

Maximum : 7.0°
Minum : -1.0°
Humidity : 92%
SUNSET
Today 06:10 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 07:20 AM

P3 NEWS

GOVT TO UNVEIL SCHEME FOR
STREET VENDORS

The Jammu & Kashmir administration has devised a scheme for protection of livelihood of street vendors and regulation of vending in the Union Territory...

P5 THINK

MINDFUL FRIDAYS

SILENCING OUR CHILDREN:
ASCENDING OF ABUSE
DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

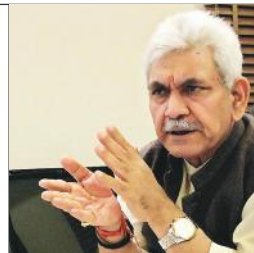
The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has posed catastrophic challenges to societies all...



P7 STATE

URBAN RENAISSANCE
HAPPENING IN J&K, SAYS LG

Taking a major step towards making Jammu city more vibrant, citizen friendly and congestion free, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today inaugurated the much...

Widom
Quote!

Honesty is the first
chapter of the book
wisdom.

— Thomas Jefferson

NEWS DIGEST

Masoodi Raises
J&K Situation In LS

NEW DELHI: Opposition members in Lok Sabha on Thursday criticised the Union Budget as disappointing and hit out at the government's policies, even as BJP leaders put up a strong defence saying that different sections of the society have praised the budget. During a discussion on the budget, National Conference's Hasnain Masoodi also lauded the budget, saying a better one could not have. ● More On P6

PAGD Wins DDC
Chairperson Post In A'nag

SRINAGAR: The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) won the election for the post of chairperson of the District Development Council (DDC) in Anantnag district held on Thursday, officials said. PAGD is an amalgam of six parties seeking the restoration of the special status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. In the fourth phase of the polls. ● More On P6

Toddler's Body Fished
Out From Nallah

GANDERBAL: The body of a toddler who had gone missing on Wednesday was recovered from Nallah Sindh at Kullan area of Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district today. Police sources said that the body of one year old kid Wahid Ahmad Sontra son of Mukhtar Ahmad Sontra, a resident of Rezan Gund was fished out from Nallah Sindh by police and locals. All efforts to trace the toddler had. ● More On P6

Six Injured In
Budgam Bus Accident

SRINAGAR: At least six persons were injured when a passenger bus met with an accident in Ichgam village in central Kashmir's Budgam district on Thursday. Six passengers were injured when a bus bearing registration number JK01C-8138 turned turtle on road on way to Raithan village of Khansahib from Srinagar near Ichgam, news agency KDC reported. The injured identified. ● More On P6

Fake ID Card Maker
Held In Baramulla: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested a person for making fake ID cards in North Kashmir's Baramulla district. Javed Ahmad Malik of Dhoobiwan Kunzer was arrested by police on specific information regarding printing and designing of fake identity cards of different departments, a police spokesperson said. Malik was operating a Photostat. ● More On P6

Uttarakhand Glacier Burst Shifting Focus On Kashmir's 'Melting Ice'

Swati Joshi

KOLAHOI, the largest glacier in Kashmir and the fountainhead of two significant tributaries of River Jhelum - Lidder and Sindh - is melting rapidly. A recent research paper revealed that the largest glacier of Kashmir

has further reduced in the area over three years.

The research compares the recent findings to that of a 2017 study.

"Kolahoi Glacier has rapidly receded due to climatic changes prevalent over the Kashmir region.

The glacier has lost 23 %

area since 1962 and has fragmented into smaller parts," revealed the paper published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health.

Irfan Rashid, one of the authors of the research paper, told Kashmir Observer that aerosol concentration, especially black carbon, is among the highest reported from the

Himalayan glaciated landscapes.

Black Carbon is organic carbon that is wind-driven and deposited on the glacier surface. It's mostly from fossil fuel (automobiles, factories, brick kilns, etc) and firewood burning (charcoal making in autumn, and hammams in winters).

On being asked about the local factors that have led to

the rapid declining of the glacier in the valley, the assistant professor at the University of Kashmir said that tourism in Kashmir is one of the major factors in the rapid receding of the glaciers.

"The promotion of tourism in the alpine landscapes of

● More On P6

No Change In
Policy On Jammu
& Kashmir: US

Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON: The United States on Wednesday said that there is no change in its policy on Jammu and Kashmir.

"I want to be very clear there has been no change in US policy in the region," State Department Spokesperson

Ned Price told reporters in view of a tweet from the South and Central Asia Bureau of the State Department which welcomed the resumption of 4G mobile internet in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We welcome the resumption of 4G mobile internet in India's Jammu. ● More On P6

Assembly
Polls In J&K
Soon: BJP

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national General Secretary Tarun Chug Thursday said that Assembly polls will soon be held in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir soon and the dates will be decided by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

Talking to reporters at the sideline of a function at BJP's Srinagar headquarters, Chug said that he is of the belief that Assembly polls will be held soon in J&K.

"Assembly polls will be held soon after the delimitation process is over. J&K UT will have an elected government soon," he said, adding as for the dates of polls, that was up to the ECI. "I think ECI will take a call on the dates of Assembly polls soon," he said.

Asked whether statehood would be given to J&K UT, he evaded the query stating that it (statehood) will come at an appropriate time. ● More On P6

....LAC STALEMATE

India Announces Breakthrough
China To Move Troops To Finger 8 Of Pangong Lake: Rajnath

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India and China have reached an agreement on disengagement in the North and South banks of Pangong lake in eastern Ladakh that mandates both sides to "cease" forward deployment of troops in a "phased, coordinated and verifiable" manner, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced in Parliament on Thursday, in a breakthrough after a nine-month border standoff.

Sharing details of the pact to defuse the tense military face-off in eastern Ladakh that severely strained ties between the two Asian giants, Singh also assured the Rajya Sabha that India has not conceded anything in the sustained talks with China and it will not allow even an



inch of its territory to be taken away by anyone.

A video shared by the Indian Army showed the pulling back of three tanks of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA)

and one by the Indian side from south of Pangong Tso besides brief shots of a meeting between troops of the two sides.

Official sources said withdrawal of tanks. ● More On P6

I AM HAPPY TO INFORM THE HOUSE TODAY that as a result of our well thought out approach and sustained talks with the Chinese side, we have now been able to reach an agreement on disengagement in the North and South bank of the Pangong lake."

J&K Reports
Two More
Covid-19 Deaths

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday recorded 65 new positive cases, taking the tally to 1,25,117, even as two fresh deaths due to the virus were reported in the last 24 hours, officials said.

Out of the fresh cases, 15 were from Jammu division and 50 from Kashmir division of the Union territory, they said.

The officials said Srinagar district recorded the highest with 20 cases, including nine travellers. ● More On 6

Mercury Dips In Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The minimum temperature in most parts of Kashmir dropped on Thursday, but there was some improvement in Srinagar, even as the MeT Office forecast dry weather for the next few days, officials said.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 0.4 degrees Celsius last night, up from the

previous night's minus 1.6 degrees Celsius, they said. Qazigund recorded a minimum of minus 4.1 degrees

Celsius, down from the previous night's low of minus 3.8 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 4.1 degrees Celsius, slightly down from minus 4.0 degrees. ● More On P6

No Traffic
On Highway
Today

The Srinagar-Jammu highway will remain closed on Friday for traffic in view of the weekly maintenance and repair works, officials said Thursday. In a post put out on its. ● More On P6

...BANK FRAUD

ED Attaches Assets Worth
Rs 20 Cr Of J&K Industrialist

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday said it has attached assets worth over Rs 20 crore of a Jammu and Kashmir-based industrialist in an alleged loan fraud case involving the Bank of India (BoI).

The attached properties are in the name of Raj Kumar Gupta and they include 44 kanals and 10 marlas of land located in Kartholi village of Samba

district worth Rs 7.59 crore, and 491 kanals and 16 marlas of land in Pampore tehsil of Pulwama district that is worth Rs 12.66 crore.

The total value of the attached properties is Rs 20.25 crore, it said.

The ED said in a statement that the case pertains to siphoning of BoI funds worth Rs 91.63 crore through companies linked to Gupta like Jhelum Infra Projects India Pvt Limited (Rs 39.70 crore), Jhelum Industries (Rs 33.83 crore). ● More On P6

Athar Deputed
To J&K from
Rajasthan

Press Trust Of India

JAIPUR: Rajasthan cadre IAS officer Athar Aamir-ul-Shafi Khan will go to Jammu and Kashmir on deputation for a period of three years, according to a government relieving order.

Khan, who belongs to J-K, had married IAS officer Tina Dabi, who was the topper of the 2016 batch and the officer of the Rajasthan cadre, in 2018 and they reportedly filed for divorce in a family court here in November last year.

The state government relieved Khan, an officer of the 2016 batch, ● More On P6

...UTTARAKHAND TRAGEDY

Fate Of Kashmiri Engineer
Remains Unknown

Augib Javeed

SRINAGAR: The fate of a Kashmiri engineer, who went missing after a glacier burst wreaked havoc in Uttarakhand on Sunday, remains unknown even as his family have joined the rescue operation to trace their loved one.

Basharat Ahmad Zargar, a resident of Soura here, was working on 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.

"There is little hope that our brother can be alive, but miracles do happen," Zargar's brother Shabir Ahmad told Kashmir Observer from Uttarakhand on phone.



Besides Zargar, hundreds of people, including labourers went missing after a glacier break triggered a surge of water in the Alaknanda river system.

As soon as Zargar's family heard about the incident, Ahmad along with his nephew Salik Zargar embarked on the journey to trace his missing brother.

"The rescue. ● More On P6

LG Seeks 'Qualitative Improvement'
In Kashmir University Functioning

Observer Monitoring Desk

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday asked the Kashmir university administration to prepare a roadmap for bringing in qualitative improvement in the overall functioning of the institution.

Chairing the 81st Kashmir university council meet at the Raj Bhavan here, Sinha called on academia to identify the challenges in the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020 and prepare a plan accordingly, thus making the higher education sector effective, result-oriented, and more vibrant.

The Lt Governor, who is also the chancellor of the university, also directed the administration to strengthen its



research ecosystem, upgrade infrastructural facilities, and academic and research programmes with a special focus on most recent advancements. He sought a detailed report on the activities and initiatives launched by the varsity and advised it to take comprehensive measures for strengthening

academic and research environment in the varsity.

Talat Ahmad, Vice-Chancellor, University of Kashmir apprised Sinha regarding the various administrative, academic, financial, and examination related reforms and research breakthroughs made by the varsity. ● More On P6

DC Cannot Suspend Tehsildar
Without Govt Approval: HC

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Thursday quashed an order by Administrative Tribunal by virtue of which it had rejected plea by Tehsildar Bari Brahmana, a KAS officer, who was placed under suspension by the Deputy Commissioner Samba in 2019.

"We are of the view that the learned Tribunal has clearly erred in holding that the (Deputy Commissioner, Samba), had the requisite jurisdiction to place the petitioner (Kaiser Mehmood), a member of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service, under suspension, that too without approval of the competent

authority in the Government," a bench of Justices Ali Mohammad Magrey and Puneet Gupta said, adding, "That being so, the order dated 3rd of February, 2021, as passed by the learned Tribunal, is set aside."

The held that it is the appointing authority or any authority to which it is subordinate or any other authority empowered by the Government that has got the powers to place an employee under suspension where an inquiry into his conduct is contemplated or is pending or a complaint against him/her of any criminal offence is under investigation or trial.

"In the instant case, risking repetition, it must be noted that the Deputy Commissioner, admittedly, is not. ● More On P6



CITY CENTER LAL CHOWK downed shutters on the 37th death anniversary of JKLF founder, Maqbool Bhat. KO Photo Abid Bhat

Govt To Unveil Scheme For Street Vendors

Sets -Up Eligibility Criteria For Issuance Of Vending Certificates

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir administration has devised a scheme for protection of livelihood of street vendors and regulation of vending in the Union Territory.

The scheme will be rolled out under the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, a local news gathering agency KNO reported.

