



P3 CITY

ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHAB-E-MEHRAJ CONGREGATION AT HAZRATBAL REVIEWED

Mayor Srinagar Municipal Corporation Junaid Azim, Mattu along with Commissioner of the Corporation Athar Amir Khan Thursday visited Dargah Hazratbal Mosque and oversaw the arrangements

THINK

SRINAGAR FACING A GARBAGE CRISIS

Srinagar City, the summer capital of Kashmir is famous worldwide for its natural environment, gardens, waterfronts, and houseboats. Emperor Jahangir (a Mughal king in the 17th



P11 SPORTS

INDIA FOOTBALL CAPTAIN SUNIL CHHETRI TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

Indian football team captain and star striker Sunil Chhetri on Thursday said he has tested positive for COVID-19, a development that is set to rule him...



Widom Quote!

Beginnings are such delicate times.
—Frank Herbert

NEWS DIGEST

LG Grets People On Shab-e-Meraj

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday extended his heartiest greetings to people of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on the eve of Shab-e-Meraj. In his message of felicitations, the Lt Governor hoped that the auspicious occasion would spread the message of peace and promote the spirit of brotherhood. ● More On P10

J&K Logs 75 Cases, One Death

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Thursday 75 fresh cases of coronavirus, even as the deadly disease consumed another life in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. According to the officials, the victim belonged to Kashmir Valley and the latest casualty has taken the total death count to 1969-729 in Jammu and 1240 in the Valley. ● More On P10

CRPF Man Shoots Himself Dead

SRINAGAR: A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel on Thursday committed suicide by shooting himself dead in central Kashmir's Budgam district. Constable Amar Jyoti of CRPF 79 battalion shot himself dead with the service rifle of his colleague at a hotel in Humhama area of the district on Thursday morning, reports said. The deceased ● More On P10

Cop Killed In Hit And Run Case

SRINAGAR: A railway cop on Thursday was knocked to death by an unknown vehicle in Qazigund area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district. 38-year-old Pervaiz Ahmad of Hatmulla, Anantnag was mowed down by an unidentified vehicle at Damjan area of Qazigund on early Thursday morning, officials said. Station House Officer (SHO), Qazigund Irshad Reshi ● More On P10

Decomposed Body Found In Kishtwar

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday recovered a decomposed male body along the banks of river Chenab in Kishtwar district, officials said. They said the decomposed male body was recovered by the police soon after being informed by locals who spotted it. The body was shifted to Mortuary Room of district Hospital Kishtwar. The police has also ● More On P10

2 Militants Killed In Overnight Encounter: Police



File Photo

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police claimed on Thursday to have killed two local militants of Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) in an overnight gunfight in Bijbehara area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

JeM militants Adil Ahmad Bhat and Zahid Ahmad Rather were killed on Thursday morning by the joint team of police, army's 3 RR and CRPF in Kandipora village of Bijbehara in the exchange of gunfire that ensued when

the former rejected repeated surrender offers and fired upon the state forces to break the cordon, a police spokesperson said.

As per police records, he said, both the killed militants were involved in several crime cases including attacks on security forces and "civilian atrocities".

"Incriminating materials including arms & ammunition were recovered from the site of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case ● More On P10

CHARGES FILED AGAINST MILITANT, 3 OGWS

Police on Thursday said that it has filed a chargesheet against a Pakistan based militant and three of his associates, who were arrested from Ganderbal district of central Kashmir. The chargesheet were submitted before the court in a case FIR No 199/2020 registered at the police station Ganderbal, a police spokesperson said. ● More On P10

Civil Secretariat To Go Paperless

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Administrative Council in Jammu and Kashmir has approved the adoption of e-office system in all departments of the Civil Secretariat, an official spokesman said on Thursday.

The time-bound roll out of e-office in government departments at an estimated cost of Rs 67.62 crore will be a step towards the introduction of paperless office, besides, saving on the cost of shifting official records twice a year between both the secretariats at Jammu and Srinagar, he said.

The shift to e-office will bring a considerable improvement in the pace of disposal of official business and establish accountability through monitorable statistics of file movement, thereby improving public service delivery, the spokesman said.

The project entails setting up of wired LAN for Civil Secretariat, Jammu and Srinagar for providing high speed and uninterrupted connectivity, setting up ● More On P10

Rohingya Refugees: Plea In SC Seeks Release Of Members Detained In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking immediate release of detained Rohingya refugees in Jammu and restrain the Centre from implementing any order deporting them.

An intervention application has been filed in the pending matter before the top court, which also sought direction to Ministry of Home Affairs to expeditiously grant refugee identification cards through the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) for the Rohingyas in the informal camps.

The application filed by Mohammad Salimullah, a Rohingya refugee through advocate Prashant Bhusan, said that it is filed in the public interest in order to secure and protect the right against deportation of the refugees in India.



File Photo

The plea said that it is filed to protect rights guaranteed under Article 14 and Article 21, read with Article 51(c) of the Constitution, against the deportation of Rohingya refugees who have taken refuge in India after escaping widespread violence and discrimination against their community in their home country

Myanmar. "Release the detained Rohingya refugees immediately and direct the Union Territory government and the Ministry of Home Affairs to expeditiously grant Refugee identification cards through the FRRO for the Rohingyas in the informal camps," it said. It sought ● More On P10

SOPORE 'CUSTODIAL DEATH'

HC Seeks Govt's Response On Family's Plea

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir high court has issued notice to the government on a plea by family from Sopore area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district, seeking copy of a magisterial enquiry report and filing of FIR into the alleged "custodial death" of their kin in September last year.

A bench of Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey has sought the response by May 12 after hearing advocate Shafaqat Nazir for the family which alleges that their kin, Irfan Ahmad Dar of Sidiq Colony Sopore, was killed in alleged police custody on the night of September 16 last year as against the official version that the 23-year-old's body was found near a quarry at Tujjar-Sharief

after he "escaped taking advantage of the darkness."

In the petition filed by Irfan's mother—Haja Begum, and his siblings—Tahira Akther (sister) and Javid Akbar Dar (brother)—the family has sought copy of the magisterial enquiry report conducted on the directions by District Magistrate Baramulla, as per petition.

The family has also sought directions to the police to register FIR with regard to "killing of Irfan in Police custody" as well as "adequate compensation the kin of the deceased." The court has issued notice to government through Commissioner cum Secretary General Administration Department, Principal Secretary Home Department, Director General Of Police, ● More On P10

Beacon of Education Reemerges In Gritty Grades of Kashmiri Girls

Rakshanda Afrin

In his celebrated anthology, The Veiled Suite: The Collected Poem, Agha Shahid Ali details his grandmother's "bleeding heart"—which ensured the educational empowerment of the masses in the valley.

Shahid's poem, Prayer Rug in her memory, became a token introduction of "the lady with a lamp"—Begum Zaffar Ali.

this year my grandmother also a pilgrim in Mecca she weeps as the stone is unveiled she weeps holding on to the pillars

Beyond the poem, however, there's a staggering profile of the grand old lady of Kashmir—whose educational service made her legend. "Firmly determined, my



Begum Zaffar Ali with Mohammad Ali Jinnah in this pre-47 pic.

mother-in-law, Begum Zaffar Ali, was a self-made lady, who spent her life relentlessly advocating for women education and empowerment in the

valley," recalls Dr. Shaheena Agha, at her Rajbagh residence.

In the sweeping accolades being showered on the lockdown-hit girls whose recent grades once again made them the shining stars of Kashmir's dented academia, Begum Zaffar Ali found a glorious mention for inspiring generations of girls in the valley.

"My mother-in-law was one of the first Kashmiri girls whose grit made her a beacon of educational excellence," Shaheena continues.

"An untiring activist, Begum Zaffar helped Kashmiri women in one way or another. I take inspiration from her."

In her 60s, Shaheena first met Begum Zaffar as a 26-year-old woman, when she married the celebrated educationist's eldest son, Agha Nasir Ali, in 1986.

"It was an evening of mutual admiration and love," she talks about the first interaction with her ● More On P10



Begum Zaffar Ali



Study finds that misleading people are often easily misled by others



It probably seems intuitive to believe that you can't bullshit a bullshitter, but our research suggests that this isn't actually the case

Agencies

The findings of a new study from the University of Waterloo suggests that individuals who frequently try to persuade or impress others with misleading exaggerations and distortions, often themselves are much likely to be fooled by impressive-sounding misinformation. The researchers found that people who frequently engage in "persuasive bullshitting" were actually quite poor at identifying it. Specifically, they had trouble distinguishing intentionally profound or scientifically accurate facts from impressive but meaningless fiction. Importantly, these frequent BSers are also much more

likely to fall for fake news headlines. The study was published in the British Journal of Social Psychology. "It probably seems intuitive to believe that you can't bullshit a bullshitter, but our research suggests that this isn't actually the case," says Shane Littrell, lead author of the paper and cognitive psychology PhD candidate at Waterloo. "In fact, it appears that the biggest purveyors of persuasive bullshit are ironically some of the ones most likely to fall for it." The researchers define "bullshit" as information designed to impress, persuade, or otherwise mislead people that are often constructed without concern for the truth. They also identify two types of bullshitting-- persuasive and evasive. "Persuasive" uses misleading exaggerations and

embellishments to impress, persuade, or fit in with others, while 'evasive' involves giving irrelevant, evasive responses in situations where frankness might result in hurt feelings or reputational harm. In a series of studies conducted with over 800 participants from the US and Canada, the researchers examined the relations between participants' self-reported engagement in both types of BSing and their ratings of how profound, truthful, or accurate they found pseudo-profound and pseudo-scientific statements and fake news headlines. Participants also completed measures of cognitive ability, metacognitive insight, intellectual overconfidence, and reflective thinking. "We found that the more

frequently someone engages in persuasive bullshitting, the more likely they are to be duped by various types of misleading information regardless of their cognitive ability, engagement in reflective thinking, or metacognitive skills," Littrell said. "Persuasive BSers seem to mistake superficial profundity for actual profundity. So, if something simply sounds profound, truthful, or accurate to them that means it really is. But evasive bullshitters were much better at making this distinction." The research may help shed light on the processes underlying the spread of some types of misinformation, which could have important implications for the fight against this growing problem.

Twitter now tests better image previews for your photos

Agencies

Twitter has announced it is running a test with select iOS and Android users to give people an accurate preview of how their images will appear when they Tweet a photo. Currently, Twitter algorithms automatically crops images to make them display in a more condensed way in the timeline. Going forward, people in the test will see that most Tweets with a single image in standard aspect ratio will appear uncropped when posted. "People will see exactly what the image will look like in the composer tool before it's posted. Very wide or tall images will be center-cropped," Dantley Davis, Chief Design Officer at Twitter said late on Wednesday. Twitter's automatic image cropping has been a problem for photographers and artists. "With this test, we hope to learn if this new approach is better and what changes we need to make to provide a 'what you see is what you get' experience for Tweets with images," Davis said in a tweet. Twitter's algorithm decides which part of an image will get the focus and this has create problems in the past. The algorithm once prioritised white faces over Black ones in its image preview. It once cropped out former US president Barack Obama in one person's tests.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Mechanical Division, Mechanical Engineering Department, Kashmir, Srinagar
Fax No: 0194-2497093 email: xenmnds@gmail.com website: www.medkashmir.org

GIST OF SHORT TERM E-NIT

NIT No:	MDS/TS /2020-21/ 245 /e-tendering				
Date	09.03.2021				

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from registered contractors/firms for the below mentioned work:-

Name of the Work	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of	Position of Funds
1. Repairs to various Electro-Mechanical equipments at various Bore wells under National Mission on Saffron.	1.53	200/-	Bid security declaration	05 days Approved under NMS

- Downloading of Bids: The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in from 09.03.2021 (18.00 hrs)
- Submission of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 09.03.2021 (18.00 hrs) to 17.03.2021 (11.00hrs) in two covers.
- Opening of Bids: The bid uploaded on the Web Site up to due date and time will be opened on 18.03.2021 (14.00 hrs) in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Srinagar.

Sd/-
(Er. Rajesh Sharma)
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Division, Srinagar

No: MDS/ TS- / 9360-64
Date: 09.03.2021 DIPK-14874/20

Public Notice

I want to change the name on electricity bill bearing Consumer ID No: 0206050007525 From Afrin Ahamd S/O Mohd Ashraf Sheikh R/o Lawaypora to Sajad Ahmad Sheikh S/o Mohd Ashraf Sheikh R/o Lawaypora. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Concerned PDD office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Sajad Ahmad Sheikh S/o Mohd Ashraf Sheikh R/o Lawaypora BMG_R

Jammu And Kashmir Public Service Commission

Resham Ghar Colony, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu

website: <http://jkpsc.nic.in> Jammu: 0191-2566528 (f) 2566530
email: jkpscsecretary@gmail.com Srinagar: 0194-2312629 (f) 2312631

Subject: Revised Eligibility Notice for the post of Lecturer, Bio-Chemistry Government Medical College Jammu in Health & Medical Education Department Notified vide Notification No 03-PSC (DR-P) of 2019 Dated: 19-03-2019

Notification No: 03-SC (DR-P) Of 2020
Dated: 10-03-2021

Whereas, the Health & Medical Education Department vide communication NO.ME/GAZ/187/2014 dated 12.02.2019/21.01.2019, among others, referred 01 post of Lecturer Bio-Chemistry, under OM, for Government Medical College, Jammu; and

Whereas, the post was notified vide Notification No-03 -PSC (DR-P) of 2019 dated 19.03.2019, under item No. 10 and against which 21 application forms were received; and

Whereas, in the meantime, the Health & Medical Education Department vide communication No. ME-GAZ-109/2019 dated 15.10.2019 clarified that the general notes 2nd & 3rd appended at the end of the Jammu & Kashmir Medical Education (Gazetted) Services Recruitment Rules notified vide SRO 517 of 1979 dated 19th September, 1979 define the ratio of non-medical teachers for non-clinical departments. The notes 2nd and 3rd appended to these rules reads as under:-

"Except in the case of Non-Clinical Departments of Anatomy, Physiology, Pharmacology, Bio-Chemistry and Micro-Biology, where non-medical Teachers to the extent of 30% may be appointed to posts other than the head of the departments (who must necessarily hold a recognized medical qualification), all other teachers must possess the following basic qualifications in addition to the Post graduate qualification mentioned in the above schedule, namely:-

Recognized qualifications included in the First or second Schedule; or Part-II of the Third Schedule (other than licentiate qualification) to the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956. Holder of Educational qualifications mentioned in Part-II of the third Schedule should fulfill the conditions stipulated in sub-section (3) of section 13 of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956.

However, a Non-Medical Teacher in Bio-Chemistry in a Medical College with Doctorate Qualifications in Bio-Chemistry may also be considered for the post of the Head of the Department of Bio-Chemistry.

Non-Medical M.Sc qualification also be considered as sufficient for the junior teaching posts in the subject (like Lecturers/Demonstrators). For promotion to higher teaching posts they must acquire the Ph.D degree in the subject"

Whereas, the Health & Medical Education Department further intimated that out of the seven (07) faculty members in the discipline of Bio-Chemistry at present in Government Medical College, Jammu, three (03) are from Medical side and Four (04) are from non-Medical side. This would indicate that the non-Medical faculty members are in the ratio of more than 30% of the prescribed upper limit. Accordingly, the Department has intimated that the next candidate to be selected shall necessarily come from Medical side; and

Whereas, the Health & Medical Education Department while forwarding the indent vide letter No. ME/Gaz/187/2014 dated 12.02.2019 had not mentioned specifically the above position and the Notice dated 01.07.2019 was issued strictly as per the indent forwarded by the Department; and

Whereas, in view of the communication No. ME-GAZ-109/2019 dated 15.10.2019 from the Health & Medical Education Department, the selection of Lecturer Bio-Chemistry in Government Medical College, Jammu has to be restricted to the candidates having Medical background only; and

Whereas, the application forms submitted by the candidates in response to the advertisement Notice dated 01.07.2019, were scrutinized on the basis of clarification conveyed by the Health and Medical Education Department and found that out of 20 candidates applied for the post of Lecturer Biochemistry, 14 have been found ineligible as they have non-clinical background and 06 have been found provisionally eligible as they have clinical background.

Now, therefore, keeping in view of the above position, the names of the candidates who have been found eligible/in-eligible for the post of Lecturer-Biochemistry in Government Medical Colleges are hereby notified for information:

i. Candidates found eligible having clinical background:-

S.No.	Name of the Candidate
01	Mrinal Gupta
02	Ahaz Ahmad Mir
03	Palvi Mahajan
04	Mohammad Ghaid
05	Shazia Nazir
06	Ruhi Mahajan

ii. Candidates found ineligible having non-clinical background:-

S.No.	Name of the Candidate
01	Bilal Ahmad Rah
02	Chandni
03	Sunil Jamwal
04	Anil Khurshid
05	Showket Ahmad Bhat
06	Rafiq Ahmad Rather
07	Munni Thaliqutra
08	Sonia Thapa
09	Mosin Saleem
10	Sajna Rani
11	Akansha
12	Mir Kaiser Ahmad
13	Peerzada Sharif Shaheen Khaki
14	Guizar Ahmad Bhat

This notice shall be subject to the outcome of writ petition, if any, pending before any competent court of law.

Secretary, 10.03.2021
J&K Public Service Commission.
Dated: 10.03.2021

DIPK-14893/20
No: PSC/DR/Lect/Biochemistry/2019

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION SRINAGAR
NEAR J&K BANK, (Zaldagar)
Telefax No. 0194-2503195 e.mail id: xenmndsrinagar@gmail.com

Gist of Short-Term e-NIT No. 78 OF 2020-21, Dated: 10-03-2021

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Srinagar, invites e-tenders on item rate basis by e-tendering mode from the registered and reputed **Electrical/ Mechanical Contractors/ firms/ SSI Unit Holders** for:-

S. No.	Particulars of the work	Cost of document/ tender fee (In Rs.)	Estimated Cost of work "Rs" in Lacs	Exemption Allowed	Completion Period
1	Replacement of damaged 300mm dia Ci NRV at LIS Takenwari Bangladesh.	200.00	0.89	Yes	05 days
2	Execution of various Electrical Works at Lift Irrigation Scheme Beigh Mohalla Watlar	200.00	1.20	Yes	08 days

The bidding process shall be completed online in **single cover** containing -Tender Document fee, Earnest Money Deposit, Pre-qualification & Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

The critical dates are as tabulated below:-

i	Publish Date	10/03/2021 at 1400 hrs
ii	Document Download/sale start Date	10/03/2021 from 1400 hrs
iii	Clarification start date	N.A
iv	Bid submission start date	10/03/2021 from 1400 hrs
v	Clarification end date	N.A
vi	Bid submission/ Document Download/sale end date	17/03/2021 upto 1400 hrs
vii	Date and time of Bid opening	17/03/2021 at 1600 hrs

The bid uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on scheduled date /time or any other date convenient to the tender opening authority in the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Zaldagar Srinagar.

