

25th year OF PUBLICATION

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Friday 18 February 2022 | 16 Rajab al Murajab | 1443 Hijri | Vol:25 | Issue: 42 | Pages:08 | Price: ₹3

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P7 STATE

J&K LOGS 232 NEW COVID CASES, NO DEATHS

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Thursday 232 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus while no fatalities were reported in the Union Territory for the fourth consecutive day. According to the officials, Kashmir Valley reported 70 new cases of

P5

WOMEN IN THE QUR'AN: WHAT ASIAH CAN TEACH US ABOUT STANDING UP AGAINST INJUSTICE

The Qur'an is not an arbitrary book that we read and store in an adorned cover on a pretty shelf. The Qur'an is a book of mercy that came to help and guide us intellectually, spiritually and



PO8 SPORTS

29TH ANNUAL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FROM FEB 22

J&K Football Association (JKFA) under the aegis of J&K Sports Council (JKSC) on Thursday announced that it will be conducting the 29th Annual Football



Quote!

Happiness is not an ideal of reason, but of imagination

— Immanuel Kant

NEWS DIGEST

Militants Attack CRPF In Shopian

SRINAGAR: Militants hurled a grenade at a CRPF vehicle in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, but there was no casualty, officials said. The ultras lobbed the grenade towards the vehicle at Keegam in Shopian at **More on P6**

Naib Tehsildar Falls In ACB Net

SRINAGAR: Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday said it arrested naib-tehsildar Chuker in Tehsil Kunzer in Baramulla district for demanding a bribe from a complainant. "Anti-Corruption Bureau received a complaint, **More on P6**

Soldier Shoots Himself Dead

JAMMU: An army man allegedly ended his life by shooting himself dead in Nagrota area of the Jammu region on Thursday. Reports said that an army soldier of 60 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) allegedly shot himself to death at Romeo Force Rear Headquarter at Nagrota. **More on P6**

Low Intensity Quake Felt In J&K

SRINAGAR: A light intensity earthquake measuring 3.5 on the Richter scale occurred in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, but no casualty or damage to property was reported from anywhere so far. This is the second tremor felt in the valley in the past two days. Officials of the **More on P6**

Government Employees Under Scanner

J&K Govt Asks Employees To Upload Monthly Performance By 7th Of Every Month

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday directed all its employees and those working in public sector undertakings (PSUs) to upload their monthly achievements or performance on J&K Employees Performance Monitoring Portal by or before 7 of every month from March.

The order in this regard was issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary to the government on Thursday. "All Employees Working in various Government departments, PSUs and Organizations shall upload their monthly achievements/performance on J&K Employees Performance Monitoring Portal on <https://epm.jk.gov.in> by or before 7 of every month w.e.f. March 2022," reads a government order, a copy of which lies with the Kashmir Observer.

"All the reviewing/Controlling Officers shall review the self assessment of their immediate subordinates by 15th of every month," the order added.

With a view to have an objective assessment of work done by



employees working in various Departments/Organizations/PSUs, the Government has recently launched the Employees Performance Monitoring Portal for capturing their monthly achievements and work done.

"The initiative besides providing a mechanism of self appraisal to the employees shall also provide a tool to the respective reporting/controlling officers for better Performance monitoring and Human Resource Management." The facility shall be available on J&K Employees Performance

Monitoring Portal on <http://epm.jk.gov.in>, which can be accessed through the existing CPIS IDs through One Time Password (OTP), which will be provided through the SANDES application available both for Android and IOS users. "It is, accordingly, enjoined upon all the Government employees working in various Government Departments, Organizations and PSUs to download the SANDES Application for subsequent submission of their Monthly Performance Report on EPM Portal immediately".

ALL EMPLOYEES WORKING IN VARIOUS Government departments, PSUs and Organizations shall upload their monthly achievements/performance on J&K Employees Performance Monitoring Portal on <https://epm.jk.gov.in> by or before 7 of every month w.e.f. March 2022."

PAGD To Meet In Srinagar On Feb 26

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) will meet here on February 26 to discuss the prevailing situation in Jammu and Kashmir, including the draft proposal of the Delimitation Commission.

Last week, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti had said the PAGD would meet on February 23. "PAGD meeting is scheduled to be held at Srinagar on 26th February, 2022 to discuss the present prevailing situation in J&K," spokesperson of the five-party alliance M Y Tarigami said here on Thursday.

All mainstream parties in Jammu and Kashmir, except the BJP, have rejected the draft proposal of the Delimitation Commission, saying the commission did not follow the criteria laid down by itself for the exercise. National Conference **More on P6**

Thousands Of Trout Fish Perish In Kokernag Sinkhole

Zaid Bin Shabir

As the trout-rich water of Brengi stream has vanished into a massive sinkhole, thousands of fish have died in the stream due to non-availability of water, leaving locals and experts in a lurch as they fear the numbers may gradually rise if a remedy to the sinkhole problem isn't found.

On February 12, several media reports suggested that a massive sinkhole has led to a formation of whirlpool inside Wandalgam village's Brengi stream in Kokernag area of Anantnag district that has left the downstream part of the stream completely dry, posing threat to the aquatic life especially the famous trouts of Brengi.

However, the experts have said that the formation of this



sinkhole is a natural phenomenon that is usually formed in the limestone layer of the stream or a river. They have also junked the reports that had falsely claimed that the vertical hole is an assault unleashed by the unobstructed climatic changes on the mighty Himalayas and its peripheries.

Talking to Kashmir Observer, a local said that due to formation of this sinkhole, thousands of fish have died till now. "The riverbed of the stream was jammed up with dead fish." Tanveer, who wishes to be known by his first name, told Kashmir Observer.

"By the time, **More on P6**

Reopening Of Educational Institutions

Officials Directed To Frame Uniform Checklist



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday asked the officials to frame a uniform checklist for every educational institution regarding Covid containment measures within their institutions and also maintain highest level of sanitation all the time to ensure reopening of these institutions in a very secure environment for the students as well as teachers.

These directions were passed by the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Thursday while chairing a meeting regarding reopening of schools and colleges in Kashmir division, an official spokesperson said.

The meeting was attended by Director School Education, Director Health Services Kashmir, Director Colleges, Principals and Heads of Institutions, In-charge Divisional Covid Control Room, Kashmir and other concerned officers.

Pole, he said, directed the concerned officers to ensure strict implementation of Covid-19 Appropriate

Behaviour (CAB) to prevent spread of virus while schools and colleges are re-opened.

"He stressed for framing of uniform check list for every educational institution regarding covid containment measures within their institutions and also maintain highest level of sanitation all the time to ensure reopening of these institutions in a very secure environment for the students as well as teachers," he added.

According to the spokesperson, the Div Com said before opening of school, the concerned administration of the institution shall inspect these institutions physically and ascertain about the preparedness and planning before throwing these institutions open for children.

"He said that in physical aspects of check list must include cleaning of grounds, classrooms, availability of clean water and reparation of washrooms. He instructed all the institution heads to designate a nodal officer who will be supervising the Covid specific activities in these institutions," he said.

The official **More on P6**

SIA Grills Jama'at Chief, 5 Leaders Over 'Unlawful Activities'

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: At least six leaders of the proscribed Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI), including its chief, were quizzed for more than eight hours on Thursday by the State Investigation Agency (SIA) of Jammu and Kashmir over alleged "unlawful activities", an official said.

Jel chief Abdul Hamid Ganaie, a resident of Nadigam village of south Kashmir's Shopian, and his party colleagues were summoned for questioning in a case originally lodged at Batmaloo police station here in 2019 under various sections of the

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the official said.

The SIA, constituted recently to investigate terrorism-related cases in Jammu and Kashmir, has taken over the case for a thorough probe, the official said.

Besides Ganaie, who is currently living in the posh Hyderpora locality of the city, the others questioned were office-bearers Tariq Ahmad Haroon, Abdul Salam Dagga, Muzaffer Jan, Mohammad Yousuf Sheikh (all residents of Srinagar) and Peer Abdul Rashid of Kulgam district.

"They were questioned for more than **More on P6**

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Italian Bread Getting Native Taste In Kashmir

Auqib Javeed

Tumans of Habak weren't expecting a "harrowing homecoming" from a developed country like the United Kingdom where they were thriving on their two-decade-long diamond business.

But come Covid and the crippling economy would even force this well-settled Kashmiri family to come home.

"The bad situation drove us out of England," said Mohammad Yusuf Tuman, a resident of Habak, Srinagar. "It was a traumatic time as we had to literally leave everything behind."

Back home, Tumans shortly

wore their thinking caps—and decided to do something new.

They wanted to start something different from their family business.

"It took us two years of research before we decided to start this pizza house with our partner, Bilal Ahmad," Yusuf said.

"We thought pizza hangout is the best choice since its trending and liked by youngsters."

In the last week of January 2022, Tumans rented a space at the iconic Bund in Lal Chowk and gave it a shape of pizza

hut with the name Woodfire Pizza and Cafe.

But since the city has witnessed mushrooming of cafes and restaurants who serve the "best pizzas" in the town, Tumans thought of something different that would attract more

SO WE ADDED KEBABS on pizzas which go with thin crust. This native touch is already adding a new taste to the foreign bread."

people and carry a native feeling.

"The idea was to give an Italian delicacy a Kashmiri touch," Yusuf said.

"So we added Kebabs on pizzas which go with thin crust. This native touch is already adding a new taste to the foreign bread."

To keep it traditional, Tumans don't use an electric or gas oven to prepare the pizza, like most of the

eateries in the city. They use a handmade oven fuelled by firewood. It gives the pizza a totally different taste.

"We're consciously using traditional cooking methods and it's working well," Yusuf said.

Apart from pizzas, the cafe on Bund serves barbecues, garlic breads, Italian salad and chicken, sandwiches and other tandoori items.

"We aspire to serve food in a friendly manner and at reasonable prices at a place where one gets the clear picture of river Jhelum," Yusuf said.

"We're also planning to open a food chain in Kashmir with the same concept."





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Covid-19 Vaccine In Pregnancy May Protect Babies After Birth

Associated Press

Covid-19 vaccines during pregnancy can protect babies after they're born and lead to fewer hospitalized infants, a US government study suggested. The study is the first to show potential benefits to infants born to people who received two doses of Pfizer or Moderna vaccines during pregnancy, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention researchers said during a briefing. It was already known that antibodies developed by Covid-19 vaccines transfer to the fetus through the umbilical cord. How that might affect infants after birth was uncertain. "Until this study, we have not yet had data to demonstrate whether these antibodies might provide protection for the baby against Covid-19," said Dr. Dana Meaney-Delman, an obstetrician and CDC researcher. Infants in the study were treated at 20 hospitals in 17 states from July 2021 through mid-January, during surges involving the delta and omicron variants. The researchers didn't examine



infection rates in infants. Instead, they looked at data on 176 children under 6 months who were hospitalized with Covid-19 and 203 in the hospital for some other condition. They also looked at the

vaccination status of all the babies' mothers. Vaccination rates were much lower among mothers of the Covid-19 infants than among those whose infants were hospitalized with

something else — 16% compared with 32%. The results offer yet another reason for pregnant people to get vaccinated, the researchers said. About two-thirds of pregnant people

Until this study, we have not yet had data to demonstrate whether these antibodies might provide protection for the baby against Covid-19

ple in the United States are fully vaccinated; most got the shots before pregnancy, CDC data show. Other shots, including vaccines for flu and whooping cough, given in pregnancy are known to protect mothers and infants. The study provides "another important piece of the puzzle," said Dr. Denise Jamieson, OB-GYN chair at Emory University, who called it important news for babies who are too young to receive Covid-19 vaccinations. While shots are being studied for older infants and toddlers, none are on the horizon for infants younger than 6 months. "It's not surprising, but very reassuring," Jamieson said.

