen? Was it in Myanmar, as the country is officially called? Or was it in Burma, the name Washington continues to use?

The answer is complicated. Because when it comes to Myanmar, pretty much everything is political. Including language.

WHY ARE THERE TWO NAMES FOR ONE COUNTRY?



For generations, the country was called Burma, after the dominant Burman ethnic group. But in 1989, one year after the ruling junta brutally suppressed a pro-democracy uprising, military leaders suddenly changed its name to Myanmar.

By then, Burma was an international pariah, desperate for any way to improve its image. Hoping for a sliver of international legitimacy, it said it was discarding a name

handed down from its colonial past and to foster ethnic unity. The old name, officials said, excluded the country's many ethnic minorities.

At home, though, it changed nothing. In the Burmese language, "Myanmar" is simply the more formal version of "Burma." The country's name was changed only in English.

It was linguistic sleight-of-hand. But few people were fooled. Much of the world showed defiance of the junta by refusing to use the new name.

WHEN DID THINGS CHANGE?

A little over a decade ago, the country began a stumbling semi-democratic transition. The military retained extensive political power, but Opposition leaders were freed from prison and house arrest, and elections were allowed. Longtime pro-democracy activist Suu Kyi became the country's civilian leader.

After Rihanna, Greta Thunberg, Mia Khalifa And Others Make Farmers' Protest Global

STOCKHOLM (SWEDEN): Several international personalities, including singers Jay Sean, Dr Zeus and former adult star Mia Khalifa, have joined pop star Rihanna in supporting Indian farmers who have been protesting for over two months against the three contentious agri laws.

On Tuesday night, Rihanna shared a CNN news article with her 100 million followers on Twitter, calling out the internet shutdown at the protest site. "Why aren't we talking about this? #FarmersProtest," the 32-year-old singer wrote. Soon after, Swedish teen climate activist Greta Thunberg also came out in support of the protesters as she shared the same article and wrote, "We stand in solidarity with the #FarmersProtest in India." Thousands of farmers, mainly from Punjab and Haryana, have been camping at several Delhi border points since November last year, demanding the government to repeal the three farm laws and legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP) for their crops.

Hollywood star John Cusack, who previously voiced support to anti-CAA protestors in February 2020, retweeted a post by Vanessa Nakate, a Ugandan climate activist, reading, "Let us talk about what is happening in India right now #FarmersProtest."

Real Kashmir Take On Indian Arrows In Crucial I-League Match Today

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: Unbeaten so far but with just one win from four matches, Real Kashmir FC will seek full points against bottom-placed Indian Arrows when the two sides face each other in an I-League game here on Thursday.

After being held to back-to-back draws by Sudeva FC and Gokulam Kerala, Real Kashmir find themselves at fifth spot on the I-League table. The title contenders are five points adrift of leaders Churchill Brothers, but a win on Thursday would help them close the gap.

Speaking at the official pre-match press conference, RKFC coach David Robertson said his side would aim for a win.

"It will not be a walk in the park for us. Arrows are a very difficult team to face because they keep going throughout the match. We expect nothing less than a tough game tomorrow," Robertson said.

"We have given few chances to the opponents to score in the season but we need to make the most of our chances in front of goal. We need to be more clinical and now we have to pick up points," he added.

The Arrows have shown their fighting spirit in a narrow 0-1 loss to Chennai City FC. The developmental team of the All India Football Federation has not given an inch to their opponents over the course of the season though they have just one point to show from previous five matches.

Coach Venkatesh Shanmugam said, "We have been consistently improving during the season and there are still some areas where we have to do better. "We are looking for a positive result tomorrow but we know that Real Kashmir are a tough side. They are very good physically and it will be a challenging game for us. I want to see good football being played by my team with confidence."



Cricket Australia To Grant NOC To IPL-Bound Players On Case-By-Case Basis

Press Trust of India

MELBOURNE: Cricket Australia on Wednesday said it will grant No Objection Certificates to its Indian Premier League-bound players on a "case-by-case" basis, a day after it had postponed the national team's tour of South Africa due to fresh COVID-19 outbreak in that country.

Even though the IPL-bound Australian cricketers are sweating over their participation in the 14th edition of the cash-rich league, to be held in India in the second week of April, players' agents have indicated that unless there are injury concerns, there should not be any issue in granting NOCs as the event will be organised during CA's official break.