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in PWD Form No. 25 & 33.

Position of funds	Available
Position of AAA	Accorded under Order No. 150-MCO of 2020-21, Dated:- 08-03-2021

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Irrigation Division,
Srinagar

No. MDS/Ts/ 4395-4401
Dated:- 10-03-2021 DIPK-14858/20

Arrangements For Shab-e-Mehraj Congregation At Hazratbal Reviewed

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Mayor Srinagar Municipal Corporation Junaid Azim Mattu along with Commissioner of the Corporation Athar Amir Khan Thursday visited Dargah Hazratbal Mosque and oversaw the arrangements made for the devotees.

Mattu took on the spot review of the arrangements put in place by Srinagar Municipal Corporation and by other departments including PDD, PHE, Traffic Police, Health Departments for the devotees.

On the occasion he directed for uninterrupted supply of electricity, drinking water and sanitation facilities at the shrine complex, in particular during prayer times.

Besides Commissioner SMC, Joint Commissioner Administration Syed Abul Qasim, Joint Commissioner Works, and all Senior Municipal Officers were present on the occasion.

Directions were also passed to launch upgraded Sanitation at various other shrines including Peer Dastagair Sahib, Jamia Masjid, Shaahi Hamdaan, Naqshband Sahib, on the occasion.

He said that all the machinery including hopper vehicles, sweeping machines, robots shall be pressed into service and these places be thoroughly cleaned up with lime powder, fumigation and other disinfectants in view of Covid 19 pandemic.



To facilitate worshippers thronging to the place, Mattu passed on directions to the concerned to set up a Municipal Camp for assistance of devotees.

He further said that SMC shall set up similar assistance camps at other shrines as well.

In view of prevailing whether conditions he asked for making elaborate

heating arrangements for devotees, particularly women, who would be coming for obeisance and other supplications.

SMC officials were instructed to deploy additional sanitary workers at all required places to ensure proper cleaning of all religious places. Besides, mobile toilets facility is also made available to the devotees.

Srinagar Admin Urges Devotees To Adhere To COVID SOPs

Srinagar: The Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Dr Shahid Choudhary Thursday urged the devotees visiting to attend the Shab-e-Mehraj congregation at Dargah Hazratbal, to strictly adhere to COVID-19 guidelines. He asked people to ensure compliance with preventions and guidelines to prevent spread and contraction of the virus.

A government statement said that the district administration has put in place all required arrangements on the occasion of Shab-e-Mehraj.

In Hazratbal where devotees from across Kashmir throng to take part in the observance at the Dargah extensive arrangements across all domains have been made in order to ensure comfortable observance of the holy occasion.

Besides power and water facilities the administration has also pressed into service adequate transport and parking facilities for devotees to the shrine at Hazratbal.

Yesterday during a meeting convened here the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary reviewed the arrangements finalised for the holy occasion of Shab-e-Mehraj.

He directed for ensuring that all facilities as required were put in place at Dargah Hazratbal and other places of worship where major congregations are expected.

Directions were also passed to launch upgraded Sanitation at various other shrines including Peer Dastagair Sahib, Jamia Masjid, Shaahi Hamdaan, Naqshband Sahib, on the occasion.

CRPF Trooper Dies Of Cardiac Arrest

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A paramilitary CRPF trooper died of cardiac arrest at Court Road area of Kashmir capital Srinagar on Thursday evening.

A CRPF official said that the trooper of F/ 132 Battalion

of CRPF, identified as Zalim Singh, was admitted to the SMHS hospital after suffering a heart attack. However doctors declared him dead on arrival.

The officer said that the body of the trooper will be sent to his hometown after postmortem. (KDC)

KU Students Resent Re-Examination Notification

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Bachelor's in Arts 6th semester students Thursday staged a protest asking Kashmir University not to force them for re-examination.

The students, batch 2017 who assembled in Press Enclave Srinagar resented the notification issued by Kashmir University asking students to appear for re-examination.

"Our examinations ended on 5 February. Everything went well. We were shocked when after over a month Kashmir University issued a no-

tification asking students to appear for re-examination of 'Sericulture' paper. What about those student who are out of station and what was the need to conduction re-examination, that too after over a month," a protesting student said.

The protesting students said that re-examination of the paper should be made optional. "We don't know why Kashmir University took this decision. Some students who left Valley and are pursuing other courses will face problems," they said and appealed Kashmir University to look into the matter. (KNT)

Erring Traders Fined

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Assistant Director Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs department, Riyaz Ahmad, along with a team of officers during a market checking drive on the eve of Shabi Mehraj booked 10 traders for various violations

including lack of proper declarations on pre-packaged commodities and selling of sub-standard commodities.

A composition sum of Rupees Nine thousand seven hundred only was recovered from the offenders on the spot and destroyed 40 Kg rotten vegetable.

Nawa Bazar Blaze Renders 13 Families Homeless

Observer News Service

Srinagar: At least 13 families were rendered homeless on Thursday morning after a massive blaze turned six residential houses into ashes in Nawa Bazar area of Srinagar.

A massive fire broke out in one of the residential houses in Nawabazar area at 04:20 AM, officials said, adding that the fire tenders rushed to the spot immediately and doused the flames, but till then six residential houses were gutted completely.

The owners of the affected houses were identified as Mehraj din Khan, Ghulam Rasool Khan, sons of Abdul Gafar Khan, Abdul Majeed Dar, son of Ghulam Ahmad Dar, Nazir Ahmed and Javiad Dar, son of Ghulam Qadir Dar, Abdul Qayoom Khan,



son of Mohammad Sadiq Khan, Tawheed Showkat Dar, son of Showkat Ahmad Dar, Muneer Ahmad Dar, son of Abdul Ahad Dar and Muhammad Shafi Dar, son of Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Dar.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary said that all the

thirteen affected families were provided Rs ten thousand each Thursday after a team of the administration visited the spot.

He said that Rs one lakh each will be provided to them within two days, adding that a total of Rs 2.5 lakhs will be provided to each affected family very soon—(KNO)

Dir H&H For Strict Implementation Of Tourist Trade, Quality Control Acts

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of Handicrafts & Handlooms Kashmir organised a day long workshop on Publicity and Branding, & Design Innovation and Packaging of Handloom Products at Seminar Hall of Indian Institute of Carpet Technology, Nowshera Srinagar.

Director, Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, Mahmood Ahmad Shah was the Chief Guest at the programme.

On the occasion, Director, IICT, Srinagar, Assistant Direc-

tor, Handloom, Srinagar and Craft Experts from Craft Development Institute, Pashmina Testing and Quality Certification Centre, Domain expert of TAHAFUZ society, Designer from Block Level Cluster, Hawal, appraised the participants regarding the importance and objective of the Workshop. The experts delivered lectures and presented their theme specific presentations to the audience about G.I Registration, Pashmina Testing and labeling, Design Innovations and Packaging.

The workshop was attended by representatives of Handloom Cooperative Societies besides officers/officials of Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir.

Director H&H, Kashmir, in his speech impressed upon the quality control wing to gear up for strict implementation of Tourist Trade Act / Quality Control Act and ensure that the handicraft dealers distinctly label their products as per their makes so as to ensure that no fake products are sold in the name of Kashmir handmade products.

Stones Pelted On SMC's Enforcement Team During Demolition Drive

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Enforcement team of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) was allegedly pelted with stones during a demolition drive at Ahmad Nagar, 90 ft. area of Soura in the outskirts of Srinagar city on Thursday afternoon.

Reports said that a team of Enforcement wing Thursday afternoon initiated a demolition drive near Al-Khuddam in 90 ft. area of Soura.

Soon after getting a whiff, several people, which only swelled in proportion with time, started to hinder the drive and later on

pelted stones on the team. During the pelted, glass panes of several vehicles got damaged, with the officials however barely managing to escape unhurt.

When contacted Ghulam Rasool Dar, Chief Enforcement Officer SMC confirming the incident, said that glasses of several vehicles including that of a JCB and his own vehicle were damaged during heavy pelting by the people present there.

"We were there for a demolition despite an official holiday", he said adding that "However we couldn't do much with forceful restraint shown by the public there."



There was no reported injury to any official or employee in the incident, as per the official.

The official in the meantime said that they have sealed a huge illegal structure at Bota

DIAL-EMMA



- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS



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

HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI
CALENDAR

27 Rajab
1442

PRAYERS

FAJR 5: 23

ZUHR 12: 41

ASR 4: 54

Magrib 6: 38

ISHA 7: 59

This Day In History

- 1917 - Stalin, Kamenev & Muranov arrives in Petrograd/St Petersburg
- 1917 - A German submarine sinks an unarmed US merchant ship, the 'Algonquin' on the same day that US President Woodrow Wilson gives executive order to arm US merchant ships
- 1925 - British government of Stanley Baldwin refuses to ratify Geneva agreement.
- 1928 - In California, the St. Francis Dam fails, killing over 600 people.
- 1930 - Mohandas Gandhi begins 200m (300km) march protesting British salt tax
- 1935 - Britain establishes 30 MPH speed limit for towns & villages
- 1938 - Nazi Germany invades Austria (Anschluss)
- 1941 - German occupiers confiscate AVRO studios in Netherlands
- 1942 - British troops vacate the Andaman Islands in Gulf of Bengal
- 1943 - Soviet troops liberate Wjasma
- 1945 - Italy's Communist Party (CPI) calls for armed uprising in Italy
- 1945 - USSR returns Transylvania to Romania
- 1947 - US President Harry Truman introduces Truman-doctrine to fight communism
- 1951 - Communist troops driven out of Seoul
- 1957 - German DR accepts 22 Russian divisions
- 1959 - US House joins Senate approving Hawaii statehood
- 1967 - Indonesian congress strips president Sukarno of authority and names General Suharto as acting President
- 1968 - Mauritius gains independence from Britain (National Day)
- 1968 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1969 - 120 cannabis joints found at George & Patti Harrison's home
- 1970 - US lowers voting age from 21 to 18
- 1971 - Hafez al-Assad elected President of Syria
- 1971 - Turkish Government of Demirel forced to resign by Army
- 1971 - Thousands of Belfast shipyard workers march demanding the introduction of Internment for members of the Irish Republican Army
- 1975 - Vietcong conquer Ban me Thuot South Vietnam
- 1976 - South African troops leave Angola
- 1977 - Chile president Pinochet bans Christian-Democratic Party
- 1977 - Egyptian President Anwar Sadat pledges to regain Arab territory from Israel
- 1981 - Soyuz T-4 carries 2 cosmonauts to Salyut 6 space station
- 1982 - PLO chief Yassar Arafat appears on "Nightline"
- 1984 - British ice dancing team, Torvill & Dean, become 1st skaters to receive 9 perfect 6.0s in world championships
- 1985 - 11th People's Choice Awards: Clint Eastwood & Meryl Streep win (Motion Picture) and Tom Selleck, Joan Collins & Linda Evans win (TV)
- 1986 - 210.25 million shares traded in NY Stock Exchange
- 1987 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Sempalitinsk USSR.
- 1991 - OPEC announces oil production cut to 22.3 Mbbl/d (3,550,000 m3/d).
- 1992 - Mauritius becomes a republic while remaining a member of the Commonwealth of Nations.
- 1993 - 317 killed by bomb attacks in Bombay
- 1995 - Lara scores 139 in ODI v Australia at Port-of-Spain
- 1999 - Former Warsaw Pact members the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland join NATO.
- 2002 - Animated film "Ice Age" directed by Chris Wedge and Carlos Saldanha, with voices by Denis Leary and John Leguizamo premieres

From KO Archives

Govt to punish dull teachers

Observer News Service

JAMMU - Government is strictly gauging the performance of teachers in various government schools and punitive action, which may include premature retirement, demotion to the next lower post, withholding of increment, etc. is being taken against the teachers whose result performance remains repeatedly unsatisfactory.

This was stated by Minister for Education Harshdev Singh in reply to a question in the House today. He said government have taken several measures for promoting the Equality of education in the state, which include introduction of Kindergarten system, for the first time in the government I schools. He said minimum age limit for admission in government schools has been reduced from 6 to 4 years and English language introduced as a compulsory subject from first primary. He said school curriculum at secondary and senior secondary levels have been revised so as to catch up with the contemporary needs besides trying to bring it at par with the CBSE syllabi. Some text books upto class 8th have been revised so as to get them in tune with National curriculum framework. Other measures taken up by the government to improve education standard include introduction of new subjects like Biotechnology Bio-chemistry, Environment science, functional English, Islamic studies, Vedic studies besides introduction of vocational subjects at the +2 stage. The Minister said that the slate institute of education is projected to be upgraded to the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) while the State Institute of Educational Management and training is also being set up.

(Kashmir Observer, 12 March, 2005)

Millions Of Women Deprived Of Contraception In Pandemic: UN Body

Agenceis

PARIS: Some 12 million women may have lost access to contraception due to pandemic health disruptions, the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency said Thursday, warning that the poorest and most vulnerable were the hardest hit.



UNFPA, based on 115 low-and-middle-income countries, found that a loss of family planning services for around three months had likely led to 1.4 million unintended pregnancies.

"Covid has wrought havoc on the women and girls of the world. But the poorest and the most vulnerable now are seeing the most dire consequences," UNFPA Executive Director Natalia Kanem told AFP.

She said data suggested "that in wealthier countries, fewer babies are being born, whereas in developing countries -- more babies, lack of access to contraceptive services".

Lockdowns, fears of contagion and travel to health facilities led to fears over access to family planning when the virus began to spread globally last year, while global supply chain disruption has also posed a challenge.

UNFPA said that recent evidence suggested there were concentrated declines in family planning services in April and May, but that many countries were

able to restore access after that. Its new projections used anonymous Google Mobility data for grocery stores and pharmacies as a proxy for access to essential services. They suggested that 12 million women may have been unable to access family planning because of the pandemic, although its estimates were a broad range from

four million to 23 million. Kanem said the data suggests the international community was able to prevent the worst case scenario, with previous research early in the pandemic suggesting anywhere between 13 and 44 million women could have lost access to contraception.

In its report, UNFPA said its survey data from more than 70 countries found that 41 percent reported that services by family planning facilities were disrupted, while 56 percent said they were maintained.

"These are needs that have to be prioritised, it's not just nice to have this. This is a fundamental part of human dignity," said Kanem.

She said harmful practices have also increased with the pandemic, including the risk of child marriage, which had "skyrocketed".

This week the UN children's organization UNICEF warned that the effects of the coronavirus pandemic could lead to an additional 10 million child marriages this decade.

27 Pilgrims Killed As Bus Plunges Into Ravine In Indonesia



Agenceis

JAKARTA: A tourist bus plunged into a ravine on Indonesia's main island of Java after its brakes apparently malfunctioned, killing at least 27 people and injuring 39 others, police and rescuers said on Thursday.

The bus was carrying a group of Islamic junior high school students, teachers and parents from the West Java province town of Subang when the accident happened on Wednesday night on a winding road, said local police chief Eko Prasetyo Robbyanto.

He said the bus was on its way back to Subang from a pilgrimage site in the province's Tasikmalaya district when it plunged into the 20-metre-deep ravine after the driver lost control of the vehicle in an area with a number of sharp declines in Sumedang district.

Police were still investigating the cause of the accident, but survivors told authorities that the vehicle's brakes apparently malfunctioned, Robbyanto said.

Banding search and rescue agency chief Deden Ridwansah

said the 27 bodies and 39 injured people were taken to a hospital and a nearby health clinic, including a body of a young boy who was pinned under the overturned bus and pulled from the wreckage on Thursday morning.

Thirteen of the injured were treated for serious injuries, Ridwansah said. The driver was among those killed. Television video showed police and rescuers from the National Search and Rescue Agency evacuating injured victims and carrying the dead to ambulances. Grieving relatives waited for information about their loved ones at Sumedang's general hospital, others tried to identify the bodies laid at a morgue.

Road accidents are common in Indonesia because of poor safety standards and infrastructure.

In December 2019, 35 people were killed when a passenger bus fell into an 80-metre-deep ravine and crashed into a fast-flowing river on Sumatra island. In early 2018, 27 people killed after a packed tourist bus plunged from a hill in West Java's hilly area. AP



Quad countries are on Friday is due to hold an online summit meeting.

With Eye On China, Quad Nations To Tie Up In Rare Earths: Report

Agenceis

Tokyo: The United States, Japan, India and Australia will work together to secure rare earth metals that are

essential to the production of electric car motors and other products, the Nikkei newspaper reported on Thursday.

The four-nation group, referred

to as the "Quad" countries, are on Friday due to hold an online summit meeting seen as part of efforts to counterbalance China's growing military and economic power.

Myanmar Junta Accuses Suu Kyi Of Taking Bribes As 8 Killed In Anti-Coup Protests

Agenceis

MYANMAR's military government on Thursday alleged that deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi had accepted illegal payments, while eight people were killed when security forces opened fire on protests against the coup, witnesses said.

Rights group Amnesty International accused the military of adopting battle tactics against demonstrators.

Six people were killed in the central town of Myingyan when security forces fired on a protest, a demonstrator who helped carry bodies to hospital told Reuters by telephone. A health worker there confirmed all six deaths.

"We protested peacefully," the 31-year-old man said. "I couldn't believe they did it."

One person was killed in the North Dagon district of the biggest city of Yangon, witnesses said. Photographs posted on Facebook showed a man prone on the street, bleeding from a head wound. One death was reported in Mandalay.

Before Thursday's deaths, an advocacy group, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, had said more than 60 protesters were killed and about 2,000 people detained by security forces since the February 1 coup against Suu Kyi's elected government.

Amnesty International accused the army of using lethal force against protesters and said many killings it had documented amounted to extra-judicial executions.

"These are not the actions of overwhelmed, individual officers making poor decisions," said Joanne Mariner, Amnesty's director of crisis response. "These are unrepentant commanders already implicated in crimes against humanity, deploying their troops and murderous methods in the open."

Junta spokesman Brigadier General Zaw Min Tun told a news conference the security forces were disciplined and used force only when necessary.

The unrest was not a situation



that should be of concern to the international community and the West was making assumptions that were incorrect, he said.

The military has previously said it is acting with utmost restraint in handling what it describes as demonstrations by "riotous protesters" whom it accuses of attacking police and harming national security and stability.

Zaw Min Tun also said Suu Kyi had accepted illegal payments worth \$600,000 as well as gold while in government, according to a complaint by Phylo Mien Thein, a former chief minister of Yangon.

"He strongly said that," the spokesman said. "We have verified those facts several times. Now the anti-corruption committee is continuing the investigation." Aye Ma Ma Myo, a member of the dissolved parliament belonging to Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy, rejected the claim.

