

Maximum : 11.9°
Minum : -2.0°
Humidity : 89%
SUNSET
Today 06:10 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 07:22 AM

P3 NEWS

20 GOVT SCHOOLS TO BE DEVELOPED ON MODERN LINES: CITY MAYOR

In order to review the status of transfer of 83 primary schools to SMC under 74th Constitutional Amendment Act along with posts, institutions, functions, and funds to...

P5 THINK

HEALTH FOR THE AGING POPULATION

Traditionally, older adults are taken care of by their families. However, because of the changing gender roles, employment of women, erosion of traditional family...



07 STATE

DIV COM REVIEWS PROGRESS ON MANASBAL LAKE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole today chaired a meeting...



Widom Quote!

Knowledge speaks, but wisdom listens
— Jimi Hendrix

DIGEST

J&K Logs 43 New Covid-19 Cases

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 43 new COVID-19 cases on Monday, taking the infection tally to 1,24,952, officials said. No fresh COVID-19 death was reported in the last 24 hours, they said. Of the new cases, seven were from the Jammu division and 36 from the Kashmir division, officials said. Srinagar district recorded the highest 20 cases, including two travellers. » More On P2

Cross-Border Firing In Kathua

JAMMU: Pakistani Rangers opened fire on forward posts and villages along the International Border in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Monday. The firing from across the border in Karol Krishna border outpost area started around 10:20 pm Sunday, prompting strong retaliation by the Border Security Force (BSF), the officials said. They said the cross-border firing between the two sides continued till 5 am but » More On P2

Uri Youth Dies Of Burn Injuries

SRINAGAR: A youth on Monday died after suffering serious burn injuries in a fire incident in Uri town of Baramulla district. 25-year-old Sajid Ahmad died at Srinagar's SMHS hospital on Monday afternoon, a day after he received serious burn injuries in a fire incident in Sultankadi area of Uri, reports said. Besides Ahmad, four other people identified as Abdul Rasheed, his wife » More On P2

Four Gamblers Held In Pulwama: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Monday claimed to have arrested four gamblers in a raid in Khrew area south Kashmir's Pulwama district. Acting on an input, police raided Mandakpal village of Khrew on and arrested four gamblers from the spot, a police spokesperson said Monday. He said besides playing cards, an amount of Rs 18120 was recovered from the alleged gamblers. The police spokesperson identified the accused as Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Khanday, » More On P2

Revenue Officials, Lawyer Booked For 'Fraud'

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Police crime branch registered a case against several revenue officials and a lawyer on Monday for their alleged involvement in misappropriation of the property of the Rajiv Gandhi trust here, an official said. The case was registered under relevant sections of the law against three revenue officials and the lawyer who is also executor of the trust, besides several other people, a spokesperson of the » More On P2

RS Approves Bill To Merge J&K Cadre With AGMUT



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Rajya Sabha on Monday cleared The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2021 that seeks to replace the ordinance to merge the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) cadre of civil services officer with the Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre. The bill was introduced in the Upper House of the Parliament

last week and it was approved with voice vote before Rajya Sabha chairman and Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu.

"The complete integration of both UTs along with one nation one constitution, holistic development and public welfare are being ensured at each level. Through amendment of this bill, the merger of J&K cadre with AGMUT cadre is an important step in that direction," Minister of State » More On P2

Azad Doubts Govt's Intention Over J&K Statehood

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Questioning the ruling NDA on whether it wanted permanent UT status for Jammu and Kashmir, Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad on Monday batted for restoration of its statehood, saying development had halted, there was an increase in unemployment and industries were closing, making survival difficult in the region.

The former Jammu and

Kashmir chief minister said, "I want to ask Home Minister Amit Shah if the present cadre was working well then what was the need to merge it? You had promised that the statehood will be restored....But bringing this bill creates suspicion that Govt wants to keep J&K permanently a union territory."

Opposing the Statutory Resolution and Legislative Business (Bill for Consideration and Passing) - the Jammu and Kashmir (Amendment) Bill 2021 as » More On P2



PM Praises Azad, Slams Congress

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday lauded Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad for praising the conduct of elections in Jammu and Kashmir and took a swipe at his party's leadership, saying he hoped it will take Azad's remarks in the right spirit and not do something to the contrary by mistaking them as "advice of G-23". His reference was to the internal rift in the opposition » More On P2

'Speedy Development Work Underway In J&K'

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy on Monday said speedy developmental work has been underway in the newly-constituted Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in the last two years, but the set target could not be achieved due to COVID-19 pandemic. Asserting that "revolutionary and historical decisions" have been taken for the development of the Union territory, the minister said in Rajya Sabha that » More On P2



Basharat Ahmad Zargar

...UTTARAKHAND MISHAP

Mystery Continues Over Missing Kashmiri Engineer

Auguib Javeed

SRINAGAR: Barely 24 hours after he saw a gigantic avalanche ravaging the power project site in Uttarakhand where his father had gone for the spot inspection, Saliq Zargar embarked on the journey to trace his missing father.

"We are yet to receive a word about his whereabouts from his

company," Uttarakhand-bound Saliq told Kashmir Observer.

"They told us that we have sent our team but they are yet to reach the spot."

Basharat Ahmad Zargar, a Kashmiri engineer is among hundreds of people who went missing following a glacier burst in Uttarakhand state in northern India on Sunday morning. » More On P2

530 Vacancies In Education Dept: Govt

Agencies

SRINAGAR: As many as 530 departmental posts are lying vacant in the School Education Department, the government said on Monday. The multiple orders issued by the School Education Department reveal that at least 530 posts in the Department were lying vacant upto February-02-2021. "The school-wise » More On P2

Militants Escape Govt Forces Dragnet In Anantnag



The Govt forces have increased random security checks and frisking in Srinagar in wake of recent militant attacks: KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Unidentified militants on Monday gave slip to government forces after a brief gunfight in Khanabal area of Anantnag district.

Around 11:00 am Monday, police, army's 3 RR and CRPF laid a siege around Matipora village of Khanabal and launched a combing operation to flush out militants present in » More On P2

BSF Shoots 'Intruder' Along Samba Border

An unidentified Pakistani intruder was shot dead by the Border Security Force (BSF) along the India-Pakistan international border in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district on Monday, officials said. Inspector General of BSF, Jammu frontier, N S Jamwal said » More On P2

46 Security Men Killed In Pak Firing Last Year

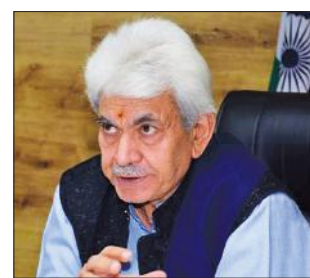
Pakistan resorted to 5,133 incidents of ceasefire violations last year in which 46 security force personnel were killed, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday, referring to Pakistani hostilities along the Line of Control and » More On P2

Govt Opening Up New Avenues For J&K Youth: LG

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Monday that the objective of his government is to create a strong environment for professional and technical skill development in the Union Territory by encouraging entrepreneurship with progress, expansion and fulfilling the aspirations of the youth.

Speaking after the launch of



Livelihood Generation Training Program in Banking, Financial Services and » More On P2

ARMS LICENCE CASE

Suspended IAS Officer Reinstated

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The government on Monday ordered the reinstatement of Kumar Rajeev Ranjan (IAS) who was last year detained by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in an arms licensing case.

Immediately after his detention by the CBI, the government had ordered Ranjan's suspension with effect from February 29 last year. Ranjan was then posted as Additional Chief Executive Officer, Metropolitan Regulatory Authority, Jammu and was also holding the additional charge of Vice-Chairman, Jammu Development Authority (JDA). » More On P2

Weather Shows Marked Improvement In Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: There was an improvement in the cold conditions in Kashmir as the minimum temperature increased across the valley on Monday, while it settled below the freezing point at all weather stations, officials said.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 2 degrees Celsius last night, up from the previous night's minus 3.6 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of minus 5.5 degrees Celsius, up from the previous

night's low of minus 6.3 degrees Celsius, they said.

Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 5.3 degrees Celsius, up from minus 7.5 degrees Celsius the previous night.

The minimum temperature at the Gulmarg skiing resort, in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, settled at minus 2.5 degrees Celsius last night, an increase of four degrees from the previous night, the officials said.

They said the night temperature at the resort was 4.2 degrees above normal for this time of the season.

Kupwara town » More On P2



Consistent frigid temperatures have turned famous Drang waterfall near Tangmarg into an icy wall attracting hordes of visitors to watch the nature's spectacle. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

KASHMIR In Capital: 'Masterpieces' Of Valley In Delhi

Romaan Arora

Rambling in Lajpat Nagar of New Delhi introduced me to several shops owned by a successful Kashmiri business class. To my luck, the variety of different Kashmiri handicrafts instilled in each shop made me come across Sajad Enterprises, a renowned Kashmiri Papier Mache seller in Delhi.

Syed Sajad, now 61, came to the capital 30 years back to build a home outside home.

"When the banks became non-functional in 1990, I made my

decision to move out," said Sajad, sitting calmly on his desk.

"Also, I had 250 artisans to take care of. Hadn't I moved out of the troubled home at that time, all the 250 artisans, along with their families, would have rendered jobless," he added.

However, his family wasn't fond of his decision, and his parents always insisted upon staying back in the valley and eating at the same dining table.

"It was a taste of life," said Sajad, while referring to working in Kashmir, which he did for around eight-ten years. For him, just like other Kashmiris in Delhi, working

in the valley is more of working at home, in a mesmerizing lovely atmosphere.

But, in the capital, things were different. Hot weather, unfamiliar faces, and different cultural practices proved difficult to master.

Yet, there was always a reason for Sajad to spend most of his life in a foreign land. "In the very first year [in 1991] I came here, I was coming back to Nizamuddin from Rashtrapati Bhavan in my own car. Since I didn't know the route, I called another person in a car. But he didn't respond," he said.

Nonetheless, things changed in the blink of an eye.

"The moment I returned empty-handed from the first person, a Navy General came to me, breaking his protocol, and informed me about the path ahead in the politest manner one could imagine," he said.

This act of kindness made him steadfast upon the decision of establishing his commerce in Delhi.

However, it was Sajad's association with the union textile department that accorded him immense notability. It also earned him few trips to Europe to » More On P2



RS Approves Bill

for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy said in Rajya Sabha.

He said that the Constitution of India is now fully applicable in Jammu and Kashmir, and that the bill will enable availability of officers in Jammu and Kashmir who have experience of running union territory administration.

He said around 170 central laws are being implemented in Jammu and Kashmir.

“For smooth implementation of these laws, application of schemes and effective execution of projects and for better strength of cadre, officers with experience of UT administration are very important.

“Through merger of J&K cadre with AGMUT Cadre, services of All India Services officers of AGMUT cadre can be taken in Jammu and Kashmir union territory,” Reddy said.

Participating in the debate, BJP leader Shamsher Singh Manhas said no development could take place earlier despite maximum central funds going to Kashmir as compared to Jammu, Leh and Ladakh.

However after the union territory was made, the situation in the region was improving as there was peace there and developmental works were underway, he said.

But to carry forward the development work in a speedy manner, more officers are required and the bill aims to achieve this purpose, he added.

Sharing similar views, BJD leader Amar Patnaik said that the bill aims to solve the issue of All India Service officers in the two new UTs. It is not the first time such a bifurcation is happening. It was done earlier too, when the states were divided into smaller states, he said.

J&K PDP leader Mir Mohammad Fayaz expected the return of the earlier status in the region instead of the bill.

Azad Doubts Govt's

the first speaker, Azad said it was perhaps his last speech in the House and he didn't want to use harsh language but contrary to the government's tall promises behind converting J&K into UT, development had been stalled, industry couldn't enter and unemployment was on the rise.

Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy had earlier moved a motion for considering the bill and a statutory resolution on the draft law in Rajya Sabha.

The senior Congress leader said Article 370 had only two conditions outsiders couldn't buy land or work there which had been in place since the time of Raja Hari Singh.

Saying that only small chunks of land were there due to the region being mountainous and full of forests, he said on scrapping of Article 370 many MPs were elated to buy land but he had told them that land was too costly there and “even I couldn't afford to buy” it.

The earlier law ensured locals had jobs but now no new industries were coming up and even existing firms were shutting operations, he said, adding seven districts out of 10 in Jammu province had no industry and no proper rail connectivity.

“No new industry is coming up at present... Of the 12,997 industries in Jammu, only 5,890 are functional, while 7,160 i.e. 60 per cent are closed... development remains stalled... It is only on TV and not on roads,” he said.

The condition of national highways is dilapidated and ceasefire violations have risen causing severe damage to land and property, he said and added that water supply was in shambles, while power tariff had risen abnormally to Rs 350 per unit from Rs 90 per unit.

Tourism had taken a toll on account of months-long curfew earlier and then due to COVID-19 pandemic, schools, colleges and universities were closed and no salaries were being given to teachers.

Had there been elected representatives they could have taken responsibility and addressed the issues, he said.

Drawing Home Minister Amit Shah's attention towards PhD and MPhil qualified 3,000 teachers, he said they were living from hand to mouth, barely being given Rs 3,000 a month and were on probation for 7 years. He said no where does this happen.

“Give attention to such issues ...probation happens for six months...Had there been Assembly they should have gone there with their plight but they are forced to come to me...they can't afford milk for infants on such a meagre salary,” Azad said.

He said likewise 15,000 medical assistants and pharmacists were jobless.

“Give statehood and conduct elections,” Azad demanded and said it is a border region and both the enemies -- Pakistan and China -- are sitting on our heads, and under the circumstance the government should strive to win the hearts of locals and strengthen its hands.

He said people of Kashmir had always been with India and recalled how Kashmiris, including women and children, resisted Pakistan's bid to capture the region in 1948, till the Indian Army reached there.

Azad also said that though it was Muslim-majority state, the executive remained largely Hindus and urged the government not make “Kashmir a guinea pig for experiments.”

While participating in the debate, BJP's Dushyant Gautam said that political parties in the state were exploiting the people under the guise of Article 370.

AIADMK's A Navaneethakrishnan said the state requires more all India services cadre officers to implement the development schemes in the Union Territory.

“It is for a good purpose ... these amendments have been brought on. I welcome it and support this bill,” he said, adding that considering it is a border state, with threats from Pakistan and China, J&K should remain under the direct control of the Union Government.

Manoj Kumar Jha of RJD wanted to know whether the changes proposed under the bill were temporary or permanent in nature. He also wanted to know from the government whether there had been any increase in fresh recruitment in militancy in the valley after the change of J&K's status.

Ashok Siddharth of BSP also supported the bill, however, said earlier 50 per cent of the state cadre KAS officials were elevated to IAS cadre but after this, their elevation would be reduced to only 33 per cent and this should be looked into.

Sushil Kumar Gupta of AAP said the government should take steps to normalise the situation in J&K and restore its full statehood as promised earlier.

PM Praises Azad,

Congress and the group of 23 leaders (G-23) who had written to party chief Sonia Gandhi demanding an organisational overhaul, including elections to party posts and a full-time and active president.

Azad, the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, was among the letter writers who had triggered a storm in the Congress with their step and had

drawn a sharp reaction from Gandhi loyalists. His Rajya Sabha tenure will end on February 15.

“Ghulam Nabi ji has praised the elections for panchayats, BDCs (block development councils) and DDC (district development councils) held recently in Jammu and Kashmir and I am grateful to him for doing so.

“But I also fear on this praise showered on me. I am confident that people in your party will take this in the right spirit and not mistake it as the advice of ‘G-23’ to do something opposite,” the prime minister said while replying to the debate on the motion of thanks on the President's address in the Upper House.

He said he has heard Azad, who is very polite and soft-spoken and has never used a foul word that could hurt anyone. He said that has been his specialty and “I feel all Parliamentarians need to learn that from him. I respect him a lot”.

“He praised the recent elections that have taken place in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that Jammu and Kashmir is very dear to him, just as it is for every Indian who keeps Jammu and Kashmir very close to heart. Our effort is to make Jammu and Kashmir ‘aatmanirbhar’ (self-sufficient),” Modi said.

Before Azad, the prime minister singled out another Congress leader Partap Singh Bajwa.

“Bajwa sahab from Congress was also speaking. He was speaking in such detail that I thought he will talk about the Emergency (period) soon as he was just one step away from it. But he did not go there. The Congress disappoints this country a lot, you did that too,” Modi said.

The prime minister's reply lasted for over an hour, after a 15-hour discussion dominated by the farmers' agitation and the farm laws.

‘Speedy Development

Kashmir will be connected by train by December 2022 and an elevated light rail system is also being planned in the region.

He said 100 per cent piped water connection to 80.16 lakh rural households will be provided by September 2022 in the region.

“Since the last two years, speedy development is happening in Jammu and Kashmir, when compared to the last 70 years. Both the Centre and the J&K government are trying to develop the region and will do more. Due to coronavirus, we could not reach the set target,” Reddy said in reply to a debate on J&K Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill in Rajya Sabha.

After his reply, the Upper House passed the bill which seeks to replace an ordinance issued in January with an aim to merge the Jammu and Kashmir cadre of IAS, IPS and IFS with the Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, and Union Territory cadre, also known as AGMUT cadre.

The MoS asserted that all major projects are on track in Jammu and Kashmir, and bottlenecks have been removed.

Highlighting the major steps taken in the region, Reddy said the foremost is the municipal polls in rural and urban bodies.

The District Development Council polls were completed successfully. There was 74 per cent voters' participation in rural bodies elections, while 98 per cent in block development council polls that were held post independence for the first time, he said.

Not only elections were held, local bodies were strengthened giving them the responsibility of midday meal scheme, Anganwadi programme and MGNREGA, he said, adding that grievances boxes were also installed in panchayats.

The minister further said gazetted officers have been asked to visit villages for two days as part of ‘Back to Villages’ programme to review development activities and address grievances of villages. Similarly in urban areas, ‘My town and My pride’ programme is being implemented.

Stating that about 54 per cent of work has been completed under the PM's Development package for J&K, he said about 20 projects, including central and UT projects, have been executed. Eight more projects are likely to be completed by the end of the financial year, he said.

Among other steps taken, Reddy said the 359-metre-high Chenab bridge work is underway and will be completed by next year.

In the power sector too, he said the government has started many works and an action plan has been made for creating additional capacity of nearly 3,498 mega watt (MW) by 2055.

In the last two years alone, projects above 300 MW were revived and put on track. About 330 MW new projects will be kickstarted and an MoU was signed by NHPC in January this year. Four projects worth Rs 34,882 crore will also be launched, he said.

That apart, J&K has achieved 100 per cent electrification, including in border villages. About 3.57 lakh beneficiaries have been covered under the ‘Saubhagya’ scheme, the minister added.

Militants Escape

the village, reports said. The militants, the reports said, opened fire upon the search team when the search operation began.

A local news agency GNS quoted an unnamed police official as saying that there was a brief encounter between militants and the joint team around 11 hours.

“There was a lull following which massive searches were launched,” the official said, adding that there was no second contact established with militants nor any one was arrested, suggesting that the militant fled from the spot.

Earlier, The Northern Command of the Indian Army tweeted that a “speculative search operation” was launched in the area, some 5 kilometres from Khanabal town followed by a round of fire by the troops at 1100 hours. The army said suspected militants fired back at 115 hours.

BSF Shoots ‘Intruder’

the intruder could be a militant guide who had come for a reconnaissance or was carrying something to deliver on this side of the border. The incident took place near the Chak Faqira border post (border pillar no 64) in the Samba sector around 9:45 am, they said. Jamwal said it was around 2.30 am that the alert BSF personnel noticed suspicious movement and kept a close watch on the intruder who hid himself in the bushes.

Again at around 9.45 am, he started moving aggressively towards the border fence and was repeatedly warned by the sentry who fired a few rounds, he told reporters, adding that the intruder was hit and killed.

The spot where the body was found is around 40 metres from the International Border (IB) on the Indian side, officials said.

Samba and Kathua sectors along the international border (IB) in Jammu are witness to repeated infiltration attempts (by militants). This is the same area where an underground tunnel was detected in August and an intruder was shot dead on November

23 last year, the IG BSF said.

The senior official said the force was waiting for the investigation report to know exact details of the incident.

We are waiting for police and Pakistani rangers for a thorough search of the area. He could be a guide or had come for a recce or deliver something on this side. Things will be clear after the investigation, he added.

46 Security Men Killed

International Border in Jammu and Kashmir.

In replying to a question in Rajya Sabha, the defence minister said “appropriate retaliation” to the ceasefire violations, as required, has been carried out by the security forces.

“In addition, all violations of ceasefire are taken up with Pakistan authorities at the appropriate level through the established mechanism of hotlines, flag meeting as well as weekly talks between the director generals of military operations of the two countries,” Singh said.

“Diplomatically, India has repeatedly emphasised at the highest level, the need for Pakistan to uphold the sanctity of the Line of Control and the International Border as its obligations emanating from the understanding in vogue,” he said.

The defence minister said 299 incidents of ceasefire violations were reported till January 28 this year.

According to official data, the number of ceasefire violations by Pakistan in 2019 was 3,233.

Notwithstanding the coronavirus pandemic in the region, Pakistan has been resorting to unprovoked ceasefire violations along the LoC and making concerted efforts to push militants into Kashmir.

To a separate question on whether a proposal to develop indigenous conventional submarine was approved, Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik in a written answer said the information is sensitive in nature and its disclosure is not in the interest of national security.

Replying to another question, he said the recently held Malabar naval exercise enhanced synergy, interoperability and coordination between the participating nations.

“The exercise highlights the convergence of views among the participating countries on maritime issues, and their shared commitment to an open, inclusive Indo-Pacific and a rules-based international order,” Naik said.

In the midst of growing concerns over China's military muscle-flexing in the Indo-Pacific region, India hosted the Malabar naval exercise in November last. Following India's invitation, Australia also participated in the exercise effectively making it a drill by all the Quad member nations.

The Quad, comprising India, the US, Australia and Japan, is aimed at ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific. The Malabar exercise was seen as a prelude to future military cooperation among the Quad member nations. (PTI)

Mystery Continues

A resident of Soura area of Srinagar, Zargar was working in a privately-owned Rishi Ganga power project (130 Mw), which is on the upper stream of the Alaknanda river site and was the first to face the brunt of the avalanche.

Zargar went missing after a glacier near Raini village above Rishiganga river in Uttarakhand burst.

“At sharp 10:28 am on Sunday, we spoke to him,” Zargar's brother Muneer Ahmad told Kashmir Observer. “He was doing fine but as soon as we heard the news of the glacier burst, we tried to enquire about his well-being but his phone was switched-off.”

Muneer said his brother was staying in New Delhi along with his wife and was on an official trip to the power project site in Uttarakhand.

Zargar, according to Muneer, was project engineer at the company.

Currently, a joint team of the ITBP, Indian Army, SDRF and NDRF has mounted a massive rescue mission to breach a tunnel in Tapovan where 39 people, including plant workers and senior officials, are stuck.

The flow and debris from the river merged with that from the Dhauligangariver and damaged the under-construction Vishnugad hydro power project of India's largest power generation utility in the Tapovan area.

At least 15 people have died due to the flooding caused by the glacier burst and close to 150 people are still missing.

