

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

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P7 STATE

NEW POWER SCHEDULE TO BE OUT BY MARCH 1: KPDC

As the weather conditions have started to improve in the Valley, the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDC) has decided to announce revised electricity

P5

WELLBEING: HOW LIVING WELL TOGETHER WORKS FOR THE COMMON GOOD

The World Health Organization (WHO) describes mental health as "a state of wellbeing in which an individual realises his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and is able to make a contribution to

P8 SPORTS

VALLEY GIRL SADIA TARIQ IN INDIAN SQUAD FOR MOSCOW WUSHU STARS CHAMPIONSHIP

Sadia Tariq, a two times consecutive Gold medallist in the Junior National Wushu championship, has been shortlisted by the Wushu Association of India technical committee for



Quote!

Do not say a little in many words, but a great deal in few

— Pythagoras

NEWS DIGEST

'Hybrid Militant' Held In Handwara

SRINAGAR: Police on Monday claimed to have arrested a Hybrid militant of Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) from Handwara in Kupwara district. Police, army's 21RR and the personnel of 92 battalion CRPF established a joint **More on P6**

Forest Fire Sparks Mine Blasts Along LoC

SRINAGAR: A forest fire which reportedly broke out during the intervening night of February 20 and 21 has triggered landmine blasts along Line of Control in Poonch district. Reports said that the blasts have been heard intermittently since **More on P6**

Train Crushes Man To Death

SRINAGAR: A man was crushed to death by a moving train in between Nowgam-Budgam railway section in Central Kashmir's Budgam district on Monday. Officials said that a man was hit by a train and died on the spot near 69/0 to 70/2/3 km (Budgam Sina section). The man died on the **More on P6**

Ladakh Logs 34 Fresh Covid Cases

LEH: Ladakh reported 34 fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the overall caseload in the Union Territory to 27,835 while the active cases went down to 341, officials said on Monday. Since the coronavirus outbreak in 2020, the Union Territory has recorded 228 Covid-related deaths -- 168 in Leh **More on P6**

Polls In J&K Likely In 6-8 Months: Amit Shah Says, Delimitation Exercise About To Be Over

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Union Home Minister, Amit Shah said on Monday that assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir will be conducted within six to eight months after the delimitation exercise concludes.

"The delimitation exercise is about to get over. After this, whatever will be the reasonable timeframe -- about six-eight months -- the elections will be held. There should be no confusion about that," Shah told in an interview with Network 18.

Early this month, the Delimitation Commission proposed an overhaul of assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir in its draft report which was handed over to five associate members from the Union Territory.

According to the draft proposals, the Assembly seats in the Jammu division were increased from 37 to 43 and in Kashmir from 46 to 47. Almost all parties expressed strong resentment over the panel's proposals and rejected it.

The Commission headed by retired Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Desai with Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and state election commission K K Sharma was set



THE DELIMITATION EXERCISE is about to get over. After this, whatever will be the reasonable timeframe -- about six-eight months -- the elections will be held. There should be no confusion about that."

up on March 6, 2020 and was granted an extension of a year on March 6, 2021, which will come to an end next month.

The Delimitation Commission held two meetings with the Associate Members on February 18 and December 20 last year. While the first meeting was boycotted by the three National Conference MPs, they attended

the second meeting.

Responding to another question that Pakistan Prime Minister, Imran Khan has recently said that the two countries should resolve their issues together, especially Kashmir, the Home Minister said that Kashmir is an integral part of India and will remain so

"I am very clear about this -- Kashmir is an **More on P6**

Covid Pandemic May End In 2022: WHO

Agencies

MOSCOW: If there are no more major Covid outbreaks after Omicron, the pandemic may see an end in 2022, the World Health Organisation (WHO) Representative in Russia has said.

However, it does not mean that the virus will vanish completely, Melita Vujnovic was quoted as saying in an interview with TASS news agency.

"It's hard to make predictions at the moment but we hope that if nothing else happens, the pandemic may end in 2022.

"What does an end to the pandemic mean? It means that there will be no major outbreaks, but

it doesn't mean that the virus will vanish.

"A great number of cases means that the virus is capable of mutating so we don't know how the situation will unfold. However, there is cautious optimism that major outbreaks will end once Omicron spreads across the globe," she said.

According to Vujnovic, the WHO is trying to predict when it will happen, but it's difficult because countries "are now changing their testing strategies".

She said that the Omicron strain was very contagious and was spreading quickly, while some countries did not have the money to test everyone given the large **More on P6**

J&K Sees More Recoveries, Less Cases

Jammu and Kashmir witnessed recovery of 360 Coronavirus infected people on Monday, while 104 fresh cases of virus besides one fatality were reported across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. According to officials, 360 more Covid-19 patients recovered and have been discharged from various hospitals, including 173 from Jammu Division and 187 from Kashmir Division. **More on P6**

Govt Begins Hunt For BOPEE Members

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Government has set the ball rolling for the appointment of chairman and member(s) of the Board of Professional Entrance Examinations (BOPEE).

To begin with, the government has invited applications from the citizens of India for the position of chairman and member(s) of the BOPEE.