Study Suggests Older People In Good Shape Have Fitter Brains

ANI

According to the findings of a recent study, seventy- to eighty-year-olds who train for better fitness are better at solving cognitive tasks and are less likely to suffer cognitive impairment. "Our findings suggest that being fit can protect against mild cognitive impairment in older people," says Ekaterina Zotcheva. Just before Christmas, Zotcheva defended her doctoral dissertation on exercise and brain health at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, NTNU. The day before the defence, the last study for her doctoral degree was published in Sports Medicine journal. The article is just one of three recent research articles from NTNU that show how important it is for the brain to stay in good physical shape as you get older. Common to all three articles is that they are based on data from the world's largest training study for older adults, the Generation 100 study from the Cardiac Exercise Research Group. Dementia risk "The Generation 100 study has been going on for almost ten years now. After the study participants had been exercising for five years, we tested the cognitive function of almost 1000 of them." "The men and women who had maintained or increased their physical fitness during the study had better brain health than those whose fitness had declined over the five years," says Zotcheva. The cognitive test that the participants took is the same one that is often used to check whether people are at risk of developing dementia. The test assesses short-term memory, execution function and the ability to orient oneself in time and space. Scoring below a certain number indicates a risk of mild cognitive impairment. "We know that mild cognitive impairment can lead to dementia for some individuals. The greater the increase in a participant's fitness level during the five years of the study, the lower their probability was of developing mild cognitive impairment," says Zotcheva. Better at problem-solving Good conditioning appears to be an important prerequisite for good brain function in the elderly in the other two research articles as well. In both of these studies, the researchers tested the brain health of more than 100 of the participants in the Generation 100 study at start-up and after one, three and five years of training. "Participants who were in good shape, both when the study started and later in the study, had a faster reaction time. The ones who improved their fitness level gained a somewhat better working memory," says NTNU professor Asta Haberg. The ability to solve cognitive problems was tested using the web-based Memor platform, which Haberg developed in collaboration with neuropsychologist Tor Ivar Hansen. Less brain atrophy Haberg has been involved in the work of all three recent research articles. In the third study, the researchers performed MRI scans of the participants' brains to see how the brain volume and thickness of the cerebral cortex changed throughout the study. Here, too, the most energetic

participants came out best. "Participants who were in good shape when the study started had a thicker cerebral cortex after one, three and five years, as compared with those who had lower maximum oxygen uptake. But we didn't find any effect from increasing fitness during the study," says Haberg. The cerebral cortex is the outermost layer of the brain and is important for several important brain functions, such as attention, ability to make choices, working memory, abstract thinking and memory. This part of the brain becomes thinner with age, and thinning of the cerebral cortex in different areas is linked to different types of dementia, such as Alzheimer's disease and frontotemporal dementia. Fitness more important than the type of exercise All 70- to 77-year-olds in Trondheim were invited to the Generation 100 study in 2012. Those who agreed to participate were randomly assigned to five years of exercise of various kinds. One group would primarily do high-intensity intervals, a second group would mainly go for walks or do other exercises with moderate intensity, and the last group would try



to follow the activity recommendations of the health authorities to be physically active for at least 150 minutes each week. The first two groups were followed up most closely by the researchers and were offered two organized training sessions each week. The NTNU researchers looked beyond the connection between fitness and brain health and also investigated whether the type of training follow-up that participants received made a difference. "Our results show that organized training follow-up may have given older men, but not older women, better cognitive function and lowered the probability of mild cognitive impairments. But all in all, it seems that the most important thing is that you actually train in a way that increases your fitness, regardless of whether you get organized help to be physically active or not," says Zotcheva. Less brain atrophy than expected "In the groups that received follow-up with high-intensity training and training with moderate intensity, respectively, we found somewhat greater loss of brain volume in deep areas of the brain than among those who trained themselves. But we have to emphasize that everyone in the Generation 100 study - regardless of the form of exercise they did - had less brain loss than expected for people in their 70s. The group that trained on their own without organized follow-up had the least shrinkage in the hippocampus and thalamus," Haberg says.

Govt Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Executive Engineer
Flood Spill Channel Division Narbal
Fax/Phone:01951-260223
Email:floodspillchannelnarbal@gmail.com | xenfscnarbal@ifckashmir.com

CORRIGENDUM

Sub:- Construction of Divisional office Building for Flood Spill Channel Division Narbal at Narbal. (Skeleton Part only)
Ref: This office Tender notice No. E- NIT No. 32 of 2021-22 Dated: 12/02/2022 issued vide this office No. FSCDN/CS/ 7680-7706 dt: 12/02/2022.

Please read Nomenclature of item No. 30 of the BOQ.

Structural steel work in built up sections, trusses and framed workincluding cutting, hoisting, fixing in position and applying a priming coat of approved steel primer all complete. Welded.

Instead of

Steel reinforcement for R.C.C. work including straightening, cutting, bending, placing in position and binding all complete upto plinth level. Hard drawn steel wire fabric. However, all terms & conditions shall remain unchanged

No. FSCDN/CS/7824-29
Dated. 16/02/2022

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

DIPK-18247/21

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Executive Engineer
Irrigation Division Kulgam

Notice inviting e-Tender

Fresh E-N.I.T No:- 20 of 2021-22 **Date:- 17/02/2022**

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K Union Territory e-tenders (Two cover System), are invited from reputed and resourceful "AAY" class contractors/Firms/companies/joint venture of reputed on item rate basis, which should be uploaded on the e-Procurement web portal <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>, up to last bidding date:- 09/03/2022 up to 4.00 p.m for the subjected work referred below and as per the details mentioned in this e-tender notification and to whom all the terms and conditions of detailed NIT / Tender Documents/ PWD Form NO:-25 are accepted. The detailed tender document, Specifications and drawings can be downloaded on the e-procurement Portal <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> and also on departmental web site "ifckashmir.com". The cost of tender document in the form of Demand draft (bidders other than UT of J&K) & e-challan/Treasury Challan/receipt remitted to MH 0701/0702 (non - refundable/Non-transferable) for bidders of UT of J&K, in favor of Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Kulgam.

S. No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost of work	Bid Security	Class of contract	Cost of Tender Document	Period of Completion	Tender Receiving Authority
01	Construction , Testing and successful commissioning of Lift Irrigation Scheme	280.10 Lacs	Bid Security Declaration duly Notorised	Class A and above	Rs 5500/=	24 Calendar Months	Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Anantmag

Position of AA: Accorded Position of Available: Available

The Bidding documents consisting of eligibility criteria, specification, bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms & conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the e-procurement Portal "http://www.jktenders.gov.in" and also on departmental web site " ifckashmir.com" as per schedule of dates given below:-

01	Date of publishing of Tender Notice	17/02/2022
02	Date of downloading of bidding documents	17/02/2022 from 10.00 AM
03	Date, Time & Venue of Pre-bid meeting	22/02/2022 at 11.00 am in the office of Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Anantmag.
04	Last date of submission of pre-bid queries if Any	24/02/2022
05	Bid submission start date	17/02/2022 from 11.00 AM
06	Bid Submission end date	09/03/2022 up to 04.00 PM
07	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (on line)	10/03/2022 at 11.00 AM
08	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (on line)	Shall be notified after evaluation of technical bids.

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir

Executive Engineer
Irrigation Division Kulgam

DIPK-18257/21

از دفتر انجیر پورہ با اجلاس غلام نجی الدین بٹ صاحب
مضمون درخواست مناجب : علیہ یا نویدہ محمد اشرف ڈار ساکنہ بیون کالونی میرہ دانتر
برادر اجرائی تاریخ فوٹو کی سر فیکٹ بنام :- محمد اشرف ڈار ولد غلام نجی ڈار
اشہار برادر ادا گاہی بر خاص وعام
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن مذکورہ بالا نیڈیفٹر ہڈا میں ایک درخواست طلبی بیان پیش کیا ہے
سالانہ کے شوہر کا تاریخ فوٹو
15/10/2019 ہے لیکن غلطی سے تاریخ فوٹو کی وقت پر رجسٹر نہیں ہوا تھا۔ اس ضمن میں سر فیکٹ
فوٹو کا نکلنے کا خواہ ہے لہذا سر فیکٹ مذکورہ جڑا مار کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کا کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض
ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر دوران دفتر کی اوقات میں پیش کرے بصورت دیگر کوئی بھی اعتراض
قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
rna
انجیر پورہ

از نیابت منیر پورہ با اجلاس غلام نجی الدین بٹ صاحب
درخواست مناجب :- عادل منظور احکامک ساکنہ منیر پورہ تحصیل مٹن
بغرض حصول :- RBA سر فیکٹ
اشہار برادر ادا گاہی بر خاص وعام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن ایک درخواست سر فیکٹ دفتر ہڈا میں پیش کیا ہے جس
کی فوادر پورٹ جو کڑہر کا وائی ہے۔ پڑاوی حالت سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے
ہے کہ ساکن کیچھلے پندرہ سالوں سے وہ ہڈا میں سکونت پذیر ہے۔
نمبر شمار نام و ولیدت عمر پیشہ آمدنی
1 منظور احمد شیخ ولد اسد اللہ شیخ 55 سال مزدوری 7000/=
2 مسماہ بیدہ ولد فوج منظور احمد شیخ 50 سال گھریلو کام
3 عادل منظور ولد منظور احمد شیخ 24 سال زیر تعلیم
اس طرح ساکن کا گنبد 03 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ اور ساکن کے کنبہ میں کوئی سرکاری ملازم موجود نہیں
ہے۔ ساکن کے کنبہ کے پاس کوئی آراضی موجود نہیں ہے۔ ساکن ان کے کنبہ کی سالانہ آمدنی
تقریباً 84000 روپیہ تک ہے۔ اس طرح ساکن RBA سر فیکٹ اجراء
کرنے کی خواہش رکھتا ہے۔ اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد سے دن کے اندر اندر اپنا
عذر یا اعتراض دفتر ہڈا میں پیش کریں۔ بعد کڑہر سے عیاں کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں
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Pubic Notice

I have lost the Number Plate of my vehicle Wagner bearing Regd No: JK03D 4287. Now I am applying for duplicate if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the Concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

MAJID AHMAD
S/O GH MOHAMMAD
R/O KHANABAL ANANTNAG
rna

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education
BRANCH OFFICE SOPORE

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10 th under Below mentioned particulars
Asif Ashraf Sheikh
Father's name: Mohamad Ashraf Sheikh
Mother Name : Naseema Begum
Roll No: 343249 Year 2013 Session Regular

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the some before under signed with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.
Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Sub Office Sopore
fko

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education
BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 12th under Below mentioned particulars
Name : Mubeena Aziz
Father's Name: Ab Aziz Sheikh
R/o Kandilama

Details of Marks Certificate lost
Higher Secondary School Examination (class 12th)
Roll No 23402429 Session /Year Bi-Annual 2020-21

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the some before under signed with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.
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No Abrupt Rise In Crimes Against Women In City: Police

Agencies

Srinagar:-- Jammu and Kashmir police on Thursday said that there is no abrupt rise in crimes against women in Srinagar but some cases have surfaced recently and they believe narcotics and lack of monitoring by parents in their children are two major reasons responsible for crimes in the city.

Talking to news agency, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar Rakesh Balwal said that women special squads have been rolled across the city at the identified police stations. "Youth involved in crimes in Srinagar are addicted to different drugs which ultimately leads to various crimes," he said.

Asked when police was going to file the charge—

sheet into acid attack case, he said within two days, police will file charge—sheet as FSL reports are also coming today.

About theft cases, he said it was also because of narcotics use among youth that leads to theft. "We are following a holistic approach. And you will see the difference soon. We need public cooperation which is not up to our expectation, so far," he said, adding that chronic drug addicts are being booked under PSA.

"We are trying to break the drug chain and we have understood that by arresting two or three drug peddlers won't do. Give us some time and I assure you that people will feel the difference," the SSP Srinagar said—(KNO)

Admin All Set To Issue Land Passbooks From Feb 19

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 17: In order to begin the process of issuing Land Passbooks to the land owners of Srinagar, the District Administration Srinagar is all set to start issuance of Land Passbooks to the lawful land owners in the first phase with effect from February 19.

In this connection, a meeting of senior Revenue officers was today held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Mohammad Aijaz Asad to finalize the Venue

and Tehsil wise schedule for distribution of Land Passbooks.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner directed all Tehsildars to prepare the passbooks as per laid down framework.

During the meeting, the Tehsildars of all 7 Srinagar Tehsils apprised the Deputy Commissioner about the plan of the scheduled programme. They also informed the chair about the venues selected for distribution of Land Passbooks in their respective jurisdictions.