An operation to rescue people trapped in a tunnel near the Tapovan dam is currently underway and heavy machinery is being used to clear the debris.

Meanwhile, Deepak Katiyar, Managing Director (MD) in Kundan Group, told Kashmir Observer that the rescue operation is going on a war-footing and they are hopeful that their men are safe and sound.

“We are aware that one Kashmiri engineer along with our four employees are trapped inside the rubble,” Katiyar said.

“The rescue operation is going on,” he added, “we are trying our best to save them.”

Aamir Ali, Director Disaster Management J&K, told Kashmir Observer that they are yet to get the figures of people from Uttarakhand, who are still missing.

“But we are in touch with our counterparts there,” Ali said. “We have raised the queries of the missing Kashmiri engineer, however so far there is no response from them.”

Nasir Khuehami, a student activist present on the ground, said the missing Kashmiri engineer was working in Reshi Ganga Power project Chamoli when he spoke last time with family on phone.

“DIG Nilesan Anand who is heading the Control room of rescue and search operation told me that his phone is switched off,” Khuehami said. “Rescue operation is underway and we are trying to trace him.”

Amid all this, Saliq is getting worried about his father.

“We sent our friends to the spot to rescue my father,” he said, “but so far, we are yet to find any clue of him.”

530 Vacancies

vacancy position of headmasters as on February-02-2021 in ten districts of the valley is 329,” reads one of the orders.

The School Education Department also said that there are 32 positions of ZEPOs' at zonal level that are lying vacant, 22 Zonal Education Officers' (ZEO's) posts across the valley were also lying vacant.

The government orders further state that at least 149 vacancy positions of principals at district level and two deputy CEO's in Kulgam and Kupwara were also lying vacant.

In another order, the department said that five headquarter assistants as on February-02-2021 were also lying vacant—(Agencies)

Govt Opening

Insurance (BFSI) Sector envisaged under the MoU signed between Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and Mission Youth, J&K here on Monday, Sinha said that his government is opening up new employment avenues for J&K's youth in Banking & Financial Services sector, an official spokesperson said.

The LG, he said, observed that the Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) Sector has received a major boost due to consumers becoming more aware about various investment options.

“This has unleashed the vast potential of this sector for different sections of the society in J&K and elsewhere,” Sinha said, as per official spokesperson.

He further said that the LG underscored the significant opportunities being offered by the banking sector and said that various reforms have created an investor friendly environment and transformed the Banking sector into a critical part of the economy.

“Our youth needs to develop skills in Banking and Financial Sector to capitalize on vast opportunities,” LG said.

Addressing the shortlisted candidates for the Mutual Fund Advisors' Capsule course, the LG, as per official spokesperson said that the short term training programme will help them to begin their journey as entrepreneurs, thereby creating wealth for themselves and opportunities for many more youth.

“This is a lifetime opportunity for your career. Like a qualified professional, you need to understand the fund's purpose and specifics and know which fund matches the interest of the investor. Later on, the certificate required from the National Securities Markets Institute (NISM) will also help you in that,” Sinha said.

He also lauded the enthusiasm of some of the candidates who walked miles in minus seven degrees cold to appear in the interview. Sinha, the official spokesperson said, asked the training partners that after a week of training, they should also focus on apprenticeship for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, so that the transition of Training-to-Jobs can be completed easily.

Terming the training program as a golden opportunity for youth to realize their dreams and be part of Sustainable Livelihood Campaign to achieve peace, prosperity and profits, the LG, as per the official spokesperson said, “Today is a historic day for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. For the first time, a program of employment oriented training is being started in the Banking and Financial services sector, which itself is sufficient to reflect the multi-dimensional transformation happening in J&K”.

“Our objective is to create a strong environment for professional and technical skill development in J&K by encouraging entrepreneurship with progress, expansion and fulfilling the aspirations of the youth,” he added.

Calling upon the pioneers in BFSI sector, Sinha said that “70% of the population of Jammu and Kashmir is below 35 years of age.

“Our very large talent pool is ready for skill development related to Financial Education. You train them and provide them job according to their skill level. My focus is clear that the entire process of skill development should culminate into Jobs, not just limited to training and I want it to be embodied from the beginning of this first batch,” he said, as per the official spokesperson.

He said that sharing some major highlights of the budget of 2021, the LG said that reforms have been recommended in the financial sector, which is going to give a tremendous boost to Job opportunities.

“FDI limit in Insurance Sector has been increased from 49% to 74%, Bond Market will be promoted by creating a permanent Institutional Framework, Tax Incentives have been arranged for Investment Funds, Cooperative Banks have been given the facility to convert as Banking Company under RBI rules. Apart from this, according to the report of Economic Survey 2021, there has been a noticeable improvement in the banking sector and the NPA of Commercial Banks has come down from 8.2% to 7.5%,” Sinha said.

According to the official spokesperson, the LG observed that the government will continue to run institutional and employment oriented training programs in the UT through ‘Mission Youth’ to empower the new generation of J&K and prepare them for the future.

“The Training Program is aimed to re-skill and up-skill the youth for sustainable job opportunities through a multi-pronged strategy involving all necessary systematic interventions. J&K's young workforce will play a key role in economic growth and transformation of the UT,” Sinha said, as per the official spokesperson.

“In the changing global market after COVID-19, a special skill framework is now required to work with advanced technologies and properly exploit the diverse opportunities available under the ‘New Collar Job’. We have brought a new Industrial Scheme to revive the economy of Jammu and Kashmir. By bridging the gap between demand and supply of skilled workforce and strengthening the skill development ecosystem, we will provide employment opportunities to 80 percent of the youth in the next five years,” he added.

DP Singh, Chief Business Officer, SBI Mutual Fund delivered the welcome address and spoke on the huge potential and opportunities for youth to become wealth creators. Ashishkumar Chauhan, MD & CEO, BSE Ltd. explained the process and details of the training program.

Ambarish Datta, MD & CEO, BSEI Ltd., during his Vote of Thanks informed that after seeing a tweet by the Lt Governor on Mission Youth, SBI Mutual Fund decided to come on board for the training program.

Prominent among others, present on the occasion were Farooq Khan, Advisor to the Lt Governor; Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, CEO Mission Youth and other senior officers, the official spokesperson added.

Weather Shows

in north Kashmir recorded a low of minus 2.7 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag in the south touched minus 4.3 degrees Celsius.

The MET Office has said while the sky would be partly to generally cloudy on Monday, the weather is expected to stay mainly dry for the next one week.

Suspended IAS

“As recommended by the Review Committee constituted vide government order No. 885-JK (GAD) of 2020 dated 22.09.2020, suspension of Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, IAS, (JK:2010), is revoked and he is reinstated with immediate effect. His period of suspension shall be decided separately,” reads a government order issued here.

Consequently, Ranjan has been posted as Additional Secretary to the government, Revenue Department.

“he Shall also hold the charge of the post of Additional CEO, Jammu and Kashmir land records management agency (JaKLaRMA) in addition to his own duties,” the order added. (GNS)

KASHMIR In

promote the Kashmiri Handicrafts.

“My products are gems,” he continued. “They're masterpieces produced by masters of craftsmanship. It's all because of my premium quality products that I always find myself in good memories of my clientele.”

For Sajad, hard work is a synonym he attributes to himself. After all, it was his countless work period, irrespective of day and night, which earned him his name in the immeasurable market of India's capital.

“One day, an American client of mine was in Pakistan. He called me at 9:30 in the morning and told me that he would be in India by 11 o'clock. He asked me to pick him from hotel ‘Holiday Inn’ adjacent to the IGI Airport in Delhi,” he recalled.

Spending a whole day with this client, and selling him a huge quantity of his goods, made Sajad realize his value that he had earned through his excellent quality products.

“I was with him till four in the morning, and then I had to drive him back to the airport,” he recalled. “What a tiring day it was, and that too worth remembering.”

But, it was his client's smile and trust that compensated for his tiring day.

However, having a bad day is common to someone who belongs to the business class, and so was the case with Sajad.

He still remembers how he met some cheats who never paid him back. More often than not, these incidents worried him and made him think about winding his business in the capital.

But destiny had a different plan for him.

“GST was there, demonetization was there as well, and they created a hell lot of troubles. Yet both of them failed to jolt my roots. However, nowadays, things aren't moving in a perfect direction,” he said.

Half an hour into the conversation, we were joined by his better half, Afroz.

Hailing from Srinagar, Afroz informed us about the diminishing share of Papier Mache in their business.

“The art of Papier Mache once accounted for the highest share among our total products,” she said. “We've had customers from all across the world. It was a golden period.”

Over a period of last few years, its share in their overall product base has only dwindled. “I believe much of that has to do with the decreasing number of Papier Mache artists in Kashmir,” she said with a concerned look.

But despite all this, Sajad has cemented his place in the capital over the last three decades.

It was because of his experience that he sensed the abrogation of Article 370 in advance and moved out of the valley by the end of July 2019.

“I was there in Kashmir at that time,” he said. “Eid was near, and I had to clear Eid payment to my staff in Delhi and my artisans in Kashmir. The influx of further military made me smell the unease. The sooner I got the idea of what was going to happen, I left the valley.”

“Though we aren't always lucky enough,” added Afroz, while helping Sajad in recalling their joint memories of struggle. “Most of the time when there is some mishap in Kashmir, we bear the consequences, in the form of stoppage of procurement of our products. This leads to financial troubles. But, we have learned to live with it.”

Afroz mentioned a tragic fire incident in 1997, which gutted their warehouse in the Fateh Kadal area of Old Srinagar. It happened just one year after their marriage.

“We had half of our clothes in our wardrobe in Srinagar, something we found only after arriving in Delhi. Yet we had to leave our home in an emergency because of the prevailing conditions,” she recalled.

And since then, she said, “we are only trying to promote our artistic identity away from home.”

J&K Loses 43 New

While 12 districts did not report any new case, seven others had fresh cases in the single digits, they said.

The number of active cases stands at 593, while 1,22,415 patients have recovered so far, the officials said.

The COVID-19 death toll stands at 1,944, they added. (PTI)

Cross-Border

there was no report of any damage on the Indian side. (PTI)

Uri Youth Dies

Roshi Begum and their son Wahid Ahmad and Mafad Ahmad were injured when a hay-stock in the area caught fire.

The three members of the family, an official said, are under treatment at the hospital.

Four Gamblers

Umer Farooq Bhat, Showkat Ahmad Lone and Jan Mohammad Khanday.

“They have been arrested and shifted to PS Khrew where they remain in custody. Accordingly, a case FIR No. 05/2021 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Khrew and investigation has been initiated,” he added.

Revenue Officials

Jammu Crime Branch said.

Those named in the FIR include advocate Ashok Vijay Gupta, Girdwar deputy revenue officer Shiv Kumar and Jammu divisional commissioner Anwar Sadotra.

He said a complaint was lodged by Bhushan Gupta, stating that his father's cousin brother Himnishwar Gupta had executed a will deed of his properties before his death 26 years ago and nominated four close friends as

20 Govt Schools To Be Developed On Modern Lines: City Mayor

Sikh Delegation Calls On LG In Srinagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR:- In order to review the status of transfer of 83 primary schools to SMC under 74th Constitutional Amendment Act along with posts, institutions, functions, and funds to SMC the Mayor (MOS) of Srinagar city Junaid Azim Mattu on Monday convened a meeting with Director School Education Kashmir.

At the outset of meeting it was decided by Mayor that a four member team including FA CAO, Joint Commissioner Administration , Joint Commissioner

Works, Joint Commissioner Planning will be constituted to conduct survey of all the 83 primary schools that have been handed over to SMC in order to see the infrastructure, quantum of land available, human resource mechanism , and other aspects of these schools including the ratio of teachers and enrolment there of in every school in a phase wise manner..