The scheme will be applicable to all the municipal bodies/Municipalities in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir from the date as may be notified by the government in the official gazette. As per its guidelines, the town vending committee of the concerned urban local body such as municipal corporation or municipal council shall conduct the survey of street vendors itself or get it done through suitable agencies.

The survey should be conducted to identify all existing street vendors within the area of its



jurisdiction and the natural markets developed over the years by holding a spot verification. The survey shall also record the identity of the street vendor, whether the vendor is a mobile vendor or a stationary vendor of a lane, sidewalk, footpath, pavement, public park or in any other public place or private area.

According to the scheme guidelines, a person shall be eligible for grant of certificate of vending if he is a citizen of India and has no other means of livelihood except

street vending. He shall also have completed the age of eighteen years or such other age as the government may prescribe. The documents further state that the town vending committee shall fix vending fees depending on the footfall of the area but such fees shall be as prescribed by the government from time to time. "Every year ten per cent fees shall be increased. The municipality may collect vending fees annually if it deems fit," reads the documents.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My date of birth has been wrongly written in school records as 13-04-2005 while my correct Date of birth is 13-04-2003 which needs immediate correction . If anybody having any objection n this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office for the Government Boys Higher Secondary School Handwara within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Fayaz Ahmed Gujri
Son Of Abdul Raheem Gujri
R/O Machhipura
Correct Dob 13-04-2003

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار چندوسہ

عنوان: مشغول درخواست
برادر حاجی ست SR0294
اظهار برہو آگاہی ہر عام و عام
محفل مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست نامی دفتر پڑا میں زیر کا دہائی ہے اس نسبت پڑا ہی طبقہ سے رپورٹ
بجول منظور تلوالات ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے مہاں ہوا ہے کہ سہائی سالک مویش چندوسہ کا سکونت دار
ہے کہندہ بڑیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے
نمبر اشعار برہو آگاہی ہر عام و عام
35 سال
مزدوری
گھریلہ کام
30
ہائیچ
06
ہائیچ
05
مزدوری
24
شہزادہ بیکم زیدہ بیکم
23
اٹک علاوہ کوئی بھی فرد کہہ نہیں سکتا گیا ہے سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا
انھیں کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہیام کے اندر چلی کریں۔ یہاں گزرنے کے بعد کوئی
عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار چندوسہ

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار چندوسہ

عنوان: مشغول درخواست
برادر حاجی ست SR0294
اظهار برہو آگاہی ہر عام و عام
محفل مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست نامی دفتر پڑا میں زیر کا دہائی ہے اس نسبت پڑا ہی طبقہ سے رپورٹ
بجول منظور تلوالات ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے مہاں ہوا ہے کہ سہائی سالک مویش چندوسہ کا سکونت دار
ہے کہندہ بڑیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے
تاج الدین گور کٹاری
50 سال
مزدوری
گھریلہ کام
45
زیر تعلیم
16
مستاز احمد
18
زیر تعلیم
13
زیر تعلیم
اٹک علاوہ کوئی بھی فرد کہہ نہیں سکتا گیا ہے سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا
انھیں کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہیام کے اندر چلی کریں۔ یہاں گزرنے کے بعد کوئی
عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار چندوسہ

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار چندوسہ

عنوان: مشغول درخواست
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اظهار برہو آگاہی ہر عام و عام
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بجول منظور تلوالات ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے مہاں ہوا ہے کہ سہائی سالک مویش چندوسہ کا سکونت دار
ہے کہندہ کی جہان آبدی مبلغ 11000 روپے تک ہے کہندہ بڑیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے
نمبر اشعار برہو آگاہی ہر عام و عام
46 سال
مزدوری
گھریلہ کام
30
زیر تعلیم
13
زیر تعلیم
11
زیر تعلیم
09
زیر تعلیم
07
ہائیچ
06
اٹک علاوہ کوئی بھی فرد کہہ نہیں سکتا گیا ہے سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا
انھیں کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہیام کے اندر چلی کریں۔ یہاں گزرنے کے بعد کوئی
عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار چندوسہ

Engineers Seek Restoration Of SHG Scheme



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Engineers who were engaged under the 'Self Help Group of Engineers Scheme' (SHGES) on Thursday demanded revocation of the Government order under which the scheme was abolished last year.

Addressing a press conference here, Pervaz Safvi state head of the Self Help Group Engineers' Association (SHGEA) said that while the Government is making tall claims of employing the youth, at the same time they are depriving many of them of their jobs.

The SHG scheme was launched by the then Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) government 2003. It was an alternative to regular employment for unemployed engineering graduates in the region. The scheme reserved 30% of the total jobs in construction and upgradation of infrastructure work in various government departments and corporations, for these groups.

However on August 10 last

year, the governor administration abolished the SHGs, leaving hundreds of engineers jobless.

"We tried to approach everyone, including LG but no one is willing to meet us," Pervaiz said. "What is being done is ironic as the laying down of guidelines for the scheme took at least 8 years and the scheme was abolished in a jiffy; our families are on the verge of starvation while we don't have any means to earn our livelihood."

Notably, the Government has constituted a committee in this regard 4 months ago; however, after 2 meetings of the committee headed by the Advisor R.R. Bhatnagar, the engineers said, nothing worthwhile has come out of it.

"The committee had sought reports from the concerned departments which has applauded the work that we have been doing under the scheme for more than 20 years, but we see nothing coming out of it," he said.

Jobless engineers appealed to PM Modi and sought restoration of the scheme.

NWC Chief Interacts With NGOs Working For Womens Welfare In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chairperson, National Women's Commission (NWC), Rekha Sharma, on Thursday held an interactive meeting with NGOs working towards the welfare of women from various parts of Kashmir Valley here at Banquet Hall.

The meeting was organized by the State Resource Centre for Women, Social Welfare Department J&K Government.

On the occasion, the Chairperson NWC emphasized on focused attention towards the welfare of women by conducting outreach programmes to equip them of their rights and the legal recourse to combat crimes against them. She also underscored the need for changing the mindset of the society and the law enforcement agencies for effective resolution of womens issues.

Rekha also stressed on proper execution of women-centric schemes of the government, besides taking stock of the functioning of One Stop Centres functioning in the valley. She also held one-to-one interaction with NGO members and received first hand appraisal about their role in mitigating problems faced by women.

Earlier, Specialist Gender (SRCW), Sameena Mir gave a brief about the working of SRCW in Kashmir Division.

Councilor, NWC, Neha Mahajan Gupta, Specialist Gender, State Resource Centre (SRCW) for Women, Sameena Mir and others concerned, besides representatives of various Government registered NGOs were present in the meeting.

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
- BIJBERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPOR: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

This Day in History

- 1502 - Muslims in Granada forced to convert to Catholicism
- 1502 Vasco da Gama sets sail from Lisbon, Portugal on his second voyage to India
- 1528 - Treaty of Dordrecht between emperor & ecclesiastical power
- 1700 - The Great Northern War begins in Northern Europe between Denmark-Norway, Saxony and Russia and the Swedish Empire.
- 1818 - Chile gains independence from Spain.
- 1832 - Ecuador annexes Galapagos Islands
- 1861 - State troops seize US munitions in Napoleon, Arkansas, during the US Civil War
- 1886 - 2nd British government of Salisbury forms
- 1912 - The last Qing Emperor of China, Puyi abdicates after losing the support of the Chinese people and thus the mandate of heaven
- 1915 - Adolf Hitler receives the relatively common Iron Cross second class for bravery in World War I
- 1921 - Winston Churchill becomes British Minister of Colonies
- 1934 - The four-day February Uprising, sometimes called the Austrian Civil War, begins.
- 1935 - Great airship, USS Macon, crashes into Pacific Ocean
- 1953 - USSR breaks relations with Israel
- 1954 - The UK government establishes an organisation to control atomic energy in the country under The Atomic Energy Authority Bill
- 1955 McGuire Sisters' "Sincerely" single goes #1 & stays #1 for 10 weeks
- 1955 President Eisenhower sends 1st US advisors to South Vietnam
- 1955 - Soviets decides space center built in Baikonur, Kazakhstan
- 1960 - Chinese army kills 12 Indian soldiers
- 1964 - Fighting breaks out between Turks and Greeks over dispute islands in Cyprus and 16 are killed; the UN responds the following month by sending a peacekeeping force
- 1965 - Nuclear test at Pacific Ocean
- 1974 - Heads of state of Algeria, Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia discuss oil strategy in view of the progress in Arab-Israeli disengagement
- 1979 - Kosmos 1076, 1st Soviet oceanographic satellite, launched
- 1979 - Bakhtiar resigns as prime minister of Iran after losing support of the military
- 1982 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1985 - West Indies beat Australia 2-1 to win cricket's World Series Cup (Australian Tri-Series)
- 1991 - Iceland recognizes Lithuania's independence
- 1994 - XVII Winter Olympic Games opens in Lillehammer, Norway
- 1998 - Intel unveils its 1st graphics chip i740
- 1999 - US President Bill Clinton acquitted by the Senate in his impeachment trial
- 2001 - NEAR Shoemaker spacecraft touchdown in the "saddle" region of 433 Eros creating the first spacecraft to land on an asteroid.

From KO Archives

India, Pakistan May Conduct Nuclear Tests: US

Agencies

WASHINGTON US intel-ligence chiefs have warned that they could not rule out new nuclear tests by India and Pakistan and pointed to an "unacceptably high" risk of war between the two countries.

George Tenet, director of the CIA, said in pre-paring testimony to the senate intelligence committee that an escalation of the race for nuclear superiority on the subcontinent could not be ruled out "We still believe there is a good prospect of another round of nuclear tests," said Tenet. "I must report that relations between India and Pakistan remain volatile, making the risk of war between the two nuclear-armed adversaries unacceptably high," Tenet said.

MILITARY BALANCE FAVOURS INDIA

The military balance in South Asia favours India against Pakistan in most areas of conventional defence preparedness, mak-ing Islamabad rely on nu-clear weapons for deter-rence, Tenet told the Senate Committee.

He said the "military balance in which India enjoys advantages over Pakistan in most areas of conventional defence preparedness re-mains the same. This in-cludes a decisive advantage in fighter aircraft, almost twice as many men under arms, and a much larger economy to support defence expenditures.

Pakistan relies heavily on its nuclear weapons for deterrence. Their deep-seated rivalry, frequent ar-tillery exchanges in Kash-mir, and short flight times for nuclear-capable ballistic missiles and aircraft, all contribute to an unstable nuclear deterrence."

Tenet said that Kash-mir is at the centre of the dispute between India and Pakistan. Nuclear deter-rence and the likelihood that a conventional war would bog down both sides argue against a decision to go to war. "But both sides seem quite willing to take risks over Kashmir in particular, and this along with their deep animosity and distrust - could lead to decisions that escalate tensions."

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 12 February, 2001)

KASHMIR OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Thaw On LAC?

After more than ten months, there's some good news on Ladakh front with India and China agreeing to restore status quo ante at Pangong Tso lake. China has agreed to move its forces back to Finger 8, while Indian troops will go back to their permanent Dhan Singh Thapa Post near Finger 3 on the north bank of Pangong Tso. The two sides have also agreed to take a similar action on the south bank of the lake. Other things that have been agreed is that both sides will not patrol the area between Finger 3 and Finger 8 and remove any construction done by them in the areas occupied by them over the last year.

Speaking in Rajya Sabha on Thursday morning, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that according to the agreement between India and China in Pangong lake area "both sides will remove the forward deployment in a phased, coordinated and verified manner". Singh also said that the "continuing talks have resulted in disengagement agreement with China".

However the agreement is still on paper and all eyes are on how it will be implemented on the ground. Earlier last year, the two sides had reached an understanding on restoring the status quo ante but that wasn't acted upon. Instead actions by the Chinese side often pushed the situation to the brink. On June 15 last year, twenty Indian soldiers and an unknown number of Chinese soldiers were killed in a skirmish in Galwan Valley. This was the first time in more than five decades that India suffered so many deaths in a clash with China along LAC. For a while, the two countries seemed to be on the verge of a war with both sides mobilizing troops on their side of the border.