Male body found outside SMHS hospital

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A male body was found outside SMHS hospital here on Thursday afternoon.

Official sources said that a 52-year-old male body identified as Ghulam Mohammad Dar resident of

Sonwar was lying outside SMHS Hospital Srinagar.

"They said that the body was spotted by locals, who subsequently informed local police.

The local police recovered the body and took it to SMHS Hospital for legal medical formalities

Two Vehicle Lifters Arrested In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Police in Srinagar arrested two vehicle lifters and recovered four stolen vehicles from them.

As per police, Acting upon a reliable information that some persons are involved in vehicle theft,

on 16-02-2022, Srinagar police arrested two accused persons (car lifters) identified as Sahir Amin Dar resident of Kursoo, Rajbagh(Thag) and Imtiyaz Ahmad Dar resident of Aqal Mir, Khanyar in two different cases under sections of vehicle theft, forgery and cheating.

Two cars and Two bikes have also been recovered from the accused persons.

Meanwhile, Police have requested General public again to install High security number plates in vehicles to avoid possibility of such thefts.

KU to re-open on March 1, VC chairs meeting with officials

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Vice Chancellor University of Kashmir Prof Talat Ahmad on Thursday chaired a meeting of deans of faculties, heads of departments, directors of campuses and officers ahead of re-opening of the varsity for offline teaching from March 1, 2022.

In his opening remarks, Prof Talat underlined the guidelines of the UT administration with regard to reopening of educational institutions following culmination of winter vacations.

Prof Talat, as per a statement issued to GNS, asserted that the university's main and satellite campuses shall re-open for in-person teaching from March 1, 2022 with strict adherence to Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) by faculty, staff and students to ensure hassle-free continuation teaching and research activities.

In line with the deliberations held by J&K Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta with heads of educational institutions on February 14, Prof Talat directed Deans, Directors, HODs and Coordinators of Main and Satellite Campuses to urgently come up with a plan on campus re-opening, including enlisting of all necessary Do's and Don'ts for circulation among students, SOPs for faculty, staff and students as well as on ensuring proper cleanliness and sanitation within the departments as well as in and around the campuses.

He said the year 2022 has to be the "Model Year for Academics" and "Model Year for Health and Cleanliness" in Jammu and Kashmir and necessary modalities to translate this mission of the UT administration into reality shall be immediately formulated and implemented in the University.

"Now that the University is

opening post vacations and following disruptions caused by the Covid19 pandemic, students must get the best of education. It is equally important to facilitate students to interact more and more and engage in constructive academic and sports activities for their personal and professional wellbeing," Prof Talat said, directing all HODs to ensure that all classes are held on time and alternate arrangement of teachers, in case of any teacher going on leave, be made in advance without any fail so that students don't miss any classes or lag behind in academics and research.

He said only students who are fully vaccinated shall be permitted to join in-person classes while those unvaccinated should get vaccinated at their respective places at the earliest or the University shall facilitate the



Crime Against Women Police Deploys Women's Safety Squad At Parraypora

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As crime rate against women is increasing in Kashmir, Srinagar police has taken an initiative of deploying a women's squad in Parraypora which is known for its maximum tuition centers in Srinagar.

Sources said, women police flying squads have been deployed in the coaching hub of Parraypora and Baghat areas to ensure safety for the girls studying in

the coaching centers.

In cases of stalking, harassment, teasing or any unwanted advancement by delinquents the girls students can approach any of the female constables for instant assistance.

It has been noticed women flying squad was deployed only after it was discovered that some victims felt uncomfortable to talk on such sensitive issues with the opposite sex.

There is an increase in crimes against women in Kash-

mir. In a recent case, on December 11 last year a 21-year-old girl suffered severe burn injuries on her face, when two unknown men threw acid on the girl in the city outskirts. The culprits were arrested later. The girl is undergoing treatment in Chennai now.

A police vehicle has been parked in the area with a helpline number- 9596770601,9596770602, 0194-2477567,0194-2477568 on it so that the girls in respected areas get assistance accordingly.

Cyber Police Saves Rs 7 Lakh Of 'Gullible' People In Past Week

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Cyber Police Kashmir Zone on Thursday said that it successfully saved an amount of Rs. Seven lakhs of gullible people which were lost in various KYC frauds/scams during the past week.

"Cyber Police Station Kashmir Zone, Srinagar received multiple complaints in the past one week wherein the complainants have been duped in various KYC frauds/scams by the fraudsters. The victims received fake messages and links on their cellphones for completing the KYC of their SIM cards and warned them that their SIM card will be deactivated in case they don't follow the process," a police spokesperson said in a statement to GNS. "The victims were also advised to call on provided

fake Customer Care Number where the fraudsters introduce themselves as Customer Care Executives of telephone service providers like BSNL/Jio/Airtel/Vodafone and asking them to complete the KYC verification by downloading some remote access apps like Quick Support, Team Viewer, Any Desk etc."

Unaware of these trending cyber frauds, the spokesperson said the victims downloaded these apps on their cell phones giving complete remote access to the fraudsters. "The fraudsters after gaining the access of their cellphones directed them to make some sort of recharge on their banking apps," he said, adding, "The fraudsters not only see the victims User ID but also the Password and swindle their hard earned money from

their bank accounts."

The victims, after realizing that they have been trapped in a cyber fraud, immediately reported to the Cyber Police Station, Kashmir Zone, Srinagar, he said.

"Acting swiftly, Cyber Police Station Kashmir Zone, Srinagar after strenuous efforts were successful in saving an amount of Rs 7 lakhs of various victims," the spokesperson said, adding, "General public is advised not to entertain or believe persons calling in the name of customer care executives and refrain from downloading any remote access apps like Team viewer, quick support, Any Desk App etc. on their advice/ directions. These legitimate apps are remote software tools, which provide third parties complete access to the users' cell phones/computers.

DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2450292,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
16 - Rajab
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 52
ZUHR	12:45
ASR	4:37
Magrib	6:19
ISHA	7: 41

This Day In History

- 1930- US astronomer Clyde Tombaugh discovers Pluto
- 1932- Japan declares Manchuria independent
- 1951- Nepal becomes a constitutional monarchy
- 1965- The Gambia becomes independent from the United Kingdom
- 1974- NASA launches Italian satellite San Marcos C-2 (235/843 km)
- 1977- Space Shuttle above a Boeing 747 goes on its maiden flight
- 1979- NASA launches space vehicle S-202
- 1979- President Zia ur-Rahman's National Party wins elections in Bangladesh
- 2003- Comet C/2002 V1 (NEAT) makes perihelion, seen by SOHO.
- 2003- Nearly 200 people die in the Daegu subway fire in South Korea
- 2004 - Up to 295 people, including nearly 200 rescue workers, die near Neyshabur in Iran when a run-away freight train carrying sulfur, petrol and fertiliser catches fire and explodes.
- 2014 - Ukrainian Revolution of 2014 begins as protesters, riot police and unknown shooters take part in violent events in the capital, Kiev, culminating after five days in the ouster of President Viktor Yanukovich
- 2016 - Pope Francis questions US Presidential hopeful Donald Trump's Christianity over his call to build a wall on the Mexican border

From KO Archives

Earthquakes: A monster is lurking beneath Kashmir, say experts

Shafa'at Rasool

SRINAGAR - Kashmir may not always be a spectator to the angers of the Earth, as meteorological experts believe that we may witness a massive earthquake, registering above 8 on the Richter scale, in future.

Nobody knows when it can be tomorrow or after a hundred years. But contrary to the locally held belief that Koh-i-Sulaiman and other hills of volcanic origin may erupt, the danger is mainly due to the tectonic activity in the entire Himalayan region; from the Hindukush in the west to Sadiya hills in the east.

Indian Meteorological Department has already placed central and south Kashmir in the high risk Zone 6 of the seismic map of India. This signifies an extremely high probability of earthquakes of very high magnitudes. These dangers arise from the fact that the Indian peninsular plate is pushing itself in to the Eurasian plate at a rate of 6 cm per year and this is building up pressure in the entire Himalayan region, thus provoking tectonic activity. Earthquakes in this region are primarily the release of this pressure caused by the movement of plates deep within.

The point of worry is that the entire Himalayan region bordering Kashmir and western Nepal has experienced major earthquakes, thus releasing some of the tension. Experts say that an earthquake measuring 8 on the Richter scale is due in these two regions. Seismologists call an earthquake of above 8 magnitudes as 'great'.

But no one knows when this will happen as there is absolutely no reliable forecasting method available at this time. "Although we have minor earthquakes here, as the one last year of 6.2 magnitude whose epicentre was in the Hindukush, but we have not experienced any great one in the last 160 to 900 years. By hypothesis and statistical prediction we can say that Kashmir may witness a severe earthquake. But nobody knows when", says Surinder Paul, senior meteorologist and Deputy Director Indian Meteorological Department, Srinagar.

Experts dismiss as myths the views about current volcanic activity in Koh-i-Sulaiman and other hills in the valley. Prof. Muhammad Ismail Bhat, head of the geology and geophysics department in University of Kashmir clarifies: "These public fears have no basis, we do not face any danger from these hills nor is there any question of some volcanic activity going on inside them". Studies have revealed that these hills came into being some 280 million years ago because of volcanic eruptions, and remained active for another 100 million years. They have shown no activity for the past 180 million years.

The extensive media treatment of the causes behind earthquakes (after the Gujarat quake) has made terms like 'tectonic plates' and 'Richter Scale' almost household words, and public awareness about earth's temperament has increased substantially. The fact that earthquakes cannot be predicted with pinpoint accuracy, leave alone prevented, is being accepted with philosophical stoicism. One point of comfort has emerged from this deluge of specialised information, and experts have put it across with admirable clarity: 'Earthquakes do not kill people, buildings do'. There lies the hope for people in regions prone to earthquakes, if governments wake up in time, that is.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 18 February, 2001)

اطلاع عام

میں غلام قادر گنائی ولد گزارا احمد گنائی ساکنہ دہلی پورہ پانچن تحصیل ٹنگرگ ہوا میں وعام کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کرتا ہوں کہ سہیل کے دو فرزندان ظہور احمد گنائی اور شہیر احمد گنائی روگردان اور نافرمان ثابت ہوئے ہے دونوں اپنے والدین کی خدمت کرنے کے بجائے من مانی کر کے اپنے والدین کی دیکھ بآل کرنے میں منہ موڑتے ہیں لہذا ان دونوں کے رویہ سے سہیل تنگ کردونوں فرزندوں کو میں اپنی منتقلہ وغیرہ منقولہ جائیداد سے بیدل کرتا ہوں مزید اگر یہ دونوں کسی کے ساتھ کوئی لین دین کرے گا تو اس کے زمدار وہ خود ہونگے سہیل پان کی کوئی ذمہ داری عاید نہیں ہوگی لہذا انعام الناس مطلع رہیے۔۔۔

ltng

آطلاع عام

میری گاڈی Kuv10Q زیر نمبر JK05F3833 کا نمبر پلیٹ گم ہوا ہے اب ڈپلیٹنگ نکلنا مطلوب ہے اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ اندر ایک ہفتے ارئی اوسو پور کو پیش کریں بعد گزرنے معیا کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہ ہوگا غلام محمد ڈار ولد غلام رسول ڈار ساکنہ فچ پورہ تحصیل ٹنگرگ۔۔۔

ltg

آطلاع عام

میری سومو گاڈی زیر نمبر JK05A9201 Rc ٹنگرگ بازار میں گم ہوگی ہے اب ڈپلیٹنگ نکلنی مطلوب ہے اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ اندر ایک ہفتے ارئی اوسو پور کو پیش کریں بعد گزرنے معیا کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہ ہوگا حاجی محمد سلطان ڈار ولد عبدل رزاق ڈار ساکنہ ڈار گوارہ بازار مولہ

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KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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
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Editorial: (0194) 2502327
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K O V I E W

Beleaguered Congress

The resignation of Ashwani Kumar, a senior Congress leader and a Gandhi loyalist has come as yet another setback to the Congress party. Kumar, a former law minister, has raised questions about the Congress party's ability to win polls. He has made it clear that the Congress lacks an "inspirational leadership". The group of G23, a rebel faction led by senior Congress leaders Ghulam Nabi Azad and Anand Sharma have sympathised with Kumar and a member of the Rajya Sabha. Manish Tewari, one of the members of the G-23 has termed Kumar's exit as "sad". He added it was unfortunate that Kumar felt "compelled to take this call." Anand Sharma, another top G-23 member, termed the exit "a matter of collective concern." And Ghulam Nabi Azad, a former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and G23 leader, underscored that "there was something wrong" when leaders like Kumar leave the party.