"It is no longer uncommon to see slander against politicians and efforts to crush the party while innocent young people are killed in public," she told Reuters in a message.

The army has justified taking power by saying that a November election, overwhelmingly won by Suu Kyi's party, was marred by fraud—an assertion rejected by the electoral commission.

Zaw Min Tun also reiterated that the military would only be in charge for a certain period before holding an election.

"We are on the road to authentic democracy," he said.

The junta has previously promised a new election within a year, but has not set a date.

The UN Security Council on Wednesday condemned violence against protesters and urged the army to show restraint.

But language that would have denounced the military takeover as a coup or threatened possible further action was removed from the British-drafted text, due to opposition by China, India, Russia and Vietnam.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he hoped the Security Council statement would push the military to realise it "is absolutely essential" that all prisoners are released and the results of the November election are respected.

In Myanmar, state media said the junta had removed Arakan Army (AA) insurgents from its list of terrorist groups because the faction had stopped attacks in order to help establish peace across the country.

The move comes as the army struggles to restrain daily protests against the coup.

The AA, which is fighting for greater autonomy in the western state of Rakhine, had become one of the most formidable forces in challenging an army that has been fighting various ethnic wars for seven decades.

Japan Scrambles Jets To Intercept Nuclear-Capable Russian Bombers: Report



Agenceis

MOSCOW: Japan scrambled F-15 fighter jets to intercept two Russian nuclear-capable Tupolev Tu-95MS bombers that were flying over the Sea of Japan and the

Pacific Ocean, the Interfax agency cited Russia's defence ministry as saying on Thursday.

The ministry was quoted as saying that the flight had been carried out over neutral waters and that it had been planned.

Netanyahu Shelves UAE Trip Following Spat With Jordan



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cancelled a historic visit to the United Arab Emirates on Thursday, citing a disagreement with Jordan over crossing its airspace.

A statement from the premier's office said he "was expected to visit the United Arab Emirates today but, due to difficulties in coordinating his flight in Jordan's airspace, the visit was postponed."

It did not set a new date. The Hebrew-language statement said that the overflight row "apparently stemmed" from the cancellation by Israel of a planned visit Wednesday by Jordan's Crown Prince Hussein to the Al-Aqsa mosque in occupied east Jerusalem.

The prince's visit was called off following "a dispute over security and safety arrangements at the site," the Israeli statement said.

There was no immediate comment from Amman.

Oded Eran, a former Israeli ambassador to Jordan, said the latest spat between Israel and Jordan reflected a deeper deterioration in relations in recent years.

"The major problem is there is no dialogue between the No. 1's, that is the prime minister and the king of Jordan," he said, saying the two leaders are not known to have met or spoken for at least three years.

Eran also said there is a lack of trust, highlighted by Israel's plans last year to annex parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Israeli media had reported the planned visit on Wednesday, saying Netanyahu would meet Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Commentators deemed it as a chance for Netanyahu to flourish his diplomatic credentials ahead of Israel's March 23 election.

The UAE had not formally confirmed the visit -- the first by the prime minister to the Gulf power -- nor that it was being reviewed.

Normalisation of relations Israel established formal relations with the UAE and Bahrain last September -- only its third and fourth normalisation deals with Arab states in more than 70 years -- as part of a US-brokered agreement. The three countries share common concerns about Iran.

The US-brokered deal under former President Donald Trump required Israel to halt its contentious plan to annex the already illegally occupied West Bank -- a step which could have scuppered the possibility of a future Palestinian state.

Israel and the four Arab nations agreed to announce deals such as tourism and direct flights, and open embassies.

Saudi Arabia, a Gulf powerhouse and Islam's birthplace, encouraged the rapprochement but has stopped short of recognising Israel itself.

Netanyahu, running in politically polarised Israel's fourth election in two years largely on his role in its rapid COVID-19 vaccination programme, has also made his drive to forge new relations in the Gulf region a centrepiece of his campaign.

The most detailed of the accords was with the UAE. The nations agreed to approve bilateral deals on 15 areas of mutual interest, including finance, trade, aviation, energy, telecommunications, health, agriculture and water.

The two countries had nurtured clandestine security ties for years over a shared distrust of regional foe Iran.

In an interview with Israeli Army Radio on Tuesday, Netanyahu called on voters to re-elect him on March 23 so he could achieve "more peace agreements" in the area while ensuring Iran "doesn't arm itself with nuclear weapons".

Iran denies its nuclear programme is aimed at developing atomic weaponry.

NEWSMAKERS

Malaysian Court Rules Non-Muslims Can Use 'Allah'

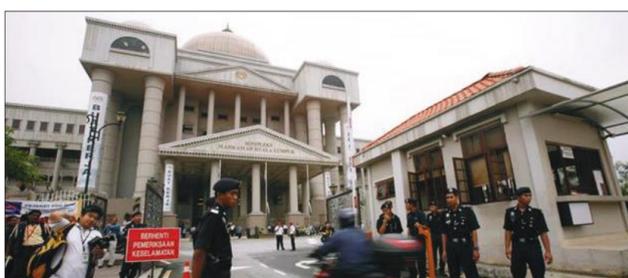
KUALA LUMPUR: A Malaysian court ruled on Wednesday that non-Muslims can use the word "Allah" to refer to God, in a major decision in a divisive issue for religious freedom in the Muslim-majority country.

The High Court decision squashed a 35-year-old government ban on the usage of Allah and three other Arabic words by Christian publications, deeming the ban unconstitutional, said the plaintiff's lawyer, Annou Xavier.

The government has previously said Allah should be reserved exclusively for Muslims to avoid confusion that could lead them to convert to other religions, a stance that is unique to Malaysia and hasn't been an issue in other Muslim-majority nations with sizeable Christian minorities.

Christian leaders in Malaysia say the ban is unreasonable because Christians who speak the Malay language have long used Allah, a Malay word derived from Arabic, in their Bibles, prayers and songs.

The high court ruling appeared to contra-



dict an earlier decision by the country's Federal Court in 2014 that upheld the government ban following a legal challenge by the Roman Catholic Church, which had used the word Allah in its Malay-language newsletter. "The court has now said the word Allah can be used by all Malaysians," Xavier said. "Today's decision entrenches the fundamental freedom of religious rights for non-Muslims in

Malaysia" enshrined in the constitution, he added. Muslims account for about two-thirds of Malaysia's 32 million people, with large ethnic Chinese and Indian minorities. Christians comprise about 10 per cent of the population.

Most Christians in Malaysia worship in English, Tamil or various Chinese dialects, and refer to God in those languages, but some Malay-speaking people on the island of Borneo have

no other word for God but Allah.

Three other words -- "Kaabah" or Islam's holiest shrine in Mecca, "baitullah" or house of God, and "solat" or prayer, were also banned in the 1986 government directive.

Government counsel Shamsul Bolhasan was quoted by The Star newspaper as saying that the four words can be used in Christian materials according to the court's ruling, as long as there is a disclaimer saying it is intended for Christians only and a symbol of a cross is displayed.

The ruling was a result of a long legal challenge by a Christian woman whose religious materials containing the word Allah were seized by authorities at the airport when she returned home from Indonesia in 2008.

The controversy over the usage of Allah has provoked violence in Malaysia. Anger over a lower court ruling against the government ban in 2009 led to a string of arson attacks and vandalism at churches and other places of worship. That ruling was subsequently overturned by higher courts.

16 Injured As Tribal Groups Clash Over Offensive Tiktok Videos In Pakistan

Agenceis

Karachi: At least 16 people have been seriously injured in Pakistan's Sindh province after two tribal groups clashed over "offensive Tiktok videos", police said on Thursday.

The fight broke out on Wednesday after the two groups in Mirpur Sakro area mocked each other, using "offensive" clips on the video-sharing platform, officials said.

All the 16 injured persons have been shifted to Karachi for treatment, eight of them are said to be in critical condition, a local official said.

"The dispute started three days ago, when youths from the two tribes uploaded videos on TikTok.



This led to tension between the groups," he said, adding that attackers used bamboo sticks with iron hooks and axes in the fight.

Pakistan in October last year had banned TikTok, citing "immoral" content. However, the ban was lifted in just ten days after the Chinese-owned company promised to moderate its content. Several youths have lost their lives trying to shoot daring videos on the platform. TikTok has nearly 20 million users in Pakistan.

Parliamentary Panel Seeks Special Budgetary Provisions For Road Connectivity In J&K



Agencis

SRINAGAR: A parliamentary panel has recommended the Union government that it must keep special focus on the maintenance of roads in the Jammu & Kashmir region.

In its report, the department-related parliamentary standing committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture has recommended to the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways to ensure sufficient budgetary provisions for road connectivity in Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory.

"The Committee is of the considered view that the Ministry must place special focus on the maintenance of roads in the Jammu and Kashmir region, since the region needs good connectivity throughout the year, from both economic as well as strategic viewpoint. A well-connected, well maintained road network would spur economic activities and further the tourism prospects of the

region. The Committee, therefore, recommends the Ministry to ensure sufficient budgetary provisions for this purpose and in case any shortage is felt in this regard, the same may be communicated to the Ministry of Finance at the Revised Estimates (2021-22) stage," reads the report.

The report was tabled in both Houses of the Parliament on Tuesday.

The panel headed by MP T.G Venkatesh made the recommendation after his recent visit to Kashmir where he interacted with different stakeholders on issues related to road, travel & hospitality sectors.

He also heard the officials of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, National Highways Authority of India AI and Government of Jammu & Kashmir on 'role of highways in nation building' with reference to the status of national highways/ state Highways in Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages To Be Registered As Society

JAMMU: The Administrative Council (AC), which met here under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, approved the proposal to register the J&K Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The decision will align the Academy with the administrative changes brought in Jammu and Kashmir after its reorganization in 2019.

The reorganisation of the J&K Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages is based on the existing models of central bodies like Sahitya Academy, Sangeet Natak Academy and Lalit Kala Academy.

The new Society will be governed through a Governing body under

the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, and will also have other administrative authorities including General Council, Central Committee, and Finance Committee.

The Society will work to promote publication of literature on art, culture and allied subjects including monographs, journals, dictionaries, and encyclopedias; sponsor and organize cultural exchanges, mushairas, symposiums, seminars, lectures, meets, camps, conferences, exhibitions, film shows, music, dance & drama performances, and cultural festivals; and encourage translations of literary works from one regional / national language into others and also from non-Indian into regional / national languages.

Kidnapped Shopian Cousins Recovered, Accused Arrested

Agencis

SRINAGAR: Two minor cousin sisters who were allegedly kidnapped in Shopian district of south Kashmir have been recovered within 12 hours, officials said on Thursday.

Soon after the sisters, both aged about 14 years, were missing, officials said that a case FIR (No.

21/2021) under section 363 IPC (kidnapping) was registered in police station Zainapora Shopian.

SSP Shopian, they said, constituted five different police teams who immediately swung into action and at least 25 persons were detained for questioning.

"Finally girls were recovered and the accused was arrested from Srinagar," they said. (GNS)

Govt Approves Creation Of 30 Posts To Operationalise Maternity Hospital Jammu

JAMMU: The Administrative Council (AC), which met here under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, approved the proposal of Health and Medical Education Department to create additional 30 posts to operationalise the newly sanctioned 200 bedded Maternity Hospital at Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

The Maternity Hospital is being built at an estimated cost of Rs. 50 crore, and has an initial sanctioned strength of 237 employees at different levels of the organisational hierarchy. The additional 30 posts are required to make the paediatric wing of the hospital fully functional.

Once operational, the hospital will strengthen the maternity-related facilities in Jammu division, ease the burden of patient load on the existing tertiary level hospital-SMGSH, and ensure quality maternity, neonatal and pediatric care to the patients.

Tipper Crushes Man In Poonch

Agencis

POONCH: A retired Zonal Educational Officer (ZEO) was killed after run over by a speeding tipper from rear side in Poonch district on Thursday, officials said.

They said at about 1500 hours, the ZEO Gulab-ud-Din (retired ZEO) son of Wali Mohammad of Prat Gurasi in Mendhar area of Poonch district was crushed to death when a tipper (JK12-7950) hit and trampled him after unloading Bajri at his house.

SHO Gurasi Kamal Singh confirmed the death and said that further proceedings are underway. (GNS)

'Bird Flu Scare Shuts 70 Percent Poultry Farms In Valley'

Agencis

SRINAGAR: Amid the bird flu scare, over 70 percent of poultry farms in Kashmir have closed leaving hundreds of people jobless and causing farmers losses worth crores.

Poultry farmers said that last year they suffered heavy losses due to Covid-19 lockdown and this year due to the rumour mongering about bird flu in the poultry.

Tariq Elahi, a senior member of Kashmir Valley Poultry Farmers Association (KVPPFA) said that despite no case of bird flu was reported in poultry, people have stopped the consumption, "due to rumour-mongering and irresponsible reporting by the media".

"Only one case was reported in poultry in Baramulla but that too was on a shop not in a poultry farm but people started spreading rumours that there is bird flu among poultry everywhere," Elahi said.

Elahi said most of them have started the business on bank loans and by witnessing huge losses from last two years they are unable to return the money to the banks.

"Hundreds of people have taken farms on rent but due to bird flu scare, they too have closed their



farms," he said.

He said to restart the farm, one has to purchase a chick for Rs 50 to 60 which they used to purchase in between Rs 20 to 30.

"Feed costs around Rs 80 per chick for about 30 to 40 days and then in the market we have to sell it Rs 80 per kg," he said. "How farmers will restart their farms in such circumstances when he is getting Rs 80 per kg but he has to spend around Rs 120-150 at an average on one poultry bird."

Elahi said, farmers have requested the government to look into the matter and come up with a package for poultry farmers or at least waive off their interests on bank loans.

Avian Influenza has been reported among dead crows, domestic geese and cocks in Jammu and Kashmir besides a single case among poultry in Baramulla.

Moreover, doctors have said that it is safe to eat poultry products if it is boiled properly, however precautions must be taken—(KNO)



Herath Celebrated Across Kashmir

Agencis

SRINAGAR: Kashmiri Pandits on Thursday celebrated Maha Shivratri, locally known as Herath, with great fervour amid incessant rains that added colour to the festival.

Amid Covid-19 SoPs and guidelines a special prayer were organised at Shankaracharya Temple overlooking Dal Lake in Srinagar.

On the occasion the Shankaracharya Temple was illuminated with lights and decorated with flowers. The festival holds an important place among the Pandits, who celebrate it to mark the wedding of Lord Shiva with Par-

vati by cooking traditional Kashmiri food, especially fish. Rainfall or snow on this day is considered to be a good omen.

On this festival, the Pandits distribute soaked walnuts as a mark of respect to the Hindu deities.

Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha on the festive occasion said, this festival symbolizes value of devotion and harmony, while extending his greetings on his Twitter Handle he wrote, "My greetings to all on the auspicious occasion of Mahashivratri. This festival symbolizes values of devotion & harmony, the hallmark of glorious tradition & cultural ethos of

J&K. I pray for sustained peace and development in J&K and well-being of its people."

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir P. K. Pole while talking to KNO extended his best wishes to the Pandit Community and prayed for peace and brotherhood on this pious occasion.

"I also extend my greetings and wishes on Shabe-E Mehraj to Muslim Community in which night long prayers are held, on the occasion of Maha Shivratri and Shabe-E-Mehraj I once again extend my greetings to both the communities and pray for peace, brotherhood, development in the valley", he said.

J&K Tourism Organises Road Show At Indore



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K Tourism Department in collaboration with the Association of Kashmir Tour Operators, held another road show at Indore as part of its promotional campaigns across the country to attract tourists.

Assistant Director, Dr. Javedur-Rahman and Tourist Officer, Jammu, Rajesh Raina represented the J&K Tourism who were accompanied by the office bearers from the Association of Kashmir Tour Operators (AKTO).

Leading tourism operators, travel agents, destination management companies besides regional and national media were invited at the promotional evening who networked with the J&K's travel agents for business opportunities and promotion of the varied tourism products.

J&K Tourism highlighted the vast potential of the tourism sector in the Union Territory through beautiful presentations delivered by Assistant Director Dr. Javedur Rehman. He highlighted the J&K's all tourism products including leisure, adventure, pilgrim, handicraft, food and culture. On the occasion, various short films were also screened which mesmerised the audience.

Assistant Director India Tourism, Ministry of Tourism, R. K. Mishra who was also one of the guests at the promotional programme hailed the JK's initiative in promoting its tourism sector in

Madhya Pradesh which, he said, is one of the potential markets for the Union Territory.

Hemendra Singh Jadon, Chairman, Travel Agents Association of India, Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh Chapter also spoke on the occasion and said JK is one of the priority destinations for travel agents and travellers are eager to visit the paradise. He assured that the TAAI - MP chapter will promote JK in their packages.

Praising the hospitality of the Kashmiris, Atul Singh Chapter Chairman (MP) Association of Domestic Tour Operators of India who also spoke on the occasion said they have been sending tour groups to Kashmir for a very long time and they have been receiving overwhelming love from the people during their holidays. He said Kashmir is not only a beautiful place but safe for travellers. He also urged the travel and tourism fraternity to promote JK vigorously in their tour packages.

Moreover, the department has already organised several shows at other major cities including, Kolkata, Pune, Puri, Jaipur, Amritsar, Bhubaneswar, Bhopal and Bangalore followed by Chennai on March 12, Raipur Varanasi & Lucknow on March 13, Nagpur on March 17, Mumbai & Hyderabad on March 19, Delhi on March 25, Cochin on March 26 and Mysore on March 27 beside it will also participate in major travel marts like OTM, SATEE as part of its aggressive marketing campaign.

Enhanced Value Of Product Will Increase Farmer's Income: DDC Shopian

SHOPIAN: The District Development Commissioner, Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya Thursday Chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee under Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME).

The meeting discussed various issues relating to the structure and success of different units under PMFME and approval of beneficiaries/cases in the district.

During the meeting, 04 cases were put up for discussion. These include Units of Manufacturing of Food and Products of different units. The Committee discussed threadbare various issues relating to the structure and success of these Units.

The DDC directed the concerned officers to coordinate with District Lead Bank Manager, Shopian and resolve bottlenecks relating to financial implications. He said that the objective of the scheme is to double the farmer's income by enhancing the value of

the products. This can be done by increasing production on one side and diversifying the demand for additional produce by value addition and processing on other hand, he added.

The DDC said that the FME scheme will provide a framework for value chain development and alignment of support infrastructure by identifying a unique food product with a special focus on perishable items in Agriculture produce and a food product widely produced in a district. He advised for general awareness among the people in this regard and also directed for diversification of sale points of apple across the district besides full integration of apple processing with one district one product (ODOP) programme.