This has now become a high stakes war of nerves between the two countries. However, this time New Delhi is approaching the situation very cautiously and waiting if China's words are translated into action. There is also the realisation that the complete de-escalation will be a long haul. The current stand-off with China has been the bitterest since the 1962 war. This time China has aggressively asserted its claim to its side of the LAC and also captured strategic areas in Galwan Valley, Hot Springs and Gogra besides trying to push in along the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim. So, resolving these issues will take time. But the ongoing dis-engagement in Pangong Tso is a positive development and allows for dialogue to take place. A lot will depend on China's behaviour in the near future. We can only hope that the communist country sticks to the path of dialogue and gives precedence to sorting out the issues peacefully than unilaterally changing the facts on ground.

OTHER OPINION

Trump's Second Impeachment: Uneasy, But Essential

The evidence is clear and compelling. The deadly events of 6 January speak for themselves. There was visceral shock around the world as events unfolded that day: as Donald Trump urged people to "fight like hell" and to march on the Capitol; as he instructed them that "When you catch someone in fraud, you are allowed to go by very different rules"; and as mass violence followed. But what was seen in real time has been compounded by the evidence since amassed.

But only six Republicans were on the right side when the Senate voted on Tuesday to proceed with Mr Trump's second impeachment trial, and even if they vote to convict him too, 11 more members of his party would have to be swayed. It is almost certain he will not be convicted, which would allow a further vote to disqualify him from holding office again. Nor is it clear that the wider jury, the public, are likely to shift.

The assault on the Capitol showed that an election victory was not enough to fix America's political problem: how to restore a democracy severely wounded by Mr Trump. Nor can it be resolved by outsourcing it to a legal process within the political realm. Yet impeachment is not always restorative, but declarative: sounding an alarm, and announcing that what is happening is neither normal nor acceptable. If not now, when? If not for this, for what?

In an increasingly radicalised party, Republican senators know that their careers will probably be helped rather than hindered by backing the ex-president instead of convicting him as they should do. Mr Trump is not a man who is capable of being shamed and acquittal may embolden him and his supporters – though it would not free him from legal scrutiny: local prosecutors have opened an investigation into his attempts to reverse Georgia's election results. Plenty of his opponents worry that the process could be counterproductive (though others think that too dismissive) and wonder if there was another way.

But there can be no more serious matter, in a democracy, than an attempt to overturn the people's will through force. To choose to ignore that would be almost as damaging as the attempt itself. This trial will not only compel Republicans to make their standards explicit, but create a record of their choices as well as Mr Trump's actions, for history to judge. Though impeachment may not help the country return to happier times, it at least forces the acknowledgment that this is a moment of profound crisis. Without that, there can be no hope of protecting and restoring American democracy.

The Guardian

Changing Contours Of Indo-US Ties



Asad Mirza

The Biden administration has inherited from Trump the premise of an 'Indo-Pacific' region with India at its core. In the recent past, as relations between New Delhi and Beijing soured, India strengthened its commitment to a multilateral partnership with the United States, Japan and Australia – known as the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, or Quad.

After tolerating four years of tantrums, mood swings and fits, bad language, and the worst idiotic and overtly racist behaviour when defeated by any US president, the world keenly awaited the change of power in the oldest democracy in the world when Joe Biden took over as the new American president.

Similarly, the world keenly looked forward to understanding the contours of the new administration's internal and external policies, particularly its foreign policy. In a wide-ranging address at the US State Department in Washington last week, Joe Biden outlined his new foreign policy vision, reiterating the catch phrase – "America is back."

This stance was reflected in the words that Biden used, such as 're-build' (America's alliances) and 're-engage' (with the world). He also sought to outline a clear vision of what the new administration aims to achieve in order to improve and stabilise international relations. It was a speech designed to re-establish order and global faith in the US; things that Biden clearly feels were lost under his controversial predecessor.

Michelle Bentley, Reader in International Relations at Royal Holloway University,

London opines that the US foreign policy will now focus more on multilateral diplomacy and working with other nations in a more positive way. But Biden hinted that this should not be considered a 'soft approach', insisting that diplomacy would be the best way to get what the US wants. He also tried to highlight the importance, which his administration attaches to democratic values and described it as a key aspect of America's identity and ethos.

During his first year in office, President Biden will bring together the world's democracies to strengthen the global democratic institutions, and forge a common agenda to address threats to common democratic values. Biden has explained that the so-called 'Summit for Democracy' he plans to convene later this year, will focus on fighting corruption and authoritarianism and protect the human rights world over.

The Summit will also issue a Call to Action for the private sector, including technology corporations and social media giants, to make their own commitments, recognising their responsibilities and their overwhelming interest in preserving open, democratic societies and protecting free speech.

Indo-US Ties

James Traub of NYU's Center on International Cooperation, opines that in Asia India has a geopolitical status of all its own. The world's fifth-largest economy, India serves as a bulwark against China, which the Biden administration regards as America's most dangerous adversary. And because China increasingly seeks to export its model of authoritarian, state-run capitalism, China also poses a unique threat to democracy, which the new administration will definitely try to weaken.

The Biden administration has inherited from Trump the premise of an 'Indo-Pacific' region with India at its core. In the recent past, as relations between New Delhi and Beijing soured, India strengthened its commitment to a multilateral partnership with the United States, Japan and Australia – known as the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, or Quad.

China has castigated this forum as an Asian version of NATO, or one which is directly aimed against it. India, though cautious of formal alliances, was initially hesitant to fully engage, as it also didn't want to sour its trade relations with Beijing.

The US considers India as "one of the most important partners in the Indo-Pacific region" and says it welcomes its emergence as leading global power. "India is one of the most important partners in the Indo-Pacific region to us. We welcome India's emergence as a leading global power and its role as a net security provider in the region," US State Department spokesperson Ned Price said during a press briefing, earlier this week.

In addition, Kurt Campbell, the China hawk whom Biden recently appointed as the 'Indo-Pacific Coordinator' at the National Security Council, has reportedly proposed forging a new system of alliances binding South and East Asia, and Asia and Europe, as well as of incorporating India, South Korea, and Australia into the G-7 to form a new 'D-10' – the ten great democracies.

This further strengthens the importance which the US attaches to India but it will also keep a strict watch on the internal political developments in India, particularly related to minorities. Though the personal equation, which existed between Trump and Modi, might be missing under the new dispensation yet it may not afford to ignore India.

Also, the new administration will not be able to drastically alter its policy toward India as the US needs its

help to counter China in the region and also increasingly values India as a military and trade partner.

Mr. Biden, who once spoke optimistically of China's emergence "as a great power," has become increasingly tough on Beijing, and some analysts said his administration would most likely use the Quad as a way to ensure that the balance of power in the Indo-Pacific region does not tilt too far toward China.

Still, in New Delhi there is a school of thought which feels that the new administration might not be as tough on China as the previous one and that Mr Biden might be forced to adopt a more nuanced and less favourable position toward India.

In addition, the United States has been trying unsuccessfully to increase arms sales to India, but the country's history of buying weapons from France, Israel and Russia, has complicated that effort. There is an added US concern that providing military equipment to India might help Russian military or other foreign agents to have access to the US technology.

Other issues, which might have an impact on the relationship, are the visa and climate change issues. The outgoing president had earlier this year suspended H-1B visas for high-skilled workers, a major setback for American IT sector, which employs many Indians. US will also require the Indian support and cooperation on its initiative on climate change issues and in addition both countries are trying to hammer out a mutually beneficial Trade Agreement, which has eluded the officials so far conducting the talks.

However, there are signs that the next phase of the US-India relations will be based more on substance and less on rhetoric as India now is able to offer much more to the US, both in military, security, trade and technological terms. The ties might not be personality oriented but focussed more on changing hard realities and individual aspirations, particularly in the post-Covid changed world.

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

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Huge Benefits & Low Velocity In Coaching Centers

Coaching centers are now an important part of our education system as they are now recognized and registered by our administration. But, does it mean that they are not accountable to anyone? We often raise fingers at the huge imposition of fees by private institutions. Do they charge more fees than the coaching centers? The answer to this question is simply, no, because the fee charged by the coaching centers is many times more than these private institutions. Why no one questions and stymies this plunder? Students from far-flung areas in winter move towards cities and towns for quality tuition. They not only pay huge amounts as tuition fees but also hire rooms or stay in hostels to attend tuition classes. Some of them belong to

poor families whose parents sell or mortgage a patch of land to fulfill the needs of their children. So, it is not the fees only but also other expenses that parents have to afford. Sometimes this burden of expenses becomes too heavy to carry as a result many students are forced to surrender and leave the coaching center halfway. The irony is that teachers or coordinators of Coaching centers don't take cognizance of this burning issue.

Consequently, poor students suffer. The pace of teaching is as low as a tortoise's walk. Students have to wait for the whole year to complete their syllabus. The time required to complete the syllabus of the 11th and 12th classes is approximately five months or not more than six months. Unfortunately, when students return in November they com-

plain about the teachers' apathy who after collecting fees play truancy with the students and leave them without finishing the syllabus. Meanwhile, students face many problems like the shortage of attendance and appearance in unit tests. Many students succumb to the pressure of their institutions for regular classes so they too, return to their homes halfway. Only those students stay there who either belong to rich families or have special permission from educational institutions.

It would be better if coaching centers complete the syllabus in due course of time. Why do they drag the students to the end of the session when they spontaneously leave coaching centers?

During the lockdown situation, students stayed at their homes and were

not able to attend classes despite the fact that they had paid the fee in advance and in many cases, no classes were arranged to compensate. The strangest thing is that no one mulled over refunding the Fees paid for nothing. Isn't this plunder or embezzlement?

These above-given illustrations demand stern action and a systematic approach to curb the unjustified and capricious rules prevailing in the big coaching centers. Why do students prefer to flee their higher secondaries in Summer? Coaching centers should ponder over the weaknesses and apply innovative techniques to minimize the loss and miseries of the students.

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Mindful Fridays

Silencing Our Children: Ascending Of Abuse During Covid-19 Pandemic

Jitamanyu Sahoo and Syed Mujtaba Hussain

“The COVID-19 pandemic has had a cascading effect in which the lives of children have been deranged at different levels. The unpreparedness of our societies exposed to the significant threats to individuals, families and communities have all contributed to the rise of ongoing child abuse during the pandemic.

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has posed catastrophic challenges to societies all over the globe. While vaccination and other efforts are being undertaken to contain the virus, these same efforts have exposed children to an increased risk of family violence.

The social isolation measures undertaken by the countries have impacted the jobs, giving rise to economic instability and emergence of new forms of relationships are some of the causal factors for increased violence amongst children. Moreover, the restrictions on movement with closure of schools and isolation from peer groups have disrupted the children's social interaction.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a cascading effect in which the lives of children have been deranged at different levels. The unpreparedness of our societies exposed to the significant threats to individuals, families and communities have all contributed to the rise of ongoing child abuse during the pandemic. A study recently published in the Journal of Psychiatry Research examining the emerging evidence on child abuse have highlighted the COVID-19 impact on children depend on vulnerability factors such as developmental age, previous mental health conditions, educational and socioeconomic status, or being quarantined.

The consequences of child abuse during the ongoing pandemic are irremediable due to the invisibilization of the violence. UNICEF, worryingly states “Lockdowns, school closures and movement restrictions have left far too many children stuck with their abusers, without the safe space that school would normally offer. It is urgent to scale up efforts to protect children during these times and beyond.” We are witnessing an intergenerational transmission of violence in India; and the nature and nurture of children should not be considered as different factors in the violence perpetrated against children in times of crisis. While most of the legislations and policies addressing the aspects of child abuse do not taken into account the behavioral and the ecological features of the violence perpetrated.

Child Abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic

The World Health Organization (WHO) states child abuse as a coercive act with a child who is unable to comprehend or provide consent, leading to serious physical or psychological damage. Child Abuse includes punishment in the form of hitting, punching, kicking or beating which also occurs in schools and other institutions. It also includes sexual activities like inappropriate touching of private parts or indulging the child in touching the private parts of the perpetrator, molestation, sodomy, exhibitionism, pornography, and cybersexual acts.