Kumar's resignation should certainly be a moment of deep reflection for the Congress. The party which ruled India for over fifty years after independence is now finding it difficult to even win state elections. For example, it is not even in the distant reckoning in the ongoing all-important election in Uttar Pradesh. And its chances look slim in other four states going to polls. This is why a breakaway group led by Azad and Sharma and calling itself G-23 is calling for serious reforms in the party. But this has split the Congress down the middle with Gandhi family supporters and opponents at loggerheads with each other. However, G23's rebellion marks a break from the passivity of the last seven years with the party apparently seeming to have resigned to its current lot. But it won't also be easy to elect a non-Gandhi president. And the party has its own reasons for this: a Gandhi not being at the helm will run the risk of breaking the party up. Also, in the present circumstances, Congress doesn't boost of many a mass leader -albeit, there are many senior politicians who can be worthy successors to Gandhi. Gandhi's term at the helm has shown that he is not just up to the task.

It is now clear that the wave of Prime Minister Narendra Modi remains alive and kicking. After a few reverses here and there over the last seven years, Modi's appeal has only grown stronger. He looks favourite to win many more Assembly polls, more so, the upcoming election in Uttar Pradesh unless Congress and wider opposition gets its act right. That is, if no credible opposition emerges from the shadows in the near future, a prospect that looks bleak.

OTHER OPINION

Signs Of Peace
On Russian Pullback
From Ukraine Border

Russia's announcement that it is pulling back some troops from Ukraine's borders is the strongest signal of de-escalation from Moscow. Russia has always maintained that it had no plans to attack Ukraine. But the massive troop mobilisation on the three flanks of Ukraine, which included combat aircraft, warships and S400 missile defence systems, had raised fears of war. Besides, the U.S.'s warning that a Russian invasion could come "any day" and its decision to shut the American embassy in Kiev added to the frenzy. The Russian approach appeared to have been rooted in building military pressure around Ukraine to gain diplomatic leverage in talks with the West. In the last few weeks, European leaders, Hungary's Viktor Orbán, France's Emmanuel Macron and Germany's Olaf Scholz, have visited Moscow. Of these, the diplomatic interventions by Mr. Macron, who called for respecting Russian security concerns and sought to revive the Minsk agreement on Ukraine's civil strife, and Mr. Scholz, who said in Kiev that Ukraine's entry into NATO was "not on the agenda right now", were significant. Their talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin opened a diplomatic path towards de-escalation.

It is too early to say that the crisis is over. The complex issue is rooted in Russia's security concerns and NATO's expansionary open-door policy with no quick solutions. But the suggestions from the talks Russia and the West have had point to a formula for peace. Russia's three concerns are: one, it does not want neighbours Georgia and Ukraine to be members of NATO. Two, it wants NATO (read the U.S.) to roll back its military presence and drills from Eastern Europe and the Black Sea. Three, it wants the Ukraine crisis — the civil conflict between Kiev and the Russia-backed separatists in Donbas — to be resolved through the Minsk process. In talks with Mr. Putin, U.S. President Joe Biden has already said the U.S. does not have any plan to deploy offensive weapons or permanent combat troops to Ukraine and that Washington was open to reducing drills and missiles in Eastern Europe on a reciprocal basis. Mr. Macron has taken steps to revive the Minsk II deal to address Ukraine's internal crisis. And then Mr. Scholz practically ruled out Ukraine joining NATO in the "foreseeable future". Put together, this is a comprehensive package that could accommodate Russia's security concerns and the West's fears of Russian aggression. Moscow's decision to pull back troops partially suggests that it sees potential in these proposals. Russia might keep some troops on the border to retain the pressure. But the obvious next step is to take these proposals to solid agreements through diplomacy. The West and Russia should take that road aimed at finding a lasting solution to Europe's most dangerous security crisis.

The Hindu

MINDFUL FRIDAYS

More Than Your Marks

Our Education System Has Plagued School System With The Cent Percent Mindset Which May Make Students Develop Uncritical Perfectionism That Is Ultimately Unhealthy And Fear Inducing

Wasim Kakroo

In my opinion, I feel the process of evaluation should be changed. There should not be excessive scoring in the marking scheme as is the trend in our valley currently. Questions should be more difficult and based on assertion and reasoning so that you have to think about them rather than cram them. I don't think an examiner would give full marks to a child who thinks and writes because the answer will differ from student to student. In the current exam pattern, students simply pick anything from the book and receive full marks. Learning by rote does not benefit a youngster in any manner. The educationists should go over the paper setting process again.

Current marking pattern is really percentage

those students who scored 90% or above: don't get too excited. It's simply that you do exceptionally well on occasion, but ultimately, learning is more essential than grades. My honest advice to parents is to not put pressure on their children to achieve high grades. We must nurture a child's inherent ability to innovate and be their natural self for which lateral thinking is more critical than cramming and parroting of content from prescribed books in order to become a top scorer.

Another aspect of marks/grade race is it might lead to the development of self criticism and perfectionism in students which can ultimately lead to fear of failure. One of the reasons for this is that a student with perfectionistic tendencies can tell him/herself that they could have accomplished more if they had worked harder or for longer and thus they continuously have a very negative attitude towards failures. Perfectionism can lead to a near-complete withdrawal from studies — and, in some cases, from all other activities. It can lead to procrastination until the deadline approaches. For such perfectionist students, the transition to higher education can be a watershed moment. A requirement of self-learning, independent living, a lack of predictability and structure, fewer and less evident goals, and more brilliant and competitive peers can all upset a student who has been excelling in school. Such students might spend their entire lives attempting to achieve unrealistic perfection and might feel a sense of discontentment about whatever they do in their lives and hence open the possibilities of mental health issues, such as anxiety, panic attacks, depression, OCD in their lives.

My sincere advice as a clinical psychologist to students is to keep in mind that you are not your scores in your exams. Having a degree isn't a reflection of your abilities or a guarantee of a wonderful life. If you don't perform well, that doesn't imply you won't be able to find work that is fascinating or gratifying. Focus more on deriving meaning from all the important areas of your life including your self-care, family relations, friendships, your contributions in community, your religion, your hobbies and obviously your education and profession

oriented. If a school's students scored more than 90% in exams especially the board exams, it is regarded as a very good. No one pays attention to students who earn less than 90% these days. This deluge of above 90% scores makes it difficult to judge the capability of students and thus it hurts those students who truly deserve to have an educational opportunity. Such a situation causes marks/grade inflation, much like usual market inflation. In marks/grade inflation, high marks such as 90% become worthless because more students are awarded high scores.

Students who received average grades should not be concerned about their grades and should instead focus on their studies. My advice to

HAVING A DEGREE ISN'T a reflection of your abilities or a guarantee of a wonderful life. If you don't perform well, that doesn't imply you won't be able to find work that is fascinating or gratifying. Focus more on deriving meaning from all the important areas of your life including your self-care, family relations, friendships, your contributions in community, your religion, your hobbies and obviously your education and profession

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

The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar). He works at Kashmir Life Line, a free mental health counseling service. Author can be reached at wasimkakroo21@gmail.com

OBSERVER
MAIL

All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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Nationalism With Politics?

Is it realistically possible for political parties in India to keep nationalism above politics? It is highly difficult given the fact that political nationalism is different and complex in a country like India which is well-known for its hostile political divide and for the deep-seated political antagonism. For years and years, the entire Indian political class seems increasingly complicit in enabling hate speech. And the ruling dispensation is being accused for polarizing the nation by inflaming communal divisions.

However, I feel that only 'patriotism', which is above 'nationalism', can unite people of a country, cutting across the barriers of class, caste and religion, and enable for a good democracy. When religion is used to construct national identity, it gets politicized into an 'ideology,' and such an ideology will harm the democratic virtues and weaken the nation. The rise of nationalism has the potency to turn into jingoism, which will imperil the nation's security in the long run, and if unabated, it will leave the country economically exploited and morally humiliated. In contrast, 'patriotism' is being proud of one's own people or nation for its accomplishments, ready to cooperate with others towards doing good deeds. Patriotism breeds confidence, which comes from pure, innate and genuine feelings, and it spawns positive energy to nurture growth. 'Patriotism' is based on passion and affection, while nationalism is rooted in rivalry and resentment. Finally, 'nationalism' is militant by nature and 'patriotism' is based on peace.

Ranganathan Sivakumar

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PARTS OF TAWAKKUL is dua, turning to Him and crying out about our deepest desires. Asiyah asked Allah to relieve her of her oppressive community of wrongdoers, from the tyrants and aristocrats that surrounded her

Women In The Qur'an

What Asiyah Can Teach Us About Standing Up Against Injustice

RUMAYSA

The Qur'an is not an arbitrary book that we read and store in an adorned cover on a pretty shelf. The Qur'an is a book of mercy that came to help and guide us intellectually, spiritually and emotionally.

"We have sent the Scripture down to you explaining everything, as guidance, mercy and good news to those who devote themselves to God." [Qur'an 16:89]

Its words can have powerful effects on readers and listeners to relieve suffering, and to act as a form of assurance. One of the ways that the Qur'an does this, is through setting out examples of people in difficult situations, describing their behaviours and responses; so that we can learn from them, take strength from them, and use them as a recourse in challenging times.

This article looks at the lessons we can learn from Asiyah, her conviction and resolve to always speak the truth in the face of power always.

If one of your goals this Ramadan is to improve your relationship with the Qur'an then you should sign-up to the Reflective Tafseer Course which focuses on 20 key lessons you can learn from the Qur'an, starting from 14 April.

Asiyah was the wife of Firawn and was mentioned in the hadith of Prophet Muhammad as one of the greatest women of all time...

The Qur'an narrates her story and describes her as an example for all believers, men and women:

From her story and actions, we can learn many lessons, 6 of which we will discuss below:

1. Reflect on what privileges you have compared to others and how you can use those privileges to help others

Asiyah was a woman who was dedicated to her belief in Allah and to acts of kindness and mercy. She was married to the most tyrannical and oppressive husband; a mass murderer of children; a racist arrogant despot who thought he was god and enslaved the whole nation of Banu Israil based on their ethnicity. She could have followed in his ways, accepted her husband the Pharaoh as god, and been complicit in the oppression. She could have capitalised on her role as 'Queen' or 'wife of the Pharaoh' and used her position amongst society to garner respect and privileges, for this would



have surely been the easier way out.

Instead, she shows her autonomy, and uses her privilege and position for good; to infiltrate the Pharaoh's ways, and try to save lives where possible.

How does Asiyah use her privilege? When she sees a baby floating along the river, she knows her husband would not have given a second thought before having that child killed. She calls out to him to save the innocent life, with a plea to what humanness is left in him:

2. Advise people based on their background and situation, and what you think would be the most effective way

Asiyah uses her intimate knowledge of the Pharaoh's deepest desires to save the life of this mysterious baby from the river – an infant who would otherwise have been condemned to a horrific death. Her perceptiveness and emotional intelligence are evident from her statement. She calls out to his selfishness and reasons with him: 'he may be of use to us!', his human need to experience joy and peace, and his desire for a son to continue his legacy and rule.

Her statement is a brave and courageous one; she trusted in Allah for the best outcome after pronouncing her

carefully chosen words. This is also a lesson from the hadith of the Prophet which tells us 'talk to people at their own distinct level' – i.e. personalise your advice, using emotional intelligence.