Director School Education Kashmir ,Mohammad Younis Malik, who was present in the meeting updated that all these 83 primary schools have already

been identified along with the teachers in place and there will be one Chief Education officer Urban who would be deputed in SMC with regard to utilisation of different available funds to look after the education affairs under the administrative control of SMC for smooth and transparent functioning..

Mattu on the occasion stressed on identifying twenty such schools out of these 83 which could be turned into / presented as model schools in the city being fully equipped with latest infrastructure including clean toilets, safe drinking water, better buildings with gymnasiums, swimming pools, beautified gardens etc..

He said that every possible step will be taken to transform and upgrade these twenty schools in the first phase that will have all the facilities and smart education systems in place.

This may include everything from state of the art learning tools and technology to teachers with specialized depth of knowledge added Mattu.

Mattu has further directed that the four member Committee to be constituted will take up weekly meetings in order to work out an effective strategy for up gradation of the primary schools.



SRINAGAR: Several delegations including members of All Parties Sikh Coordination Committee (APSCC) and President JKWP today called on Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha here at Raj Bhavan.

A six-member delegation of All Parties Sikh Coordination Committee (APSCC) led by its Chairman Sh. Jagmohan Singh Raina apprised the Lt Governor about various issues pertaining to the welfare of Sikh community living in J&K, including the extension of the National Commission for Minorities Act to Jammu & Kashmir for the benefit of minority communities and a special job package for Sikh youth.

Similarly, Political activist and President, Jammu and Kashmir Workers Party (JKWP), Sh. Mir Junaid also called on Lt Governor and highlighted various important political and developmental issues related to

the welfare of the marginalized and underprivileged sections of the society.

The Lt Governor gave a patient hearing to the delegations and assured that all the genuine issues would be addressed meticulously.

He reassured that the UT administration is dedicated to equitable development and welfare of all sections of the society without discrimination.

He urged the members of the delegations to continue working towards promoting the welfare of the people

Meanwhile, a student namely Aayaat from Pampore also called on the Lt Governor and put forth various issues confronted by students like her.

The Lt Governor listened to all the issues and assured that all concerns with regard to students will be looked into on priority. He also wished her all the best for the future.

Director Agriculture Inspects Kitchen Garden, Lalmandi

SRINAGAR: The Director Agriculture, Kashmir, Mohammad Iqbal today inspected various procedures involved in raising of vegetable seedlings under controlled conditions, raising of vegetable seedlings in poly pouches and recently introduced growing of seedlings organically in coco peat trays at Kitchen Garden Lalmandi.

While interacting with the officers and officials of the scheme, the Director said that Hi-Tech and precision farming methods are being encouraged under a multiple strategy to promote kitchen gardening and to cover maximum area under vegetable cultivation in Kashmir valley.

He said that the Agriculture department has undertaken a Valley wide installation of the green house technology for protected cultivation of vegetable seedlings so as to enhance its production for meeting out the demands in the local market.

Iqbal said the Agriculture department is in mission mode to promote the vegetable sector of the Valley and aims at providing more and more vegetable seedlings to the growers for achieving self-sufficiency in vegetable cultivation.

He said that the vegetable cultivation can be adopted for commercial purposes as it has a good potential of employment generation and unemployed youth of Kashmir with the help of modern technologies and suitable agro climatic conditions for vegetable cultivation can take this sector to new heights.

On the occasion, Seed Production Officer of the department, Manzoor Ahmad Shah informed that the kitchen Garden scheme is upgraded to register maximum number of growers to undertake this particular activity.

DPS Student Bags Top Performer Award

SRINAGAR: Areeb Imran of DPS Srinagar has received the award for TOP PERFORMER INDIA 2021.

As part of the new College Board India Global Alliance initiative, this award recognizes students in India who earned a total SAT score of more than 1300, a statement from the DPS, Srinagar said.

Areeb has scored a 1540 out of 1600 in his first attempt. Based on his performance he has been offered full scholarships by Best Universities in India and abroad. Delhi Public school is the first school in the state of Jammu and Kashmir which offers free SAT guidance to all the students.

Commenting on the student's achievement Chairman DPS Srinagar, Vijay Dhar congratulated Areeb Imran and said "It is a matter of great pride for us that conducting SAT examinations has opened doors of opportunities for the children of the state and will help them to excel in every field and our young students are making a mark for themselves in the world."

NISSAR NEWS AGENCY

TREHGAM KUPWARA

Books available for 9th,10th,11th and 12th also NEET, JEE MAINS, IAS,KAS,JKSSB,General knowledge, Islamic books, Magazines, Stationary, and Newspapers Local and National.

For any Advertisement and News. Contact: 9797870243

J&K TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIO LIMITED

TOURIST RECEPTION CENTRE SRINAGAR

Notice inviting for E-tender.

For and on behalf of the J&K Tourism Development Corporation Limited (JKTDC), the e-Tenders are invited in single cover system on item rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railway and other State Central Governments for each of the following works.

E-NIT No.	18 of 2020-21	Dated:	03 /02/2021			
S.No	Name of the Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.in lacs)	Cost of Tender documents (in Rs)	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1.	Improvement /up-gradation by way of construction of new gate along with Security cabin at main entry at TRC, Srinagar.	10.00	1000.00	20-days	D&C-Class	Capex-2020-21
2.	Necessary repairs to Civil/sanitary work at TRC, Srinagar.	2.13	200.00	7-days	D -Class	Capex-2020-21
3.	Revamping of drainage and disposal system of TRC, Srinagar.	20.00	1500.00	30-days	B&C-Class	Capex-2020-21
4.	Necessary repairs to Civil/Sanitary and painting works at T.E. Chashmashahi	18.00	1500.00	30-days	B&C-Class	Capex-2020-21
5.	Installation of new G.I. pipe line from main sump to Hutments at T.E. Chashmashahi.	10.00	1000.00	10-days	D&C-Class	Capex-2020-21
6.	Necessary repairs to staff quarter at Chashmashahi.	5.00	500.00	10-days	D-Class	Capex-2020-21
7.	Necessary repairs to Civil/Sanitary work at Hotel Heemal.	5.73	500.00	10-days	D&C-Class	Capex-2020-21
8.	Revamping of drainage and disposal system of Hotel Lala-Rukh Srinagar.	20.00	1500.00	30-days	B&C-Class	Capex-2020-21
9.	Renovation/up-gradation of Kitchen in Hotel Lala-Rukh by way of Civil works Srinagar.	22.00	1500.00	30-days	B&C-Class	Capex-2020-21

Technical Sanction - Obtained
Position of AAA:- Accorded vide No.36/MD/JKTC of 2021, dated:-29-01-2021
Position of Funds: Committed

1. The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from <https://jktenders.gov.in>, as per schedule of dates given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	03-02-2021
2.	Period of Downloading of Bidding Documents	03-02-2021
3.	Bid Submission Start Date	04-02-2021, 9:00 AM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	25-02-2021 upto 4.00 pm
5.	Date & Time of Opening of Bids (Online) in the Office of the Executive Engineer JKTC	26 -02 -2021 at 11.00 AM

DIPK-NB-5463/20
NO:JKTDC/M&W/EE/1610-14
Dated:- 03 /02/2021

Executive Engineer
JKTDC, Sgr/Jammu.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ELECTRIC

DIVISION-IIIRD, SHEREEN BAGH, SRINAGAR.

Notice Inviting Tender.

e-NIT No.:- e-ED-III / 24 of 2020-21 Dated:- 19-01-2021

Due to no response the critical dates of eNIT for below mentioned work are hereby extended

Name of the work.	Estt. Cost (Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document	EMD (In Rs)	Completion Period	Position of funds
Execution of Creation of 100 KVA DT Sub-Station along-with HT and LT Net Work, at Behind Mughal Darbar Sector 1 Lane C Mustafabad Sub Division Zainakote (Key Material provided by Departmentally like Transformer, Pole and Conductor)	3.35	Rs. 500/-	6700/-	15 days	Authorization Available under Capex 2020-21

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 20-01-2021; 02:00 PM
B	Sale of Bid Document (Start)	21-01-2021; 02:00 PM
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)	10-02-2021; 2:00PM.
D	Clarification start date	21-01-2021; 02:00 PM
E	Clarification End date	08-01-2021; 03:00 PM
F	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format).	21-01-2021; 02:00 PM
G	e-Bid submission (End) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	10-02-2021; 2:00PM
H	Hard copy of tender document Submission end date (along-with Original Copy of e-tender fee, EMD Instruments and other supporting documents)	Required for L1 only & to be submitted on or one day after opening of financial e-bid.
I	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	11-02-2021; 02:00PM
J	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
K	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	The office of Executive Engineer ED-III, Sgr.
L	Cost of e-bid document. (Copy of treasury challan/receipt to be up-loaded with e-tender), DD also acceptable, (however Original DD to be submitted on end date of e-Bid submission).	Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five hundred only).
M	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (Copy of CDR/FDR/DD, duly pledged to Executive Engineer Electric Division-IIIRD, Shereen Bagh Srinagar, JKPD, should be up-loaded with e-tender)	Rs6700/-

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Electric Division-III, Srinagar

DIPK-NB-5478/20

DIAL-EMMA

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

This Day in History

- 1499 - France & Venice sign treaty against Milan
- 1525 - Albert of Prussia pledges a personal oath to Sigismund I and is invested with the duchy for himself and his heirs
- 1537 - Pope Paul III routes Cardinal Pole to England
- 1540 - The first recorded race meet in England (Rooder Fields, Chester)
- 1554 - Battle at London: Sir Thomas Wyatt defeated and his rebellion against Queen Mary crushed
- 1555 - Bishop of Gloucester John Hooper is burned at the stake for heresy
- 1574 - Louis of Nassau ends siege of Maastricht
- 1621 - Alexander Ludovisi is elected Pope Gregory XV (-1623)
- 1667 - Treaty of Andrussovo: Russia and Poland signs peace treaty
- 1674 - English reconquer NY from Netherlands
- 1682 - Thomas Otway's "Venice Preserved" premieres in London
- 1713 - Netherlands & Britain sign accord concerning anti- French Barrier [05-Jan 31].
- 1720 - Edmund Halley appointed 2nd Astronomer Royal of England
- 1763 - Treaty of Paris ends French-Indian War, surrendering Canada to Britain
- 1801 - France & Austria sign Peace of Luneville
- 1814 - Napoleonic Wars: Battle of Champaubert, the French beat the Russians
- 1846 - British defeat Sikhs in battle of Sobraon, India
- 1859 - Gen Horsford defeats Begum of Oude & Nana Sahib in Indian mutiny
- 1861 Jefferson Davis & Alexander Stephens elected President & VP of the Confederate States of America (US Civil War)1899 - Treaty of Paris which ended the Spanish-American War is signed by President McKinley; US acquires Philippines, Puerto Rico & Guam
- 1904 - Japan and Russia declare war
- 1914 - In accordance with the understanding reached by General J.C. Smuts and Mahatma Gandhi, 60 passive resistance prisoners released from Pietermaritzburg Prison; 40 passive resisters released in Durban, 8 in Newcastle, 11 in Port Elizabeth
- 1918 - Trotsky declares that Russia is leaving the war
- 1931 - New Delhi becomes capital of India
- 1933 - Hitler proclaims end of Marxism
- 1934 - Stalin ends 17th CPSU-congress, says "Life becomes merrier"
- 1947 - Italy cedes most of Venezia Giulia to Yugoslavia
- 1947 - Province of Petsamo returned to Soviet Union by Finland
- 1947 - WW II peace treaties signed.
- 1961 - Niagara Falls hydroelectric project begins producing power
- 1970 - Dry powder avalanche moving at 120 mph smashes into youth hostel at Val d'Isere, France, killing 40 Belgian, French, & German youths
- 1974 - Iran/Iraqi border fight breaks out
- 1975 - The Provisional Irish Republican Army agrees to a truce and ceasefire with the British government and the Northern Ireland Office; Seven "incident centres" are established in nationalist areas to monitor the ceasefire
- 1985 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalitinsk USSR
- 1990 - 6th Largest wrestling crowd (63,900-Tokyo Dome)
- 1990 - South African President F.W. de Klerk announces Nelson Mandela will be freed on February 11th
- 1996 - IBM computer Deep Blue becomes the first computer to win a game of chess against a reigning (human) chess champion, Gary Kasparov.