A series of meta analyses conducted on the prevalence



lence of child sexual, physical and emotional abuse and physical and emotional neglect, including 244 publications and 551 prevalence rates for the various types of maltreatment in 2014 and published in Child Abuse Review. The report surveyed and noted in its findings estimating 22.6% for physical abuse, 36.3% for emotional abuse, 7.6% among boys and 18% among girls for sexual abuse, 16.3% for physical neglect, and 18.4% for emotional neglect.

Similarity, studies on COVID-19 pandemic has shown there has been a surge of child abuse cases during the lockdown. A study conducted and published in Disease of Childhood ‘Rise in the incidence of abusive head trauma during the COVID-19 pandemic’ stated an alarming rise in abuse-related head injuries among children in the United Kingdom and also filling the vacuum in the evidence on how the efforts taken to counter the pandemic has had malignant effect on the children.

In India, over one lakh calls were received across 570 districts of the country to seek protection from violence and abuse. This period only accounts of the lockdown and the data from the entire period of 2020 till now is yet to be disseminated by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The calls received were related to protection from physical and sexual abuse of the children, pertaining to cases of child labour, missing children, education, providing shelter, counselling and even child marriages. But whether the district child protection units, children welfare committees and the child care institutions were able to coordinate and address the challenges is yet to be evident.

Since, child abuse forms a major portion on the global burden of disease and also in India, the pandemic has significantly extended the vulnerability of children. The abuse and neglect undergone by the children will lead to alcohol and drug abuse, cognitive impairment and developmental delays, eating and sleep disorders, poor school performance, poor relationships reproductive health problems post-traumatic stress disorder depression and anxiety suicidal behaviour and self-harm, delinquent, violent and other risk-taking behaviours. The complex relations between the consequences of child abuse and the delayed response of our health services have already led to a serious child rights crisis.

Child Abuse is a Public Health Issue

We deprive millions of children to become productive citizens as we say we are devoted to them. This deprivation and prejudice exists amongst children due to abuse and neglect they suffer in their childhood or throughout their childhood. The theoretical and empirical studies conducted to ascertain the incidence and measures undertaken for child abuse as a public health issue especially in India are not adequately synthesized and interpreted.

Recognition of child abuse is really difficult and not considered as a public health crisis which need to dealt in an urgent basis. Firstly, majority of children have variety of infections and parents' inadequacy in providing the relevant detail; secondly, child sexual abuse for instance in India is covered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, but child abuse can be of varied forms inclusive of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect, often which the law overlooks and not addressed due to institutional incapacities; and thirdly, non-reporting of the child abuse for the fear of re-victimization because of medical examination, criminal justice system and exclusion from society members there is a continuation of child abuse.

The COVID-19 pandemic has raised complex issues in India involving recognizing and balancing the rights of parents and children, and responding to the diverse needs of new, competent, and dysfunctional families. The emerging evidence though discloses and identifies child abuse but quarantine and social isolation measures have also suppressed evidence. This is because with limited engagement with the society, withdrawal from pre-school, school, community, youth programmes, lack of association with peer groups, the early warning signs for abuse are distorted.

The access to health care and social services in India have suffered simultaneously for three reasons: a) child protection and welfare services are hampered by the mobility restrictions necessitated by the lockdown, thus limiting the accessibility; b) children in lockdown may be with the alleged perpetrators of abuse, especially if these are family members, with no respite, they are not only at greater risk of more frequent sexual or physical abuse

but also hindered from accessing helplines and reporting the abuse and c) accessibility with ease of electronic devices, have been unsafe for children leading to ‘artificial fall’ and online bullying.

Our Response

In normal times, child rights activists, child care institutions would have been advocating for deinstitutionalization of children and (re)uniting them with their families. This response to child abuse has had beneficial effects on children. Such response of community awareness and participation with anganwadi workers, ASHA workers, police, community workers, students have been an effective mechanism for sensitizing to identify and assess child abuse and to further prevent it.

But given the nature and scale of crisis due to the pandemic our response could be made at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels in lines with the recently article published in Indian Journal of Psychiatry, ‘Children on the brink: Risks for child protection, sexual abuse, and related mental health problems in the COVID-19 pandemic’. At the primary level capacity of child-care institutions shall be enhanced and update training and capacity building of government Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) staff and counsellors in accordance with emerging evidence. At the secondary levels, systematic home studies and evaluation of family capacities to care for children may be carried out by the child care institutions. Finally, at the tertiary level there should be scalability training modules and use of technology and evidence to identify child abuse patterns.

Since, the impact of COVID-19 pandemic has been global it must compel us to adopt innovation in making systemic changes within our process and procedures for child protection.

Views expressed in the articles are the author's own responsibility. The content is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment and is strictly for educational/informative purposes only

Jitamanyu Sahoo & Syed Mujtaba Hussain are Research Scholars working in (Comparative Health Law, Human Security & Constitutional Law)

One in five teens has a parent with a mental illness such as anxiety or depression. These teens are at greater risk of developing a mental illness themselves.

And while they may be familiar with the day-to-day behavioral changes of their family member, they often don't have access to accurate mental health information that can empower them and increase their ability to respond to mental illness stigma.

For nearly 30 years, I've researched the mental health information needs of children and teens who have a family member with mental illness. Study after study reveals that these young people don't receive sufficient information — at home, school or online — about mental health and illness.

Many parents don't talk with their children about their mental health disorders. Programs that increase teens' ability to manage their emotions and interact well socially are on the rise in schools. However, schools severely lack funding, resources and staffing to provide structured lessons that cover the full range of mental health literacy. This includes common mental illnesses and treatments, mental illness stigma, coping with stress and seeking help for oneself or others.

Furthermore, young people with family mental health challenges are often overlooked by mental health

providers who are responsible for treating their family member.

Children want help. For example, this study of kids ages 5-17 found that among children who know their parents take psychotropic medication, “there was an interest in knowing more about the medication purpose, regime and side effects.”

Our team recently completed a review of youth-targeted mental health websites that will be published in 2021. We found countries such as Australia and Canada have produced websites with information for individuals and families living with mental illness.

However, most of the content was written for those above the sixth-grade reading level needed for many teens, making it inaccessible. Furthermore, most countries — including the U.S. — do not have online resources addressing the needs of children of parents with mental illness.

After identifying this gap, we worked with colleagues to build new resources. Those include a mental health literacy program to teach children about mental illness as well as tools to measure their knowledge of mental health



“However, schools severely lack funding, resources and staffing to provide structured lessons that cover the full range of mental health literacy. This includes common mental illnesses and treatments, mental illness stigma, coping with stress and seeking help for oneself or others.

issues. We are now exploring ways to deliver the program online.

Most recently our team built the Mental Health Info for Teens website

to provide accurate mental health information for teens. It was designed for those at an early sixth-grade reading level. American teens who have a family member with mental illness helped guide and review content development. This helped ensure the website matched their needs.

The website provides information for teens on the following four foundations of mental health literacy, which can help them cope when they face family mental health challenges.

1. Understanding mental illness

Identifying mental health disorders, symptoms and treatment is a key component of mental health literacy. This knowledge helps young people understand that symptoms, mood changes and other family dynamics are a result of the mental illness, not something they have done. For example, a teen whose father is diagnosed with bipolar disorder can understand that her father's extreme mood swings and sudden changes in behavior are caused by his illness and can be treated and managed through a combination of medication and therapy.

2. Myths and stigma busting

Youths often believe that mental illnesses are rare, contagious and untreatable. These myths isolate children living with a family member with mental illness. They may fear what would happen to them if someone were to find out their family secret. Busting myths about mental illness reduces stigma and helps teens realize that many families — even celebrities — struggle with similar challenges.

3. Coping skills

Teenage years are often stressful. Teens are juggling academics, extracurriculars and social relationships. Family mental illness, though no one's fault, can make these difficult years more stressful. Teens can build a personal plan to manage stress. For example, positive thinking, mindfulness and exercise can help them manage their thoughts, feelings and actions.

4. Seeking help

Teens with a family member with mental illness often find themselves taking care of others. It's important for them to know where they can find help. Our website has a comprehensive list of resources, including links to crisis hotlines and tools to locate local mental health service providers.

We hope the website can provide a new resource toward increasing mental health information for teens, especially those with family mental illness.

The Conversation

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Uttarakhand Glacier

Kashmir means more anthropogenic (resulting from the influence of human beings on nature) footprint and more biomass burning that are important factors contributing to enhanced aerosol/black carbon deposition and accelerated glacier melt,” revealed Rashid.

According to the research, the Kolahoi glacier has been imbalanced between 1962 and 2018 and is not approaching equilibrium. Equilibrium is attained when the ablation and accumulation of snow on the glacier are the same.

The research mentioned the land system changes in the Lidder watershed. It also stated that the area under irrigation-intensive agriculture has shrunk by 39%, whereas the orchards have expanded by 177% from 1980 to 2017.

The land system changes in the Sindh watershed are not mentioned in the paper.

“Though there have been changes in the land system in the Sindh watershed but since a dominant part of melt waters from Kolahoi Glacier is released into Lidder, the research team thought it was better to focus on the Lidder watershed,” said Rashid.

“Nonetheless, it would be scientifically interesting to look at the land system changes on the other side of the watershed divide (Sindh).”

While the research only took Kolahoi glacier as a point of study, there are other glaciers in Kashmir like Thajiwars group of glaciers, Nehnar, Hoksar which are in a much worse condition, stressed Rashid.

“The Kashmir valley glaciers are showing accelerated retreat as compared to the rest of the Hindukush Himalaya,” said Ulfat Majeed, another author of the research. Small sized glaciers, clean glaciers (glaciers without debris), and the glaciers associated with proglacial lakes are showing greater retreat rates in the valley, he added.

Experts warn that the Himalayan glaciers are melting at an unprecedented rate and there is an acceleration of ice loss across the glaciers over the past 40 years, mentioned a study published in 2019.

“Himalayas have experienced significant ice loss over the past 40 years, with the average rate of ice loss twice as rapid in the 21st century compared to the end of the 20th century,” the study revealed.

The glaciers of the Hindu Kush Himalaya region that produce water for around 40% of the world’s population has lost mass due to climate change and they are predicted to lose more in the future, claimed another study.

“Glacier across Himalaya are receding at a never before pace if we look at the course of human history,” said Rashid. But glaciers in the Karakoram, on the contrary, have been reported to be generally stable, continued the assistant professor.

“The glaciers in the northwestern region (Kashmir) and the eastern Himalayas were reported to be receding at a higher pace as compared to other regions of the Himalayan arc.”

Glaciers form an intricate part of the ecosystem feeding the rivers and serve as a “hydrological buffer” for ecology, agriculture, and hydropower, especially in High Mountain Asia. The melting of glaciers not only impacts the stream flow but also affects all the water-dependent sectors of the economy like hydropower, agriculture, tourism, and many others.

“In a warming scenario, we might also see the formation of glacial lakes some of which might translate into glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF) putting the downstream life and infrastructure at risk,” said Rashid.

Flash floods caused by glacial lakes called GLOF occur when the moraine or rock wall in a glacial lake collapses. A collapse can take place for various reasons including when a large amount of water is deposited in the lake due to unstable melting of the glaciers.

Some of the smaller GLOFs have been reported from the Ladakh and Karakoram regions but it is highly likely that the frequency of GLOFs may increase in the future owing to the receding pattern of glaciers, said Majeed.

The reverse phenomenon could also occur once the glaciers have lost a substantial amount of mass leading to no water to release. Rivers dependent on the glaciers would diminish resulting in a drought condition impacting agriculture and various developmental activities.

While the condition of the environment is deteriorating at an alarming rate, the onset of the coronavirus pandemic brought some relief to the environment.

While pictures of the Himalayas were making rounds on social media, it might not be an exaggeration to say that the environment was healing when the humans were suffering.