The DDC also directed them to make correct exercise while preparing DPRs of various projects so that Banks and approving authorities take appropriate action on time.

Div Com Stresses On Speeding Up Of Construction Work On Z- Morh Tunnel



Agencis

GANDERBAL: Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Pandurang K. Plole Thursday visited under construction Z- Morh tunnel where he initiated blast for first breakthrough of the Z-Morh Tunnel between West Portal and the Ventilation Tunnel Portal, here.

Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shafiqat Iqbal and General Manager (P), NHIDCL, V. K. Pandey, ACR Ganderbal, SDM Kangan, ARTO Ganderbal and officials from NHIDCL were present on the occasion.

After initiating the blast, the Div Com reviewed the process of ongoing work at

the site. He was briefed about the progress made on various works of Z-Morh tunnel including construction of approach roads, lanes, protective walls, drains besides other affiliated works of the project.

After the physical inspection of East & West Portals of Z-Morh tunnel, the Divisional Commissioner stressed upon speeding up the construction work by the engaged contractor. On the occasion, he was assured that the Z-Morh escape tunnel will be ready for controlled movement by November this year.

Pertinently, the opening of the Z-Morh escape tunnel facilitates locals and tourists to access Sonamarg during the winter season as well.

DR. SHABIR AHMAD DAR

CONSULTANT
NEUROPSYCHIATRIST
GMC SRINAGAR

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Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the Kashmir Observer LLP
Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001
Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Ind Area, Srinagar.
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Editor-in-Chief: Sajjad Haider
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2106304
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email editorial: editor@kashmiobserver.net

K O V I E W

After ceasefire

The re-affirmation of the 2003 ceasefire agreement along the Line of Control will go a long way to ease the life along of the border dwellers on both sides of the border. Since 2010 when violations of 2003 agreement became common, hundreds of civilians and security personnel have been killed on both sides. What is more, the border residents have had to suffer displacement forcing New Delhi to build concrete bunkers for them away from the border. The situation had become worse since the revocation of Article 370 in August 2019. According to data provided by the Ministry of Defence in Parliament recently, there were 5133 instances of ceasefire violations along the LoC and other areas in Jammu, resulting in 46 fatal casualties, and 3,479 ceasefire violations in 2019. Similarly, according to data from Pakistan, there were 3,097 ceasefire violations in 2020 leading to death of 28 people on Pakistani side and injuries to 257 others. Also, figures from reports in Pakistani press say there have been over 13,600 ceasefire violations since 2003.

So, a halt to the frequent firing exchanges will make a redeeming difference to the lives of lakhs of border residents on both sides of the Line of Control. But it won't change anything as far as the situation in the Valley where militancy continues to reign supreme. In 2020, the number of recruits joining militancy saw a 22 per cent rise to 174 in 2020 from 143 in 2019. Last year also as many as 225 militants were killed by security forces - 207 of them in Kashmir Valley and 18 in the Jammu region.

The issue of militancy can be addressed if India and Pakistan go back to dialogue. Talks could go a long way to reduce the tension between the neighbours. The calm borders had become an important factor in the normalization of the relations between the neighbours, enabling them to start one of the most promising dialogue processes through 2003-2007 which by accounts of the top leaders of the two countries who were at the helm of it was close to a breakthrough on Kashmir.

But the challenge for the two countries would be to sustain a dialogue should it start. In past many such attempts have been aborted by a major attack in India traced to elements in Pakistan or sometimes the rigid negotiating positions of the two countries. It would be interesting to see how the two countries negotiate their respective conditionalities before reaching out to each other. Here's hoping that the anticipated fresh engagement between the parties reaches its logical conclusion in a resolution of all the issues dividing the two countries for the past seven decades.

O T H E R O P I N I O N

Food wastage and hunger

A closer look at the cause of human suffering can yield shocking revelations. The United Nations' Food Waste Index Report 2021 showed, for instance, that in 2019, an estimated 931 million tonnes of food were thrown away by households, restaurants and other food services around the world. This, at a time when hunger and malnourishment are global concerns. It is often believed that hunger is the result of inequitable access to food or its underproduction. The UN report, however, tells a different tale. In India, the food wastage per person in a year was estimated to be 50 kilogrammes. One of the consequences of such waste is there for all to see; in last year's global hunger index, India ranked 94 out of 107 nations and was bracketed in the 'serious' hunger category.

The report underscores the need to view hunger holistically: lack of access to food, faulty distribution, chronic poverty, conflict, populous societies and, significantly, food wastage all play a part in aggravating the problem. While the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India launched an initiative to encourage saving and sharing food that might have been wasted, it is unlikely to yield far-reaching results without governments conducting targeted awareness campaigns to sensitize households to the need to cook and consume according to their needs. There is an additional — moral — issue that must not be ignored. The excessive purchase, stocking and consumption of food is increasingly being projected as a signifier of wealth, ostentation and power. According to one estimate, about 10 to 20 per cent of the food at the Great Indian Wedding — and, possibly, at other such social occasions — is wasted. Such pandering to excess, mostly by the rich, in a country that accounted for 22 per cent of the global burden of food insecurity — the highest for any nation — in 2017-19 is shameful. China has launched the 'clean plate' campaign under which efforts are being made to reduce food wastage. Similar policies to curb criminal wastage elude India. In 2018, the Delhi government told the Supreme Court that it was considering imposing restrictions on the number of guests at "extravagant" weddings to minimize food wastage; it is unclear whether the policy has fructified. Meanwhile, there is a push to reduce food subsidies with the Niti Aayog recently recommending the reduction of the rural and urban coverage under the National Food Security Act. In a nation floundering under the weight of starvation, a concerted public campaign fortified with a legislative framework must be in place to prevent and penalize food wastage.

Telegraph India

Miles and Milestones



Manoj Sinha

I would like to reiterate on the occasion of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav that we have to provide our youth prospects for the future, invest more in education and skills and strengthen the position of girls and young women in the society

Friends, an individual or a nation turning 75 invites anxiety. What next? That's the query which often acquires the shape of a puzzle. But, for us, India turning 75 is a moment for joy and celebration, and indicates a fresh resolve towards nation building.

A New India — as Prime Minister Narendra Modi had called for in his address to the nation from the ramparts of Red Fort on August 15, 2017— should emerge on the 75th anniversary of Independence in 2022 from the joint strength of all.

Next 75 weeks will lay a spread to celebrate "Azaadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav" to mark 75 years of independence.

The impressions of resistance against Britishers are still young and failed to age in our nation's memory. March 12 is a major milestone in India's freedom struggle against the British imperialism. The day captures Mahatma Gandhi's another non-violent feat to achieve freedom through Dandi March from Sabarmati Ashram in 1930.

The country's destiny is on the cusp of a change. The emerging New India is eager to come out of shackles of impediments that have held the nation hostage from realization of human potential and development which stalwarts like Gandhi had dreamt off.

The celebrations should hold the spirit of freedom movement, express gratitude to the martyrs, and reflect glory of Sanatan Bharat and Modern India which glows under the twin light of spirituality of mystics and contribution of our scientists; Prime Minister Modi had outlined his views on the 75-week long events.

Friends, now is the time for each one of us to take a pledge again on our duties towards the nation — that's what Gandhi and constitution-maker BR Ambedkar had told men and women to vow for post Independence. We all have the rights to life and I'm sure there is scope for more.

But, ponder over what Gandhi told us then which is so relevant even now. "The true source of rights is duty. If we all discharge our duties, right will not be far to seek. If leaving duties unperformed we run after rights, they will escape us like a will-o'-the-wisp. The more we pursue them, the farther they fly".

Make yourself accountable to the J&K and Country's growth.

History testifies that India has stood for "Vasudev Kutumbhakam" every time the crisis has stared at humanity. Latest insight into the country's potential and determination was writ large in the compassionate way we dis-

tributed vaccines to other countries in our fight against covid 19.

Free India also managed a spirited economic recovery offsetting financial costs Britishers had imposed through its various schemes. Over less than seven decades since 1947, India's per capita income reportedly grew six times. Similarly, other economic parameters too jumped up significantly.

Friends, the culture of our country teaches us that one must visit the pilgrimage site before starting the festivities. Today my desire is fulfilled. I'll be visiting the holy birthplace of Brigadier Rajendra Singh, who is an epitome of unmatched valour and sacrifice. I have read the stories of Brigadier Rajendra Singh many a times and

own, a great proponent of what we now popularly call "start-ups" and "atmanirbhar (self-reliance)" India. Tilak took to crowd funding to establish "paisa fund", a corpus for financing village enterprises and local factories. Borrowing from Tilak's vision, Jammu Kashmir has created an ecosystem for startups. Within few months, the administration has registered 69 startups to allow entrepreneurs explore and realize business opportunities in different sectors.

One of the fundamental laws of life is this: dignity to every human being is the master key to bring peace and development. And, I seek the support of every citizen of J&K with the spirit of Jan Bhageedari to usher in a new era of growth. Jan Bhageedari is

One of the fundamental laws of life is this: dignity to every human being is the master key to bring peace and development.

have lived through the tales of his and soldiers' gallantry at Uri in October 1947. If we have been able to save the soul of Jammu and Kashmir from the Pakistani Invaders, it is due to warriors like Brigadier Rajendra Singh.

Like Brigadier Singh, Maqbool Sherwani, Women Self Defense Corps protected the composite culture of Jammu and Kashmir and every inch of the land by putting their lives at stake. With the same spirit, our government is making efforts to develop every inch of the UT's land to the standards of mainstream.

In order to commemorate 75 years of Indian Independence in a befitting manner, the tales of our saviours like Brigadier Rajendra Singh, Maqbool Sherwani, Subedar Major Swaran Singh, Ram Saran and others must reach the entire population of Jammu and Kashmir.

In Mandukya Upanishad, a word, Jagrit, is used to demonstrate awakening. The celebration will be a glory of our cultural heritage with the fragrance of talent pool, strength of our youth power and vision of scientists and technology experts. This occasion too in my mind will sow seeds of a new awakening for the people of Jammu Kashmir.

One of the stalwarts of the freedom movement, Lokmanya Tilak, was much ahead of times. His contribution during the freedom struggle we all respect and cherish. Another visionary but less told facet to his personality was the support he had lent to small entrepreneurs and industrialists to have businesses of their

highly relevant, one could even say imperative, for good governance and inclusive development. Our ancient seers, freedom fighters had taken similar steps to build the idea of New India that is most modern and yet carries the values of people's participation. With this spirit, we have to work towards sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development so that prosperity reaches all. That is the top most priority of my administration.

I would like to reiterate on the occasion of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav that we have to provide our youth prospects for the future, invest more in education and skills and strengthen the position of girls and young women in the society.

During the next 75 weeks of celebration, we must demonstrate our shared commitment to the fundamental values of harmony, Sarv Dharm Sambhav, freedom, democracy and the duties. Let us together celebrate 75 years of the country's independence and start building the India our founding fathers wanted.

In Bhagwad Geeta, Krishna says, I am the source of all, Arjuna. From me everything evolves."

On the eve of the nation turning 75, Jammu and Kashmir must strive to reach milestones set out by our founding fathers.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own

The Writer is the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir



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All our Children are Achievers

Every year, when results are declared for the 10th and 12th standard examinations, we begin to congratulate achievers and overlook those who've not been able to do considerably well.

It is fairly obvious to people of knowledge that merit often depends on one's socio-economic position. Usually, it is those who are already privileged who manage to do the best

due to the availability of the best of resources.

However, the situation in Kashmir is especially special. Here, students don't only face the issues that come with socio-economic conditions only but the political situation also comes in the way of their growth.

Children world over faced difficulties due to the covid-19 lockdown. However, Kashmiri students had it

worse because they had already lost a complete year to the political situation in Kashmir and even had the additional hurdles in their way to get access to education as the curtailed internet speeds made it extremely difficult for them to avail digital education.

Many stories of success in these results were also accompanied by peculiar stories of loss. Therefore, one

cannot grade success in Kashmir. Here, all students have done their very best and we should be proud of them for ace-ing life against all odds.

To our children - May they grow, flourish and prosper in safety, peace, justice and happiness.

Tania Saeed
Taniasaeed@rediffmail

Mindful Fridays

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD): Types, Causes and Treatment

Wasim Kakroo

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder ADHD is a complex brain disorder that impacts how you pay attention, sit still, and control your behavior because of its impairing effect on the development of the brain's executive functions.

ADHD is one of the most commonly diagnosed mental disorders in children with boys more likely to get diagnosed for it than girls. It's usually identified during the early school years, when a child begins to show problems in paying attention.

It is important to mention that ADHD can't be prevented or cured, but early identification, in addition to having a good treatment and education plan, can help a child or adult with ADHD handle their symptoms.

What are the symptoms of ADHD?

ADHD Symptoms in children:

Symptoms are grouped into three types:

1. Inattentive.

A child with ADHD:

- gets easily distracted
- Doesn't usually follow directions or finish tasks
- Seems lost somewhere
- Doesn't pay attention and makes careless mistakes
- Forgets about daily activities
- Has problems in organizing daily tasks
- Often loses things
- Tends to daydream

2. Hyperactive-impulsive.

A child with ADHD:

- Often fidgets, or bounces when sitting
- Doesn't stay seated
- Has trouble playing quietly
- Is always moving, such as running or climbing on things.
- Talks excessively
- Is always "on the go," as if "driven by a motor"
- Has trouble waiting for their turn
- Blurts out answers before listening to the complete question
- Butts into conversations of other people

3. Combined type.

This involves signs of both types discussed above.

Symptoms in adults

Symptoms of ADHD may change as a person gets older. They include:

- Often being late or forgetting things
- Anxiety
- Low self-esteem
- Problems at work
- Trouble controlling anger
- Impulsiveness
- Substance misuse or addiction
- Trouble staying organized
- Procrastination
- Easily frustrated
- Often bored

- Trouble concentrating when reading
- Mood swings
- Depression
- Relationship problems

Causes:

Experts aren't sure what causes ADHD. Several things may lead to it, including:

1. Genes. ADHD tends to get inherited and run in families.
2. Chemicals. People with ADHD may have an imbalance in their brain chemicals.
3. Brain changes. Children with ADHD have less activity in the areas of brain that control attention.
4. Poor nutrition, infections, smoking, drinking, and substance abuse during pregnancy can affect a baby's brain development leading to ADHD.
5. Toxins, such as lead may affect a child's development of the brain.
6. Damage to the frontal lobe can cause issues in controlling impulses and emotions.

ADHD Diagnosis and Testing:

Clinical Psychologists/Psychiatrists diagnose ADHD in children and adolescents after discussing symptoms in depth with the child, parents, and teachers, and then clinically observing the child's behaviors.

To confirm a diagnosis of ADHD or learning differences, a clinical psychologist may perform a battery of tests to check the neurological and psychological status of the child's condition.

The tests may include:

1. A medical and social history of both the child and the family.
2. An evaluation of intelligence, aptitude, personality traits etc. These are often done with input from the parents and teachers if the child is of school age.

ADHD Treatment

There are several approaches to treating ADHD. But research suggests that for many children, the best way to manage symptoms is a multimodal approach involving multiple methods of treatment that work together. Many symptoms of ADHD can be managed with combination of medication and therapy. Close cooperation among Clinical Psychologists, Psychiatrists, teachers, and parents is very important.

Medication. They can help control hyperactive and impulsive behavior and improve attention span.

Psychotherapy can help someone with ADHD learn better ways to handle their emotions and frustration. It can also improve their self-esteem. Counseling may also help family members better understand a child or adult with ADHD. It can help such children in developing various social skills.

Parenting tips for ADHD:



Parenting a child with ADHD isn't like traditional childrearing as usual rulemaking and household routines can become almost impossible, depending on the type and severity of your child's symptoms. Thus you'll need to implement different approaches. It can become maddening to deal with some of the behaviors resulting from your child's ADHD, but there are ways to make life easier.

By following these guidelines, you can limit destructive behavior and help your child overcome self-doubt and improve his or her self esteem and self efficacy.

1. Encourage and reward good behavior (positive reinforcement) and remove rewards by following bad behavior with appropriate consequences, leading to the extinguishing of bad behavior.
2. Define the rules, but allow some flexibility: Don't be too strict while consistently rewarding good behaviors and discouraging destructive ones as children with ADHD may not adapt to change as well or as quickly as others. Allow them to make mistakes as they learn. Accept odd behaviors that aren't detrimental to your child or anyone else as part of your child's individual personality. Discouraging and rebuking your child for every odd behavior (just because you felt that they are unusual) may prove more harmful than the consequences of that odd behavior.
3. Manage aggression: Try to ignore mildly disruptive behaviors as a way for your child to release his or her pent-up energy or frustration. Always punish destructive, abusive, or intentionally disruptive behavior which goes against the rules you establish punishment certainly has its place. However, punishment should never involve physical or verbal abuse, and it should be used only as a last resort as excessive and consistent use of punishment may turn abusive.
4. Create structure: Simple daily tasks,

such as having a particular meals time, study time, play time etc. can provide essential structure to the child's daily life.

5. Break tasks into manageable pieces: Everyday tasks should be broken down into small discrete tasks. E.g., if a child has been asked to clean their room, it may be helpful to break this task into smaller tasks, by instructing him to make the bed, put any toys on the floor back into cupboard, or fold their clothes. Similarly break study time into slots. Don't expect your child with ADHD to go for a marathon study time. Allow the child to have regular breaks after every 10 minutes during the study time.
6. Limit distractions: Since a child with ADHD gets easily distracted, creating a special, quiet space for your child to read, do homework, and take a break from the chaos of everyday life may help reduce unnecessary distractions. Things that can cause distraction and encourage impulsive behaviors such as television, mobile, video games, computer etc. should be regulated. Your child can have a better outlet for pent-up energy if you decrease their time with electronics and increase their time doing engaging activities outside the home. Outdoor activities can also help them develop better social skills if properly guided.
7. Encourage exercise: Physical activity burns excess energy in healthy ways. It also helps a child focus their attention on specific movements. This may decrease impulsivity. Exercise may also help in improving concentration, decrease the risk for depression and anxiety, and stimulate the brain in healthy ways.
8. Regulate sleep patterns: Children with ADHD may have difficulty handling themselves during the bedtime. Indiscipline in sleep schedule and lack of sleep thereof may exacerbate inattention, hyperactivity, and recklessness. To help your children get better restful sleep, eliminate stimu-

lants like caffeine, and decrease television time especially around bedtime.