"We have, obviously, got precedent on that from the IPL last year. We have got, obviously, the IPL, if you like, (has) proven its bio-security protocols," CA interim CEO Nick Hockley was quoted as saying by 'Sydney Morning Herald'.

"As and when applications are made,

we will consider each of those case-by-case, on their merits," he added.

Although it has postponed the Test tour of South Africa, CA has confirmed that there would be no changes in the Twenty20 squad, which will travel to New Zealand this month for a five-match series without the likes off Steve Smith, David Warner, Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins.

A total of 19 Australian players participated in the recent IPL which was held in a bio-secure environment in the UAE due to the pandemic.

But nine Australian players, including white-ball captain Aaron Finch, Smith and Glenn Maxwell have been released by their respective franchises and will be up for grabs in the February 18 IPL auction.

Although the dates of next IPL are yet to be finalised, it has been learnt that the BCCI is keen to start the tournament from the second week of April. The event is expected to be played in a stringent bio-secure environment with the matches confined to a limited number of venues.

....PAK VS SA 2ND TEST

Pakistan Captain Babar Azam Hopes For A Dry Wicket In 2nd Test Against South Africa

Agencies

RAWALPINDI: Babar Azam expects a repeat of the first test dry pitch when Pakistan takes on South Africa in the second test on Thursday.

Babar, Pakistan's captain in his first test series, needs at least a draw in the second test to secure Pakistan's first test series win against South Africa in 18 years.

Pakistan's only test series win against the Proteas was in 2003 at home.

"We will be more focused and will try to get the result in our favor," Babar told reporters during a virtual press conference on Wednesday.

Pakistan made a grand recovery from 27-4 through century-maker Fawad Alam in the first test to beat the Proteas by seven wickets inside four days.

On a dry wicket at Karachi, spinners Nauman Ali, who was playing in his first test match, and Yasir Shah, an experienced leggie, shared 14 wickets in between them.

"The wicket here looks similar to the one in Karachi, except that the conditions will be much cooler," Babar said.

"There's no need of a fourth fast bowler as the wicket looks dry."

The Pakistan captain hinted that he didn't see any change in the playing XI for the second test, barring some drastic change in the conditions before the toss.

"You never know the weather in Rawalpindi, if it gets more cloudy and overcast tomorrow, then we will see," he said.

Babar was aware that Pakistan has a great opportunity to clinch the series and



said the win at Karachi has given the team enough confidence for the second test.

"We gained a lot of confidence from the victory in the first test, but we can't take them lightly and we know they can bounce back," he said.

South African top order batsmen struggled against the spin in both innings with Nauman and Shah extracting assistance from the bowlers' rough mark from both ends.

Aiden Markram and Rassie van der Dussen showed some resilience in the second innings and even overhauled Pakistan's huge first innings lead of 155 before Nauman bagged his maiden five-wicket haul and Shah picked up four wickets which left Pakistan to chase only 88 runs.

South Africa opener Dean Elgar has recovered from a bruised hand while wrist spinner Tabraiz Shamsi could come into

the side after he was ruled out at the last minute due to back spasm.

Captain Quinton de Kock had two below-par knocks, while experienced Faf du Plessis clearly struggled to negotiate the spin of Shah and could score only 23 and 10.

And de Kock knows his batsmen have to do better than the two scores of 220 and 245 at Karachi.

"We did let ourselves down in the first innings, (and) that was the point in the game where we let ourselves down the most," de Kock had said after the first test.

Both teams are out of the ICC World Test Championship final race at Lord's in June. Pakistan is No. 5 while South Africa slipped to No. 6 after losing the first test.

New Zealand has already qualified for the final with England, India and Australia all in the running for the remaining spot.

My Job Is To Take Back Seat And Help Virat: Ajinkya Rahane

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: As captain, he was at the forefront of India's epic triumph in Australia, but Ajinkya Rahane would prefer to take a back seat while lending a helping hand to the returning Virat Kohli in the high-octane Test series against England.

Rahane, who led India to their greatest overseas Test series victory in Australia recently, also said that there is no room for complacency against a quality side like England in the series, starting here on Friday.

The upcoming matches will decide New Zealand's opposition in the World Test Championship final at Lord's in June.