Speaking about the effect of lockdown on the glaciers, Majeed said, “Any reduction in the carbon and anthropogenic footprint on or near the glaciers helps improve their health.”

But it’s important to note, he added, that glaciers won’t change state in a day.

No Change In

& Kashmir. This marks an important step for local residents and we look forward to continued political & economic progress to restore normalcy in J&K, tweeted the South and Central Asia Bureau of the State Department.

High-speed mobile internet was restored on February 5 in the entire union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, exactly one and a half years after it was snapped in August 2019 when the Centre had abrogated the special status of the erstwhile state.

According to a 2019 Congressional Research Service report of August 2019, a longstanding goal of US policy in South Asia has been to prevent India-Pakistan conflict from escalating to interstate war. This meant the United States has sought to avoid actions that overtly favoured either party. Over the past decade, however, Washington has grown closer to India while relations with Pakistan continue to be viewed as clouded by mistrust, CRS report said.

On a question related to Twitter shutting down some accounts in India, Price said, “Well, I think what I would say generally is that around the world and this goes back to what I was saying before we are committed to supporting democratic values, including freedom of expression. I think when it comes to Twitter’s policies, we’d have to refer you to Twitter itself.”

Responding to a similar question, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters at her daily news conference, “Of course, we always have concerns about crackdowns on freedom of speech, freedom of expression happening around the world and when it doesn’t allow people to communicate and peacefully protest.”

Assembly Polls

“See J&K is heading towards development, peace and prosperity. This is BJP’s mission,” Chug said. He said that BJP’s mission is to make peace a permanent feature in J&K, revive tourists and make Kashmir an abode of peace, property and progress.

“I am glad to see a huge number of tourists arriving in Kashmir, visiting Gulmarg and other places in bone chilling winter. We as a party are working for tourism revival, prosperity in the Valley. I believe more and more tourists both domestic and foreigners will come to Kashmir in the weeks ahead,” Chug said.

He said he was in Srinagar to pay homage to BJP founder Pandit Deendhayal Updhaday. “BJP under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is following the mission of Pandit Deendhayal which is to end poverty and help poor all fronts,” Chug said that the mission is being greatly followed across the country including J&K also irrespective of cast, colour and creed—(KNO)

India Announces

and other armoured elements from certain friction points is nearing completion while pulling back of troops from the North bank areas is being undertaken.

Making a statement in the Rajya Sabha a day after China announced the disengagement process, Singh said China will pull back its troops to east of Finger 8 areas in the northern bank of Pangong lake while the Indian personnel will be based at their permanent base at Dhan Singh Thapa Post near Finger 3 in the region. Similar action will take place at the southern bank of the lake as well, he said.

In an identical statement later in the Lok Sabha, he said the disengagement process was “going on well”, and that the implementation of the pact will “substantially restore” the situation to the one which existed prior to the standoff that erupted on May 5 last.

The defence minister said both sides have agreed to remove structures that had been built since April last in the North and South bank areas, and put in place a temporary moratorium on military activities including patrolling the traditional areas.

He said the two sides have agreed they should achieve complete disengagement at the “earliest” and abide fully by the bilateral agreements and protocols.

Sources in the defence and security establishment said the disengagement from the eye-ball-to-eyeball situation is the first step towards overall de-escalation and it may take several weeks to complete the entire process at all the friction points.

The defence minister said the implementation of the pact started on Wednesday and it was agreed to convene the next meeting of senior commanders of both sides within 48 hours of completion of the disengagement in the Pangong lake area so as to resolve all other remaining issues.

“I am happy to inform the House today that as a result of our well thought out approach and sustained talks with the Chinese side, we have now been able to reach an agreement on disengagement in the North and South bank of the Pangong lake,” he said.

The border standoff between the Indian and Chinese militaries erupted on May 5 following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas and both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry even as the two sides continued military and diplomatic talks.

“The agreement that we have been able to reach with the Chinese side for disengagement in the Pangong lake area envisages that both sides will cease their forward deployments in a phased, coordinated and verified manner.”

“The Chinese side will keep its troop presence in the North bank area to east of Finger 8. Reciprocally, the Indian troops will be based at their permanent base at Dhan Singh Thapa post near Finger 3. A similar action would be taken in the South bank area by both sides,” he said.

The defence minister said patrolling will be resumed in the areas only when both sides reach an agreement in diplomatic and military talks that would be held subsequently.

He said these are mutual and reciprocal steps and any structures that had been built by both sides since April 2020 in both North and South bank areas will be removed and the landforms will be restored.

“I want to assure this House that in these talks we have not conceded anything. The House should also know that there are still some outstanding issues with regard to deployment and patrolling at some other points along the Line of Actual Control(LAC) in eastern Ladakh,” he said.

“These will be the focus of further discussions with the Chinese side. We have agreed that both sides should achieve complete disengagement at the earliest and abide fully by the bilateral agreements and protocols.”

Noting that the Chinese side is fully aware of India’s resolve by now, Singh said it is India’s expectation that the neighbouring country will work with the Indian side in full sincerity to resolve these remaining issues.

“I would like this House to join me in paying

gratitude to our armed forces who have shown grit and resolve under these extremely harsh climatic conditions of Ladakh which has resulted in the present agreement,” he added.

“Our Nation will always remember the sacrifices made by our brave soldiers which has been the foundation of this disengagement at Pangong Tso lake.”

The defence minister exuded confidence that the entire House, irrespective of political affiliations, is united together for upholding the country’s “sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and national security”.

“And further, this House is one in sending out the same message demonstrating the strength and unity of our Nation to the entire world,” he said.

In the nine rounds of military talks, India had specifically insisted on withdrawal of Chinese troops from Finger 4 to Finger 8 on the North bank of Pangong Lake. The mountain spurs in the area are referred to as Fingers.

On its part, the Chinese side was insisting on withdrawal of Indian troops from several strategic peaks on the southern bank of the lake.

Around five months back, Indian troops occupied a number of strategic heights in the Mukhpari, Rechin La and Magar hill areas around the southern bank after the Chinese PLA attempted to intimidate them in the area.

Defence Minister Singh said three key principles determined India’s approach in handling the situation which are “the both sides should strictly respect and observe the LAC, neither side should attempt to alter the status quo unilaterally, and all agreements and understandings between the two sides must be fully abided by in their entirety.”

In his statement, Singh also gave a genesis of the standoff and said the Chinese side had mobilised a large number of troops and armaments along the LAC as well as in the depth areas, adding Indian armed forces too had made adequate and effective counter deployments to ensure that India’s security interests were fully protected.

China on Wednesday said the Chinese and Indian frontline troops at the southern and northern bank of the Pangong Tso started “synchronised and organised disengagement” from February 10 in accordance with the consensus reached by both sides at the ninth round of China-India Corps Commander-Level meeting. The ninth round was held on January 24 and it lasted for around 16 hours.

Both sides had rushed a large number of battle tanks, armoured vehicles and heavy equipment to the treacherous and high-altitude areas of eastern Ladakh region after tension escalated following a deadly clash in the Galwan Valley in June last.

Twenty Indian soldiers were killed in the fierce hand-to-hand combat on June 15 in Galwan Valley, an incident that marked the most serious military conflicts between the two sides in decades.

China is yet to disclose the number of its soldiers killed and injured in the clash though it officially admitted to have suffered casualties. According to an American intelligence report, the number of casualties on the Chinese side was 35.

J&K Reports

While eight districts did not report any fresh cases, 11 other districts had fresh cases in single digits.

The number of active rose to 628 in the UT, while 1,22,542 patients have recovered so far, the officials said.

Two fresh deaths were reported in Kashmir valley in the last 24 hours, taking the fatality count due to the pandemic to 1,947.

Mercury Dips

Celsius the previous night.

The minimum temperature at the Gulmarg skiing resort in north Kashmir’s Baramulla district settled at minus 4.2 degrees Celsius last night, slightly down from minus 4.0 degrees Celsius the previous night, the officials said.

Kupwara town in north Kashmir recorded a low of minus 2.0 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag in the south recorded minus 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The Meteorological Office has said the weather is expected to remain mainly dry for the week ahead.

No Traffic On Highway

official Twitter handle, the J&K Traffic police announced suspension of vehicular movement on the 270 kilometre-long strategic surface link to carry out maintenance work. “Tomorrow on 12-02-2021, no vehicular movement shall be allowed from either side on Jammu-Srinagar NHW in view of maintenance/repairing of the road,” reads the Tweet.

It also added that Mughal road connecting south Kashmir’s Shopian district with Poonch, continues to remain closed due to snow accumulation.

ED Attaches Assets

and I D Sood Ispat Private Limited (Rs 18.10 crore).

“The loan accounts were classified as non-performing asset on December 31, 2014,” it said.

The ED said its probe found that “cash of Rs 20.87 crore was withdrawn from the loan accounts and from those of various sister concerns”.

“Further, funds to the tune of Rs 18.47 crore were siphoned off through accounts owned and controlled by Gupta and his family members and through bogus accounts in the name of his employees opened specifically for the purpose of siphoning off of funds of loan accounts.

“The remaining funds were utilised for making payments to different individuals for non-business purposes,” it said.

Athar Deputed

on Thursday following a central government approval to the inter-cadre deputation.

The Department of Personnel of the state government issued the relieving orders on Thursday.

Fate Of Kashmiri

operation is very slow, the more time they take, the less chances of survival for the missing persons are there,” Ahmad said, adding “The local administration is busy in repairing a bridge and are least bothered about the missing people,”

He said, over 65 persons were stuck near the project site, 12 bodies were recovered, four were rescued and 52 others are still missing.

Ahmad further said that the four survivors told him that his brother tried to cross the river but the gushing water prevented him from doing so.

“The water was travelling at the speed of a bullet,” Ahmad quoted one of the survivors as saying.

He vowed not to leave Chamoli until the whereabouts of his brother are known.

Nasir Khuehami, a student activist who has been camping in at the spot after the tragic incident said the scenes from the ground are horrific. He said 36 dead bodies have been retrieved so far out of which only 10 have been identified.

On Thursday, the operation was temporarily halted for two hours following a rise in water level of Rishiganga River.

According to reports, Uttarakhand Governor Babu Rani Maurya had to face the ire of the families of those trapped inside a tunnel at Tapovan, when she visited the site to take stock of the rescue work.

The families waiting for over five days to be reunited with their closed ones broke down before the governor, seeking her intervention to expedite the rescue operations at the tunnel, where 25-35 people are trapped since the Sunday avalanche in Uttarakhand’s Chamoli district.

Back at home, the Zargars pin hope that the missing engineer might be alive.

“Umeed par duniya kayam hai (The world rests on hope)” Zargar’s cousin Ubaid Sultan told Kashmir Observer.

Terming his cousin as an asset for Kashmir, Sultan urged the J&K administration to take up the matter with the Uttarakhand Governor.

LG Seeks ‘Qualitative

He informed the chair about the new programmes introduced, research and extension activities, collaborations and linkages with universities around the world, recent research collaborations, and memorandums of understanding signed.

The Lt Governor observed that the best methods of teaching should be adopted along with regular capacity building of teaching faculties by incorporating students’ feedback.

Laying special emphasis on research work and counselling for addressing drug de-addiction and improving mental health, the Lt Governor called for dedicated academic inputs and devising programmes for the same.

On the training of workforce in tourism sector, the Lt Governor called for imparting tourism & hospitality based training & research in the University. He further asked for Inter/Intra UT/State Student-Teacher exchange program for handholding of new Universities, spreading awareness and publicity of startups for increasing the startup culture and creating industry linkage of academia, besides imparting skill-based training to local youth to meet the requirements of skilled workforce.

The Lt Governor stressed optimum utilization of all available ICT technology-based teaching programmes and updating of e-learning and other teaching tools to connect the students and Faculty with the enhanced educational resource platforms.

He called for promoting excellence in teaching, research, and extension activities, strengthening technical education, optimum utilization of University’s resources, and advised for evolving best practices for maintaining transparency in all student-related matters.