9. Keep it interesting: Complex tasks usually attract and interest children with ADHD and they are less likely to get distracted during such tasks. Such children often get distracted if a task is not challenging enough. So if a child enjoys challenging activities and can focus while doing them, it is worth encouraging them to continue.
10. Remember that all children misbehave: Don't label every act of your child as a part of his or her ADHD. Remember that all children misbehave sometimes. Learn which behaviors need supervision, and which ones are normal parts of their childhood.
11. Accept the fact that your child — like all children — is imperfect: Try to love your child unconditionally irrespective of the mistakes he or she does on daily basis. It may help the child feel less guilty and encourage him or her to work on their issues.
12. Be kind to yourself and your partner: Be kind to yourself while helping your child. Blaming yourself or your partner for the problems your child has is not going to help.
13. Take breaks: Tending to the needs of the child with ADHD can be very draining task and can lead to building up of frustrations. So you'll need your own breaks to ease out. Scheduling alone time is important for any parent.

- Good break options include:
- going for a walk
- going to the gym
- taking a relaxing bath

14. Calm yourself: In order to help your child with ADHD, you need to compose your behavior. Children imitate the behaviors they see around them, so if you remain calm and controlled during an anger outburst, it will help your child to do the same. Take time to breathe, relax, and be thoughtful before trying to pacify your child. The calmer you are, the calmer your child will become.

Understanding your child with ADHD and tending to their needs is an uphill task, but a team effort between Clinical psychologists, Psychiatrists, Teachers and Parents can turn the tables and facilitate the child with ADHD to live a productive and purposeful life. Let us join hands and make it happen!

Views expressed in the article are the author's own responsibility and are not a substitute for medical advice. These are for educational purposes only.

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Srinagar City, the summer capital of Kashmir is famous worldwide for its natural environment, gardens, waterfronts, and houseboats. Emperor Jahangir (a Mughal king in the 17th century) said, if there is a heaven on earth, it's here, it's here, it's here. But that is history today Kashmir is not what it used to be. In the latest government's "Ease of living index" Srinagar ranked at the bottom in Indian's most liveable cities. There are many factors responsible for Srinagar's poor performance; mismanagement of garbage is the most important one. Srinagar City produces 400 metric tons of waste each day. The real problem is not generated waste but poor management of waste. After collecting waste from house's hundreds of SMC sweepers empty their trolleys at open temporary sheds which mostly include Srinagar's busy roads, piles of garbage are formed and these piles of garbage stay there for hours until finally cleaned and transported to landfills. This method of collection and transportation of waste seems a much-uncivilized thing to do, but in this part of the world, this is normal. 2020, taught humans the true value of the clean environment and sanitation, but in Kashmir even during the pandemic, this piling of garbage on streets was practiced. During the rush full morning hours, when streets are jammed with traffic, people rush to offices, children's going to their schools, etc. SMC workers throw their collected waste on the streets which is not only ridiculous to watch. But in the summers it becomes almost impossible to breathe there due to production of gases from decomposing organic waste, decomposing organic wastes are also hotspots of microbial growth, which makes people and animals living around these areas' vulnerable to disease. And Viruses like "Bird flu" can also largely spread through these sites. These open dumping

Srinagar Facing a Garbage Crisis

Haseeb Wani

sites also pose a different kind of challenge, these sites act as feeding and breeding grounds for local stray dogs, "the exponential growth of stray dogs in the city deserves an article of its own", as it is among the major problems faced by the residents of the city. I have personally seen and survived far too many near misses between my car and dogs. There are a ton of strays who wander all day around these street dumping sites. A fatal accident can happen so fast, and I feel very fear-

6 The SMC needs to replace old steel bins with the colour coded ones, which can properly store and segregate waste. Educating people about the importance of waste management, storing and disposing of waste is also important

ful watching dog's running around these areas. There are many accounts of people who got attacked by the stray dogs in these areas, especially at night. These incidents can sometimes lead to serious injuries, even death. It is easy to understand why dogs prefer to stay on street's as these

garbage sites are a good source of easily available food. It is like a giant feast which SMC employees so kindly offer them. When it comes to the mismanagement of waste, the people are equally responsible. In Srinagar City, people seem to lack a basic sense of proper waste disposal. People prefer to throw waste in all sorts of places possible parks, rivers, ponds, lakes, or in the corners that are off site. Segregation of waste is largely not practiced. Organic waste and plastic waste are stored togeth-

er and most of the time plastic waste finds its way into rivers and lakes. It is not hard to notice plastic bag wrappers, bottles, floating in Srinagar's water bodies. Which are facing serious deterioration. The downtown area of the Srinagar city is worst hit by the garbage crisis, the downtown or

often called as the Sher-e-Khas, the old city is famous for its historic places, religious monuments, etc. The "Sher-e-Khas" may look inviting in portrait shots but in reality the old city is devastated by garbage crisis. Allies filled with garbage, lack of dustbins, is just a glimpse of how worst the conditions really are. Walking along the river Jhelum one can easily notice the river embankment covered with plastic bags and all kinds of waste all the way from "Habba Kadal" to "Safa Kadal" it seems like garbage has rained down from the sky and accumulate along the embankment of the river Jhelum. Deteriorating lakes, overflowing dustbins, streets covered with filth and dogs feeding on them. The city is facing a serious garbage crisis and quick reforms are urgently needed!

Solid waste management is not rocket science; it is a simple way of segregating and reusing waste. The SMC needs to replace old steel bins with the colour coded ones, which can properly store and segregate waste. Educating people about the importance of waste management, storing and disposing of waste is also important. Plastic waste can be reused and recycled easily; organic waste can also be used to make compost and manures. Hence, solving the waste management problem. We also need to learn from European nations like Sweden, which produces 4.4 million tons of waste per year and only 1% of that goes to landfills the rest is either recycled or used to produce electricity. Only if we could only implement 5% of it our problems will be solved. Kashmir is well known for its clean environment and clean water, but that reality is changing thanks to our uncivilized ways of waste management.

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Lack of exercise linked to depression risk amid pandemic

Agencies

Exercise has for long been recommended as a cognitive-behavioural therapy for patients of depression, yet new evidence suggests that the Covid-19 pandemic changed the nature of the relationship between physical activity and mental health.

The study of college students, conducted before and during the

pandemic, revealed the average steps of subjects declined from 10,000 to 4,600 steps per day and rates of depression increased from 32 per cent to 61 per cent.

The research, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, also revealed short-term restoration of exercise does not meaningfully improve mental well-being.

"This raises many possible explanations, including that the impact of

physical activity may require a longer-term intervention," said co-author Sally Sadoff from the University of California - San Diego.

"At the same time, our results clearly show that those who maintained physical exercise throughout the pandemic were the most resilient and least likely to suffer from depression," Sadoff added.

For the study, the team used a longitudinal dataset linking biometric

and survey data from several cohorts of nearly 700 young adults before and during the Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition to filling out surveys, participants received wearable devices that track their activity levels.

Among the subjects, sleep increased by 25 to 30 minutes per night, time spent socializing declined by more than half (less than 30 minutes per day), and screen time more than doubled to five or

more hours per day.

The researchers found large declines in physical activity during Covid-19 was most strongly associated with higher rates of depression.

Those who experienced declines of one to two hours of physical activity per day were most at risk for depression during the pandemic. While participants who were able to maintain their daily habits were at the lowest risk for depression, the team said.

Study finds new way to halt excessive inflammation in body

Agencies

Researchers at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) have discovered a new way to 'put the brakes' on excessive inflammation by regulating a type of white blood cell that is critical for our immune system.

The discovery has the potential to protect the body from unchecked damage caused by inflammatory diseases.

The paper, led by researchers at RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences, is published in Nature Communications.

When immune cells (white blood cells) in our body called macrophages are exposed to potent infectious agents, powerful inflammatory proteins known as cytokines are produced to fight the invading infection. However, if these cytokine levels get out of control, significant tissue damage can occur.

The researchers have found that a protein called Arginase-2 works through the energy source of macrophage cells, known as mitochondria, to limit inflammation. Specifically they have shown for the first time that Arginase-2 is critical for decreasing a potent inflammatory cytokine called IL-1.

This discovery could allow researchers to develop new treatments that target the Arginase-2 protein and protect the body from unchecked damage caused by inflammatory diseases.

"Excessive inflammation is a prominent feature of many

diseases such as multiple sclerosis, arthritis and inflammatory bowel diseases. Through our discovery, we may be able to develop novel therapeutics for the treatment of inflammatory disease and ultimately improve the quality of life for people with these conditions," commented senior author on the paper Dr Claire McCoy, Senior Lecturer in Immunology at RCSI.

The study was led by researchers at the School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sci-



ences, RCSI (Dr Claire McCoy, Dr Jennifer Dowling and Ms Remsha Afzal), in collaboration with a network of international researchers from Australia, Germany, and Switzerland.

The research was funded by Science Foundation Ireland, with initial stages of the research originating from a grant from the National Health Medical Research Council, Australia.

Study unveils association between gender assumptions and climate adaption

Agencies

A study led by Dr Jacqueline Lau from the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies at James Cook University (Coral CoE at JCU) and WorldFish, suggested that gender - alongside other identities like race, class, and age - has a powerful influence on people's experience of, and resilience to, climate change.

The findings claimed that outdated assumptions regarding gender continue to hinder effective and fair policymaking, along with the action for climate mitigation and adaptation.

She said the four most common and interlinked assumptions found are: women are innately caring and connected to the environment; women are

a homogenous and vulnerable group; gender equality is a woman's issue and; gender equality is a numbers game.

"Although there is a global mandate to work towards gender equality in climate change mitigation and adaptation, efforts are hindered by a set of assumptions about gender, long critiqued in development studies," Dr Lau said.

The study draws on post-2014 gender and climate change literature, to give an overview of how the gender assumptions manifest across recent work in adaptation, mitigation, and broader climate change policy, practice, and research.

The review of the literature takes a closer look at how these assumptions narrowly diagnose the causes of gender inequality.

"As a result, we see too many strategies that have unintended-

and even counterproductive-consequences," said Dr Pip Cohen, from WorldFish.

"For instance, strategies that target women only may overburden them, cause a backlash, or obscure the vulnerabilities of other groups."

The study offers lessons for a more informed pursuit of gender equality in climate change research, policy, and practice.

The authors said progressing gender equality means breaking down stereotypes and prejudices about gender-creating environments to enable all people to exercise their agency to cope, change and adapt.

Dr Lau said she was surprised to find so many examples of gender assumptions in climate change practice. She explained that a first step in disrupting these assumptions is to lay them bare and explain why develop-

ment research has found them to be problematic.

"The social and cultural expectations about what it is to be a woman or a man in any given society will shape people's wellbeing," Dr Lau said.

She said alongside efforts to dismantle broader barriers to gender equality, better and more coordinated efforts are needed from practitioners and researchers to disrupt and counteract unhelpful assumptions.

"Pursuing gender equality in climate change policy and practice is critical, and decades of experience in development offer lessons for how to do it well," Dr Lau said.

"Ultimately, we want to see equitable opportunities for all people to realize their full potential. Where no one is left behind."

Study says, attitudes based on feelings, emotions can stand test of time

Agencies

Washington: Depending on the topic, people's attitudes can change frequently or last a lifetime. New research from the Association for Psychological Science reveals that attitudes based on feelings and emotions can also stand the test of time.

Past studies have demonstrated that opinions based on hard facts and data can remain constant over time, but new research published in the journal Psychological Science reveals that attitudes based on feelings and emotions can also stand the test of time. This research has implications for both predicting whose attitudes are fixed versus fleeting

and how to nudge people to form more long-lasting opinions.

"We have known that encouraging people to think carefully and rationally can produce attitudes that change less in the future," said Matthew Rocklage, a researcher with the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and co-lead author on the paper. "Our research, however, shows that opinions based on people's emotional reactions can be particularly long-lasting as well."

As part of their study, the researchers asked more than 1,000 people to what extent they believed attitudes based on feelings or emotional reactions were more stable over time than those based on thinking and rational analysis. Only 15 per cent expressed

any belief that attitudes based on emotion would be more stable over time.

To test the role that emotion plays in forming long-lasting attitudes, the researchers conducted seven independent studies involving more than 20,000 participants in a variety of real-world situations.

The first survey, which was conducted the day after Christmas, measured feelings about recently received gifts. The timing of this survey allowed the researchers to measure real-world reactions to a relatively newly formed attitude.

The participants were given a list of adjectives to describe their attitudes toward their gifts. Adjectives like "worthwhile"

were associated with a practical reaction to the gift, whereas words like "delightful" were more strongly associated with an emotional reaction.

One month later, the participants completed a follow-up survey to test the endurance of their opinions. The results showed that the stronger the initial positive emotional reaction, the more likely that opinion remained fixed one month later.

The researchers conducted similar tests using virtually the same procedure but involving other scenarios, such as how much the participants supported consumer brands over time and how favorable their online restaurant reviews were between visits.

5500 Hectares Of High-Density Plantation To Come Up In J&K



Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Administrative Council under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha approved the implementation of high-density plantation scheme in the horticulture sector with the support of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED). The step will go a long way in enhancing the quality and quantity of horticulture produce and doubling the farmer's income.

The farmer-centric scheme will be implemented for apple, walnut, almond, cherry, litchi, and olive among others over an estimated area of 5500 hectares of suitable agro-climatic zones for 6 years with effect from March 2021 to March 2026.

The new high-density plantation scheme has provisions to provide 50% subsidy to orchardists for the establishment of high-density orchards accompanied by a loan facility for raising 40% of remaining capital.

The scheme will also provide subsidies to the growers on account of expenditure related to micro-irrigation, plant material, and anti-hail nets. Under the scheme, preference will be given to farmers with landholdings of less than 4 kanal.

The high-density plantations are expected to make horticulture profitable through superior yields, higher yields per hectare, early harvest, and introduction of insect and pest resistance varieties thereby saving the expenditure on disease and pest control.

The scheme will be implemented with the support of NAFED which will provide end to end support to the growers and will assess the suitability of available land for undertaking high-density plantation.

NAFED will also install a high-tech laboratory for certification of the horticulture produce on international standards, virus indexing laboratories, and will arrange for imports of the specified qualities and species from identified countries.

Handicrafts Dept. Holds Workshop On Publicity, And Branding



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of Handicrafts & Handlooms Kashmir organized a day long workshop on Publicity and Branding, & Design Innovation and Packaging of Handloom Products at Seminar Hall of Indian Institute of Carpet Technology, Nowshera Srinagar.

Director, Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, Mahmood Ahmad Shah was the Chief Guest at the programme.

On the occasion, Director, IIC, Srinagar, Assistant Director, Handloom, Srinagar and Craft Experts from Craft Development Institute, Pashmina Testing and Quality Certification Centre, Domain expert of TAHAFUZ society, Designer from Block Level Cluster, Hawal, appraised the participants

regarding the importance and objective of the Workshop. The experts delivered lectures and presented their theme specific presentations to the audience about G.I Registration, Pashmina Testing and labeling, Design Innovations and Packaging.

The workshop was attended by representatives of Handloom Cooperative Societies besides officers/officials of Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir.

Director H&H, Kashmir, in his speech impressed upon the quality control wing to gear up for strict implementation of Tourist Trade Act / Quality Control Act and ensure that the handicraft dealers distinctly label their products as per their makes so as to ensure that no fake products are sold in the name of Kashmir handmade products.

Govt Eases Norms For Setting Up Industrial Units In J&K



Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a bid to woo investors and encourage youngsters to set up industrial units in J&K, the government today ordered that there shall be no requirement of registration/NoC from Industries and Commerce Department, as a prerequisite for establishing an industrial unit in the UT.

According to an order issued by the Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department, J&K Govt, bearing No. 50-IND-2021 dated 10 March 2021, "any person who intends to start an enterprise may voluntarily take registration under Udyam/IEM (of the MSME Ministry/Ministry of Commerce and Industries, Govt of India), which shall suffice for an industrial unit to establish". The order states:

"In case of approvals/NoCs which may be required on case to case basis from various departments like power connection, water connection, approval of building plan, NoC from Fire and Emergency Dept, change of land use or land

title verification, two committees shall monitor time-bound issuance or otherwise, of these NoCs/approvals as per fixed timelines."

The Industrial Estate level single window committee for NOCs for units within Industrial estates will be looked after by General Manager DIC concerned and Estates Manager, Industrial Development Corporation Limited concerned.

The District level Single Window committee for NOCs for units outside Industrial estates, will be looked after by General Manager DIC concerned, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, and Executive engineers of Power and Jal Shakti departments.

The Industrial Estate Level Single Window Committee for NOCs shall monitor issuance of the above approvals/NoCs as per PSGA timelines.

Likewise, district level SW committee for NOCs shall monitor issuance of these NoCs/approvals within 15 days time period, the order states. Further, there shall be a Divisional Level Single Window Committee for NOCs which shall

periodically monitor the working of all these committees and address any issue related to issuance of NOCs.

This divisional level committee will be headed by Director Industries and Commerce of the respective division. It is pertinent to mention that the government has announced a new industrial development scheme for J&K.

The Rs 28,400 crore central scheme for industrial development in J&K will be implemented under the supervision of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), government of India, while the UT government has been delegated the power of registration and processing of claims under the scheme. As per a notification issued by the government of India, the scheme will be implemented under the supervision of the Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT).

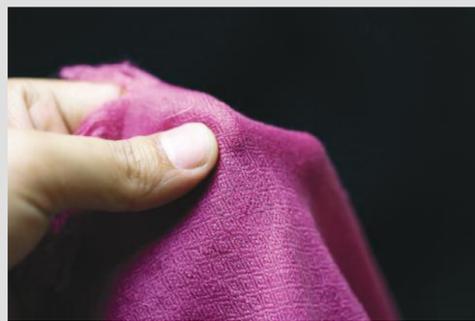
"However, the registration process as well as processing of claims under different incentive components is delegated to the UT of Jammu and Kashmir." (KNT)

Pashmina Testing And Quality Certification Centre Brought Under I&C Deptt

Observer News Service

JAMMU: In a major relief to the artisans and weavers of Jammu and Kashmir, the Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, approved the transfer of administrative control of Pashmina Testing and Quality Certification Centre from Skill Development Department to Industries Department.

The decision will facilitate the artisans and weavers to avail testing, certification, and labelling facility for authentication of pashmina products. Besides, promotion of genuine pashmina based



handicrafts and handloom products in the market, the interests of the artisans will be protected through the authentic trade.

Google Pay To Give Users More Control Over Their Data

Agenceis

New Delhi: Google on Thursday said it will offer users of Google Pay enhanced privacy features, allowing them to take control of their own transaction data.

Google Pay is rolling out an update to the app from next week that will provide users with more controls to decide how their Google Pay activity is used to personalise features within the app.

All users will be asked to choose whether they would like to turn the control on or off as soon as they upgrade to the next version of the Google Pay app.

"Privacy is already a key priority for us... If you do anything on Google Pay, it stays on Google Pay — and that's the state today. What we are saying now is we are saying new controls for managing your Google Pay activity, even on Google Play. So if you're doing something on Google Pay, we want you to be in control of saying — should this activity be used or recorded for use for personalising a feature," Google Pay vice president — product Ambarish Kenghe told PTI.