3. Though tyranny and oppression may apparently seem strong, mighty and powerful, in reality it is always weak and fragile. Strength comes from trust in Allah, kindness and sisterhood

The Qur'an's description of the Pharaoh suggests that although mighty and powerful, his kingdom was fragile and he lived in constant fear of opposition, rebellion and overthrow. In fact, his very decision to kill baby boys was partly based on his fear that one of the boys of Banu Israil would grow up to take over his kingdom. The Qur'an speaks of the Pharaoh's distrustful nature later on in the story, where he threatens to kill Musa (AS) under the accusation of causing corruption; and again when he kills a group of magicians based on the suspicion that their belief without his permission was a plot devised to drive the people out of the city:

4. Be courageous, confident and always have a good opinion of Allah for

the best outcome in every situation

The Pharaoh's cynical nature meant that suggestions he didn't approve of could be met with punishment, particularly when her suggestion to save this child went against his usual law to kill baby boys. A suggestion to save this baby boy, flowing freely in the river, clearly from the Banu Israil tribe, who should have been killed by the Pharaoh's mercenaries, could have been a cause for suspicion. Asiyah's cruel husband could have accused her of colluding with the Banu Israil, of wanting to thwart his rule, and undermine his authority and decisions. Her trust in Allah, her intelligence, courage and confidence in the face of this oppressive and frightening tyrant are something we can learn from.

Her autonomy and independence from the Pharaoh is, in and of itself, a powerful statement: a woman can be one of the greatest women of all time, despite being married to one of the greatest tyrants of all time. The most important thing for her, as for any person – is her trust in Allah and her relationship to Him at all times.

5. Despite the environment around you – your family, spouse, community

– not seeming to be conducive to piety, in the end, our own strength should come internally, just as Asiyah's did

Allah sometimes places us in situations where those closest to us are our biggest tests. Asiyah, for example, lived under her oppressive husband's rule, until she cries out to Allah in her pain and loneliness. Allah hears her call, and cites her words in the Qur'an:

Asiyah's speech in the Qur'an is the last instance of female speech in the Qur'an, and it gives a voice to women in this tragically common social reality – women in oppressive marital relationships. Apart from asking for freedom from the Pharaoh, she calls to Allah with unique words; nowhere else in the Qur'an is there a call for a home in Jannah. It suggests that although she may have lived amongst the aristocrats, in beautiful palaces with immense luxury, she never felt at home because of having to live under domestic tyranny with the Pharaoh. That Allah hears her call and sees her reliance upon Him in her testing situation, acts as a consolation for those under oppression, and more specifically, for women under domestic oppression like Asiyah. It confirms that their intimate calls to Allah too, are heard; that their reliance upon Allah does not go unseen and unrewarded; and that their cries will not go unheeded.

6. Your intimate calls to Allah and trust in Him are heard and seen by Allah. It does not go unrewarded and unheeded

One of the most important parts of tawakkul is dua, turning to Him and crying out about our deepest desires. Asiyah asked Allah to relieve her of her oppressive community of wrongdoers, from the tyrants and aristocrats that surrounded her. Her cry of loneliness reflects her strong relationship with Allah – her understanding that Allah was the only one she could turn to and fully rely upon for assistance. From her example, we learn how she shows her tawakkul through her duas.

Each character from the Qur'an teaches us lessons and acts as guides from a distant past, as if their stories reach out to us and affect different instances in our lives. There are many more female guides mentioned in the Qur'an, and learning about their lives can transform the way that we approach our relationship to Allah and our beautiful religion.

The article was originally published by Amaliah

We Need To Control Apps, Not The Other Way Around



THERE ARE APPS THAT ACTUALLY help you limit your screen time – this may be a good time to install one of those! Second, we need to stop downloading apps into our phone system compulsively. Because there will be no end to the clutter we create. Curate a list of apps you 'really' need, and stick to it

Khaleej Times

There has been a debate – prevailing since time immemorial – on how many hours of sleep is considered "healthy".

There are different theories, but, all things considered, it's safe to conclude that eight hours – out of a 24-hour format – is perhaps the ideal figure... or, at least, the figure sets a bar.

That leaves us with 16 hours, daily, to make our lives more productive and fulfilling. Now imagine, spending around one-third of that time on apps.

Recently, news broke that, according to an app-monitoring firm, people are spending an average of 4.8 waking hours a day on their mobile phones. It's safe to assume that chatting, forwarding memes, sharing food and sunset photos, watching videos and absorbing fake news must be some of the high points of the time we spend attached to mobile apps.

Technology in the form of apps has been a boon and a blessing – in innumerable ways: we get news breaks in real time, we can track our fitness levels, we can do travel bookings, medical bookings, we can count on them during times of emergencies and so on.

But it also has its share of idiocies, which have gone beyond the pale of inanity and taken on a dangerous overtone. Mental health experts point out that an excessive dependence on our phone apps is leading to behavioral disorders – especially among young people; older people, who may not be able to "get" the phenomenon of apps, may feel alienated and, subsequently, depressed.

Like everything else, usage has to be in moderation – so, what can we do about it?

For starters, we can limit usage of phone time. Every day, all over the world, there are stories on how 'real' human relationships are collapsing, how primary bonds are being disconnected.

There are apps that actually help you

limit your screen time – this may be a good time to install one of those! Second, we need to stop downloading apps into our phone system compulsively. Because there will be no end to the clutter we create. Curate a list of apps you 'really' need, and stick to it.

Third, while certain apps can be very useful, they also induce laziness. Take, for instance, apps that help with navigation: it's come to a point where we have lost our sense of direction altogether. Why not make sure that whenever we are driving to a place that we are familiar with, we don't, on auto prompt, switch on the app just because we can?

It's nice to hit a button and order groceries online, but, why not, at times, make the effort to walk down to the grocery store and shop in person – and, in the process, also have a bit of human interaction?

Fourth, realise that apps cannot control you. You need to control them. Humans created apps. For our collective benefit. Time shouldn't prove that we created monsters that destroyed us.

IED-stuffed bag found in house in Delhi's Old Seemapuri, 2 being grilled: Police



Agenceis

NEW DELHI: A bag containing an IED was found in a house in the Old Seemapuri area in the northeastern part of Delhi on Thursday, a police official said.

The improvised explosive device (IED), weighing 2.5 to 3 kg, was later diffused while the owner of the house and a property dealer were being interrogated by the police.

NSG sources said the explosive is suspected to be a mix of ammonium nitrate and RDX but a forensic lab will examine it in detail.

With this explosive having similarity with the one recovered from the Ghazipur flower market ahead of Republic Day last month, the police believe that both these cases might be linked to the same people.

The mother of house owner Aashim alleged that police have taken him in their custody, while his wife said they had rented out the floor, where the explosives have been found, to two persons a couple of months ago.

According to an official, investigation into the Ghazipur flower market case led the police to receive a tip-off about the explosive in Old Seemapuri.

No sooner the information was received in the afternoon, Special Cell teams dashed to the site. NSG officials and the Forensic Science Laboratory team were also rushed to the spot.

The officer said, "When our team went to the house, it was vacant. The bag was found there and we immediately informed the NSG."

"The suspects have managed to escape. We suspect the explosive recovered from Old Seempuri has been made by the same persons who placed IED at Ghazipur flower market last month," the officer said.

The IED was picked up by the NSG bomb disposal squad from

the second floor of the building. Security has been beefed up and the area cordoned off.

The IED was destroyed using a water disruptor, an NSG officer said, adding all pieces of evidence have been handed over to the Delhi Police.

A security official said the bomb bears similarities to the explosive recovered from the Ghazipur flower market. The Delhi Police's Special Cell unit which is probing the Ghazipur case has been tasked with investigating the current incident also.

According to the police, Aashim, the owner of the house in Old Seemapuri, and property dealer Shanu, who had brought the tenants to him, were being questioned in connection with the incident.

Aashim mother claimed, "We got to know in the afternoon that police have taken Aashim into their custody. He had given the house on rent to some people and had nothing to do with the incident. I have no idea about the persons living there."

His wife claimed that the house was rented out to two persons a couple of months back. "We don't know anything else," she said.

Aashim lives with his family in nearby Shaheed Nagar.

A local said, "Those living in the area where the explosive has been found have been vacated. Police told us that they have come to know about tenants living in that house who are now absconding."

In January, an IED stuffed with RDX and ammonium nitrate was found inside an unattended bag at the Ghazipur flower market here but it was later defused.

The incident had happened ahead of Republic Day celebrations on January 26 for which the security apparatus in the National Capital was already on a high alert.

DU Colleges Reopen, Students Back On Campus After Two Years



NEW DELHI: Classrooms abuzz with students wearing masks, queues at canteens and roadside eateries, and bustling crowds at nearby metro stations -- the Delhi University campus came alive on Thursday as students returned to colleges after a gap of almost two years.

The varsity was shut closed in March 2020 owing to the break-out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Vishwavidyalaya Metro Station, the nearest such, swarmed with students as they headed to their colleges located in the north campus, where they were greeted by guards bearing thermal scanners in their hands.

The canteens and roadside eateries were abuzz with activity, bringing cheer to the owners as well as the students many of whom could bond with their friends over a cuppa for the very first time.

As students queued up outside stalls to savour momos, tea, sweet corn and other snacks, business returned to these eateries that had been left cash-strapped owing to the closure of the university.

When PTI probed inside the classrooms, most students were seen wearing masks.

Manish Kansal, a teacher at Hindu College, said the students' excitement was quite apparent despite their masked faces.

"We were meeting our students for the first time. They were wearing masks but we could see the excitement in their eyes. Some of the students were even clicking pictures of the college, and the roads and traffic outside," he told PTI.

Gajendra Mohan Thakur, a 26-year-old Campus Law Centre student, said, "I was excited to go back to the campus. The university was shut for around two years and the online mode of study was not efficient enough to substitute the offline mode of education. It is a time to reclaim our lost years."

Kalyanai Harbola, a first-year student, made no attempt to hide her excitement and said the reopening of campus brought her life back on track.

We are super excited to join offline classes as it provides a whole new bunch of opportunities and exposure to shape our future, she said.

Earlier this month, several student bodies had held protests demanding the reopening of the campus. The authorities decided to resume the classes after a decline in number of COVID-19 cases in the national capital.

While there was a good turnout of students from the national capital, attendance from other states was low, with their numbers only expected to pick up from the next week.

Principals, however, said the turnout was better than what they had expected.

According to teachers, attendance was higher among second-year students as compared to those from first-year.

However, not everyone was happy with the resumption of offline classes as outstanding students complained of a spike in rent at paying guest accommodations.

Gauri, a third-year student of

English (Honours) from Kerala, said the PG rates have tripled.

PG owners are taking advantage of the situation and asking students triple the amount of the actual rent. They are asking for Rs 16,000 for a triple-seater room. This is too much," she said.

Several outstation students PTI spoke to complained they were given too few days to plan their return.

I am anxious since we have exams in the next 20 days. We have to sort many things out and also study for exams. This is an additional pressure. Students were asking for hybrid classes but our demand was refused. They said it is not possible, said 24-year-old Aditi Jain, a student of Masters in English.

Another student, 18-year-old Mamatha Rose from Kerala, who looked visibly tired after standing in a long queue at the Vishwavidyalaya Metro station, too shared her grouse.

"They earlier informed us that you have to come to Delhi. But two days back they told us you can take online classes. I mean, there is so much mismanagement. We had already booked the tickets and my friend and her father helped us in booking a PG, she said.

"They did not give us enough time to shift. Today, I am unable to attend classes because I need to shift. They should have provided us with accommodation facilities," Rose added.

Even those who managed to find a stay in university hostels are no better off. With many of the hostels under renovation, students are forced to find accommodation elsewhere.

No immediate evacuation plan: Govt on Indians in Ukraine

New Delhi: India on Thursday said it does not have any immediate plan to evacuate its citizens or the diplomatic staff from Ukraine in view of the unfolding situation there and that its focus has been on ensuring the safety of its nationals than anything "larger".

Amid rising tensions between Russia and the Western countries over the Ukraine crisis, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said India has been supportive of an immediate de-escalation of tensions and resolution of the situation through sustained diplomatic dialogue.

At a media briefing, Bagchi said there were a limited number of flights between India and Ukraine under the air bubble arrangement and that the restrictions on the number of flights and the passengers have been removed that would facilitate the return of Indians who want to come back.

In response to a question, he said Indian carriers are being encouraged to operate charter flights between India and Ukraine and that there are flights through other routes such as Almaty, Sharjah, Istanbul and Dubai.