"My job is to take a back seat and help Virat. My job is really easy now. When Virat asks me about anything, I will tell him. Virat was the captain and he came back for family reasons. So I was the captain in Australia."

He didn't want to dwell on India being favourites to reach the final of WTC.

"The WTC final is three-four (five) months from now. The focus should be on present series. New Zealand played really well and deserved to be in the



said that the Australian series win for him is a thing of past.

"Australia is past. We are in present. We respect the England side which has won a Test series in Sri Lanka. We want to play good brand of cricket and we are not taking anything for granted," said Rahane.

He didn't want to dwell on India being favourites to reach the final of WTC.

"The WTC final is three-four (five) months from now. The focus should be on present series. New Zealand played really well and deserved to be in the

final. For us, it will be about taking one game at a time."

While he didn't spell out anything about team combination, the vice-captain did drop a hint that Chepauk will be a spinner-friendly surface.

"We will decide on the playing combination after tomorrow's training," he said when asked if left-arm orthodox spinner Axar Patel will be handed a Test debut.

"The Indian wickets always have something for spinners. We will back our strength. Let's wait and see," he said.

MY JOB IS TO TAKE A BACK SEAT and help Virat. My job is really easy now. When Virat asks me about anything, I will tell him. Virat was the captain and he came back for family reasons. So I was the captain in Australia."

Man United Defeat Southampton 9-0 To Tie With PL's Biggest Ever Win

Agencies

MANCHESTER: Manchester United beat nine-man Southampton 9-0 to tie the biggest margin of victory in a Premier League match.

It came 15 months after Southampton lost by the same score line at home to Leicester, for the heaviest-ever home defeat.

Southampton had 19-year-old midfielder Alexandre Jankewitz sent off after 82 seconds and was trailing 6-0 when Jan Bednarek also received a red card for a foul on Anthony Martial in the penalty area in the 86th.

United scored three more late goals and matched its biggest-ever win in the Premier League, having also beaten Ipswich 9-0 in 1995.

"What can I say? It is horrible," Southampton manager Ralph Hasenhuttl said.

"But we stood up after the first 9-0 and we have to do that again.

"I said at the time we do not need it again, but when we have it again you have to take it."

United moved level on points with first-place Manchester City, behind only on goal difference.

Aaron Wan-Bissaka, Marcus Rashford and Edinson Cavani added to the own-goal by Bednarek as United went into halftime 4-0 ahead. Martial replaced Cavani for the second



half and scored twice, with Scott McTominay, Bruno Fernandes and Daniel James also netting.

"It's easy to take your foot off the gas but we didn't want to do that," Rashford said.

"We went out in the second half the same as the first.

"The half first set the tone for us but it's about keeping a positive attitude and keep scoring goals."

United's goal difference is now +19, only five less than City's.

One more goal would have tied United's club record, a 10-0 victory over Anderlecht in the European Cup in 1956.

'I Would Love To Be Part of England's T20 World Cup Squad,' Says Joe Root

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: England's Test captain Joe Root wants to be in the squad for the upcoming T20 World Cup though he understands it is not going to be a cakewalk for one of the country's finest batsmen in the game's traditional format.

Root will be appearing in his 100 Test when he leads England in the series opening match against India from Friday.

The focus, for now, is the four-match Test series but the technically sound Root has not given up on his T20 ambitions, months after being ignored for a series against Australia

and hopefully, I can be a part of that squad," Root said on BBC's Test Match Special.

"... And if no then I will be backing those guys because it would be a huge achievement on the back of what we have achieved in 50 over world cup."

The T20 World Cup is scheduled to be held in India later this year.

The 30-year-old Root, one of the world's best batsmen in Test cricket, has so far scored 893 runs in 32 T20 Internationals with five half centuries at a strike

rate of

126.3.

"Absolutely, I would love to be a part of that World Cup squad, I love playing all three formats, everything is a different challenge," Root said.

"I haven't had the opportunity to play a huge amount of T20 games in the last few years, but I am also aware of the guys who are playing some amazing cricket, they are brilliant players and fully deserve their chance.

"But if I get an opportunity, all I can do is try to score as many runs as I can when it comes to T20 games."

Root, who has notched up very impressive numbers in Test cricket, in which he averages nearly 50, says doesn't really lose his sleep over statistics.

"I have never really been one for numbers, I have been more about winning games and obviously if you are scoring big runs you are helping the team.