From KO Archives

VEHICLES ATTACKED AT LAKHANPUR

Curfew Bandh Continues In Jammu Areas

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR – A number of Punjab-bound vehicles from Kashmir were damaged on Tuesday evening by a violent mob at Hatli Maud, a short distance from Lakhapora in Jammu, even as a rampaging crowd stormed through a sports goods factory run by a Kashmiri in the vicinity.

Reports from Jammu said irate Shiv Sena and Bajrang Dal activists attacked a convoy of goods carriers from Anantnag Kashmir, near Haiti Maud. The mob pelted stones at nearly 34 trucks and tried to hijack one (JK01D-9938). The driver, Muhammad Altaf was injured in the hijack attempt.

The Shiv Sena and Bajrang Dal had called for a bandh in Jammu on Tuesday to protest against the killing of 6 members of the Sikh community in Srinagar. Scores of Gypsy borne activists of the two organisations, armed with sharp-edged weapons besides hockey sticks and canes, had earlier descended in the locality and raided a factory. Goodway Sports owned a resident of Anantnag. The mob ransacked the equipment and caused damage to the factory.

One factory worker, Bashir Ahmad Dar from Dogri Sangam, Anantnag was injured during the attack There was considerable tension in Kathua district after the violent incidents.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 09 February, 2001)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

4G is back

After eighteen months of suspension, the government has finally restored high speed mobile internet services in Jammu and Kashmir. This was announced by the principal secretary to J&K Government Rohit Kansal on February 5. Though people are happy that the 4G is back, nothing can detract from a deep sense of grievance that it took the administration 550 days to restore it. This is why that much more than the celebration, it was the latter sentiment that found vent on social media. And that too not only in Kashmir but also outside the region with many celebrities noting this fact in their tweets.

All these months, the government kept denying the high speed internet on the specious ground that doing so was a security risk. This despite the fact that the ground situation in the Valley has remained calm over the past one and a half year. So, no matter what the government said, its security argument to keep 4G internet suspended didn't hold water. Truth was the Valley did not witness a protest or a stone-throwing incident in a long time.

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

This is true, the students of J&K were the worst victims of the lack of 4G. For almost two academic sessions they were unable to study and largely because of the ban on high speed mobile internet. The poor students suffered the most as unlike the children from well-off households, they couldn't afford fixed line internet. This, in a sense, created a 'haves and have nots' divide in education, perpetrated by the government itself. Thousands of poor students have thus been left behind. They couldn't adequately participate in the online teaching by their schools. Their ability to compete with the students who could attend online tutorials by virtue of having fixed line internet has thus become moot. It should take the poor students some time to catch up.

However, as Omar Abdullah has said, the restoration of 4G internet is better late than never. A high speed mobile internet will be a bone for not only the education but also for the businesses as whole.

OTHER OPINION

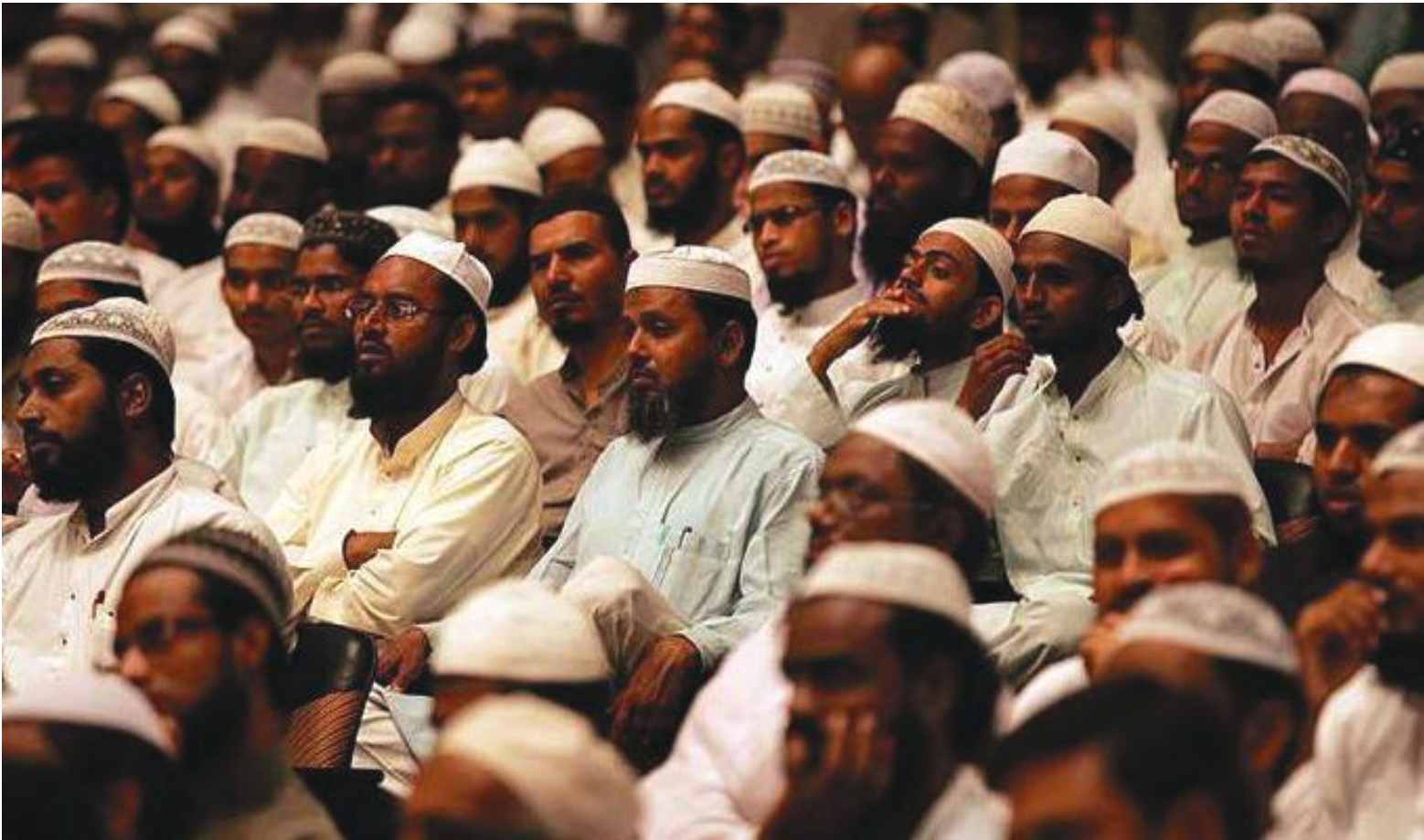
18 months on

The restoration of full internet services in Jammu & Kashmir after 18 months is enormously belated but very welcome. The 550-day suspension will go down as a period in which the world's largest democracy turned its back on what the Supreme Court has held to be an essential means to exercise the fundamental right of freedom of expression. Indeed, the sheer number of days that millions in the erstwhile state were deprived of a basic facility without which daily life — including education, business, leisure and entertainment — is no longer considered complete, threatens to place this country in a dubious list, alongside nations with questionable democratic credentials.

The ban began on August 5, 2019, when the government abrogated Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, revoking its special status and carving it into two Union Territories. But the long suspension, among other measures, raised question marks on its claim of integrating the region with the rest of the country and promoting greater economic development. It continued even as the security establishment claimed successes in bringing terrorism under control and the National Investigation Agency said its raids in Kashmir had curbed cross-border funding of protests — the two reasons usually advanced for cutting off access to the internet. While the restoration will bring back some welcome normalcy to people's lives, it is only a step in a larger process. Many steps remain to be taken.

In this context, the challenges in Kashmir can only get sharpened if attempts are made — or are seen to be made — to tamper with the outcome of the District Development Council election results. The Altaf Bukhari-led Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party, launched six months after Jammu and Kashmir was split in August 2019, and called the "King's party", has now managed to win over enough Independents to take control of the DDCs in Srinagar and Shopian. The monarchical reference and its associated sense of entitlement is already worrying — the BJP should also be concerned about the political fallout of being seen to wrest DDCs without winning them in the election. The Apni Party won five seats in the Valley and its control of two DDCs is hardly reflective of the spirit of the mandate in both places. Having conducted a free and fair vote against all cynical predictions that the results would be a repeat of 1987, the BJP-led government must not be seen to do or to countenance anything that proves the naysayers right.

Indian Express



Indian Muslims: Dilemmas and Panacea - Part 2

For their community's benefit Muslim leaders will have to adopt a pragmatic approach and identify path-breaking alternatives for community's progress.

The Indian Muslims, as a community, do not possess a common community psyche. They are divided in many factions and no faction is ready to tolerate the other. Community unity, in spite of factionalism is found in abundance in other minorities of the country like Sikhs and Parsis. We have to learn a lot from other minorities on how to develop a community psyche, so that each and every one considers them to be part of a larger whole, and the guiding spirit should be collectivism instead of individualism, every Muslim should be seen as contributing both physically and financially, for enhancing the community's and lives of our brethren.

All the above is easier said than done, and the big question remains, who is going to deliver it and how? The answer lies in our religious leaders. It is a fact that a vast percentage of the Muslims, still listens to and acts upon the messages conveyed to them by our clergy. But most of the time the messages conveyed are not relevant in any manner to the development and progress of the community in the light of the Islamic teachings, but on mundane issues. Instead our clerics will have to work to contextualise the message of the Holy Quran and Ahaadith to the present era, only then they'll be effective and remembered. For this purpose the speech before the Juma Khutba can be a very important tool.

Clergy's role

The Muslim clergy should first try to moderate. It would be good if it could start on a path of critical and scientific thinking or Ijtihad, on issues of importance to the community. Instead of harping back to old and irrelevant texts, it would be better if it could consider each and every issue in a pragmatic fresh perspective based on the correct interpretation of the Holy Quran and Ahaadith. As the Holy Quran is a dynamic not a static book, it offers new solutions as per the new assimilation and analytic prowess gained by its followers with every passing day.

We also bemoan the issue of lack of funding for establishing new educational institutes. Here we forget that if the Indian Muslims decide to contribute every paisa of the interest accrued in their bank accounts and the yearly Zakat to a single entity, then the fate of the community could be changed completely in the next 5 years. This sum could be utilised to establish and rejuvenate the educational institutes, orphanages, taking care of the needy and providing for medical facilities for the community and everyone else.

In addition, we also have to present a modern image of the community to other faiths and

It would be better if the Muslim community instead of turning the current concerns into an existential one, introspects and finds the areas and issues, which beleaguers it and where it has floundered, besides trying to be seen as part of the county's mainstream.

countrymen. We sound hollow when we decry the increasing tide of Islamophobia in the country and elsewhere in the world. But how do we tackle the issue? In this age of information technology, many battles are being fought and won using social media tools. The latest example in this regard is the surge in Islamophobic messages on the social media and response of the Muslim nations. Due to the overwhelming response of the Muslim countries, many social media platforms had to issue guidelines on how to manage the Islamophobic content, besides immediate remorse shown and forgiveness sought by people who engaged in posting Islamophobic content on various social media websites.