The embassy on Tuesday advised Indian citizens, especially students, to temporarily leave that country in view of the uncertainties of the current situation.

It also asked Indian nationals to avoid all non-essential travel to and within Ukraine.

"Our focus is and remains on Indian citizens, Indian students, Indian nationals rather than anything larger than that and in terms of what we need to do to ensure that they are safe," Bagchi said.

He said the Indian embassy in Kyiv has been in touch with the Indian students in Ukraine and that there is no plan to evacuate the Indians or the diplomatic staff.

"I don't think any decision on evacuation has been taken. Our embassy continues to function normally and provide services to Indian nationals in Ukraine. As our advisory said, those who are (engaged) in non-essential activities, we



request them to leave, as well as not undertake non-essential travel," he said.

Bagchi said that the situation in Ukraine is a "live issue" and the Indian embassy in Kyiv is monitoring developments.

He said at the media briefing that India has been supportive of an immediate de-escalation of tensions and resolution of the Ukraine crisis through sustained diplomatic dialogue.

"We have been supportive of an immediate de-escalation of tensions and a resolution of the issue through sustained diplomatic dialogue. We also welcome efforts being undertaken under the Normandy format for the implementation of the Minsk agreement," he said.

The spokesperson said India also welcomed efforts being undertaken for the implementation of the Minsk agreement, noting that New Delhi is not a party to any dialogue to defuse the situation.

"We would like to see a diplomatic way and a peaceful resolution of the situation," Bagchi said.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Wednesday set up a control room to provide information and assistance to Indian nationals in Ukraine. In addition, the Indian embassy in Ukraine has also set up a 24-hour helpline for the Indians in the eastern European nation.

Russia has positioned around 1,00,000 troops near its border with Ukraine besides sending warships into the Black Sea for naval exercises, triggering concerns among the NATO countries about a potential Russian invasion of Ukraine.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Govt Gears

the current year, the influx of Yatris may be higher as the Yatra could not happen smoothly in previous couple of years due to Covid Pandemic," he said,

Pole, the spokesperson said directed all the departments to prepare and project enhanced plan by fifty percent. In this regard, he also enjoined all the officers to increase the capacity of camping sites, parking places and service facilities including health, drinking water, toilet and other facilities.

Emphasizing on the registration of all pony wallas, labours, the Div Com, he said, directed concerned officers for hiring pony wallas from other districts to cater to the demand.

"The Div Com directed PWD for widening of roads at critical junctions, culverts and reparation of damages caused by cloudbursts to physical infrastructure near holy cave during the previous year," the spokesperson said.

The Div Com, he said, also directed for advance planning and coordinated synergy to cater all the requirements of Yatris, so that no shortfall shall be projected during Yatra.

"Stressing on early execution of works, the Div Com directed all the departments to start execution of work from the first week of April, as the snow fall was less during this winter and complete all the works and preparation by May 15," the spokesperson said.

Moreover, he said that the Div Com directed for establishing oxygen booths, Covid testing facilities for Yatris.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar, Anantnag, Bandipora and Ganderbal, Additional CEO, SASB; Directors of RDD, ULB, FCS&CA, Tourism, Health Services, Animal Husbandry, DMRR&R and IMD Kashmir; representatives of PWD, KPCL, PHE, I&FC, BRO Kashmir, RTO Kashmir, JD Information, Fire & Emergency Kashmir; Chief Executive Officer, PDA & SDA, Commandant, SDRF and NDRF, Regional Director Social Forestry of Kashmir, Deputy Labour Commissioner Kashmir and other officers.

Pertinently, the Yatra is scheduled to be held after three years. Last year too, the government cancelled the pilgrimage due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In 2019, the then J&K administration

led by Governor Satya Pal Malik on August 2, issued a series of security advisories claiming militant threats in the Valley and asked all Amarnath pilgrims and tourists to leave Kashmir at the earliest.

Three days later when all Yatris and tourists had left Kashmir, the government of India announced in parliament revocation of J&K's semi-autonomous status and bifurcation of the state into two Union Territories. The government of India's decision was followed by an unprecedented lockdown and communication blockade besides arrest of thousands of mainstream and separatist leaders.

Court Orders

said person (Geelani) before this court on 19/02/2022 in order to maintain peace and public tranquillity in the jurisdiction of this court," reads the order by the Executive Magistrate 1st Class Shopian.

An official associated with prosecution said that Govhar had been evading appearance and as such his order of arrest to produce him was passed by the court.

Officials Directed

spokesperson said that Pole also directed to all ZEOs to submit their interim report about the readiness of these institutions found from check list to the concerned CEOs of their districts for allowing offline education before February 28, 2022.

Besides, the official spokesperson said that the Div Com also stated that every class room shall possess list of Do's and Dont's of Covid Appropriate Behaviour and Covid specific pamphlets in their classrooms besides soaps/ sanitizers must be available for hand washing purpose and also proper disposal of masks should be taken care as per scientific methods of disposal.

Pole, he said, also directed for frequent inspection of educational institutions by teams of school health public experts of Directorate of Health Services Kashmir.

"Moreover, Div Com also directed the Head of Institutions, particularly higher secondaries and colleges to monitor activities of students so that no students shall indulge in irresponsible activities in these institutions," the spokesperson said.

In this regard, he said, Pole stressed

on holding parent and teacher meetings on a regular basis to keep students away from irresponsible activities and drugs abuse menace which has been noticed from quite some time.

PAGD To Meet

MPs, who are associate members of the Delimitation Commission, have questioned the very basis of the delimitation exercise, saying the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act has been challenged in the Supreme Court.

Thousands Of Trout

department [Fisheries Department] officials arrived at the spot, these fish had already died. The officials had then requested the professional local fishermen to save the rest of the fish by relocating them to a water-abundant portion of the stream."

It is pertinent to mention here that so far the administration hasn't found any solution to the problem. However, three teams from NIT Srinagar, Kashmir University and J&K's Geology Department have already visited the spot to prepare a report, after which the government will decide on how to fill the sinkhole.

"A large number of fish species including trout have perished in the dying stream as they were found on the river bed of the stream when the water was being sucked by the whirlpool formed due to the sinkhole," Jehangeer Ahmed, another local said. "Saving those fish was in no one's hand but by delaying filling of this sinkhole, the administration is increasing a threat on aquatic life."

However, officials say that they saved as many fish including trout as they could and relocated them to other water bodies.

"As soon as the fisheries department was informed by the officials on ground, we dispatched a team to safeguard the aquatic life. However by the time we reached the spot, a good number of fish had died but many were still in the pool downstream. We shifted them to safer destinations. These things are beyond one's control. Whatever measures and steps we were supposed to take, we took them swiftly," Mohammad Sidique Wani, Deputy Director, Department of Fisheries, told Kashmir Observer.

He further added, "Majority of the fish that had died due to

non-availability of the water were the local fish and their seeds. Trouts have also died but their number is relatively less as in this season when water flow is less, these trout fish migrate to a spot where the gush of water is higher. The department along with the other expert team have been working day and night to come up with a plan that will subside the threat created by the sinkhole on the local population and on aquatic life especially the trout. However, until a solution is found, the threat on aquatic life will continue to remain as that is absolutely in no one's hand."

As per the official, for now the threat on trout is less as they had already migrated from the 20-km stretch that has dried. "But, if the stream isn't restored to its original form by next month, the threat on fish including trout will rise to an unprecedented level as the glaciers will start melting and the water flow will increase that will simultaneously push these fish to the downstream part."

As per reports, the expert team at the site of the incident has also found another cavity that has hampered the artificial channel that the department had laid down for flow of water downstream. Meanwhile, the locals fear that the number of dead fish will increase because of the sinkhole, if the Government doesn't come up with an on-time solution.

"This sinkhole not only poses threat to aquatic life but also to the local population as the Brengi Nallah water is used by the local population for daily activities. This stream is known for its trout richness. By next month, the water flow will increase and the rush of trout fish in the 20-km stretch will increase but if the sinkhole is still there, the trout will either perish or will be sucked into the sinkhole," Bashir Ahmed, a local said.

Notably, the district administration has said that it won't make hasty decisions to fill the sinkhole without an expert team's advice. "We don't want to make a hasty decision to fill the sinkhole without proper advice from the three teams that are working on it. We are working on a comprehensive report so that a conclusive way is found. A final report by all three teams will determine our plan of action. This area is not new to sinkhole phenomena," said Piyush Singla, DC Anantnag.

SIA Grills Jama'at

eight hours regarding various unlawful activities related to foreign funding and foreign operations, the official said.

The SIA said they were also questioned about activities of the proscribed outfit in and outside the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

They were also questioned on properties of Jel having direct or indirect links with terror/terror funding believed to be originating in foreign countries, including the UK, Canada and Bahrain, the official said.

The official said a recent press release and a video were also inquired about in the light of foreign operations of the proscribed organisation.

The official said some other associates were also summoned by the SIA as part of the ongoing investigation in the case.

Militants Attack

around 7.30 pm, they said.

They said the vehicle suffered minor damage, but there was no loss of life in the incident.

Naib Tehsildar

wherein the complainant had alleged that Habibullah Mir, Naib Tehsildar Chuker, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla was demanding bribe of Rupees 30,000 from complainant for granting permission for removing walnut tree", the ACB said in a statement.

"The complainant approached Habibullah Mir, Naib Tehsildar for the removal of the walnut tree with his application moved through Tehsildar Kunzer. The tree as per the complainant was very old. It was about to fall anytime. There were apprehensions of tree causing damage to the house or to any family member. He approached authorities for seeking permission for cutting of tree. The Naib Tehsildar concerned after visiting the spot asked for a bribe of Rupees 30,000 for granting permission. The amount was later settled at Rupees 20,000. Out of the agreed amount the complainant deposited Rupees 10000 in the bank account of the Naib Tehsildar on the directions of accused", reads the statement.

"Immediately after receipt of the complaint a pre-verification was conducted by ACB into the matter. Based

on pre-verification, Prima facie offences u/s 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 (as amended in 2018) were made out against the alleged accused person Habibullah Mir Naib Tehsildar Kunzer. Accordingly, a case FIR No. 07/2022 was registered in Police Station ACB Baramulla u/s 7 of the PC Act 1988 (as amended in 2018) against accused public servant & investigations started."

"During the course of investigations, the accused public servant was caught red handed while demanding and accepting bribe of Rupees 5000 from complainant who had already taken Rupees 10,000 from him earlier through Bank accounts. The accused was immediately arrested on spot and his house was also searched during the search many incriminating documents were obtained by the searching team", the statement reads adding further investigations in the case are going on.

Soldier Shoots

He has been identified as Biswajit Gogai (15517717), son of Atul Gogai, a resident of Goraguri of district Golaghat Assam, they said.

A police official confirmed the incident and said a case under relevant sections of law has been registered at police station Nagrota.

Low Intensity

disaster management office said a light intensity earthquake measuring 3.5 on the Richter scale occurred in J&K at 3.02 a.m Thursday.

The coordinates of the earthquake are latitude 33.08 degrees north and longitude 75.83 east.

The epicenter was located in Doda area of J&K and its depth was 5 kms inside the earth.

Officials said no casualty or damage to property has been reported from anywhere so far.

On Wednesday, a mild intensity earthquake measuring 3.2 on Richter scale with epicentre in South Kashmir's Pahalgam area shook the Valley but there was no damage reported due to the tremor.

Earthquakes have wrought havoc in Kashmir in the past because seismologically Kashmir is situated in an earthquake prone region.

An earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale that occurred on October 8, 2005 killed over 80,000 people on the two sides of the Line of Control (LoC).

DELIMITATION EXERCISE

Sikh Body Seeks Reservation In 8 Assembly Seats

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Expressing its opposition to the draft proposal of the Delimitation Commission, the All Parties Sikh Coordination Committee on Thursday demanded that at least eight seats should be reserved in Jammu and Kashmir assembly for the Sikh community.

"If 16 seats can be reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Jammu & Kashmir assembly, why no seat can be reserved for the Sikhs of the Union Territory?" AP-SCC Chairman Jagmohan Singh Raina said in a statement here.

Raina claimed that at least eight seats can be reserved for the Sikh community.