"More important is how many games

you can really affect and home many games you can contribute and help England win. That's always been my mindset, that will always be my mindset.

"Of course, at the end of my career, I will probably look at things slightly differently, but for now all I am concerned about is doing my part for the team and score as many runs as I can."

Though he is on the verge of completing a century of Test matches, Root plans to carry on for a long time, taking inspiration from veterans James Anderson and Stuart Broad.

"At the moment, the way I see things, is that I want to play as long as possible, I can't see where it's going to stop.

"The way Jimmy and Broady keep going and get better and better, they are an inspiration for someone like me. Hopefully that fire, that drive stays there in me and I can keep going."

Root, who made his Test debut in India during England's memorable series triumph in 2012, recalled his first day in the game in Nagpur.

"Once I walked out, I completely forgot the situation of the game and the magnitude of it.

"I was just so overwhelmed and happy and enjoying that moment, to get opportunities for England, play Test cricket, to be walking up to Kevin Pietersen at the other end, I just couldn't stop smiling.

"I just took a little bit time to refocus, to stop thinking that Sachin Tendulkar stood at mid-off, and Kevin Pietersen watching at the other end, just really focussed on the job in hand, and thankfully, I managed to stay there for some time and help us get across the line."



کینسر سوسائٹی آف کشمیر

کینسر سے بچنے کیلئے احتیاتی تدابیر

- 1 سگریٹ و تبا کو نوشی سے پرہیز کریں
- 2 شراب و دیگر نشا آور دوائیات کا استعمال بند کریں۔
- 3 زیادہ چربی و دروغنیات کے استعمال سے اجتناب کریں۔
- 4 اہل طبی ہوئی کوڑک اور تیز چائے استعمال نہ کریں۔
- 5 تیز مصالحات، مرچ و وغیرہ کا استعمال نہ کریں۔
- 6 گوشت کا استعمال کم کریں۔
- 7 قبل از وقت کینسر کی جانچ کے لئے جتنے بھی علامات اگر کسی فرد میں عیاں ہوں تو فوراً ماہر ڈاکٹر کی صلاح لی جائے۔
- 9 خود بھی احتیاطی تدابیر پر عمل پیرا ہوں اور دوسروں کو بھی اس پر عمل کرانے کی ہدایت دیں۔
- 10 کینسر کے متعلق جانکاری رکھیں اور دوسروں کو بھی بیماری کے متعلق جانکاری دیں۔
- 11 غیر ضروری اور بار بار ایکس رے نہ کروائے جائیں۔
- 12 اپنے بچوں کا تختہ کریں۔
- 13 مائیں بچوں کو صرف اپنا دودھ پلائیں۔

نوٹ : کینسر میں مبتلا افراد کا خاص خیال رکھیں

کینسر کی نشانیاں اور علامات

- مندرجہ ذیل علامات میں سے کوئی بھی علامت کینسر ہو سکتی ہے۔
- 1 پستانوں یا بھتیجی میں گلی کی پیدائش ہونا۔
 - 2 خوش غذا نکلنے میں دشواری آنا، وزن کم ہونا، جھوک کم لگنا۔
 - 3 بد بھتیجی ہونا یا آنسوؤں کی روزمرہ کی عادت میں تبدیلی آنا یا مسٹھا
 - 4 اچانک دائمی قبض یا دائمی اسہال کا نمودار ہونا۔
 - 5 مسلسل کھانسی رہنا اور سگریٹ و تبا کو پینے والے کی آواز میں تبدیلی آنا یا جھوک کے ساتھ خون آنا۔
 - 5 جلد، منہ یا جسم کے کسی بھی دہانے (Orrifice) سے رخم گلتے کے بغیری خون جاری ہونا۔
 - 6 کوئی بھی رخم (Ulcer) جو ٹھیک نہیں ہو رہا ہو۔
 - 7 نمبا سے (Wart) یا بٹل (Mole) میں نمایاں تبدیلی آنا۔

نوٹ :

یاد رہے : سگریٹ اور تبا کو نوشی سے منہ، مقل، خوراک کی نالی، معدہ، پیچیدہ رول کا کینسر ہوتا ہے۔

نذید جانکاری کے لئے کینسر سوسائٹی آف کشمیر سے رابطہ قائم کریں

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