He further asked the University authorities to lay special focus on capacity building, job oriented and skill development courses for the students to meet the modern-day requirements.

He congratulated the faculty and students for receiving grants of International Fellowships, Awards, and Scholarships.

The meeting was attended by Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor; Arun Kumar, Financial Commissioner, Prof. Manoj Kumar Dhar, Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu; Prof. Bechan Lal, Vice-Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu; Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor; Talat Parvez Rohella, Commissioner/ Secretary, Higher Education; Chancellor’s Nominees- Prof. Shamim Ahmad Shah, Prof. Showkat Ahmad Shah, Dr. Fahmeeda Hilal, Dr. Manzoor Ahmad; Dr. Tariq Ahmad Bhat, Prof. Jaspal Singh Sandhu, Dr. Shimla, Dr. Nissar Ahmed Mir, Registrar, KU and other senior officers. (With PTI inputs)

DC Cannot Suspend

the appointing authority of the petitioner. He is not a higher authority nor has any authorization been placed on record to show that the Government has authorized him to place the petitioner under suspension,” the court said, adding, “The judgment relied upon by the learned Tribunal, while passing the impugned order dated 3rd of February, 2021, being distinguishable in facts, is not applicable to the facts and circumstances of the case on hand.”

In his plea, Qaiser Mehmood had submitted that during his posting as Tehsildar, Bari Brahmana since

18th of February, 2019, a civil dispute was going on with respect to land comprised in

Khasra No.1786/579 of Village Birpur, Samba, in the Court of Munsiff (JMJC), Samba between Bhanu Pratap Singh and Ravinder Kumar. In terms of order dated 6th of February, 2020, Qaiser says that he was appointed as Local Commissioner for demarcation of the land of the parties as per revenue record and submit a report before the Court concerned. He claimed to have conducted the demarcation as per revenue record on 5th of August, 2020 and submitted the report on 20th of August, 2020 in the Court of learned Munsiff, Samba, reporting therein that Ravinder Kumar was in possession of land measuring 13 Kanals and 01 Marla and that Bhanu Pratap Singh was not in possession of any land at all.

“Immediately thereafter (the deputy commissioner) issued an order dated 16th of January, 2021, thereby placing (me) under suspension pending enquiry.”

Qaiser had pleaded before the court in the petition that since order dated 16th of January, 2021 was issued by the deputy commissioner without any jurisdiction, the same was, accordingly, challenged by him before the Tribunal. However the Tribunal on 3 February 2021 rejected his prayer for grant of interim relief qua staying the order of the suspension against him. (GNS)

Masoodi Raises

been presented under the circumstances dictated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

He, however, used the occasion to highlight the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, alleging that silence has been imposed there following the revocation of its special status and this should not be construed as peace.

Peace and development go hand in hand, and there can be no development without peace, Masoodi said, claiming that over 400 people, including many security personnel, have been killed there in last one year with urban areas like Jammu and Srinagar accounting for 20 per cent of incidents.

Statistics show there is no peace in Jammu and Kashmir, he alleged. (PTI)

PAGD Wins DDC

on Thursday, the election was conducted in Anantnag district in south Kashmir and the PAGD, which also includes the National Conference (NC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), won both the posts of the chairperson as well as the vice-chairperson, the officials said.

The PAGD had fielded an NC candidate for the post of the chairperson and a PDP candidate for the deputy.

The NC’s Mohammad Yousuf Gors, who had won the DDC polls from Pahalgam seat, was elected as the chairman of the district council, whereas Javid Ahmad of the PDP was elected as the vice-chairman, the officials said.

Gors polled 11 votes out of the total 14 members elected to the council in December last year, they added.

Among the 14 seats in Anantnag, six were won by NC, three each by Congress and PDP and two by independents.

This is the fourth chairperson post win for the PAGD after the successes in Kulgam, Ganderbal and Pulwama.

In the first phase of the polls to the posts of chairpersons and vice-chairpersons for three districts on Saturday, Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party won two Srinagar and Shopian, while CPI(M) which is part of the PAGD won from Kulgam.

In the second phase of the elections, the polls were held in the two districts of Budgam and Kupwara, while the elections in Baramulla district were postponed.

While an independent candidate Nazir Ahmad Khan was elected as the chairperson in Budgam, Jammu and Kashmir People’s Conference led by Sajad Lone won from Kupwara district.

In the third phase of the polls on Wednesday, the elections were conducted in two districts of the Kashmir valley - Ganderbal and Pulwama and the PAGD won from both places.

While the NC won the post of the chairperson from Ganderbal, a PDP candidate was elected as chairperson in Pulwama, the officials said. (PTI)

Toddler’s Body Fished

not materialized after he went missing from his home.

“Prima facie it seems that the toddler ventured out from his home and had slipped into the fast flowing nallah,” said an official adding that Gund police have registered a case under 174 CrPc and initiated further investigation in this regard.

Six Injured In

as Habibullah Mir of Sunargund , Ruqsana of Chatroo Dangerpora, Hafeeza Bano of Banderpora, Aisha Bano of Khansahib, Bashir Ahmad Dar of Arampora and Younis Manzoor of Banderpora were removed to district hospital Budgam for treatment, the report said.

It added that one of the seriously injured man Habibullah Mir was referred to Bones and Joint Hospital for further treatment.

Meanwhile, police have taken the cognizance of the incident.

Fake ID Card Maker

shop by the name of “Speed Print “at Barzullah stop Dhoobiwan. The police spokesperson further said a computer monitor, printer and CPU were seized by police during a raid .

“The preliminary investigation revealed that the accused has issued the I-cards to different persons with different names, other than their original names .Thus promoting impersonation by fraud and cheating,” he said.

“Moreover scanned seal/stamps were also found in the CPU and might have been misused. Case FIR No.09/21 under section 420/467 IPC of has been registered and investigations started. The accused has been arrested in the instant case,” he added.

Div Com reviews functioning of Revenue Deptt

Stresses on ensuring prompt public grievances redressal, swift land transfers for developmental projects

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 11: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole today chaired a meeting of officers to review the functioning of the Revenue department in Srinagar, Budgam and Ganderbal districts.

The meeting, among others was attended by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Dr Shahid Iqbal, Director Land Records, ADC Srinagar, Assistant Commissioner Central, ACR Srinagar, SDM Srinagar, Tehsildars and other concerned Revenue Officers.

DC Budgam, Shahbaz Mirza, ADC Ganderbal, concerned ACRs, SDMs, Tehsildars and others also attended the meeting through videoconferencing.

During the meeting, the concerned DCs presented the status of functioning of Revenue offices, accommodations, vacancies, status of Kaahcharai, state land, progress on Mutations, Jamabandis, issuance of domicile, status of Lumberdars and Chowkidars, land transfer

cases, land acquisitions, reimbursement of payments, funds, migrant complaint disposal, relief, status of court cases, digitization, developmental projects and other related cases through power point presentation.

Emphasizing on speedy redressal to public grievances and weekly hearing of court cases, the Div Com instructed concerned to ensure timely disposal of all pending cases.

Div Com directed concerned to ensure retrieval of all encroached Kaahcharai and state land besides, asked concerned to maintain village wise records of encroached and retrieved land.

He instructed concerned to impose heavy fines as per the law and start criminal proceedings against all offenders.

Directions were given that lumberdars are appointed through election process only and their personal files are maintained in the concerned Tehsil office.

Directorate of ISM AYUSH celebrates World Unani Day-2021

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 11: Directorate of Indian System of Medicine ISM (AYUSH), Jammu and Kashmir today organized a grand seminar to celebrate 5th World Unani Day at Auditorium Hall, Government Dental College, here.

The World Unani Day is celebrated on February 11 every year to commemorate visionary scholar Hakim Ajmal Khan on his birthday, who has contributed in the development of the Unani system of Medicine.

Director ISM, J&K, Dr. Mohan Singh while providing the historical background of World Unani day said that Hakim Ajmal Khan is the founder of Ayurvedic Medicine who envisioned the role of Unani Medicine long before. He said that Ajmal Khan emphasized on the establishing of laboratories for research to sustain the traditional Medicine system.

Meanwhile, Dr Singh informed that thirteen lakh beneficiaries in India have been provided Ayurvedic medicine during the Covid-19 pandemic.

He also informed that the admission notification

of the first batch of Government Unani Medical College has been issued today. He expressed gratitude to the concerned for helping to take this historical leap in the development of the profession in Kashmir.

On the occasion he also shared details regarding the status of several ongoing infrastructural and research projects of ISM in J&K.

Principal Government Medical College, Srinagar Dr Samia Rashid, who is also Incharge Principal, Government Unani Medical College on the occasion highlighted the healing philosophy of Unani Medicine and said this curing philosophy has been used in India for many years and is leading among the world of Ayurvedic medicine practicing countries.

She while congratulating Director ISM and staff of the College for starting the first batch, said that a better future is created by one who perceives the present, to create the better future one will have to give his best in the present.

Dir Tourism Lays Focus on Strengthening Assets

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 11: Director, Tourism, Kashmir, Dr GN Itoo Thursday chaired a meeting here to review the status of projects being executed across various tourist circuits in Kashmir division under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP), Prime Minister's Reconstruction Plan (PMRP) and CAPEX Budget. He also reviewed the status regarding the Departmental assets at various destinations.

Laying focus on strengthening of assets, the Director Tourism emphasised upon executing agencies to ensure that all the pending tourism projects un-

der PMDP are completed at the earliest while maintaining the quality of work. He also sought immediate repair works and restoration of the damaged infrastructure due to recent snowfall. For this, he directed the officers to immediately submit the report on the status of each project.

Dr. Itoo also stressed on exploring the new and lesser-known destinations and improving the basic infrastructure there so that tourists can be diverted to these destinations which will also help maintain the carrying capacity of the popular destinations like Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonmarg during peak seasons.

entertaining poetic works. He urged for organizing more such types of awareness programmes for the benefit of the common masses.

Later, after the debate competition, a colorful cultural programme featuring Folk, Rouf, Kashmiri and Gojri Songs were presented by the artists of DIC, Shopian besides dramas were also presented by the students of AMET Mashwara which received great applause from the audiences.

Athar Hussain Balpuri of the DIC also presented Covid-19 mazahiya kalam before the audience.

As many as 44 students par-



Kashmiri fishermen holding harpoons, covered under blankets, wait in their boats to catch fish by a unique technique called "Tchaay-e-gaad shikar ('shadow fishing') in Srinagar's Anchar lake on Thursday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Urban Renaissance Happening in J&K, Says LG

"I am working on two main objectives - Sustainable Development & making Jammu city Self-Reliant"

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 11: Taking a major step towards making Jammu city more vibrant, citizen friendly and congestion free, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today inaugurated the much awaited General Bus stand, Multi-level Car Parking cum Commercial Complex worth Rs 213.08 crore.

Constructed by Jammu Development Authority (JDA), the new facility has built-up area of around 60,064 sqm, having a parking capacity of 80 Buses in bus terminal, 1312 cars, 177 two wheelers and 239 commercial shops, besides dedicated space for restaurants and food courts.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor termed the opening of the facility of General Bus stand cum Multi-level Car Parking as a step towards the comprehensive development of physical, social and basic infrastructure to accommodate the business class as well as meeting essential requirements of quality life for ordinary citizens.

"If I want to define the work that has been going on in the cities of Jammu and Kashmir for the last few months, I would say that Urban Renaissance is happening now", the Lt Governor remarked.

He extended his gratitude to the officials of Jammu Development Authority (JDA), engineers, artisans and labour force associated with the project. It is a matter of great pride that the diligence and hard work put in for the completion

there was a need to develop the existing road facilities and parking facilities, said the Lt Governor.

"I am working on two main objectives - Sustainable Development and making Jammu city Self-Reliant. And I want to tell all the citizens



of the mega project has finally become a reality, he added.

More similar parkings will be constructed in Jammu soon. Whether it is the Sewerage Treatment Plant, Rain Water Harvesting Mechanism, it has been taken care of that the scaling up of change and strategy is for long term effect, he added.