Muslims and the media

It would be better if the community should equip itself to counter the fake and biased news, first. A strong rebuttal and countering mechanism would serve the community well, as the cost for this would not be too high.

The first step towards this could be to build a monitoring team, which could keep track of all anti-Muslim news, to be fed to a team of fact checkers, who with strong research and messaging capabilities should be able to counter any anti-Muslim narrative promptly and professionally.

A central team of Media Monitors based in Delhi should keep track of state monitors and should be equipped to work out quick and coherent responses to every issue, charge or misrepresentation on various social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp.

Next, a group of community spokesmen should be trained in the language of the states to which they belong. They should be coached in language nuances, debating skills and how to engage in a coherent and conclusive dialogue with their competitors, viz. every aspect of conducting a successful verbal communication process.

Every state should have a small team of at least five people who could represent the community at every media opportunity. An effort should be made to constitute a panel of erudite and knowledgeable people to represent the community at various media outlets. The views espoused by this panel should be endorsed by leading clerics and social leaders beforehand.

All this seems achievable and commendable, but the biggest requisite for this to succeed would be the coming together of different leaders representing various sects, outfits and schools within the Muslim community at one platform. We should have a panel of academics, researchers, ideologues, businessmen and entrepreneurs, activists and ground level workers, who should be seen as the real face of the community.

Way forward

Moreover, it would be better if the Muslim community instead of turning the current concerns into an existential one, introspects and finds the areas and issues, which beleaguers it and where it has floundered, besides trying to be seen as part of the county's mainstream. Follow it with judicious and committed planning and strategising, so that these determinants could be overcome and after the next 25 years, when we'll be celebrating the century of our independence, we can proudly say that the community has fulfilled the aspirations of its followers and countrymen, both.

What we need is a clear-cut plan and a will to innovate and implement those programmes, which will take the community out of its slumber and apathy and take it on the path of progress. Until and unless the Muslim community as a whole decides to change its psyche and reform itself, no body can help the community survive the present onslaught.

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

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Response to "Indian Muslims: Dilemmas and Panacea" 1

With regard to the article titled "Indian Muslims: Dilemmas and Panacea", published in this newspaper on 4 February 2021 in which the author has suggested that Muslims should introspect and improve their community image through a multi-pronged strategy. The author suggests that Indian Muslims should unite and focus on education and cleanliness to get out of the present state of affairs. He seems to blame Indian Muslims for their present condition. It is not that Muslims themselves do not want

to get involved with the government but it is the government that denies them any such opportunity. In fact, not only are they denied opportunities but through several laws and judgements, Muslims are marginalized and excluded. Various laws that seem to vilify and implicate Muslims, were brought and the decisions that were taken were not because Muslims are divided, uneducated and do not focus on cleanliness but it was because of the ideology of the current dispensation. The best that came of united Muslims in India was the resistance against CAA-NRC but it

was met with brute force in Jamia Milia, Aligarh Muslim University and Shaheen Bagh. Muslim students and activists like Sharjeel Imam and Dr. Kafeel Khan who expressed their views against the laws were jailed. How does a community in the face of such systemic injustice introspect and change their condition through education, cleanliness and unity?

Right now, the only factor that is responsible for Muslim community's current "fate and dilemmas" is systemic anti muslim sentiment. The battles that Indian Muslims are presently fighting are truly existential

and cannot be resolved by putting the onus on the community itself. One cannot put the blame of oppression on the oppressed. We need to recognise that there's nothing inherently wrong in Muslims that justifies their marginalisation. A community is responsible for acting dutifully and responsibly. It is not responsible for what is deemed to make it "deserve" marginalisation, because nothing does. This is only victim blaming.

Samid Pandit
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Elderly Care

Health For The Aging Population

DR. RAIES AHMA D

Elderly people should be encouraged to carry out their own personal hygiene routines as much as possible. This promotes independence and a sense of purpose in life. Even managing the smallest task is better than nothing at all.

Traditionally, older adults are taken care of by their families. However, because of the changing gender roles, employment of women, erosion of traditional family values, and an increasing trend for nuclear families, a caregiving crisis is predicted. The number of older adults living alone is increasing. With decreased family support and informal caregivers, more of the older adults in India care for themselves. Caring for older adults requires a multidisciplinary approach and we need to become familiarise with the changes that occur in the aging process. This can enable us particularly healthcare professionals to provide better care to the elderly.

We Need to Understand Age Related Changes in the Body

Ageing is a progressive and universal phenomenon encompassing gradual loss of cells resulting in decline in organ functional abilities. Consequently, even the baseline functions of the body also get wasted. Age-related changes affect the function of every system of the body, even in the healthiest older people. Heart output declines. Calcium migrates from bones and teeth into blood vessels. Cataracts may dim vision. Hearing fades. Lung, liver, and kidney functions slow. Wear and tear on joints makes pain an unwelcome companion. So, the normal age-related changes may be accompanied by chronic health problems such as diabetes or heart disease.

Management of many such chronic conditions may include one or more medications prescribed for regular use. Although medications may relieve symptoms, improve the quality of life, and in some cases increase the lifespan, they are not without risk. For example, research has shown that taking four or more prescription drugs is an independent risk factor for a fall injury which can put an independent older adult into the ranks of the frail elderly.

Ageing is not a disease in itself, but the aged do become vulnerable to diseases. These alterations make the human being vulnerable to various diseases with declining immune responses, poor regenerating capacities thereby increasing exponentially the morbidity and ultimate mortality amongst them. The major chronic diseases which contribute globally to the death of those > 70 years of age include cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes mellitus.

Elderly Care Tips :

It is very important for the elderly to adapt certain healthy habits in order to decrease the prevalence of various age related problems. Though it is very difficult to change the habits in the old age, however, there is no harm in making an attempt :

Maintain Daily Routine: Maintaining daily routine of activities is a basic step in remaining healthy. They should be asked to fix a time for each activity during the day e.g. eating, napping during day, going for sleep at night and getting up in the morning, exercises, walk, entertainment, religious activities etc. In old age it becomes very difficult for the body to adjust if the routine is disturbed. Sleep requirement decreases with age. Older adults tend to sleep more lightly and for shorter time spans, but they generally need about the same amount of sleep as they needed as a young adult (7 to 8 hours a night).

Physical Activity: The elderly should be promoted for the physical activities as per their capabilities. Thirty minutes walk in the morning as well as in the evening is the best physical exercise. They should be



accompanied by someone while going out.

Personal Hygiene: Elderly people should be encouraged to carry out their own personal hygiene routines as much as possible. This promotes independence and a sense of purpose in life. Even managing the smallest task is better than nothing at all. The safety issues in the bathroom should not be overlooked. Make sure there are no throw rugs that could create a risk of fall. A bath chair may be used to sit in the bathroom. The floor should not be slippery. The water temperature should be comfortable. Adaptive equipment such as holding showers can make bathing safer, because sometimes it may be difficult for the elderly to hold a mug full of water.

Dental Hygiene: The dental hygiene should also not be overlooked. Other than brushing the teeth in the morning and night after having meal, they should be encouraged to rinse their mouth properly after eating anything. Dentures should be cleaned using warm water and anon-abrasive cleanser.

Social Activity: Loneliness leading to depression is quite common in old age. Encourage the elderly to remain socially active by involving themselves in certain activities/joining certain NGOs, spending time with friends, family, relatives etc. This will help utilising their lifelong experiences and maintain their physical and mental health.

Regular Health Checkups: The elderly should be encouraged for regular health checkups. They should undergo all the investigations at least once in a year. Any health problem can be managed properly if it is detected at its early stage.

Bowel Care: Constipation is one of the most frequent problems of the older people. It becomes a source of frustration if they do not pass stool in the morning. Encourage them to take high fibre diet, promote regular exercise, add stool softeners if required and little bit increase in fluid intake.

Urinary Care: The patient may have one or multiple urinary problems leading to disturbed urinary pattern, i.e., either incontinence (involuntary urine loss) or retention of urine. Establish a toilet schedule

every 2 hours, before and after activity, before and after meals, before and after sleep or rest periods, easy access to toilet, adequate fluid intake, avoid bladder irritants such as caffeinated beverages, alcohol and artificial sweeteners.

Ensure Cautious Use of Medications: Administration of medication through various routes viz oral, intramuscular and intravenous carries a greatest risk especially for the elderly patients. Drugs can accumulate and reach toxic levels more quickly than in a younger person, further emphasizing the importance of increasing dose intervals. The kidneys, which are responsible for most drug excretion, experience decreased function as people age. Polymedication should be avoided as far as possible.

Nutritional Needs of the Elderly: Offer small and frequent meals. Three small meals are better than one large meal. The meals should be eaten at a fixed and scheduled time. The number of calories should be considered. These should not be too much or too less. The diet should be balanced in terms of all food nutrients i.e. protein, fat, carbohydrates, vitamins, minerals and fibres. Fried, very spicy food, red meat, animal fat etc. should be avoided

Communicating with Elderly: It has been recognised as one of the most important aspects of nursing elderly people. Ineffective communication with elderly can lead to patients noncompliance, disturbance in socialisation and some patient's needs may be left unmet thereby creating and increasing stress on caregivers. Communicate respectfully and preserve patient dignity when performing physical care as well as when communicating.

The author is the HOD at KTC Hospital & Research Centre, Kashmir. BLS and ERTC Certified (Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir). Life Member (Indian Red Cross Society)

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Work from Home Injuries

PETER FEELY

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, many people are working from home more regularly. Dr Manoj Kumar Nair, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Specialist at the Dubai Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Centre, DHA, says that often home environments are not as ergonomic as traditional offices and that this can lead to poor posture.

"The common complaints we receive in our clinic are neck pain and back pain because of poor posture," he says.

"It is very important for people who work from home to look at their environment. Many people do not have an optimal posture for preventing posture-related injuries. Work stations at home don't tend to be as ergonomically refined as those they tend to get in the office."

Dr Nair says that poor posture can lead to a number of health issues and it tends to affect people more as they age but that he also sees children with posture-related issues. "It's when people reach their thirties that they can start to experience back problems but we also see children with back pain and I think this is attributed to their lifestyles where they are watching too much TV or spending too much time on their mobile phones for example. This can cause the muscles on the back of the neck to strain and become tired."

He also says that regular breaks should be taken when possible during the working day. "I would suggest people who from home take breaks from their desks and stretch when possible. Rather than taking long breaks, I would recommend a short break every 15 to 20 minutes. When you keep moving and warming up the muscle tissues, your movement becomes more fluid.

"I think standing work stations are an excellent solution because there has been a lot of research and studies that have suggested using this method for improving posture works and achieves good results."



The importance of exercise

Dr Nair believes that regular exercise is key to avoiding many posture-related injuries and that people should start at an achievable and safe level before increasing the intensity of their workouts. "There are plenty of exercise activities available during this month's Dubai Fitness Challenge. For somebody who is new to exercise, I usually suggest they start with brisk walking and jogging rather than running.

It is very important for people who work from home to look at their environment. Many people do not have an optimal posture for preventing posture-related injuries

"When people start to workout we don't know their limits. As a ball park figure we calculate people's maximum safe heart rate during exercise by subtracting their age from 220. We then initially set a target heart rate of 50 to 70 per cent of this for moderate exercise. Then we gradually increase the intensity of the exercise and we often see this causes people's resting heart rate to come down significantly but this depends on how much exercise people are able to do and the fitness levels they can achieve.

"People should be exercising for a minimum of 20 minutes, with five to ten minutes of warm-up followed by five to ten minutes of cool down exercise.

"When you warm up your body it increases your circulation and prepares your muscles and tissues for exercise. If you are running for example, you can start by brisk walking and then gradually increase your speed."