There are many Sikh dominated constituencies across the length and breadth of Jammu & Kashmir. These include Batmaloo, Baramulla and Tral in Kashmir region and Gandhi Nagar, R S Pura, Suchetgarh, Nowshera and Vijaypur in Jammu region. These seats ought to be reserved for Sikhs so that they could feel that they have been empowered in the right context, he said.

The APSC chairman said that the Delimitation Commission is working on the agenda set out by the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP).

Earlier, the National Conference redrew the constituencies according to its own vote bank, he charged.

Since the Delimitation Commission is headed by a former judge of Supreme Court we had high hopes that this time

around justice would be done. No reservation means that the people at helm want that no chance is given to the community members to choose their own representative. The traditional political parties are playing politics according to their vested interests and they don't care for people in general and the community members in particular, said Raina.

The APSC chairman said that Sikh politicians like Praduman Singh Azad, H S Bali, Surinder Singh and Harbans Singh Azad won assembly elections from Gandhi Nagar, Tangmarg and Baramulla in the past.

He said it is the responsibility of the Commission to satiate the feelings and aspirations of all communities including Sikhs adding that justice continues to be denied to the community members.

Delimitation Commission should not take dictations from any government. Scores of delegations met the Delimitation Commission members at Kashmir and Jammu and submitted written documents seeking redress for various constituencies and communities. The Commission seems to have dumped them in the dust-bin, he said.

The APSC Chairman said that the Delimitation Commission can still undo the wrongs if it listens to the genuine demands of members of the different communities especially Sikhs.

He said that it is high time that necessary corrections are made in the draft report so that the whole exercise is meaningful.

NC Chief Asks Cadres To Intensify Mass Outreach Drive

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: National Conference president and former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah on Thursday urged his party workers to intensify mass outreach to help address people's problems and asked elected representatives to rededicate themselves to the development of rural areas.

Abdullah visited the residence of senior party leader Tariq Bhatt in Reasi and enquired about his health.

Interacting with NC workers there, he urged them to intensify mass outreach and help people in getting their problems redressed amid the coronavirus

pandemic. "Put in your best to solve the problems of the people on the development front with a sense of commitment," he told the party workers, adding the service to the people has been core of the National Conference's political philosophy.

"The elected representatives should rededicate themselves in rural development as people have many expectations from the National Conference," he said.

Abdullah also interacted with party workers in Katra.

Several party delegations met Abdullah and apprised him about the difficulties being faced by grassroots-level democratic institutions.

DC Bandipora Reviews Process Of Change In Land Use

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad on Thursday chaired a meeting of officers to review the process of change in land use in the district besides functioning and establishment of stone crushers in the district.

Threadbare discussion was held with regard to the process of change in land use especially from agricultural to non-agricultural activities in the district.

Dr Owais asked the Revenue department and other concerned officers to comprehensively evaluate and review the existing process of change in land use, in view of the changed legislative framework in the Union territory, after studying various models being followed by the most progressive states in the country.

It was directed that an upper ceiling on the quantum of agricultural land to be diverted to non-agricultural activities in individual cases should be duly assessed and prescribed in the guidelines in unambiguous

terms to ensure holistic development without compromising on issues of environmental sustainability and food security.

Officers were asked to follow the detailed guidelines issued by the Government as per the latest provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Land Revenue Act, in letter and spirit.

Dr Owais asked officers to hold wider discussions and consultations with all the stakeholders to develop a sustainable and people-friendly model of change in land use.

The officers also informed the meeting about the functioning of various stone crushers besides the establishment of others. DC asked them to strictly follow the guidelines and ensure no law is violated especially with regard to the environment and pollution clauses of the guidelines.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zahoore Ahmad Mir, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Parvaiz Rahim; Tehsildars and other District Officers.

11 Grenades, 11 UBGLs Recovered In Baramulla

SRINAGAR: The government forces on Thursday recovered 11 hand grenades and 11 UBGL grenades and a crude grenade in Zandafan village of north Kashmir's Baramulla district, official sources said.

Official sources said that upon receiving specific inputs, a joint operation was launched by Baramulla Police, Army 46 RR, 2nd Bn SSB in village Zand-

afan Sheeri.

During the operation, a hide-out located in a nallah was busted and 11 hand grenades and 11 UBGL grenades and one crude grenade were recovered in the area, they said.

"A case has been registered under relevant sections of laws and further investigation has been taken up," they added—(KNO)

J&K Logs 232 New Covid Cases, No Deaths

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Thursday 232 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus while no fatalities were reported in the Union Territory for the fourth consecutive day.

According to the officials, Kashmir Valley reported 70 new cases of Coronavirus while the remaining 162 were detected in various districts of Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected since the onset of pandemic in J&K to 451792.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar reported the highest 40 new cases of virus, Baram-

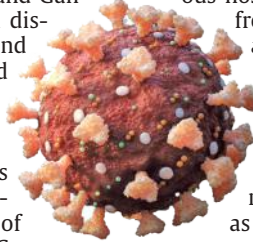
ulla 8, Budgam and Kupwara 5 each, Bandipora and Kulgam 4 each, Anantnag 3 and Ganderbal 1. The twin districts of Shopian and Pulwama reported no new cases of Covid-19.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu registered a maximum of 85 new cases of Coronavirus, Ramban 31, Doda 29, Rajouri 5, Kishtwar 4, Kathua and Samba 3 each and one each in Udhampur and Poonch. Reasi reported no new cases of virus. "Moreover, 937 more CO-

VID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 324 from Jammu Division and 613 from Kashmir Division," they said.

Also, the officials said, that the death toll due to pandemic remained 4745 in J&K as no fresh fatality was reported during the last 24 hours.

The officials also said that no new cases of Mucormycosis were reported today, thus the total number of confirmed cases remains 51 across J&K.



Budgam Should Be Showcased As Next Stop For Tourists: CS

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Chief Secretary, Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday called for beautification of Budgam to add to its tourist attraction and develop it as a modern city in next six months.

The Chief Secretary was chairing a meeting of officers to take review of progress of development projects and implementation of UT and centrally sponsored schemes under District Capex Budget, Lauquishing and other grants, here at Conference Hall Budgam, an official spokesperson said.

Principal Secretary Agriculture Department, Navin Kumar Choudhary; Chairman District Development Council, Nazir Ahmad Khan; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole; District Development Commissioner, Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza, Chief Engineers R&B, KPDCI, Jal Shakti, Heads of Horticulture, Education, Health, RDD, Animal & Sheep Husbandry, Command Area, Agriculture departments and district and sectoral officers attended the meeting.

At the outset, the official spokesperson said that the Chief Secretary stressed on beautification of Budgam and instructed concerned people to launch a 3-month development campaign with focus on sanitation and beautification to turn Budgam into a modern City.

"He said that all Sarpanchs under the mission mode shall also carry out the sanitation campaign across all villages and ensure construction of separate pits for dumping of waste generated at village level, besides, ensuring all their areas are made litter and plastic free zones," he said.

The Chief Secretary, as per the official spokesperson laid emphasis on promotion of Doodhpathri, Tosamaidan and Yousmarg tourist destinations and directed the concerned to brace up for celebrating the current year as an 'Year of Tourism in Budgam.'

Mehta, he said, emphasized that besides proper sanitation and putting in place all other required facilities at tourist destinations, facilities like huts, cafeteria and lavatory complexes be established for the hassle-free stay of tourists. He said that after Srinagar, Budgam should be showcased as the next stop for the tourists with the best facilities. He asked to extend hand-holding to local youth to enable



Reviews IMPARD's Technological Interventions At Institute

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr.Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday visited Jammu and Kashmir Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development (J&K IMPARD) to review the technological interventions being introduced by the institute especially in imparting online training.

On the occasion, Dr Mehta delivered valedictory address to the 8th batch of Public Information Officers (PIOs), Assistant Public Information Officers (AP-IOs) and Appellate Authorities.

Chief Secretary asked the institute to make the training in Learning Management System (LMS) mode which included recording a lecture and uploading it on IMPARD website so that interested persons can download it from there.

He appreciated the role of IMPARD in imparting quality training to officers and officials of Jammu and Kashmir including JKAS officers and Senior and Junior Assistants. He lauded the quan-

titative and qualitative improvements effected by IMPARD in its training programmes through use of smart classes and webcasting. He also appreciated other initiatives of the institute like signing of MoUs with centres of excellence and garnering support from Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) and the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) in its training programmes.

Chief Secretary instructed the concerned officers to devise special training programmes covering Pradhan Mantri's flagship schemes besides training the district officers about the guidelines of the schemes. He also asked IMPARD to conduct Mass Training Programmes covering PRIs and other Rural Development functionaries under its role as State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD).

them to look for self employment avenues in the tourism trade.

While taking the sector wise review, the Chief Secretary emphasized on convergence of MGNREGA with other schemes to provide maximum wages to the registered labour card holders and create durable rural assets.

He stressed on expediting the work on all ongoing projects and their timely completion. He said that works taken up be completed in all respects within the set timeline.

He said that the work on the 125-bedded District Hospital estimated to cost Rs 48 crore would start soon in Budgam.

Stressing on prompt and hassle-free public service delivery, the Chief Secretary asked the departments to bring evident improvement and take the feed-

back for every service provided to the citizens.

At the outset, the DDC Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza gave a detailed resume of the achievements and progress achieved under Capex Budget, Lauquishing and DDC, BDC and other grants, through a power-point presentation.

The Chief Secretary lauded the district administration for its remarkable work in different sectors including road connectivity and providing of self employment to the youth.

He directed officers to work in tandem and ensure speedy development of Budgam as a model district. He stressed that all government offices should switch over to digital offices and ensure speedy and prompt services to the public.

Army Denies Torching Gen Soleimani's Picture

Says Identity Of 'Anti-Social Elements, Miscreants' Being Ascertained For Legal Action

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two days after violent protests broke out in Magam town after soldiers allegedly torched a portrait of slain Iranian commander Major General Qasem Soleimani, the army on Thursday rejected the allegations and said that identity of anti-social elements and the miscreants was being ascertained and suitable legal action will be taken for spreading rumor.

In a statement issued here on Thursday evening, an army spokesperson said that during a routine check, a poster of a person (holding weapons) unknown to the soldiers in a patrol party in village Malabuchhan was asked to be brought down from the wall.

"It has now been ascertained that the poster was of Iranian military officer Mohsen Hojaji, who was captured and assassinated by ISIS in Syria," he said.

"The poster got torn on the side while being taken down. This led to objections by the residents. However, it is reiterated that No Burning of the poster took place," he added.

The army spokesperson said that on intimation of the incident, company commander

reached the location and pacified the residents.

"A little later a crowd of 500 was assembled in General Area Magam which is approximately one kilometer away from a religious procession, to commemorate Hazrat Ali's birthday. Permission for the religious procession had been granted by the Police," he said.

Taking advantage of the situation, the army spokesperson said that some anti-national elements spread the rumour that Gen Soleimani's photograph has been burnt.

"This led to the crowd getting agitated. In order to bring the situation under control, a Senior Army officer reached the place of the incident and defused the situation by clarifying that there was no intention of disrespecting sentiments of the people," he said.

He further said that the senior army officer with senior police and civil administration officials further spoke with the elders of community and the situation was brought under control.

"Identity of anti-social elements and the miscreants is being ascertained and suitable legal action will be taken," the army spokesperson added.

BSF, CISF RECRUITMENT

Scores Of Unemployed Youth Detained During Protest In Jammu

JAMMU: Scores of unemployed youth were briefly detained during a protest demonstration and blockade of Tawi bridge here in support of their demand for recruitment in Border Security Force (BSF) and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), the result of which was declared in February last year.

They have been demanding enhancement of the vacancies to provide them employment as they have cleared all the rounds required to obtain the jobs. They had also staged protests for over two months last year outside the local office of the BJP.

The protestors added that they have already crossed the age limit to stand a chance for recruitment in future. (PTI)

Commissioner Secretary Reviews Functioning Of Floriculture Dept

SRINAGAR: Commissioner Secretary, Parks Gardens and Floriculture, Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad, chaired an extensive review meeting regarding the working of Floriculture Department here on Thursday.