Jammu is such a beautiful city that you will be fascinated at its sight. It has also emerged as a large commercial hub in the last few years and economic activity has increased further. Therefore,

of Jammu with great responsibility that I will leave no stone unturned in improving transparency, accountability and service delivery to you", added the Lt Governor.

Recalling his meeting with the officials of Smart City Ahmedabad Development Limited on Jammu Smart City Project, the Lt Governor said that to develop Jammu as Smart City, Smart Urban Mobility and Efficient Traffic Management infrastructure is also being kept as one of the major components of the project.

'Follow our laws': Prasad tells social media firms amid row with Twitter

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Amid a row with Twitter over blocking of accounts, India on Thursday warned social media platforms of strict action for failure to crack down on inflammatory content, saying they have to fully comply with the country's law.

A day after his ministry rebuked Twitter for not complying with its orders to take down inflammatory content, Information Technology Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said social media platforms cannot give differential treatment while handling problems on Capitol Hill and the Red Fort.

The government, he said, was committed to freedom of media and rights of individuals but it was equally concerned about safety, security, and law



and order in the country.

"Please don't spread enmity, violence and misinformation. Please follow the Constitution of India and the law of the land (otherwise we will be very strict)," he said replying to a question in Rajya Sabha.

On Wednesday, his ministry had expressed displeasure at Twitter for failing to remove all of the over 1,100 accounts and posts it alleged

spread misinformation about the widespread protests by farmers against new agricultural laws.

Prasad said the social media companies took immediate action when riots broke out at Capitol Hill in Washington but ignored similar action when farm bill protesters ran riot at Red Fort on Republic Day.

"This double standard would not work here," he said flagging inflammatory content, especially those with the hashtag of Modi planning farmers' genocide.

"Yeh kya mazak hai? (What kind of a joke is this?)," he said.

The Constitution of India guarantees freedom of speech but Article 19 (2) also says that it is subject to reasonable restrictions because of the "sovereignty and integrity" of India.

Arrangements for Urs of Syed Noor Shah Reviewed

KULGAM, FEBRUARY 11: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Showkat Aijaz Bhat today visited Kund valley to take stock of arrangements for ongoing annual Urs of sufi saint Hazrat Syed Noor Shah Saheb Wali Baghdadi (RA).

On the occasion, the DC stressed upon the concerned officers

to ensure availability of all the necessary arrangements so that the devotees do not face any inconvenience.

He interacted with Auqaf Committee members and enquired about the arrangements put in place by administration for smooth conduct of Urs, the Auqaaf members expressed satisfaction over the arrangements.

Army to conduct UHQ quota recruitment rally from March 24-26

Srinagar: Army Recruiting Office, Srinagar will be organising a recruitment rally at JAK LI REGT CENTRE (J&K) From 24 to 26 March 2021 covering districts of Jammu, Samba, Reasi & Rajouri (24 Mar 2021), Udhampur, Kathua, Doda & Poonch (25 Mar 2021). Other districts of Jammu and

Kashmir, districts of Ladakh and rest of India Tradesman (26 Mar 2021), for all categories i.e Soldier General Duty (10th pass), Soldier General Duty (Sportsmen) (10th pass), Soldier Tradesmen (10th pass), Soldier Tradesmen Musician (10th pass), Soldier Tradesman (8th Pass), Soldier Clerk/SKT (10+2 pass).

MD, NHIDCL inspects work progress on Zojila tunnel

GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 11: The Managing Director (MD) NHIDCL, KK Pathak today visited the construction site of Zojila tunnel at Baltal, Sonamarg to have firsthand appraisal of the work progress on the tunnel.

The MD during the visit was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shafqat Iqbal, Executive Director-III, Sanjiv Malik, Officiating Executive Director, ASP Ganderbal, RO-Ladakh and Srinagar besides other concerned officials.

During the visit, MD reviewed the works going on East and West Portals of Zojila tunnel and was briefed about the pace and progress made on it.

The team was informed that despite the snowfall the work process was going on smoothly on Zojila tunnel.

After an on ground review of East & West Portals of Zojila

tunnel, the team visited and reviewed the progress of the approach road of Zojila Tunnel where two more tunnels are being constructed.

Pathak directed the officials of the executing agency to expedite pace of works on the ambitious project so that targets are achieved within the stipulated time frame. He also directed the Authority's Engineer to closely monitor all the construction/planning activities.

Pertinently, 14.15 km long Zojila tunnel once completed will facilitate all weather road connectivity between Srinagar and Kargil which mainly remains closed during winter due to heavy snowfall in the area and will reduce travel time also.

The tunnel will also benefit social and economic development of the region apart from boosting the tourism in Sonamarg region as well as Ladakh region.

LG's Advisor lauds KP's for their contributions in society

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 11: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan today attended a function organised by Vishwa Kashmiri Samaj (VKS) and felicitated several dignitaries on the occasion, for their contributions towards building a better society.

Speaking during the event, Advisor Farooq Khan appreciated the activities being carried out by the VKS organisation. The Advisor also complimented the Kashmiri

Pandit (KP) for their hard work and excellence in the field of education.

The VKS on the occasion highlighted different activities being carried out by the organisation like Annual Mata Kheer Bhawani ji yatra to Tulmulla Kashmir, medical camp and sports carnival at Jagti, letter writing competition for PM by Kashmiri Pandit kids besides other activities of the organisation.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the RC of my Vehicles Bearing Registration No.JK03E-4016. Now applied for its duplicates if anybody has any objection in this regard may file at ARTO Anantnag within Seven (7) days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Hamidullah Wani S/O Mohd Ramzan Wani
R/O:- Qazigund Anantnag

MJA

FATEH KHAWANI

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the demise of **Sher Muhammad Akbar Dar** son of late **Ghulam Hussain Dar** of **Kathimanda near Ali Park Zadibal Srinagar** who passed away on **Wednesday 10th February, 2021**.

His congregational **Fateha Khawani** would be held today on **12th February, 2021** at their ancestral graveyard at **Kathimadan, Zadibla** at **7:30 am**. After that a condolence meeting will held at their resident near **Ali Park**.



BEREAVED

Ghulam Mustafa (Brother), Gazanfar Ali (Son)
7889917134

از نیابت ماکام
متوفی: حضور در خواست اجاز احمدی در نظام الدین در جسم کی الدین زبہ اجاز احمدی در
سینہ جگر زبہ نظام الدین در ساکڑ موش نی: بیہ کر ملطانی بیکارڈ ایریا سر ملکتیت تحت
SRO294
اشہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام
محاط مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست برادر بیکارڈ ایریا سر ملکتیت چٹی کی
ہے جو کہ فخر خاں میں زیر کارہائی ہے اور اجاز کرنے مطلوب ہے کہہ بدلی افراد پر مشتمل ہے
68 سال
عزیزہ نگیم زبہ شیر احمد
60 گھریلہ کام
اجاز احمدی ہر شیر احمد
36 سرکاری ملازم
جسم کی الدین زبہ اجاز احمدی
30 سرکاری ملازم
نظام الدین
33 سرکاری ملازم
سینہ جگر زبہ نظام الدین
32 سرکاری ملازم
رفیقہ خاتون دختر
04 کس
انکے علاوہ معبر کی سالانہ آمدنی درج ذیل درج ذیل: 209493 ہے سر ملکتیت زیر
بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض
ساتھ ہی کے اعد چٹی کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو
نامہ قسیدار ماکام
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از نیابت ماکام
متوفی: حضور در خواست اجاز احمدی در نظام الدین در جسم کی الدین زبہ اجاز احمدی در
ساکڑ موش سول برادر ملطانی بیکارڈ ایریا سر ملکتیت تحت
SRO294
اشہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام
محاط مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست برادر بیکارڈ ایریا سر ملکتیت چٹی کی
ہے جو کہ فخر خاں میں زیر کارہائی ہے اور اجاز کرنے مطلوب ہے کہہ بدلی افراد پر مشتمل ہے
اجاز احمدی در محمد مجبول لون
28 سال
جبینہ نگیم زبہ اجاز احمدی لون
30 گھریلہ کام
لیات مال ہر
12 زیر تعلیم
02 زبہ تعلیم
حرم مال دختر
01
ثانیہ مال
انکے علاوہ معبر کی سالانہ آمدنی درج ذیل درج ذیل: 6000 ہے سر ملکتیت زیر
بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض
ساتھ ہی کے اعد چٹی کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو
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Tamil Nadu Releases T. Natarajan From Vijay Hazare Trophy Squad Following BCCI Request



Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: India's newest pace sensation T Natarajan has been released from the Tamil Nadu squad for the Vijay Hazare Trophy ODI competition as the BCCI wants him to stay fresh for the limited-overs series against England next month, a top TNCA official said on Thursday.

"The BCCI and the Indian team management wanted Natarajan to be fresh for the white ball leg of the series against England. Keeping the Indian team's interests in mind we said yes," Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) secretary R S Ramasamy told PTI.

R S Jagannath Sinivas will take Natarajan's place in the 20-member squad which will leave for Indore on February 13.

Natarajan was earlier included in a 20-man Tamil Nadu squad for the tournament beginning February 20. Tamil Nadu had recently won the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy in Ahmedabad.

The first of the five T20 Internationals against England will be played on March 12 in Ahmedabad while the first ODI will take place in Pune on March 23.

The Tamil Nadu chief of selectors S Vasudevan also confirmed the development and said Natarajan has been released from the Vijay Hazare Trophy squad.

Natarajan had become the first Indian cricketer to make his international debut across all three formats during the tour of Australia.

He played in the series-clinching Brisbane Test after making his maiden T20I and ODI appearances earlier on the tour.

Anil Kumble Supports Wasim Jaffer After Uttarakhand Cricket Accuses Him Of Religious Bias

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Spin legend Anil Kumble on Thursday extended support to his former India teammate Wasim Jaffer after the Cricket Association of Uttarakhand (CAU) alleged that he had tried to force religion-based selections as the state team's coach.

Jaffer, who quit as Uttarakhand coach owing to a dispute with the state association, on Wednesday rejected allegations by the



cricket association's officials that he favoured Muslim players in the team. He got support from Kumble, a former India captain and coach who currently heads the ICC's cricket committee.

"With you Wasim. Did the right thing. Unfortunately it's the players who'll miss your mentor ship," Kumble wrote on his Twitter handle.

The 42-year-old Jaffer, who played 31 Tests for India and is a celebrated name in domestic

cricket, said the charge levelled by CAU's secretary Mahim Verma in a media report, had caused him immense pain.

Jaffer resigned on Tuesday citing "interference and bias of selectors and the association's secretary for non-deserving players" as the reason.

"...jo communal angle lagaya (the communal angle that has been brought up), that is very, very sad," Jaffer said in a virtual press conference on Wednesday.

"They levelled an allegation that I am in favour of Iqbal Abdullah, I wanted to make Iqbal Abdullah as the captain, which is absolutely wrong," he asserted.

The leading run-getter in Ranji Trophy also dismissed allegations that he brought Maulavis (Muslim religious scholars) to the team's training.

"First of all, they said the Maulavis came there in a bio-bubble and we offered Namaz. Let me tell you one thing, the Maulavi, Maulana, who came on two or three Fridays during the camp in Dehradun, I had not called him. It was Iqbal Abdullah (Uttarakhand player) who sought mine and the manager's permission only for the Friday prayer," he said referring to the 31-year-old all-rounder, who has competed in the IPL but hasn't played for India yet.

In a tweet, he also said he "recommended Jay Bista for captaincy not Iqbal but CAU officials favoured Iqbal".

Jaffer was appointed as the head coach of the state team in June 2020. He had signed a one-year contract with CAU.

Uttarakhand won only one out of their five matches in the recent Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

WGAJK Holds Senior Level Skiing And Snowboarding Championship In Gulmarg

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In continuation to its domestic activities, the Winter Games Association of J&K (WGAJK) conducted skiing and snowboarding championship for senior boys and girls at Kongdori on Thursday. Nearly 60 athletes representing different districts took part in the event.

The race was opened by top Indian skier, Arif Khan. Notably, Arif has been selected to represent India in the upcoming FIS World Ski Championship, to be held in Italy in 3rd week of this month.