Dr Nair also reiterates the importance of stretching both before and after exercise to reduce your risk of injury. He also says that people with health concerns should consult a specialist prior to exercising to rule out any potentially dangerous underlying health problems. "When you are exercising, stretching is very important. If you stretch after your warm-up you will get more benefits than when you first start your exercise.

"If you have doubts about your health condition it is best to seek a medical opinion before carrying out vigorous exercise so they can rule out any serious problems with your heart and other organs. Everyone has to start exercising somewhere so I always recommend starting with minimal activity and seeing how much you can tolerate."

Dr Nair encourages people to be conscious of their fitness levels and says that while it's never too late to improve your health and well-being, it's beneficial to start regular exercise at a young age. "I suggest people should start exercise as early in their lives as possible as once you reach a certain age it becomes very difficult to change your habits."

Gulf News

What You Ate As A Child Has A Lifelong Impact On Your Health, Says New Study

Agencies

A new study in mice suggests that eating too much fat and sugar as a child can alter one's microbiome for life, even if you later learn to eat healthier.

The study by UC Riverside researchers is one of the first to show a significant decrease in the total number and diversity of gut bacteria in mature mice fed an unhealthy diet as juveniles.

"We studied mice, but the effect we observed is equivalent to kids having a Western diet, high in fat and sugar and their gut microbiome still being affected up to six years after puberty," explained UCR evolutionary physiologist Theodore Garland.

A paper describing the study has recently been published in the Journal of Experimental Biology.

The microbiome refers to all the bacteria as well as fungi, parasites, and viruses that live on and inside a human or animal. Most of these microorganisms are found in the intestines, and most of them are helpful, stimulating the immune system, breaking down food, and helping synthesize key vitamins.

In a healthy body, there is a

balance of pathogenic and beneficial organisms. However, if the balance is disturbed, either through the use of antibiotics, illness, or an unhealthy diet, the body could become susceptible to disease.

In this study, Garland's team looked for impacts on the microbiome after dividing their mice into four groups: half fed the standard, 'healthy' diet, half-fed the less healthy 'Western' diet, half with access to a running wheel for exercise, and a half without.

After three weeks spent on these diets, all mice were returned to a standard diet and no exercise, which is normally how mice are kept in a laboratory. At the 14-week mark, the team examined the diversity and abundance of bacteria in the animals.

They found that the quantity of bacteria such as Muribaculum intestinale was significantly reduced in the Western diet group. This type of bacteria is involved in carbohydrate metabolism.

Analysis also showed that the gut bacteria are sensitive to the amount of exercise the mice got. Muribaculum bacteria in-



creased in mice fed a standard diet who had access to a run-

ning wheel and decreased in mice on a high-fat diet whether

they had exercise or not. Researchers believe this spe-

cies of bacteria, and the family of bacteria that it belongs to,

might influence the amount of energy available to its host. Research continues into other functions that this type of bacteria may have.

One other effect of note was the increase in a highly similar bacteria species that were enriched after five weeks of treadmill training in a study by other researchers, suggesting that exercise alone may increase its presence.

Overall, the UCR researchers found that early-life Western diet had more long-lasting effects on the microbiome than did early-life exercise.

Garland's team would like to repeat this experiment and take samples at additional points in time, to better understand when the changes in mouse microbiomes first appear, and whether they extend into even later phases of life.

Regardless of when the effects first appear, however, the researchers say it's significant that they were observed so long after changing the diet, and then changing it back. The takeaway, Garland said, is essentially, "You are not only what you eat, but what you ate as a child!"

Rapid On-Site Drug Detection Using Wearable Sensor

Agencies

Researchers have developed a wearable sensor that can detect illegal drugs in sweat.

The drugs can be detected by using nanomaterials technology that amplify the optical signal of narcotics to a flexible, body-worn material.

The technology enables fast and highly sensitive drug detection—the sweat patch is attached to the skin for a certain period of time and then irradiated with light for testing.

According to the researchers, it only takes one minute without requiring additional process.

"The developed technology would overcome the technological limitations on identifying drug and prohibited substance use and enable drug detection without invasive and ethical problem," said researcher Ho Sang Jung from the Korea Institute of Materials Science (KIMS).

For the study, published in the journal ACS Applied Materials and Interfaces, the researchers focused on sweat which is not invasive and relatively free from human rights issues.

However, only small amount of



substances is discharged in sweat, even though sweat contains various drugs taken so a highly sensitive sensor technology had to be developed for better detection.

The team's highly sensitive sensing utilised the surface-enhanced Raman scattering technology capable of enhancing the Raman signal of chemical substances by 1010 times and more.

As the Raman scattering signal includes the specific signal of molecules, intuitive substance identification is possible no matter what drug is discharged.

The researchers paid attention to the cocoon protein, a flexible and wearable

material to develop a wearable optical sensor, according to the researchers.

A silk fibroin solution, a natural protein, was extracted from silkworm cocoon to make a 160 nanometer (nm) thick film.

The film was coated with 250 nm thick silver nanowire and transferred to the medical patch that can be attached to the skin.

Once the patch absorbs the sweat, the drug substance in the sweat penetrates the wearable sensor and reaches the silver nanowire.

By exposing the Raman laser on the patch, the drug can be detected in real time without removing the sensor.

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Extension Notice 1

e-NIT No.- e-ED-III /25 of 2020-21 D a t e d: 19-01-2021.

Due to no response the critical dates of eNIT for below mentioned work are hereby extended

	Name of the work.	Estt. Cost (Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document	EMD (In Rs)	Completion Period	Position of funds
	Execution of Creation of 200 KVA, DT Sub-Station along with HT/LT Network at lane No. 1 Rose Avenue Tail End HMT to be fed by Feeder No. 3 Receiving Station Zainakote, Sub Division Zainakote (Key Material provided by Departmentally like Transformer, Poles and Conductor)	2.40	Rs. 500/-	4800/-	15 days	Authorization received from CE (Distribution) under Capex 2020-21
A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document				The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 20-01-2021; 02:00 PM	
B	Sale of Bid Document (Start)				21-01-2021; 02:00 PM	
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)				10-02-2021; 02:00PM	
D	Clarification start date				21-01-2021; 02:00 PM	
E	Clarification End date				08-02-2021; 03:00 PM	
F	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format).				21-01-2021; 02:00 PM	
G	e-Bid submission (End) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)				10-02-2021; 02:00PM	
H	Hard copy of tender document Submission end date (along-with Original Copy of e-tender fee, EMD Instruments and other supporting documents)				Required for L1 only & to be submitted on or one day after opening of financial e-bid.	
I	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time				11-02-2021; 02:00PM	
J	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)				Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders	
K	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids				The office of Executive Engineer ED-III, Sgr.	
L	Cost of e-bid document. (Copy of treasury challan/receipt to be up-loaded with e-tender), DD also acceptable, (however Original DD to be submitted on end date of e-Bid submission).				Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five hundred only).	
M	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (Copy of CDR/FDR/DD, duly pledged to Executive Engineer Electric Division-IIIRD, Shereen Bagh Srinagar, JKPD, should be up-loaded with e-tender)				Rs. 4800/-	

DIPK-NB-5477/20

Sd/-Executive Engineer
Electric Division-III, Srinagar.

PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND UP

Man City Capitalize On Liverpool GK's Mistakes, Chelsea Win On Road To Recovery, Kane Scores To Give Spurs Much-Needed Win



Agencies

LIVERPOOL: The fireworks being set off behind the Kop provided a flashback to last season's Premier League trophy celebrations. But little on the Anfield pitch suggested these were the champions in action.

Jürgen Klopp's side appears a faded force preparing to relinquish the title, highly possibly to Manchester City after being beaten 4-1 by the leaders on Sunday.

After going 68 games unbeaten on home soil, Liverpool has now lost three in a row for the first time in 58 years.

And it's City with a five-point lead. Not over Liverpool but Manchester United and with a game in hand. Liverpool has slipped 10 points off the pace in a league it dominated to win by 18 points last season and led last month, now just clinging onto the fourth Champions League place.

Leicester moved three points ahead of Liverpool in third after drawing 0-0 with Wolverhampton. Chelsea is within a point of Liverpool after maintaining the revival under Thomas Tuchel with a 2-1 victory at Sheffield United.

And Tottenham is only four points from fourth place after ending a three-game losing run by beating West Bromwich 2-0.

On a freezing day across England, Klopp could only figure that the icy conditions were to blame for a blundering performance by goalkeeper Alisson Becker that proved so costly. "Maybe he had cold feet?" Klopp said.

"It sounds funny but it could be," Liverpool had been spared falling behind in the first half when Ilkay Gundogan struck a penalty into the empty Kop. Gundogan did find the net at the other end four minutes into the second half when Phil Foden's close-range shot was parried by Alisson into his path.

Liverpool needed energizing. Perhaps that's why the fans shut out of the stadium during the coronavirus pandemic lit up the skies with fireworks, seven months after they celebrated the end of a 30-year title drought with pyrotechnics here.

And Mohamed Salah gave a route back into the game by doing what Gundogan couldn't do by scoring a penalty in front of the Kop after being brought down by Ruben Dias.

The team's top scorer played his part. But the usually reliable barrier in the goal did not.

Alisson cleared directly to Phil Foden, who set up Gundogan to score into an empty net for 2-1.

Another lapse followed. City midfielder Bernardo Silva intercepted a feeble clearance by Alisson and lifted the ball over the goalkeeper for Raheem Sterling to head over the line.

"These two goals were a killer," Klopp said.

"Tonight it was decisive. That's OK as he (has) saved our lives I don't know how often. He is absolutely a world class goalie. Something went wrong but we have to take that."

It was the power of Foden's shot that beat Alisson rather than any mistake that allowed City to complete its first victory at Anfield since 2003.

"Hopefully next time we can do a similar performance with spectators because Anfield with people in and without is different," Guardiola said.

"I could imagine at 1-1 how much they could influence the players."

"But especially when we missed the penalty and conceded a goal, how good we reacted. Everyone took a step forward. Ilkay and Sterling made an incredible game."

It extended City's unbeaten run in all competitions to 14 matches to turn the season around. It was only 35 days earlier that a 3-1 win at Chelsea took City to fifth, four points behind then-leader Liverpool with a game in hand.

CHELSEA RECOVERY

City's victory at Stamford Bridge contributed to Frank Lampard being fired two weeks ago. Since Tuchel took charge, the west London club has now won three, drawn once and is yet to concede from an opposition player.

It was only Antonio Rudiger's own-goal that allowed Sheffield United to cancel out Mason Mount's first-half opener at Bramall Lane. Jorginho's 58th-minute penalty clinched the win over the last-place team after Timo Werner was brought down by goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale.

"For myself again no goals, but it's good to see that I can help the team with other things at the moment," said Werner, who hasn't scored in 14 league games.

"I'm happy when we win and if I can make two assists it's also good."

KANE COMEBACK

Harry Kane has none of Werner's difficulties in scoring. The challenge is staying fit but the striker made a rapid recovery from ankle injuries after 10 days and scored the opener against relegation-threatened West Brom with a low finish. It was his 13th goal of the league campaign and he also fed Lucas Moura to tee up Son Heung-min to double the lead.

"The team depends a lot on him, we can't hide that," Tottenham manager Jose Mourinho said of Kane.

"It's the goals he can score, the assists he can make, the link play he has, that personality that players like that can have and he is always an important influence for us."

Real Kashmir Draw 0-0 Against Churchill Brothers In I-League

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Real Kashmir FC drew a 0-0 blank against Churchill Brothers FC in the Hero I-League on Monday at the KBK Stadium in Kolkata, West Bengal.

For Real Kashmir, the game was built up as a litmus test with which to prove their title credentials. But after the result, the Srinagar-based side will leave the field the most disappointed of the two teams, as they failed to convert any of their plentiful chances.