He cited an example of using Google Pay for recharges of mobile phone services and said users can now choose whether this data can be used for providing offers and rewards to the users. "Turning on 'Personalisation within Google Pay' will provide users with a more tailored experience within Google Pay. Even with this setting turned off, Google Pay will continue to work just as well — only without personalisation," he added.

Users will also be able to view and delete individual transactions and activity records that they don't want used to personalise the Google Pay experience.

"Turning on 'Personalisation within Google Pay' will provide users with a more tailored experience within Google Pay. Even with this setting turned off, Google Pay will continue to work just as well — only without personalisation," he added.

Users will also be able to view and delete individual transactions and activity records that they don't want used to personalise the Google Pay experience.

"The transaction history will still be there for regulatory purposes (which mandates transaction data be stored for the operator for a period of time) but it will not be used for personalisation," Kenghe said.

These steps will also help the tech giant in allaying fears of customers and regulators about the misuse of the financial data of users.

Google Pay supports UPI payments as well as contactless card transactions through tokenised debit or credit cards linked to users' smartphones.

While the company does not provide country-specific user numbers, globally it has over 150 million monthly active users of which India accounts for a large share.

"We don't take users' trust for granted, and work hard to ensure that people are able to understand and manage their data and make privacy choices that are right for them. We do this by putting our users in the driver's seat to manage their data and privacy with easy-to-use privacy features and controls," he said.

Kenghe emphasised that the financial and transaction information on Google Pay is never sold to a third-party, and the transaction history is not shared with any other Google product for targeting ads.

According to Google Pay India, users anytime can also delete transactions, which they wouldn't like Google Pay to use for providing a personalisation experience.

These privacy features will be shown upfront for new users before they sign up for the app, while old users will get a pop-up when they upgrade their existing app. Users can also review these from the setting tab. —PTI

Apple Starts Assembling Its Flagship Smartphone iPhone 12 in India

NEW DELHI: Apple Inc has started the assembly of iPhone 12 in India, the U.S. tech giant said, as the company ramps up manufacturing operations in the world's second-biggest smartphone market.

"We are proud to be starting production of iPhone 12 in India for our local customers," Apple said in a statement on Thursday, without naming the supplier making the smartphone.

The Indian unit of Apple's Taiwanese contract manufacturer Foxconn will assemble the device in its plant in southern Tamil Nadu state, two sources familiar with the matter said.

Foxconn did not immediately respond to a request for comment, but has previously said it does not comment on client-specific work.

Apple has been shifting some areas of production from China to other markets as it navigates the trade war between Washington and Beijing. A person familiar with the matter said in November Foxconn is moving some iPad and MacBook assembly to Vietnam from China at its request.

Cupertino, California-headquartered Apple has bet big on India since it began iPhone assembly in the country in 2017 via another Taiwanese supplier, Wistron.

Foxconn, Wistron and a third supplier Pegatron have together committed roughly \$900 million over five years to make iPhones in India, leveraging New Delhi's \$6.7 billion plan to boost smartphone exports.

NEWSMAKERS

Deepika Padukone Is A Young Global Leader On World Economic Forum's List

Agenceis

Actor Deepika Padukone on Wednesday made it to the list of the Young Global Leaders (YGLs) compiled by the World Economic Forum. The list also includes several Indian citizens and Indian-origin persons.

Announcing its 2021 class of YGLs, the WEF said these are the world's most promising 112 tomorrow's leaders under the age of 40 and are involved in activities ranging from advocating public healthcare to campaigning for inclusivity in medical research.

They join a group of Nobel Prize recipients, Pulitzer winners, heads of state and chief executive officers committed to improving the state of the world, said the Geneva-based organisation that describes itself as an international organisation for public-private cooperation. The Forum of Young Global Leaders was founded in 2005 by Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman of the WEF, to create a world where leaders take responsibility for a sustainable future while meeting increasingly complex and interrelated challenges.

Currently, there are 1,400 members and alumni from over 120 countries, and notable members include Prime Ministers Jacinda Ardern and Sanna Marin, Costa Rica President Carlos Alvarado Quesada, actor Yao Chen, lawyer Amal Clooney and filmmaker Wanuri Kahiu.



Crystal Awards 2020

"YGLs are active in today's most exciting and dynamic fields and focus on impact. In the past year, they have worked on more than 30 Covid-19-related initiatives, including expanding the use of free public digital health services, launching data challenges to build an ecosystem that can help tackle the pandemic, creating mobile intensive care shelters, opening mental health support platforms and working on vaccine development," the WEF said.

It further said the class of 2021 is gender-equal and has representatives from 56 countries. These members will take part in a five-year programme, which offers executive education courses, expeditions and opportunities to

collaborate and test ideas among a trusted network of peers.

"The YGL Class of 2021 is comprised of thoughtful and courageous leaders who will shape a more sustainable and inclusive post-pandemic era," said Mariah Levin, head of the Forum of Young Global Leaders.

"We are delighted to welcome the class of 2021 at a time when cultivating responsible leadership is needed more than ever to steer us through the multiple challenges the world is facing," said Nicole Schwab, board member of the Forum of Young Global Leaders.

The 2021 YGL class members from the academia and research field include Devi Sridhar (University Lecturer in Global Health Politics, University of Oxford, UK), Adri-

ana Cargill (independent journalist, USA), Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (captain of Bangladesh cricket team) and Rohan Ramakrishnan (founder and CEO of the ASEAN Post, Malaysia).

From the business field, there are Nirvana Chaudhary (managing director of Nepal's Chaudhary Group), Shreevar Kheruka (managing director and CEO of Borosil India) and Srikanth Bolla (CEO of Bollant Industries, India). Members from the civil society and social entrepreneurship arena include Amit Paley (CEO of The Trevor Project, USA), Anulika Ajufo (principal of the UK's Soros Economic Development Fund) and Deepika Padukone (founder of the Live Love Laugh Foundation, India).

Others on the list include Vasudha Vats (global commercial lead/senior director, Pfizer, USA), Vivek Ramaswamy (founder and CEO of Roivant Sciences, USA), Ameya Prabhu (managing partner of UAP Advisors, India) and Maleeka Bokhari (parliamentary secretary for law and justice, Pakistan).

The list also includes Aditi Avasthi (founder and CEO of Individual Learning, India), Gazal Kalra (co-founder of Rivigo, India), Hitesh Wadhwa (vice-president for strategic initiatives at Tech Mahindra, India), Hriday Ravindranath (chief technology and information officer, Global Services at BT Group, India) and Suren Alroyan (founder, chairman and CEO, Dasaran, Armenia).

'Body Shop' Launches Its First Store In Srinagar



Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Body Shop, the iconic global retailer of cosmetics and toiletries, is all set to enter Srinagar. The Body Shop opened its first standalone store in Srinagar on 15th February 2021. This outlet offers a wide range of 100% vegetarian and animal cruelty-free products for Skin Care, Bath & Body, Make Up, Hair, Fragrance, Men's and Gifts.

Apart from the fabulous products, the store also offers specialist services like skincare consultation and make-up application. Customers can also enroll into The Body Shop Customer Loyalty program "Love Your Body" for a nominal fee and they will be able to enjoy fantastic member benefits, year round discounts, member's special of-

fers, VIP access to all important brand events and many other privileges throughout the year.

The Body Shop already has a stand-alone store in Wave Mall in Jammu since 5 years.

Speaking on the new commitment, Mr Vishal Chaturvedi, General Manager- Operations, VM and Customer Care, The Body Shop India, said "We are extremely thrilled to announce our retail presence in Srinagar with our new stand-alone store. Since the inception of The Body Shop in India in 2006, we continue to be inspired by the thoughts, ideas and ethical passion of Dame Anita Roddick," he said.

The Body Shop has over 200 stores in India across 120 cities which include standalone, Shop-in-Shop available in malls, shopping centres, high streets, department stores and airports.

India's Growth Positive For World Economy: IMF's Gita Gopinath

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Strong economic growth in India has positive implications for the global economy and the country stands out for its vaccine policy, which is playing a key role in helping the world deal with the Covid-19 crisis, International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief economist Gita Gopinath said on Monday.

"India makes up about 7% of world GDP based on purchasing power parity terms. So, when you are that large, what happens in India has implications for many other countries in the world, especially countries in the region," Gopinath said.

Gopinath said India, which typically grows 6%, was hit very hard by the pandemic and it is forecast to contract 8% in the current financial year that ends in March. But now recovery was under way as economic activities have restarted.

"So, we have indeed projected a growth of 11.5% this year (2021-22). Now, because of its size when you have India growing, it increases demand for goods from other parts of the world and that's a big positive," Gopinath said.

Gopinath said better economic opportunities and equal pay for women not only lowers gender inequality but also lowers income inequality.

Pakistan Ready To Host SAARC Summit: FO

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan said on Thursday it was ready to host the long delayed summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), which is an important organisation for regional cooperation.

"Pakistan is committed to its process

and to hold the SAARC summit...It believes that all artificial obstacles in the way of long overdue SAARC summit should be removed," Foreign Office spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri told reporters during his weekly media briefing here.

The last SAARC summit was held in Kathmandu in 2014.

The 2016 SAARC summit was to be

held in Islamabad. But after the attack on an Indian Army camp in Uri in Jammu and Kashmir on September 18 that year, India expressed its inability to participate in the summit due to "prevailing circumstances".

The summit was called off after Bangladesh, Bhutan and Afghanistan also declined to participate in the Islamabad meet.

SAARC summits are usually held biennially and hosted by member states in alphabetical order. The member state hosting the summit assumes the Chair of the Association.

In his message on the occasion of the 36th charter day of SAARC on December 8 last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the full potential

of the eight-member bloc can only be realised in an atmosphere free of terror and violence.

On December 8, 1985 at the first SAARC Summit in Dhaka, the leaders of the seven South Asian states – the Maldives, India, Bhutan, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka signed a charter to establish the bloc. Afghanistan

became the eight SAARC member in 2007. During Thursday's foreign office media briefing, Chaudhri also rejected the reports that Pakistan is importing COVID-19 vaccine from India.

"Pakistan has not entered into any bilateral procurement agreement for COVID-19 vaccine from India," he said in response to a question.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

2 Militants Killed

records for further investigation and to probe his complicity in other crimes," he added.

According to the police spokesperson, the encounter broke out on Wednesday evening when the state forces launched a cordon and search operation (CASO) on the basis of specific input generated by police regarding presence of militants in the village.

"During the search operation, as the presence of militants got ascertained they were given opportunity to surrender, however, they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party, which was retaliated leading to an encounter," he said.

"Due to darkness the operation was suspended however the cordon remained intact throughout night," he added.

The police spokesperson further said that the last rites of the killed militants shall be performed after conducting their medico-legal formalities and their nearest family members shall be allowed to participate in their last rites.

"In this connection a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and investigation has been initiated. People are requested to cooperate with police till the area is completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosive materials, if any," he added.

Charges Filed

Divulging details of the case, he said, police and army on September 14 last year busted Hizbul Mujahideen module and arrested 3 militant associates identified as Arshid Ahmad Khan of Wayil, Majid Rasool Rather and Mohd Asif Najar, both residents of Beehama Ganderbal for hatching "criminal conspiracy for militant acts, harbouring militants and giving support to the proscribed militant organisations".

The police spokesperson said that the investigations revealed that the arrested trio had come into contact with a Pak based Kashmiri militant Fayaz Ahmad Khan of Goutbagh and were being handled by him from outside to take up various militant and subversive activities in the district.

"After conclusion of investigations, necessary Government sanction was obtained and accordingly chargesheet has been filed before the Competent Court by Ganderbal Police U/s 7/25 IAA, 13, 18, 20, 23, 39, UA(P)A against four accused persons," he added.

Govt Begins Process

Central University Kashmir and Cluster University Srinagar has begun and the final selection is under process.

The three year term of Prof Manoj K Dhar, vice chancellor of the University of Jammu will end in July this year. Sources said that he recently made a representation to Raj Bhawan whether his term was for three or five years.

In reply, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor Nitishwar Kumar said VC's term was for three years.

"In terms of section 12 (5) and 12 (6) of Kashmir and Jammu universities act, 1969, the chancellor University of Jammu has been pleased to order the following terms and conditions of appointment of professor Manoj Kumar Dhar VC University of Jammu. If the VC wishes to resign before the end of his tenure, he shall give a notice of three months or pay three month's salary in lieu thereof," the letter reads.

Similarly, the three year term of Professor Talat Ahmad, University of Kashmir will end in August this year. A senior professor of Kashmir University said while a hunt has started to look for new VC of Jammu University, nothing has been done so far in Kashmir University.

While, tenure of VC, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science and Technology (SKUAST) – Kashmir ended in October last year. (KINS)

MeT Predicts

of minus 3.2 degree Celsius against minus 3.5 degree Celsius on the previous night, the official said.

Srinagar, the official said, received 2.3mm of fresh rain during the 24 hours even as it recorded a low of 6.8 degree Celsius against 4.3 degree Celsius on the previous night. The temperature was 3.5 degree Celsius above normal for this time of the year in this summer capital, the official said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 5.7 degree Celsius against 4.6 degree Celsius on the previous night and received 4.4mm of rain during the time.

The mercury settled at 1.6 degree Celsius against 0.4 degree Celsius on the earlier night at Pahalgam while the famous resort received 6.6mm rain.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a low of 4.3 degree Celsius against 2.7 degree Celsius on the previous night while it received 3.2mm rain.

The minimum temperature settled at 2.6 degree Celsius in Kupwara against 3.3 degree Celsius on the previous night while the north Kashmir district received 12mm rain, the official said.

The weatherman has forecast erratic weather with intermittent rain with thunderstorm in plains and snow over higher reaches in the Valley till March 15.

"There is possibility of light to moderate rain and snow for next 36 hours," the official said.

Sonam Lotus, Director Meteorological department, said that the "weather is going to remain erratic till March 15.

"Expect intermittent rain with thunderstorm and snow over higher reaches mainly

during March 11-12th and 14th," he said, adding, "Overall Improvement most likely from 16th till next spell."

He said that the farmers are advised to avoid spraying of orchards and other farm operations till 15th March.

For March 11 and 12, the weatherman has also issued a "yellow warning" for "isolated heavy rain/snow, thundershowers with lightning, hail and gusty winds" in Kashmir as well as Jammu divisions.

There are four types colour codes signifying the level of caution: green which means no action, yellow—situation to be watched), amber—government agencies need to be prepared for severe weather and red—action needed by the agencies.

Highway To Remain

"Tomorrow on 12-03-2021, no vehicular movement shall be allowed from either side on Jammu-Srinagar between Nashree and Jawahar Tunnel in view of maintenance/repairing of the road," the statement said.

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

Ex-Special Secretary

birth in his service/official records in connivance with others in order to take illegal monetary gains for himself and enjoy powers as Senior Legal Officer of the Union Territory."

According to a complaint filed with the Crime Branch, Gani who was posted as Special Secretary (Legal) in the Home Department till March 5, 2021 had used his official position to grab money and enjoy power as a Senior Legal Officer.

"As per his actual DOB, he was supposed to have retired two years back in March, 2019. By forgery and manipulations the accused has added four more years to his due government service...," the spokesperson said.

"After the arrest of the accused, unverified complaints have started pouring in...regarding more such cases of violation of rules, which will also be verified, the spokesperson said.

Govt Okays

has been taken on the basis of cost analysis based on fuel rates, toll tax, operational and maintenance cost, and losses incurred due to COVID-19 lockdown; undertaken by the transport commissioner for the consideration of the Fare Revision Committee.

"Earlier, the Fare Revision Committee recommended a 19% fare hike to make the plying of commercial passenger vehicles in J&K financially viable, taking into account the prevalent prices in the neighbouring states of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Haryana," he said.

Pertinently, the previous fare revision in Jammu and Kashmir took place two and a half years ago and the fare remained unchanged ever since, he added.

Civil Secretariat

of dedicated 2 Gbps internet lease line for both secretariats, setting up of MPLS network for e-Office to create a secure Wide Area Network (WAN), providing gap infrastructure, setting up of dedicated near data centre in Srinagar to provide zero downtime experience to e-office users in Srinagar in the rare event of loss of connectivity, and handholding and training officials, he said.

The Civil Secretariat, the seat of Jammu and Kashmir government, functions six months each in Jammu and Srinagar as part of the nearly 150-year-old practice known in the state as 'Darbar Move'.

The practice involves moving voluminous files between Jammu and Srinagar, and thousands of employees between the two cities in hundreds of buses and trucks by spending crores of rupees in this bi-annual practice.

Officials said about Rs 150 crore is being spent annually on transporting thousands of official documents, furniture, equipment, etc. in trucks and buses from one city to the other every six months.

The government also pays dearness allowance to the employees for the Darbar Move.

The 'Darbar Move' was started by Maharaja Gulab Singh in 1872 to escape extreme weather conditions in the two regions of the state.

Rohingya Refugees

direction to the Union Government to refrain from implementing any orders on deporting the Rohingya refugees, who have been detained in the sub jail in Jammu.

"Direct UNHCR to intervene and determine the protection needs of the Rohingya refugees not just in the Jammu but also in camps across the country and complete the process of granting them Refugee cards," it said.

The application said that on August 8, 2017, the Ministry of Home Affairs, has issued a letter to all the Chief Secretaries of all the State Governments/UT Administrations, raising a concern regarding the increased 'illegal immigrants' in India and their purported 'grave security challenge'.

"That the petitioners faced an imminent danger of being deported vide the government circular which directs the relevant authorities to identify and expeditiously deport illegal Rohingya refugees, which is why the petitioners approached this court for protection," it said.

The petitioners further submitted that this proposed deportation is contrary to the Constitutional protections of Article 14, Article

21 and Article 51(c) of the Constitution of India, which provides equal rights and liberty to every person.

The plea said that despite these Constitutional and International law requirements, the Centre has failed to carry out their obligations to ensure protection to the Rohingya Community, by proposing to deport the Community to Myanmar, where they face serious violence and persecution.

Referring to recent media reports, which said that nearly 150-170 Rohingya refugees in Jammu have been detained, the plea said that new circumstances have arisen even when the matter is pending before the court.

"This follows after the Union Minister Jitendra Singh's statements two months ago that the Rohingya (identified as Muslim refugees by the government) wouldn't be able to secure citizenship. These refugees have been illegally detained and jailed in the Jammu Sub Jail which has been converted into a holding centre with the IGP (Jammu) Mukesh Singh stating that they face deportation back to Myanmar following verification by their embassy," the plea said.

The plea claimed that most of the Rohingya refugees have cards issued by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) acknowledging their status as refugees and granting them protections.