In the Men's event, Bilal Ahmad Sheikh won one gold and one bronze medal, Waseem Bhat won one silver



and one bronze. Haseeb Hajam won one silver, Kashif Bhat won one gold medal. While in Girls section Sabiya Nabi won 2 gold, Sana Afzal won one silver and bronze and Zainab won one silver and one bronze medals.

In the Snowboarding event Meh-

raj Din won Gold, Zubair Lone won Silver and Firdous Ahmad won the bronze medal.

The competition was held in 2 events, Slalom and Giant Slalom. Tomorrow the selection trials for the Khelo India games will be held.

IND VS ENG 2ND TEST

'New Chepauk Track Looks Darker, May Offer Early Turn,' Says Ben Foakes

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: England wicketkeeper Ben Foakes, who is set to don the big gloves in the second Test against India, feels the fresh Chepauk track will keep low and might start offering turn earlier compared to the series opener at the same venue.

England won the first Test by 227 runs but it wasn't until the fourth day when the red-soil Chepauk pitch started offering sharp turn. However, with India down 0-1 in the four-match series, the hosts would like to play to their strengths in the upcoming matches.

Asked how did the pitch look, Foakes said on Thursday: "It's different to the last one. It's a different soil and darker soil. I think it might be quite low and slow. But I haven't had a lot of experience with wickets but that would be my guess."

The 27-year-old, who has played five Tests and has been an understudy to Jos Buttler, spoke to reporters during a virtual interaction.

To a PTI query if the pitch would offer turn earlier than usual, he replied: "I found it quite tricky to read the wicket. I found in India obviously that's (turners) an avenue they would like to go down."

"The last wicket probably played pretty well for about two and half-three days, may be slightly longer. I guess there is a potential that it would spin earlier (on this track). I wouldn't like to look too far ahead with that and just look to see what's given on the day and try and play accordingly," said the man, who played the last of his five



Tests, in 2019.

For Foakes, the pointers he has received from his colleagues could come in handy while facing seasoned off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who has been in good form.

The second Test will be played from February 13-17.

"I think just been talking to the guys who played the last game and pick up points and tips and see anything that's helpful and trying to adapt to that to my game. Play within my limits."

Foakes said that there will always be doubts after a prolonged break but he completely understands that "Jos has been outstanding".

Will it be a problem keeping up to off-spinner Dom Bess?

"I think I haven't probably kept him too much. Probably kept him in a Li-on game. I get a lot of time to keep him in the nets and I get a lot of time. I have kept fair bit here and Sri Lanka. So I have all my bases covered."

"Without playing not much cricket, you are going to have that slight doubt since you have not been tested in a while. Hopefully, I will be back in rhythm."

He hasn't had any discussion with Buttler but has picked up cues by watching him play.

"Not really, he was shipped off as early as he can so that he could possibly spend more time with family. Purely watching how great a job he did. I was trying to pick up tips from that."

Foakes said not getting to play a lot in recent times means he would have to improve and work on his DRS skills.

"I think on turning wickets keeper comes into the game with such good view. One of those things I haven't done too much. I think I did alright in Sri Lanka (in 2018).

"One of those things I am not quite experienced and you try in the nets and have a look while standing back and get more experienced," he concluded.

Buttler, Bairstow Back As England Name Squad For T20Is Against India



Press Trust of India

Senior wicketkeeper-batsmen Jos Buttler and Jonny Bairstow were on Thursday named in a 16-member England squad for the five T20 International matches against India, scheduled in Ahmedabad between March 12 and 20.

Buttler has gone back home after the opening Test against India, which the visitors won by 227 runs, while Bairstow has been rested for the first two five-day games of the four-match series as part of England's rotational policy.

Also, coming back is IPL franchise Chennai Super Kings' all-rounder, Sam Curran, who was rested for the Test series.

Veteran pacers James Ander-

son and Stuart Broad no longer play white-ball games but Jofra Archer will be available for the five-match series, which means he might be rested at some point during the ongoing Test rubber.

The squad also has latest T20 dasher Dawid Malan, who, according to many, could be a hot pick at the February 18 IPL auction in Chennai. The squad for the three One-Day Internationals that follow the T20I series will be announced in due course.

SQUAD: Eoin Morgan (captain), Moeen Ali, Jofra Archer, Jonathan Bairstow, Sam Billings, Jos Buttler, Sam Curran, Tom Curran, Chris Jordan, Liam Livingstone, Dawid Malan, Adil Rashid, Jason Roy, Ben Stokes, Reece Topley, Mark Wood.

DC Kulgam Flags-Off 66 Students For Inter-District UT Level Sports Competitions

Agencies

KULGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam Showkat Aijaz Bhat today flagged-off a group of 66 students for inter-district UT Level sports competitions to different districts of Jammu Division from Tehsil Office Complex, Kulgam.

Sharing the details, the District Youth Services and Sports Officer

(DYSSO) Kulgam said that these students are scheduled to participate in different sports activities in various districts of Jammu division including in Doda, Kathua, Udhampur and Jammu. Among others, DYSSO Kulgam, Ghulam Hassan and other employees of the DYS&S Office besides parents of and relatives of these students were present on the occasion.

J&K Cricket Captain Parvez Rasool, BCCI Member Ranjeet Kalra Call On Advisor Farooq Khan

Agencies

JAMMU: Sports Administrator and J&K's representative to Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Ranjeet Kalra and Indian Cricketer and Captain of J&K Cricket team, Parvez Rasool called on Advisor Farooq Khan here today.

The duo during the course of meeting with the Advisor deliberated upon the various measures being taken for promotion of cricket in the Union Territory of

J&K. Kalra also requested the Advisor for expediting the process of the appointment of sportsperson under the SRO and the formulation of the UT Sports Policy.

The upcoming cricket academies being developed by the Sports Council which have been widely welcomed in the Union Territory of J&K also came up for discussion. Advisor Khan on this occasion also wished good luck to J&K Skipper Parvez Rasool and his team for the upcoming Vijay Hazare BCCI tournament.

Intend To Vaccinate Olympics-Bound Athletes From March End: Sports Ministry

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The COVID-19 vaccination for India's Tokyo Olympic-bound athletes is likely to start from the end of March after the sports ministry formally requested the health ministry to enlist the qualifying sportspersons and their coaches in the priority category.

According to a Sports Ministry official, they had already prepared a blue-print and if given a go-ahead by the health ministry, they plan to start the vaccination for Olympic-bound athletes from next month.

"The Sports Ministry has formally requested the Union Health Ministry to place Tokyo Olympics-bound Indian athletes on priority list. We have already chalked out a plan for



the two-phased vaccination of athletes, coaches and support staff," the ministry official told PTI.

"Right now, we are waiting to

hear from the Health Ministry. As and when they give us the green signal, we will start executing our plan. We intend to start vaccina-

tion of Olympic qualifying athletes from March end."

The development comes close on the heels of the Indian Olympic Association writing to the Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, requesting him to consider vaccinating the Olympics-bound athletes on a priority basis.

As of now, 74 Indian athletes have qualified for the Olympics, which will be held in the Japan's capital city Tokyo from July 23 to August 8 after being postponed last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A total of 15 shooters, four archers, 32 hockey players (men and women), four wrestlers, nine boxers, one from equestrian and five individual track and field athletes as well as the 4x400m relay team have

so far qualified for the Olympics.

Most of these athletes had qualified before the COVID-19 pandemic rocked the world early last year, which saw a halt in every sporting sphere for close to a year.

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju had already said that his ministry will prioritise athletes and trainers when their turn comes for COVID-19 vaccination but has left it to the Health Ministry to set the overall priority list.

"The government's policy is very clear. First of all, the vaccine will be provided to COVID warriors, the medical and security people. Our Olympic-bound athletes and their trainers will be provided priority in our ministry but overall priority is set by Ministry of Health," Rijiju

Sevilla Defeat Barcelona 2-0 In Copa del Rey As Messi Plays 900th Game

Agencies

MADRID: Taking advantage of a quiet game from Lionel Messi in his 900th career match, Sevilla defeated Barcelona 2-0 in the first leg of the Copa del Rey semifinals. Messi squandered a couple of chances as Sevilla won its eighth consecutive match in all competitions on Wednesday thanks to a goal by Jules Koundé in the first half and another by former Barcelona midfielder Ivan Rakitic near the end.

The second leg will be on Feb. 27 at the Camp Nou Stadium in Barcelona. Athletic Bilbao hosts Levante on Thursday in the first leg of the other semi-final.

Sevilla and Barcelona entered the semis as the

hottest teams in Spain. The Catalan club was coming off six straight wins in all competitions.

The teams played in the Copa final in 2016 and 2018, with Barcelona coming out on top both times. The Catalan club is trying to make it to its ninth final in 11 years. It made it to the last four nine straight times before being eliminated by Athletic in the quarter-finals last season.

Barcelona controlled possession but it struggled to create many significant chances at the Ramón Sánchez Pizjuán Stadium, with Sevilla goalkeeper Bono stopping the few efforts he faced. Sevilla constantly threatened on counter-attacks, especially after opening the scoring in the first half.

Messi, making his 758th appearance with Barcelona to add to his 142 with Argentina, commanded the attack but failed to capitalize on his chances, including one with only Bono to beat in the 11th minute. He nearly

scored with a stoppage-time free kick that again was stopped by Bono.

Messi had been rested in the Spanish league game against Real Betis on Sunday, when he came off the bench in the second half to lead the team to a come-from-behind victory.

Koundé put Sevilla ahead in the 25th with a nice run that culminated with him slipping the ball in between the legs of Barcelona defender Samuel Umtiti before shooting into the net from inside the area.

Rakitic sealed the victory in an 85th-minute breakaway, beating goalkeeper Marc-André ter Stegen with a shot into the top of the net. The midfielder didn't celebrate the goal against his former club.

Barcelona coach Ronald Koeman was without three players because of injuries — Martin Braithwaite, Sergiño Dest and Miralem Pjanic. Sevilla's Julien Lopetegui was without injured players Lucas Ocampos and Jesús Navas.

East Bengal Face Hyderabad FC In A Must-Win ISL Match

Press Trust of India

VASCO (GOA): SC East Bengal, who have struggled for consistency so far in their maiden Indian Super League season, will face Hyderabad FC in a must-win game here on Friday.

They've spent most of the season near the bottom of the table. Despite that, it's not all over for them, for a win against fourth-placed Hyderabad FC at the Tilak Maidan will take them to within four points of their opponents with three games left.

SCEB have 16 points from 16 games. They would still need favours from other teams to dent the chances of NorthEast United FC, Hyderabad and FC Goa — who are all tied on 23 points with 16 games played — but it is not out of the question.

They face ATK Mohun Bagan, NorthEast and wooden-spooners Odisha FC in their last three games.

But for assistant coach Tony Grant, Friday's test may be the toughest one yet.

"I rate them higher than most of the other clubs. They are better than the last two years and they got some good players. It's going to be a tough game."

"They are few points ahead of us so they have got more to try and hold on to," he added.

But to get anything out of the match, SCEB will have to be at their best in the final third. They have scored the lowest number of goals from open play (7) and talisman Bright Enobakhare has faded after a bright start.

There is every chance the match will be decided in the second half -- Hyderabad have scored 75 per cent of their goals in the second half while SCEB have conceded 14 out of 21 goals in the same period. East Bengal had their finest game

against Jamshedpur FC with the entire squad putting on a good display.

Grant maintained that he prefers to start with a similar eleven but wasn't sure if that was the best 11.

"We can't play the same 11. We played really well. We would like to play the same team but whether we have any knocks or injuries, we will find out later," Grant said.

Meanwhile, Hyderabad coach Manuel Marquez, who has just extended his contract with the team, knows that a win will be a giant step towards making the play-offs. His team is on an eight-match unbeaten run and will look to continue their good form.

"It's a tough game. I think that they have changed a lot of players. But we will try to win," he said.

"(If) we win all the games, we will be in the top four. The end is close. We need to take it game by game and win points."