For Churchill Brothers, Goalkeeper Shilton Paul had a man-of-the-match performance, as he did well to keep Real Kashmir attacking threat of Dicka, Lukman and Danish at bay. The 0-0 result was a third successive draw for the Red Machines.

Kashmiri-duo of Danish Bhat (striker) and Farhan Ganie (defender) started the game and played full 90 minutes. While club captain, and RKFC's most stand-out player, Mason Robertson was on the bench.

The highly entertaining



match was played on an end to end basis with both teams creating chances and coming close to scoring. For the Snow Leopards, Danish Bhat had an outstanding game as he created plenty of chances throughout the match but his teammates failed to capitalize on them.

RKFC Goalkeeper Mithun Samantha was instrumental in helping

his side keep a clean sheet.

The result leaves Real Kashmir in 2nd place with 10 points, with a game in hand. While I-League table toppers, Churchill Brothers, remained in 1st position with 13 points from 7 matches. Real Kashmir will next play NEROCA FC on Saturday, February 13. The game will kick off at 7 PM (IST).

IND VS ENG 1st Test

India End Day 4 At 39/1, Chasing A World Record Target Of 420

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: India were left with the herculean task of chasing a world record 420 after England refused to declare in an unfocused second essay, cut short by Ravichandran Ashwin's brilliance on a sharply turning fourth day strip in the opening Test in Chennai on Monday.

At stumps, India were 39 for one, requiring another 381 runs to set a new record and take a 1-0 lead in the four-match series. The previous best is 418, chased by West Indies against Australia in 2003.

Relishing bowling on a responsive pitch, the seasoned Ashwin returned excellent figures of 6/61 to snap England's second innings at 178 after the home team conceded a massive first-innings lead of 241 runs.

With opener Rohit Sharma (12) back in the hut, Shubman Gill (15) and Cheteshwar Pujara (12) will begin the proceedings for India on the fifth and final day at the MA Chidambaram pitch, which has started to play tricks.

India would have been in a bigger hole had it not been for a seventh-wicket partnership of 80 runs between newcomer Washington Sundar (85) and Ashwin, who also contributed a 31 with the bat before picking his career's 28th five-wicket haul.

But despite the duo's best efforts, the hosts still fell way short of the follow-on target after being bowled out for 337. India resumed the day at 257 for six.

Hoping to give their bowlers some respite from the sweltering heat, England decided against enforcing the follow-on and batted again.



But the start wasn't the one they wanted as Ashwin bowled his off-spinners to deadly effect with the new ball, the bounce aiding him in his endeavour.

Ashwin removed Rory Burns with the very first ball of the second innings when he induced an edge for Ajinkya Rahane to take an easy catch in the first slip.

Having ambled to 16 off 37 balls, Dominic Sibley was shown the door by Ashwin, with the bounce again helping the off-spinner.

Veteran pacer Ishant Sharma was rewarded for bowling with a lot of hearth throughout the match when he had Daniel Lawrence trapped in front of the wicket with the one that snaked in.

That was wicket number 300 for Ishant, making him the sixth Indian and third pacer from the country to reach the landmark.

Ben Stokes could not replicate the form of his first innings as he played away from his body to give Rishabh Pant a catch off Ashwin.

As wickets kept falling at one end, skipper Joe Root (40 off 32 balls) looked like he was batting on a pitch different from the one where the ball was turning from one end to the other, scoring runs without much ado.

With all the confidence in the world, first-innings double centurion Root swept and reverse swept the India spinners, including Ashwin, as runs came at a fast clip when he was in his element in the second session.

He not just negated but also attacked the spinners with aplomb but what Root could not tackle was a delivery that kept low on landing before thudding against the English run-machine's pads.

'A Roller-Coaster Ride' Ishant Sharma Becomes Third Indian Pacer To Take 300 Test Wickets

Ishant Sharma enters 300-wicket club in Test cricket		
Most wickets for India in Test cricket		
BOWLER	MATCHES	WICKETS
Anil Kumble	132	619
Kapil Dev	131	434
Harbhajan Singh	103	417
Ravichandran Ashwin	75*	386
Zaheer Khan	92	311
ISHANT SHARMA	98*	300

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: Veteran fast bowler Ishant Sharma on Monday became the sixth Indian and third pacer from the country to take 300 wickets in Test cricket, joining legendary former India captains Kapil Dev and Anil Kumble after a "roller-coaster" ride.

Ishant reached the landmark when he trapped Dan Lawrence with a delivery that swung back sharply before hitting his pads in England's second innings on the fourth day of the opening Test here. Besides Kumble (619) and Kapil (434), Ravichandran Ashwin (377 before this game), Harbhajan Singh (417), and Zaheer Khan (311) are the other bowlers from the country who have reached the landmark.

The 32-year-old Ishant reached the milestone in 98 matches, more than the other Indian bowlers in the club.

"Quite a roller-coaster life so far. A lot of experiences, I've learned a lot about how to bowl in the sub-continent, and what lengths to bowl when we go abroad," Ishant said at the end of the day's play.

"Feeling a bit sore, just played four-over T20 games in domestic, and came back and straightaway bowled 35 overs."

India were set a world record target of 420 to win the opening Test here and Ishant said his team is positive about it, especially after their incredible showings in Australia recently.

"If we get a good start tomorrow, I'm sure we can chase this down. We have a fearless batting line-up, and we're very positive

about this.

"First two days it felt like we were playing on the road, but on the fourth day it started turning a bit and we caught a bit of a break."

"Even on the first two days I thought we bowled well even though we weren't getting much help," Ishant added.

The BCCI and ICC joined some cricketers in congratulating the seasoned pacer who began his Test career way back in 2007.

"Congratulations @ImIshant. He becomes the third Indian fast bowler to take 300 Test wickets. He traps Lawrence in the front as England lose their third wicket," the BCCI tweeted soon after he accomplished the feat.

The ICC also lauded the seasoned fast bowler's achievement, coming after more than 13 years of toil.

"Ishant Sharma becomes the third India pacer after Kapil Dev and Zaheer Khan to reach the 300-wicket mark in Tests. What an achievement!" the game's global governing body tweeted.

He has 11 five-wicket hauls and picked up 10 wickets in a match once. The lanky pacer's spell to former Australian captain Ricky Ponting during his teenage years is still discussed in Indian cricketing circles.

Ashwin was the fastest to get there, taking only 54 matches, followed by Kumble (66), Harbhajan (72), Kapil (83) and Zaheer (89).

Ishant, who made his Test debut against Bangladesh, missed the four-match Test series against Australia due to a side strain and came back for the challenge against England.

ICC Announces BYJU'S As Global Partner Until 2023

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced Indian edu-tech company BYJU'S as its global partner from 2021 to 2023. (More Cricket News)

The three-year agreement will see BYJU'S partner all ICC events over the period, including the forthcoming men's T20 World Cup in India and the women's World Cup in New Zealand.

As a global partner, BYJU'S will have extensive in-venue, broadcast, and digital rights across all ICC events.

In addition to the integrated brand presence at some of the world's biggest sporting events, BYJU'S will work closely with the ICC to deepen engagement with fans through the creation of innovative campaigns.

In August 2019, the company became the official jersey partners of the Indian cricket team.

Manu Sawhney, the ICC's chief executive, said: "BYJU'S has been an ardent supporter of cricket in India and we are glad to be partnering with a strong, young, and dynamic Indian brand that has been inspiring millions of students to dream big."

Byju Raveendran, the company's founder and CEO, said: "Sports is a big part of life for most Indians and cricket, in particular, holds a very special place in our hearts."

"It is a matter of pride for us as an Indian company to represent our nation on a global platform like this. Just as cricket inspires billions across the world, we too as a learning company hope to inspire the love of learning in every child's life."

Pakistan Sweep Series 2-0 After Winning 2nd Test Against South Africa By 95 Runs

Agencies

RAWALPINDI: Fast bowler Hasan Ali's maiden test 10-wicket haul gave Pakistan its first series win over South Africa in 18 years as they beat the Proteas by 95 runs in the second test on Monday.

Hasan, who bagged five wickets in the first innings, tormented the Proteas again returning figures of 5-60 and South Africa collapsed to 274 all out after lunch on the last day.

The last time Pakistan beat South Africa in a test series was in 2003 when it won 1-0 at home.

Aiden Markram hit a resolute 108 — the opener's first test hundred in almost three years — and Temba Bavuma made 61 before Hasan got two wickets off two deliveries with the second new ball to spark the collapse.

Markram and Bavuma put on 106 runs for their fourth-wicket stand and had given South Africa hope of chasing down the 370-run target after the Proteas resumed on 129-1.

But Hasan had Markram and captain Quinton de Kock caught at second slip off successive deliveries



and South Africa lost its last seven wickets for just 33 runs after lunch.

Shaheen Afridi mopped up the tail with 4-51 before legspinner Yasir Shah brought up the victory by clean bowling Wiaan Mulder for 20.

Markram hit 13 fours and three sixes in his 5 1/2-hour stint at the crease but once Hasan provided the twin breakthrough, South Africa

lost wickets in bunches as it did in Karachi where it lost the first test by seven wickets.

Pakistan rose to No. 5 in the ICC test rankings for the first time, its highest position since 2017, while South Africa slipped to No. 6.

Pakistan will now take on South Africa in a 3-match T20 series beginning February 11.

Australian Open Underway As Serena Williams Wins 1st Match Easily

Agencies

MELBOURNE: Serena Williams had a wobbly start at the Australian Open for one game.

After briefly falling behind, Williams swept 10 consecutive games and beat Laura Siegemund 6-1, 6-1 on the first day of the tournament Monday.

The victory marked the start of Williams' latest bid for a record-tying 24th major title, and as she left the court, she flexed her biceps.

"This was a good start vintage 'Rena,'" she said. "It's definitely good. I'm pretty good at pacing myself at a Grand Slam."

Williams wore a colourful one-legged catsuit, and her game looked flashy, too. She lost only nine points on her serve and hit 16 winners. Her sister, Venus, won a Grand Slam match for the first time since 2019. Playing in her 21st Australian Open, the elder Williams beat Kirsten Flipkens 7-5, 6-2.

At 40, Venus is the oldest woman in this year's draw and just the sixth player in her 40s to compete at the Australian Open.

Three-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka, who won the title in Melbourne two years ago, played the opening match in Rod Laver Arena and beat Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-1, 6-2.

The first tournament of this year's Grand Slam season began after a three-week delay because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"Physically I feel like everyone, their bodies are shocked, coming in and playing so suddenly after such a long break, Osaka said. I think we're all getting used to it and everyone is just happy to be here."

That includes the Williams sisters. "Listen, this is amazing," Serena said. "Last year was very scary for the world. To be able to do what I love and be able to come out and compete... it makes me appreciate the moment even more."

Canadian Rebecca Marino, a former top-40 player competing in a Grand Slam event for the first time in eight years, beat wild-card entry Kimberly Birrell 6-0, 7-6 (9). Marino was sidelined by depression and a serious foot injury.

In early men's play, No. 14-seeded

Milos Raonic defeated Federico Coria 6-3, 6-3, 6-2. American Reilly Opelka hit 18 aces and beat Lu Yen-hsun 6-3, 7-6 (2), 6-3.

Serena Williams overpowered Siegemund, moved well and saved one of her best shots for the final game, racing forward to flip an off-balance backhand off her shoestrings for a cross-court winner.

For the past four years, Williams has been trying to equal Australian Margaret Court's record of 24 major titles. Williams' most recent Grand Slam championship came at Melbourne in 2017.

Osaka drew a potential tough opening opponent in Pavlyuchenkova, a Russian ranked 39th who reached the quarterfinals in Melbourne three of the past four years.