The meeting was attended by Director Floriculture Kashmir, Deputy Directors, Executive Engineer and district officers of the department.

Commissioner Secretary was briefed about the activities including preparedness with regard to Tulip Show 2022, physical and financial status of ongoing and new works, status of centrally sponsored schemes, court cases and maintenance of parks and gardens, preparation for forth coming tourist season, status of E-NITs with respect to entry ticketing system of Garden and Parks besides other issues of emergent nature.

Commissioner Secretary directed the officers to make all preparations in advance for the forthcoming tourist season particularly Tulip Show 2022.

Director Floriculture informed about various activities particularly with regard to Tulip

Garden where 1.5 million Tulip bulbs will be on display this year. He also informed about the progress on Sakura project and achievements registered during the current year. He added that preparation for floating of eNIT regarding procurement of Japanese ornamental cherries has been completed and soon saplings will be procured for plantation in the Garden.

Commissioner Secretary pressed upon the officers to workout modalities for payment gateway ticketing/E.Ticketing in all the gardens of Kashmir. He further directed to complete all codal formalities for establishment of Dahlia Garden, Rose, and Peony theme gardens in Pahalgam jurisdiction of the department.

Sheikh Fayaz stressed upon speedy implementation of biometric attendance system in all offices of the department. He further directed that the face-lifting exercise of all important gardens and parks be done on priority.

Commissioner Secretary appreciated the Directorate for achieving remarkable progress in expenditure under Capex.

Woman Raped In Jammu, Accused Absconding

Observer Monitoring Desk

JAMMU: A woman was allegedly raped in Jammu and Kashmir's Jammu city by a 32-year-old man from Chhattisgarh early this week.

Police sources said a 20-year-old woman was allegedly raped on Monday when she was alone in a rented accommodation in the Rehari old city area.

"Her parents were out for

work when the accused, identified as Mohan Singh, a car washer from Chhattisgarh, who lived in the same locality, forced his entry and raped the victim," reported news agency IANS.

"An FIR has been lodged in the Pucca Danga police station after medical examination of the victim.

"A manhunt has been started to nab the absconding culprit", sources said.

DYSS Kick Starts 15 Days Girls Ski Course

Girls are equally shining in sports: Alok Kumar



Observer News Service

GULMARG: Principal Secretary, Youth Services & Sports (YS&S) Department, Alok Kumar on Thursday inaugurated a 15-day Ski training course for girls at world famous tourist destination here.

Speaking during the inaugural ceremony of the training course, the Principal Secretary said, "It's heartening to see the girls of J&K are taking active part in sports and shining in different games like their counterparts". He added that children who play sports also learn how to be part of a team, communicate with others and make new friends.

Applauding the role of field staff in involving more young children to play sports, the Principal Secretary said that there

are obvious benefits of playing sports for both girls and boys and thus more people should be encouraged to take part in sports. He added that participation in any sport definitely helps in building healthy habits which last a lifetime as well as lead to better mental health.

This year the training about the basics in skiing for school children of different J&K districts had commenced from the month of January.

Pertinently, about 100 girls selected from 13 districts of the UT are getting training about the basics of skiing by the skilled trainers of the Department under the technical supervision of Gul Mustafa Dev. The department has also made proper arrangements of lodging and food for the trainee girls.

'Winter Carnival' Concludes With Felicitation Ceremony At Kulgam

Event witnesses overwhelming participation of students, tourists, locals



Observer News Service

KULGAM: The 'Winter Carnival' Kulgam, organized by the District Administration Kulgam in collaboration with Tourism Department, Aharbal Development Authority and Forest Division Kulgam concluded on Thursday with a colourful felicitation ceremony held at Aharbal, here.

The 'Winter Carnival' was attended by a galaxy of participants from different walks of life besides sports enthusiasts and trekkers.

To encourage and felicitate the trekkers, skiers and participants of other games who enthusiastically participated in this event, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat and Director Tourism, Dr. G N Itoo felicitated them with certificates, medals and mementoes.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Tourism complimented the District Administration for organising the Winter Carnival successfully. He added that the

Tourism department is focused on making Aharbal an all season tourist destination.

The DC on the occasion thanked all the participants, stakeholders, departments and others in making this event a mega success. He said that showcasing the beauty of Kulgam for its recreational and adventure potential through this Winter Carnival is an open invitation to all tourists and people to visit these unexplored scenic places.

He added that the boost in the tourism sector in the district will also generate tourism employment for people.

Pertinently, throughout these days Aharbal remained abuzz with Snow sports activities which include Snow Cricket, Snow Rugby, Run for peace, Snow Volleyball, Tug of war and other games.

Skiers were also seen skiing in Aharbal, Pachanpatri and other places for the first time during this Winter Carnival and Trekking expeditions were also part of the event.

Hockey Selection Trials In Jammu



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Hockey J&K on Thursday announced that selection trials for upcoming Junior Women Hockey National Championship are going to held in the month of March 2022.

"12th Hockey India Junior Women National Championship 2022 will held at Kokinada, Andhra Pradesh w.e.f.23rd March to 3rd April 2022. The selection trials for 12th Hockey India Junior Women National Championship 2022 will be held on 22-23 Feb 2022 at 3 PM at KK Haku Hockey Stadium, Jammu. The training camp for the championship will held w.e.f. 24th

Feb to 16th March 2022 at the same venue in Jammu," Hockey J&K said in a press release.

"Interested players may join for trials on the scheduled dates. The player must be born after 1.1.2003 and should be registered on the MU portal of Hockey India. The player will only be eligible to represent his team in only one event i.e., either participate in State member unit national championship or inter-departmental national championship or Academy Unit National Championship. Also a player will be allowed to participate in only one of the categories i.e. Senior or Junior or Sub Junior national championship," the press release added.

29th Annual Football Championship From Feb 22

8 team from J&K to battle it out in final phase



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Football Association (JKFA) under the aegis of J&K Sports Council (JKSC) on Thursday announced that it will be conducting the 29th Annual Football Championship 2021 at Srinagar and Jammu from February 22.

The Championship will be conducted in three phases. The 1st Phase will be played at TRC Syn-

thetic Turf Srinagar from February 22, 2022, in which all the districts and zones of Kashmir province will participate (16 teams).

Similarly the 2nd phase will be played at GGM Science College, Jammu from February 27, 2022, for all the District of Jammu province and local clubs.

Four teams who will qualify from Kashmir Province and Jammu Province each from

Phases I and II, will lock horns in the final phase with Premier Division Teams/ I-League Teams/ Departmental Teams at Jammu who wish to participate. In this connection a meeting of all DFA's/Zones of Kashmir province was held on February 16, 2022 where the modalities of the Championship was discussed in detail.

Ranji Trophy – J&K vs Pondicherry

Pondicherry end Day 1 at 309/6. For J&K, Umrans Malik took 3 wickets, while Parveez Rasool, Abdul Samad,

and Abid Mushtaq took one wicket each.

Brief scores: Pondicherry: 309 for six in 90

overs (Paras Dogra 108, S Kar S Karthik 63, Fabid Ahmed 32 batting; Umrans Malik 3/79) vs Jammu and Kashmir.

Roundup Of Olympic Gold Medals From Thursday, Feb 17

Agencies

BEIJING: A roundup of gold medals from Thursday, Feb. 17, at the Beijing Games:

ALPINE SKIING WOMEN'S ALPINE COMBINED
Defending champion Michelle Gisin of Switzerland clinched a second straight Olympic gold medal in the Alpine combined race after Mikaela Shiffrin again skied out in the slalom run.

Gisin beat teammate Wendy Holdener by 1.05 seconds in the two-run race to help Switzerland make it a record five gold medals in Alpine skiing at a single Olympics.

Federica Brignone of Italy was third, 1.85 seconds behind Gisin, to claim a second medal in Beijing. She also took silver in the giant slalom — another race Shiffrin failed to finish.

FIGURE SKATING WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL
Russian figure skater Kamila Valieva ends in fourth place in the women's individual figure skating event, which she competed in despite failing a pre-Olympics doping test.



The 15-year-old was atop the leaderboard after Tuesday's short program, but falls and stumbles shunted her out of contention Thursday night.

The stumble means Valieva's Russian teammate Anna Shcherbakova took first. Russian Alexandra Trusova placed second and Japanese figure skater Kaori Sakamoto claimed third. The trio will get medals. The IOC had said they wouldn't hold a medal ceremony if Valieva placed in the top three.

FREESTYLE SKIING WOMEN'S SKICROSS
World champion Sandra Naeslund of Sweden won the

women's Olympic skicross competition in a race where the third-place finisher was disqualified.

Naeslund opened up a lead and held off Canada's Marielle Thompson on a snowy day along the winding course filled with bumps and jumps.

The third-place finisher was Fanny Smith of Switzerland, but after a delay the bronze was awarded to Daniela Maier of Germany. Smith moved her left ski directly into the line of Maier and Maier briefly lost her balance. Maier fell two body lengths behind and couldn't catch up. Following the review, Smith's place was listed as "RAL" -- ranked as last.

2nd T20I: Clinical India Aim To Seal Series Against West Indies



Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: Clinical in most aspects of the game so far, India will now hope that star batter Virat Kohli also regains his form when they take on a struggling West Indies in the potentially series-deciding second T20 International here on Friday.

The touring West Indies side has been far from being at its best and has failed to trouble the hosts in any of the matches so far.

After being outclassed 0-3 in the ODI leg in Ahmedabad, the Kieron Pollard-led team was expected to give India some challenge in its favourite T20 format, especially after a 3-2 win over England in its last series at home.

But they hardly managed to trouble the hosts in the first T20I here on Wednesday, going down by six wickets.

Another win and it will be a third successive series win for Rohit Sharma after being appointed the full time captain for Team India.

The only concern for India has been Kohli's form and he would definitely want a bigger knock than the scores of 8, 18, 0, and 17 so far in the assignment.

Rohit is confident that he would come good and has asked both critics and media to spare him the constant scrutiny.

On his part, Rohit knows the importance of going hard in the powerplay, something that was in full display in his 19-ball 40

when he took Odean Smith to the cleaners in an over that conceded 22 runs.

With Ishan Kishan looking ordinary and struggling to get going at the other end, Rohit made the bulk of the 58 runs that India scored in the powerplay, something that meant they never fell behind the 158-run chase despite losing three quick wickets in the middle.

After Rohit got out in the eighth over, Kohli had the perfect opportunity to return among runs and seal the chase. But that was not the case even though Kohli looked fluent in his short stay of 13-ball 17.

On any other day his inside-out shot would have been a clear boundary but this time he hit straight to the fielder.

As for Ishan, the most expensive (Rs 15.25 crore) buy in the IPL 2022 auction, he was not able to score freely and failed to rotate strike when Rohit looked in sublime touch.

But thanks to Rohit's innings at the top, things did not go much out of India's reach as Suryakumar Yadav and Venkatesh Iyer applied themselves beautifully to seal the chase.

With India opting for a six-bowler combination featuring pace bowling all-rounder Venkatesh, in-form batter Shreyas Iyer had to sit out of the opening game.

It remains to be seen what will be Rohit's ploy in the second T20I which can seal the fate of the series for India.

Henry Takes 7-23 As NZ Bowls Out Proteas For 95 In 1st Test



Agencies

CHRISTCHURCH: When Matt Henry woke up in his Christchurch hotel room Thursday it was to a day of warm promise. He was about to play his 15th test match for New Zealand in a stop-start career of seven years and to do it in his hometown in front of friends and family.

He looked forward as a new-ball bowler to the chance of bowling first on a green seaming pitch at Hagley Oval. All he needed was for his captain Tom Latham to win the toss.

Latham did for the first time

in a half-dozen matches as New Zealand captain. A little more than four hours later Henry had taken career-best figures of 7-23 and South Africa had been bowled out for 95, its lowest score against New Zealand.

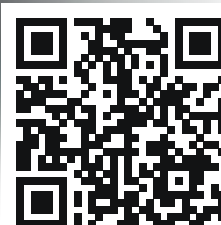
The high promise of the morning had been thoroughly fulfilled.

Henry had raced through the South Africa order, taking three wickets before lunch to leave the Proteas 44-4, then four more including two with consecutive deliveries in the second session before the innings ended in the 50th over, well before tea.

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