According to official documents from the office of deputy commissioner of Jammu, there are 6,523 Rohingyas in Jammu, it said.

On January 10, last year, the top court had said that it would hear in detail, a batch of pleas challenging the Centre's decision to deport illegal Rohingyas Muslim immigrants to Myanmar.

The top court is also seized of petitions which support the government's stand to deport over 40,000 Rohingyas, who fled to India after violence in the Western Rakhine State of Myanmar and are settled in Jammu, Hyderabad, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi-NCR and Rajasthan.

One of the intervention application is filed by the United Nations special rapporteur saying that the Centre's decision for mass deportation of the Rohingyas as being "impermissible under international human rights law", and India should ensure that the Rohingyas enjoy "equality before the law and equal access to judicial remedies and individualised forms of due process".

Initially, two Rohingya immigrants -- Mohammad Salimullah and Mohammad Shaqir, who are registered refugees under the UNHCR, had moved the apex court in 2017 challenging the move to deport to Rohingyas on various grounds including that it violated international human right conventions.

The Centre had questioned the bona fides and motives of the NGOs and individuals seeking facilities for the Rohingya refugees, and stated that there is no discrimination between Indians and outsiders in providing health and education facilities.

The apex court had on October 13, 2017 said the Rohingya refugee problem was of a "great magnitude" and the state would have to play a "big role" while dealing with the contentious issue.

The court had suggested to the Centre not to deport these refugees but the government had urged that it should not be written in the order as anything coming on record would have international ramifications.

HC Seeks

Senior Superintendent of Police Sopore, S.H.O Police Station Sopore, SHO Police Station Bomai, District Magistrate Baramulla and Additional District Magistrate Baramulla (enquiry officer).

"Irfan Ahmad Dar was an ordinary shopkeeper running his Kiriyana (grocery) Shop at Sidiq Colony Sopore. On 15.09.2020 at about 12:30 afternoon he was picked up from his shop by the personnel of Special Operations Group (SOG) of J&K Police stationed at Sopore without any rhyme or reason and without following the procedure established by law," the family says.

On the very next day, the family says, Irfan's other brother, Abdul Waheed Dar approached the Police Station Sopore with a written application "with regard to incident of his brother having been lifted from his shop in broad daylight and kept in illegal custody by the personnel of SOG Sopore."

A request was made to the concerned SHO to register an FIR in this regard, the family says.

"Instead of registering the FIR upon presentation of a written complaint the family members of the Irfan Ahmad Dar were called to the Police Station and informed that Irfan Ahmad Dar escaped from custody in village Tujar Sharief and his body has been found in a deep gauge/stone query," the family says, adding, "The fact of the matter is that (Irfan) was subjected to worst kind of physical torture while in illegal custody which resulted in his death and his body was thrown in a stone query."

The family alleged that a story was "cooked up" that Irfan died after he escaped from Police Custody while he was being taken for making recovery of some illegal ammunition in village Tujar Sharief. The family says that Police Station Bomai registered an FIR (No. 71/2020) under Section 224 IPC (Resistance or obstruction by a person to his lawful apprehension) to this extent.

The family says that Irfan's death took place in highly "suspicious circumstances" and "he bore visible torture marks all over his body including head, chest and limbs. There were visible and apparent burn injuries over the body of the deceased."

"All this strengthens the belief of the (family)

in the fact that the deceased was tortured to death in Police custody and then a story was cooked up with regard to alleged recoveries and alleged efforts of the deceased to run away from custody."

After "public outcry and protests by the family members", the petitioners say that the District Magistrate on 17 September 2020 passed an order under section 176 CrPC, ordering Additional District Magistrate to conduct a magisterial enquiry so as to ascertain causes and circumstances leading to Irfan's death. "It was provided that the Enquiry Officer shall submit his report within a period of 20 days."

Also, the family says, a complaint was filed on 02 October 2020 before the National Human Rights Commission and in view of the seriousness of the allegations, the DGP was directed to file a detailed report in the matter including inquest, Post-mortem and Viscera reports and the video CD of the post-mortem examination with final cause of death and the magisterial enquiry report conducted in the matter along with explanation as to why the case of "custodial death" was not reported to the Commission within 24 hours.

"The DGP has neither submitted the report nor explained his position in the matter till date," the family says.

The family also claimed that Police Department did not cooperate with the Enquiry Officer so as to "sabotage" the enquiry into the killing. Meanwhile, the family said, the Enquiry Officer finally concluded the enquiry in the matter and submitted report to District Magistrate Baramulla.

"The petitioners (family members) are of reasonable belief, given the statements of witnesses before the Enquiry Officer, that the enquiry report has indicted the Police personnel for killing (Irfan) in custody and has ruled out the theory of the police that the deceased while fleeing from custody fell into a stone query resulting in his death." (GNS)

mother-in-law. "By then, she had already retired, but I was instantly moved by her illustrious persona."

Begum Zaffar can be easily identified as one of the most influential and meticulous women of her times. Her life, Shaheena says, was that of extraordinary persistence and intellect which brought girl education to the forefront and dispelled illiteracy and ignorance.

"As a champion of women rights, her tireless and unwavering contribution to social changes and reforms pertaining to girl education in the valley and upliftment came at a time when society was predominantly patriarchal and orthodox in its outlook and question of women liberation and education were still widely restricted," Shaheena says.

Begum Zaffar Ali was born in 1900 in the distinguished Agha family of Srinagar with her maiden name, Syeeda Fatima Hussain. She was the eldest daughter of Khan Bahadur Aga Syed Hussain, the first matriculate of Kashmir.

Along with her siblings, she was home-schooled by a European Home Governess. While pursuing her education, she was married to her cousin, Agha Zafar Ali Qazalbaash, a scion of Afghan family. She continued her education after marriage.

While being a mother to three, she went ahead taking revolutionary strides and efforts which would go on to change the face of women's emancipation and education in the valley and inspire thousands of young girls for years to come.

"She brought an era of renaissance and regeneration in the lives of the Kashmiri women," says Nusrat Mehmood, a senior college lecturer who calls Begum her inspiration. "Her passionate, non-conforming and unorthodox life will continue to rekindle the spirit of excellence in people like me."

In 1925, Begum Zaffar was invited to teach in a Girls Missionary High School run by Miss Mallinson and Miss Bose in old Srinagar's Fateh Kadal area.

"During those times, being a teachress was seen as a stigma but nevertheless she joined the school to serve the cause of education," lecturer Mehmood continues.

"Her door-to-door campaigning for education in an era of subjugation and poverty makes Begum one of the most unsung educationists of the world. Her academic pursuits and ambitions to bring social changes heralded a new hope."

Such was the zeal and determination of Begum Zaffar that she simultaneously started philanthropy work towards the poor girl of the school and looked after their hygiene and overall development.

"She even encouraged both young and elderly women to seek education and personally volunteered to teach them," says Mubashir Hussain, a social activist from Srinagar.

"Through the good offices of her father who was then Home and Judicial Minister in Maharaja's regime, grants were sanctioned for the schools. Begum managed to get an extra sum of Rs 10 sanctioned for the maintenance of girls every month besides meals."

Impressed by her progress in studies, her children's home tutor encouraged her to sit for the matriculation examination as she, by then, had been teaching girl students of tenth standard for five years.

Begum Zaffar was reluctant initially as no woman from the valley till then had passed the matric exam. She finally broke the jinx by becoming the first matriculate woman of Kashmir in 1930 and went on to complete her graduation in Domestic Science and Liberal Arts from Lady Mclegon College, Lahore in 1938.

"Back then, parents were still debating whether to give only religious teachings to their girl child or give them modern education," says Rameez Kashani, a history lecturer.

"To uplift Kashmiri women and free them from their ignorance and religious and social conservatism, Begum Zaffar led the movement of women emancipation in the valley where she could encourage girls to come forward and educate themselves."

Later she was appointed as the Inspector of Schools in Kashmir and was the first Muslim in her administrative capacity, who went on delivering lectures in colleges and social gatherings.

As a great orator and popular figure, Begum Zaffar was a key member behind the foundation of Teachers Club and Ladies Club, whose members included Tara Devi, queen of Kashmir's last monarch, Hari Singh.

"The club was central to bringing reform changes and participation in the lives of the Kashmiri women," Kashani says.

Before the bloodcurdling fall of 1947, Begum Zaffar had served as the secretary of the All India Women's Association but later resigned due to her displeasure with the association's nationalist fervour.

Back in 1944, she had famously hosted Mohamad Ali Jinnah and his sister, Fatimah Jinnah at Srinagar. She had organised a meeting of Kashmiri women with the stalwart's shadow sibling at present day Lawns of Secretariat.

In her lifetime, Begum Zaffar held various offices and with her intellectual ability and leadership, she was the first Muslim in Kashmir to become a director in the Department of Education.

In her later days, she was also member of the Social Welfare Advisory Board, Jammu and Kashmir, and even became a legislator.

At personal level, Begum's three sons went on to have distinguished public profiles. Her two sons, Agha Nasir Ali and Agha Shaukat Ali were civil bureaucrats.

While Agha Nasir retired as Labour Secretary of India in 1977, Agha Shaukat Ali, moved to Pakistan and joined Civil Services. Her youngest son Agha Ashraf Ali followed her footsteps and went on to become a top academician and educationist of the valley.

"It was Begum Zaffar Ali whom Sheikh Abdullah approached to convince her son, Agha Shaukat Ali to come back from Pakistan and join his cabinet," Shaheena says. "During her lifetime, she longed to meet the same son when he moved to Pakistan. But New Delhi never granted a visa to her for meeting her son in the neighbouring country."

When the same government awarded Padma Shri to her in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the field of social welfare in 1987, Begum famously declined the award in a televised Doordarshan interview.

"The Indian state excesses and gross human rights violations in Kashmir was the reason behind the non-acceptance," historian Kashani says.

In her later years, the top educationist had been shuttling between Srinagar and Washington, to be with her exiled son.

In 1999, when she was staying with Agha Shaukat in the United States, the whole family, including her great grandchildren, had planned to celebrate her birthday as she was turning 100 year old.

"But sadly," Shaheena says, "she passed away

a month short of her illustrious century!"

LG Greets People

harmony, and amity among people of all faiths, an official spokesperson said.

Sinha, he said, prayed for peace, progress, and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

J&K Logs 75 Cases,

Of the fresh 75 cases, officials said, Kashmir valley reported 65 while Jammu 10 new cases of infection thus taking the total number of people infected by the virus in J&K to 127363.

Giving district-wise break-up of cases, officials said, Srinagar reported 39, Baramulla 4, Budgam 4, Pulwama 3, Anantnag 8, Bandipora 2, Kulgam 3, Shopian 2 and Jammu 10 new cases of infection.

Moreover, the officials said that 77 more patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals—12 from Jammu Division and 65 from Kashmir Valley.

CRPF Man Shoots

was a resident of south India's Kerala state. According to the reports, Jyoti was 'mentally disturbed' and was not assigned any weapon.

"Today while others were busy, he took another jawan's weapon and shot himself. The rifle belonged to a constable named Arvind Kumar of 54 Battalion co-located at Bukhari House with 79 Battalion. Jyoti had reported back from 27 days leave on March 1," CRPF said, as per news agency ANI

Cop Killed In

said that it was a hit and run case. "A case has been registered under relevant sections of law and further investigation has been taken up to crack the case," he said—(KNO)

Decomposed Body

requested by police to share information if anyone is missing from their family members to 9906154100 and may approach Police station Kishtwar to identify the body.

SHO Kishtwar Abid Bukhari told local news agency GNS that efforts were underway to identify the body.

'KL Rahul And Rohit Sharma Will Start As Opening Pair,' Says Captain Kohli

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: India captain Virat Kohli on Thursday said that Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul will be the team's opening combination in T20 cricket going ahead as it geared up for a five-match series against England starting in Ahmedabad on Friday.

Kohli also made it clear that Ravichandran Ashwin will not be in the white-ball scheme of things till Washington Sundar is performing.

India will start their preparations for the T20 World Cup, to be held in India later this year, with the series against England and the skipper did give some indications about how the core combination would look like.

"If Rohit plays, then it's simple. KL (Rahul) and Rohit have been performing consistently at the top of the order for us and those two will start," Kohli was unambiguous in his reply that the seasoned Shikhar Dhawan will have to wait.

"In a situation, Rohit takes rest and KL has a niggly or something, Shikhi (Dhawan's nickname in team) obviously comes in as the third opener but the starting composition, Rohit and Rahul will be the ones who will start."

However, Kohli was trifle annoyed with a question on India's no.1 Test spinner Ashwin's chances of making a comeback looking at his impressive IPL form last time when he got some big names including the India captain cheaply.

"Washington has been doing really well for us. So you cannot have two players of the same discipline, playing in one spot. So (this will not happen) unless Washy has drastically horrible season and things go south for him," Kohli said about the young all-rounder.

Washington has an impressive economy rate of less than 7 per over (6.95) in 26 games for the country.

Kohli made it pretty clear that the question didn't amuse him one bit.

"I mean the question has to be asked with some kind of logic as well. You suggest where you would add Ash, and play him in the team?" he countered. "Washington already does that job for the team. It's easy to ask a question but you should have a logical explanation to it yourself."

No space for compromise on fitness: Kohli on Varun Chakravarty Mystery spinner Varun Chakravarty's repeated fitness test failures have raised quite a few eyebrows and the Indian captain sent a message loud and clear that anyone aspiring to play for India should abide by certain fitness standards.

Chakravarty, an IPL sensation for Kolkata Knight Riders, was first picked ahead of the Australia tour only to be found out later that he was hiding a shoulder injury back then.

He did his rehabilitation at the NCA but hasn't played any national level competitive match and again failed the YoYo (17.1) and 2km (8 minutes) fitness test after Chetan Sharma's committee unexpectedly picked him without any game time.

"Look individuals need to understand the systems that have been created for the Indian cricket team," Kohli was very clear on where he stood on the issue.

"We should operate at the very high levels of fitness and skills and that's why this (India team) is top of the ladder when playing cricket, in our country."

"We would expect players to abide by what's required to be a part of Team India. There shouldn't be space for any compromise, in that regard."

VIJAY HAZARE TROPHY

Uttar Pradesh Beat Gujarat By Five Wickets To Enter Final

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Akshdeep Nath's tight seam-up stuff along with a useful half-century helped Uttar Pradesh defeat Gujarat by five wickets to reach the Vijay Hazare Trophy final after 16 long years.

They will meet Mumbai in the final at the Feroz Shah Kotla on Sunday. Opting to bat at the Feroz Shah Kotla, Gujarat top-order put up an ordinary show and found the going tough against some relentless UP bowling attack to be bundled out for a paltry 184 in 48.1 overs with Nath taking 1 for 29 in 6 overs apart from pacers Yash Fayal and Aaqib Khan finishing with three and two scalps respectively.

In reply, UP survived some early hiccups before Nath wrested control with a calculated 104-ball 71 (8x4), while the in-form Upen- dra Yadav sealed the issue with an unbeaten 31 from 25 balls.

Fresh from his match-winning 112 against Delhi in the quarterfinal, Yadav came to the crease after UP lost their set duo of skipper Karan Sharma (38) and Akshdeep in quick successions.

Yadav held his nerves and ensured that there's no more jitters as he smashed one six and three boundaries to script the win with 44 balls to spare.

UP had last made the final in 2004-05 season when they shared the trophy with Tamil Nadu after a tied finish. Hailing their disci-

plined bowling effort, UP skipper Sharma said they executed their plans well to ensure the easy win.

"Initially, the ball was skidding the idea was to bowl wicket to wicket and not give away any loose deliveries. We just stuck to our plan and it resulted in the success," Sharma said.

Gujarat skipper Priyank Panchal blamed it on the sloppy batting and said they threw away their initial few wickets.

"Batting was poor initially and we gave away two-three quick wickets. We could have taken the score to 240-mark which would have made it difficult for them," he said.

Asked whether they decision to bat first was a mistake, he said: "We were positive and confident about our batting but those initial few wickets cost us dear."

UP new ball duo Dayal (3/71) and Aaqib (2/22) shared five wickets among them and it was their discipline and control that did not allow Gujarat to break free.

The only respite came from Het Patel who topscored for Gujarat with a 87-ball 60 (5x4) in a 66-run partnership with veteran Piyush Chawla (42-ball 32; 2x4, 1x6).

Brief Scores: Gujarat 184; 48.1 overs (Het Patel 60, Piyush Chawla 32; Yash Dayal 3/34, Aaqib Khan 2/22) lost to Uttar Pradesh 188/5; 42.5 overs (Akshdeep Nath 71, Karan Sharma 38, Upen- dra Yadav 31 not out) by five wickets.

India Football Captain Sunil Chhetri Tests Positive For COVID-19

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Indian football team captain and star striker Sunil Chhetri on Thursday said he has tested positive for COVID-19, a development that is set to rule him out of the international friendly against Oman on March 25 in Dubai.

He is also likely to miss the March 29 friendly against United Arab Emirates at the same venue. The Bengaluru FC star forward took to social media to post the update and said that he is feeling fine.

"In a not-so-happy update, I've tested positive for COVID-19. In better news, I feel fine as I continue my recovery from the virus and should be back on a football pitch soon," Chhetri wrote on his Twitter handle.

"No better time to keep reminding everyone to continue taking all the safety precautions always."

The 36-year-old was competing in the Indian Super League (ISL) till last month in Goa in a bio-secure bubble.

His campaign got over after Bengaluru FC failed to make the semifinals.

The team's last game was on February 25, which Chhetri played and also scored a goal. Bengaluru FC



were placed seventh on the table at the end of the league stage.

The former champions logged 22 points after winning five matches, drawing seven and losing eight games.

Chhetri, the second highest goal scorer in international football among active players, scored eight times in the 20 ISL games this season.

As part of the preparation for the two matches against Oman and UAE, the national team is scheduled

to assemble for a preparatory camp in Dubai from March 15. India last played an international match in November 2019, in the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifiers against Afghanistan (in Tajikistan) and Oman (in Muscat).

Already out of contention for the second round of World Cup qualifiers, India are scheduled to play two home matches against Asian Champions Qatar and Afghanistan, and an away game against Bangladesh.

IND VS ENG 1ST T20

With World Cup In Mind, India Start Search For Perfect Combination

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: A blend of favourable results in the present and finding the perfect combination for the near future will be India's main endeavour when they square off against a well-rounded England in a five-match T20 International series starting here on Friday.

For skipper Virat Kohli, the primary aim will be to get an idea of his core group of players going into the ICC T20 World Cup in October. And he couldn't have hoped for a better opposition than a world-class English white-ball side under Eoin Morgan, ready to be way more challenging on flatter tracks which promise a run-feast.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for us to play in conditions where we will be playing the World Cup," England's explosive batsman-keeper Jos Buttler had recently said, shuffling off the debate that was the Test series.

For Indian vice-captain Rohit Sharma, it's all about focussing on the present.

"If we focus on the present, the future will take care of itself. It's a long series and it's important to see where we stand as a team and individual," Rohit said.

While there are more advantages of having multiple options, fashionably described as a "happy headache" for any captain, there are a few pitfalls that come with such a situation. The Indian team understands this fully well, having burnt its hands during the 2019 World Cup.

It was one event where till last moment, they didn't have a settled number four.

So it will only be fair that Kohli and head coach Ravi Shastri, in their minds, decide who will be Rohit's opening partner going into the mega event. The choice is down to KL Rahul and Shikhar Dhawan.

By pure cricketing logic and the skill sets that he is blessed with, Rahul's selection in any white ball playing XI is a no-brainer but then there is Dhawan, who has been a terrific performer at global events and one of the senior-most in the side.

If Kohli decides to accommodate Dhawan, then he will have to push Rahul down at No.4 as the Bengaluru man's place in the playing XI at this point of time is non-negotiable.



It's a tough call that Kohli needs to take as playing both of them would mean no place for either Shreyas Iyer or Indian fans' sentimental favourite Suryakumar Yadav, who is finally set to wear the India Blues after years of hardship.

The option of explosive hitting, that one among Shreyas and Surya can provide at No 4 or 5, is very enticing and the team management for one wouldn't like to miss out on an opportunity to exploit that advantage.

The Motera track will certainly be a flat deck, suiting the needs of the shortest format and with a lot of batting firepower on both sides, the Ahmedabad skyline could witness a lot of fireworks from both ends.

Whether it's vice-captain Rohit, the indomitable duo of Rishabh Pant and Hardik Pandya for the hosts or captain Morgan, Ben Stokes, Jos Buttler, Dawid Malan and Jason Roy at the other end, the kookaburra white might find itself in the stands more often than not.

With the unavailability of Thangarasu Natarajan in the bowling department, Bhuvneshwar Kumar will be back leading the attack along side another senior Yuzvendra Chahal for company.

With England's weakness against slow bowlers' well-documented in these conditions, Chahal could have both Washington Sundar and Axar Patel for company which leaves Shardul Thakur, Deepak Chahar and

Navdeep Saini in a three-way battle.

For England, the white ball format presents them with multi-skilled cricketers like Stokes, Sam Curran and IPL auction sensation Moeen Ali for starters, who can change the complexion of any game in either departments.

Throw in specialists like pacers Jofra Archer, Mark Wood, Chris Jordan and wrist spinner Adil Rashid, it will be a contest where India can never be termed firm favourites.

The next week and half would be an indication as to which direction the teams are headed in terms of preparations for the marquee event later this year. Match Starts at 7 pm.

Teams (from):

India: Virat Kohli (captain), Rohit Sharma (vc), KL Rahul, Shikhar Dhawan, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (wk), Hardik Pandya, Yuzvendra Chahal, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Shardul Thakur, Navdeep Saini, Deepak Chahar, Rahul Tewatia, Ishan Kishan (reserve wkeeper).

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

Debutants FC Goa To Host Group E Matches Of ACL 2021 At Fatorda Stadium

Press Trust of India

GOA: Indian Super League side FC Goa will host the Group E matches of the AFC Champions League (ACL) at the Fatorda Stadium in Margao.

The Asian Football Confederation on Thursday confirmed the venues for the Asian Champions League 2021 group stage matches after an extensive feedback exercise with its participating member associations, commercial partners and all relevant stakeholders.

matches which are scheduled between April 14-30, will have Saudi Arabia hosting Groups A and D games in Riyadh as well as Group C in Jeddah. The matches in Group B are set to be staged in the United Arab Emirates city of Sharjah.

In the east region, the AFC has decided to postpone the group stage matches originally planned for April 21-May 7 to June/July 2021, taking into consideration the existing travel restrictions and quarantine challenges posed by the



And according to an ISL source, Goa has been selected as a centralised venue for Group E matches.

FC Goa has been clubbed with the last edition's runners-up Persepolis FC of Iran, Qatari heavyweights Al Rayyan SC and one yet-to-qualify side in Group E.

The preliminary and play-off matches of the ACL 2021 (East) are also postponed and will be played in centralised venues of their respective group stage matches.

This season's AFC Champions League is the biggest ever in history as it was a 32-team affair last time around.

FC Goa had become the first Indian club to directly qualify for the group stage of the ACL by virtue of finishing on top of the points table at the end of the league phase.

The winner side of each of the 10 groups and three best runners-up from each region -- west and east -- advance to the round of 16 of the knockout stage.

According to statement issued by AFC, the western region

COVID-19 pandemic. Thailand, meanwhile, will host matches in the east region Groups F, G and J, with the venues for Groups H and I as well as the exact dates for all Groups to be decided and communicated in due course, the AFC statement added.

The preliminary and play-off matches of the ACL 2021 (East) are also postponed and will be played in centralised venues of their respective group stage matches.

Groups A to E make up west region while Groups F to J comprise east region.

The league kicks off with the preliminary stage on April 7.

The knockout matches in the Round of 16 are scheduled for September 13-15 and the quarter-finals on September 27-29.

Both rounds will be played as single matches.

The semi-finals will be over two legs on October 19-20 and 26-27. The two-leg final will be held on November 21 and 27.

SHOOTING WORLD CUP

Qatar Team Arrives, UK And Brazil Contingents To Go Into Hard Quarantine On Arrival



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Qatar on Thursday became the first country to arrive for the upcoming combined shooting world cup in Delhi while Brazil and UK are reaching on Friday, after which they will go into a seven-day hard quarantine.

Six shooters and their support staff from Qatar reached the national capital on Thursday.

Both Brazil and United Kingdom have witnessed a spike in the number of COVID-19 cases in recent times.

Participants, coaches and officials from the two countries will be quarantined at the Radisson Hotel situated close to the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range, venue for the March 18-29 World Cup.

The International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) tournament will see shooters from more than 40 countries, including UK and Brazil, taking part.

Last month, Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju had said that a shorter and convenient quarantine period would be put in place for the world cup in order to not discourage international shooters from competing at the event.

"I have already assured that India will conduct international tournaments in such a way that COVID protocols will be followed

but foreign players will not be staying in long quarantine and will not be discouraged to participate," Rijiju had said.

Before that, a request was placed before the ministry that shooters be exempted from hard quarantine of 14 days and foreign delegates be given vaccine shots on priority.

Hosts India will field a strong 57-member squad in the tournament.

The squad was named by the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) last month.

The team comprises all 15 Tokyo Olympics quota winners, including Anjum Moudgil, Divyansh Singh Panwar, Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Choudhary. Commonwealth Games gold-medallist Anish Bhanwala was also picked in the 25m rapid pistol team.

The competition will be a combined event for rifle, pistol and shotgun shooters featuring as many as 30 different events.

More than 40 countries have so far confirmed their entries, including South Korea, Singapore, USA, United Kingdom, Iran, Ukraine, France, Hungary, Italy, Thailand and Turkey.

Some countries which are not sending their teams include the likes of China, Japan, Germany, Russia, Australia, New Zealand, Kuwait and Malaysia.

Coach Koeman Hopes His New-Look Barcelona Can Convince Messi To Stay

Agencies

BARCELONA: A friendly chat with Kylian Mbappe. A quick hug with Mauricio Pochettino. A kiss on the forehead from Angel Di Maria.

The signs were all there at Parc des Princes for paranoid Barcelona fans who fear Lionel Messi will follow the path of Neymar and bolt for Paris Saint-Germain once the season ends.

Barcelona coach Ronald Koeman, however, is confident that he has done all he can to convince Messi to continue his career with the Spanish club, despite another disappointing Champions League campaign.

"Leo has to decide his future, nobody can help him do that, (but) I think that he has seen for some time now that this team is on the right track and has a future. I don't think that he can use that as a reason not to stay," Koeman said after Wednesday's 1-1 draw at PSG eliminated Barcelona from the competition.

Koeman, who instead of titles promised a rejuvenation of the team when he took over last year, has Barcelona play-



ing well again. The team fought back to beat Sevilla in the Copa del Rey semifinals last week and has closed the gap on Spanish league leader Atletico Madrid to six points.

Barcelona is unbeaten in 16 league games -- with 13 wins and three draws -- before it hosts last-place Huesca on Monday. Atletico visits Getafe on Sat-

urday. For Messi, who scored a fantastic goal in Paris and had a penalty saved by Keylor Navas, the elimination will go down as yet another painful exit from the tournament that he last won, for a fourth time, in 2015.

Since then, Barcelona has faced several lopsided losses in the knock-

out rounds. The humiliating 8-2 debacle against Bayern Munich last season prompted Messi to say he wanted to leave the club he has been a part of for two decades. Since then, he has kept quiet about his plans, except to say that he will decide when his contract expires at the end of the season.

Swayed by his past relationship with Messi, Joan Laporta was elected as president again last weekend by club members. Laporta claimed he was the best man to talk Messi into remaining at the Camp Nou.

But until Messi actually signs a new deal, all eyes will be on possible suitors. And PSG is a leading candidate since it is one of a handful of clubs that could possibly afford a player who currently makes 138 million euros (\$167 million) per season.

Pochettino, the PSG coach, said his hug with Messi after Wednesday's match was "just to say hello" to a player who he coached against when he was at Espanyol. Di Maria, who pecked Messi on the head after the final whistle, is a teammate on Argentina's national team.

While Mbappe's future is also in doubt with his contract set to expire, Neymar could be a lure for Messi. Neymar, whose contract is also up after the season, has repeatedly said he would love to remake the partnership he shared with Messi at Barcelona.

But Koeman hopes he can offer Messi a team on the up thanks to his bold moves to remake a squad that had once won it all, only to slowly lose its competitiveness in Europe. Out went Luis Suarez, Arturo Vidal and Ivan Rakitic last offseason, and in came 18-year-olds Pedri Gonzalez, Ansu Fati and Ilia Moriba, among other promising talents.

For Koeman, the main thing that Barcelona lacked against PSG was the finishing touch provided by Mbappe, who scored four goals in the aggregate 5-2 victory.

"I think everyone can be proud of the image we have shown," Koeman said. "Once again this team showed that it has a great future."

Now the question is whether pride and promise are enough for Messi, now 33, to stay put.

"I HAVE ALREADY ASSURED THAT INDIA will conduct international tournaments in such a way that COVID protocols will be followed but foreign players will not be staying in long quarantine and will not be discouraged to participate."

"India No Longer Democratic Country": Rahul Gandhi Tweets Swedish Report



Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi today claimed India is "no longer" a democratic country, quoting media reports on Swedish Institute's democracy report that downgraded India.

"India is no longer a democratic country," he said on Twitter, tagging a news report citing Sweden's V-Dem Institute's democracy report that has downgraded India from "world's largest democracy" to "electoral democracy".

This comes after another global report by US government-funded

NGO Freedom House downgraded India's status from "free" to "partly free" and claimed that "political rights and civil liberties have eroded in India since Narendra Modi became prime minister in 2014".

The government has strongly rebutted the Freedom House report and called it "misleading, incorrect and misplaced", while asserting that the country has well established democratic practices.

Rahul Gandhi has been attacking the government over the issue of freedom of speech and expression.

Ambani Security Scare: Cops Find Link To Spot Near Delhi's Tihar Jail



Agenceis

MUMBAI: A Telegram channel through which an organisation named Jaish-ul-Hind had claimed responsibility for placing an explosives-laden SUV near industrialist Mukesh Ambani's residence was "created in the Tihar" area of Delhi, a senior Mumbai police official said on Thursday.

The Delhi police has been informed about it, he added.

The police took the help of a private cyber agency to track the location of the phone on which the Telegram channel was created, the official said. During the investigation, the location of the phone was traced near Delhi's Tihar Jail, he added.

A Mahindra Scorpio car with gelatin sticks was found parked near "Antilia", the multi-storey residence of Ambani, in south Mumbai on February 25.

According to police sources, the Telegram channel was created on February 26 and the message claiming responsibility for placing the vehicle outside Ambani's resi-

dence was posted on the Telegram messaging app late in the night on February 27.

The message had also demanded payment in cryptocurrency and mentioned a link to deposit the same.

During the probe, the link was found as "not available", due to which the investigators suspected it to be mischievous, the official said.

On February 28, another message from Jaish-ul-Hind surfaced on a social media platform, claiming that the organisation did not have any role in the incident.

The investigation in the case was initially conducted by the Crime Branch of the Mumbai police.

After the mysterious death of Thane-based auto parts dealer Mansukh Hiran, who was in possession of the SUV that was later found parked outside Ambani's residence, the probe was transferred to the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS).

On Monday, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) took over the case related to the recovery of the explosives-laden vehicle.



More Than 1 In 5 Smartphone Users At Risk Of Over-Dependence

Agenceis

SEOUL: More than 20 per cent of South Korean smartphone users are at risk of being overly dependent on the devices, a survey showed.

The Ministry of Science and ICT said 23.3 per cent of smartphone users in the country were at risk last year, up 3.3 percentage points from the previous year, citing a survey carried out by the National Information Society Agency.

The survey, which interviewed 15,000 people across the country on their smartphone usage, found that 19.3 per cent were at potential risk, while 4 per cent were at high risk of being too reliant on mobile devices.

The survey characterised users who have weak control over their smartphone usage and start to have problems with health and daily life as being at potential risk while grouping those that have lost control and experience severe

problems as being at high risk.

The majority of the respondents, 61 per cent, said individuals were responsible for solving their dependency problem on the devices, followed by companies at 21.8 per cent and the government at 17.2 per cent, reports Yonhap news agency.

South Korea ranked as the top country in terms of smartphone ownership among adults at 95 per cent, according to the U.S.-based Pew Research Center.

THE SURVEY CHARACTERISED USERS WHO HAVE WEAK control over their smartphone usage and start to have problems with health and daily life as being at potential risk while grouping those that have lost control and experience severe problems as being at high risk.

Trinamool Congress Postpones Manifesto Release Following "Attack" On Mamata Banerjee

Agenceis

KOLKATA: The Trinamool Congress on Wednesday postponed the release of its manifesto for the upcoming elections in West Bengal, following the alleged attack on Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, party leaders said.

Ms Banerjee, the party's chairperson, was scheduled to release the manifesto in the afternoon at her residence in Kalighat.

"The manifesto release has been postponed for the time being. It will be released after Mamata Banerjee gets well and is back home. Although our manifesto is ready, there is no question of releasing it without her," a senior TMC leader said.

The chief minister is at present undergoing treatment at the SSKM Hospital in Kolkata with injury to her left leg, waist, shoulder and neck, according to doctors.



She alleged on Wednesday evening that during her campaign in Nandigram, she was attacked by four-five men who pushed her, besides banging on her the door of her car, leading to the injuries.

Ms Banerjee had released the party's list of 291 candidates on March 5.

West Bengal will be voting in eight phases, beginning March 27. The votes will be counted on May 2.

5 Years After Return From Pakistan, Geeta May Have Finally Found Her Family



Agenceis

No DNA test has been conducted yet but for 29-year-old Geeta, who returned to India from Pakistan in 2015 after going there when she was nine, the search for her biological mother may have ended, an NGO says.

Geeta, who returned to India on October 26, 2015 after intercession by then External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, was initially lodged at a facility of a hearing and speech impaired institute run by an Indore-based NGO. The over five-year-long search to find Geeta's family led to Parbhani in Maharashtra, where she is now being trained in sign language by Pahal, an NGO working for the hearing and speech impaired.

Speaking to PTI, Dr Anand Selgaokar of Pahal said Geeta was handed over to Anand Services Society, another Indore-based NGO, on July 20, 2020 and Gyanendra Purohit of that NGO first came to Parbhani in December last year.

The search in the last five years involved screening process of at least a dozen families from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana and Rajasthan after claims that they were Geeta's blood relations. Purohit said the search led the NGO to Meena Waghmare (71) who lived in Jintur in Parbhani district, when her daughter Radha (Geeta) went missing.

"Meena told us that her daughter has a burn mark on her stomach and when we checked, it turned out to be true," Purohit said.

Geeta's father and Meena's first husband Sudhakar Waghmare died some years ago and she now lives near Aurangabad with her second husband, Purohit said.

Tears rolled down Meena's eyes as she met Geeta for the first time, he said. Geeta did not understand a word of what Meena said as being speech and hearing impaired, she communicates only through sign language.

It is likely that Geeta reached Parbhani and boarded the Sachkhand Express to Amritsar and later boarded the Delhi-Lahore Samjhauta Express, Selgaokar said. Geeta has now spent around a month-and-a-half in Parbhani and often meets with Meena and the latter's married daughter, who also lives in the Marathwada region.

"It is for the government authorities to decide on when to conduct a DNA test. Till then Geeta will continue to receive training at Pahal," Selgaokar said. Pakistani media reported that Geeta, who was rescued by a social welfare organisation in Pakistan after she mistakenly ended up in that country before being sent back to India in 2015, has been reunited with her real mother in Maharashtra.

Bilquees Edhi the wife of late Abdul Sattar Edhi, who now runs the world famous Edhi Welfare Trust and who developed a close bond with Geeta said the Indian girl had finally been reunited with her real mother in Maharashtra state, Dawn newspaper reported. "She has been in touch with me and this weekend she finally told me the good news about meeting her real mother," Bilquees said.

Bilquees said they had found Geeta when she was around 11-12 years old at a railway station and gave her shelter at their centre in Karachi.

"Somehow she strayed into Pakistan and was shelterless when we found her in Karachi," she said.

Fake Doctor Gets 40 Years In Jail For Raping 2 Sisters In Chhattisgarh

Agenceis

A fast-track court in Chhattisgarh's Raipur has sentenced a fake doctor to two jail terms of 20 years each for raping two sisters on the pretext of treating them in 2017.

The court, in its order on Wednesday, said the two sentences will run consecutively, which amounts to a 40-year jail term, Special Public Prosecutor Tarachand Kosale said.

Additional Sessions Judge Pooja Jaiswal convicted Samay Lal Dewangan, 48, a resident of Gandhi Nagar, under section 376(2)(n) (committing rape repeatedly on the same woman) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and sentenced him to two jail terms of 20 years each for raping the two women, he said.

The court also imposed a fine of 10,000 on the convict, Mr Kosale added.

In December 2016, the family members of the victims, then aged 21 and 19, took them to the accused for the treatment of their abdominal and waist pain.

The accused started raping the siblings since early 2017 on the pretext of curing them through "black magic" and threatened them with dire consequences if they informed about it to anyone, the prosecutor said.

The crime came to light in September 2017 when the victims narrated their ordeal to their parents, following which a complaint was lodged at the Gudhiyari police station, he said.

The accused was subsequently arrested and a case was registered against him.

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