Official Documents reveal that the General Administration Department (GAD) has issued an advertisement notice for filling these key positions in the coveted body responsible for conducting entrance examinations for professional courses.

"The appointment of the candidate as chairman or member(s) shall be made on tenure basis up to a maximum period of two years and the candidate shall be eligible for re-appointment for another such term or until he/she attains the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier," reads the notice.

As per the eligibility criteria, the chairman shall be an academican of high repute having served for not less than 25 years or has held the post of a secretary to government or equivalent.

Similarly, the member(s) shall be an academican of a repute having served in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir for not less than 20 years or a person having served as special secretary to **More on P6**

MeT Predicts Rain, Snow From Today

Night Temp Drops To Below Freezing Point In Valley, Minus 2.2°C In Srinagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Weathermen on Monday forecast widespread light to moderate rain and snow, during February 22-23 even as night temperature dropped to below freezing point in Kashmir Valley, officials said.

"Widespread light to moderate rain/snow, mainly over higher reaches most likely during February 22-23 with main activity on February 22 (night) and February 23," said a meteorological department official here, adding, "It may affect high-ways like Jammu-Srinagar, Sinthan Top, Sadhna Top etc." After this spell, the official said, there's no forecast of any major rain or snow for the next 10 days.

Meanwhile, the official said Srinagar recorded a low of minus 2.2°C against last

night's 0.1°C. The temperature was below 3.1°C than the normal for this time of the year, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 2.8°C against minus 0.8°C on the previous night, he said.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, had a low of 3.0°C against minus 2.6°C on the previous night, the official said. Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 6.0°C against minus 4.3°C last night, he said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 8.0°C, same as on the previous night, he said.

The temperature was 1.3°C below normal for this time of the year in the famous resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Kupwara town in north Kashmir recorded a low of minus 3.0°C against minus 2.3°C on the previous night, the official said. **More on P6**

HC Junks Plea Seeking Ban On Animal Sacrifice

Augib Javed

SRINAGAR: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on Monday dismissed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petition seeking a ban on the practice of slaughtering animals as part of 'religious sacrifices'.

The plea was moved by Jammu based lawyer, Ankur Sharma on behalf of his client, Tek Chand from Kathua in the capacity of a Public Spirited Pujari of a Hindu Temple for a direction to declare Section 28 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 as unconstitutional.

The plea came a year after

the High Court refused to entertain a PIL seeking direction to the government to enact a law prohibiting cow slaughter in the Union Territory.

The PIL had also sought a direction from the court to make the slaughter of cows in J&K a cognizable offence with strict punishment.

In the fresh plea, the Court noted that the petitioner had failed to disclose how he is the public-spirited person or the kind of activities taken by him in the past in public interest to recognize him as a public-spirited person. The Bench of Chief Justice Pankaj Mishra and Justice Sindhu Sharma also noted **More on P6**

Jammu Schools Reopen For Lower Classes After 2 Years



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Students of lower classes thronged their schools in most parts of Jammu province early Monday to attend offline classes after a gap of nearly two years, a week after Jammu and Kashmir administration announced phased opening of educational institutions amid declining trend of COVID-19 cases.

However, the schools in Kashmir and winter zones of Jammu region are scheduled to open next week at the end of over

two-month long winter vacation.

On February 14, most of the high and higher secondary schools opened after the J & K administration allowed opening of universities, colleges, polytechnics and ITIs and Classes from 9 to 12 for routine offline (physical attendance) teaching.

The University of Jammu and University of Kashmir have decided to reopen the campuses for students from March 1.

Neatly dressed in their school uniforms, the students of lower classes were **More on P6**

Do You Get Your Copy of
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Institute Launched For Research, Studies On Kashmiri Shaivism

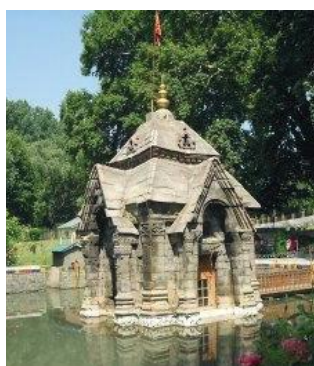
Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Kashmir Shaiva Institute has been launched as the first research, studies and publications centre on Kashmir Shaivism in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, officials said.

The institute will reach out to all educational institutes across the country and globe to promote Kashmiri Shaivism, a senior official said.

Kashmir Shaivism, or Trika Shaivism, is a non-dualist tradition of Shaiva-Shakta Tantra which originated sometime after 850 CE. Since this tradition originated in Kashmir it is often called "Kashmiri Shaivism".

It later went on to become a pan-Indian movement termed 'Trika' (The Trinity) by its great exegete, sage Abhinavagupta, and particularly flourished



in Odisha, Karnataka and Maharashtra.

"Kashmir Shaiva Institute has been launched here as the first research, studies, teaching and publication centre of excellence across the globe on Kashmir Shaivism", Secretary KSI Vijay Kumar Kaul told reporters here. The institute **More on P6**

BJP Leader Faces Probe For 'Sexual Assault, Blackmail'

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A court in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district has directed police to investigate allegations of sexual exploitation and blackmailing levelled by some women against two people, including a BJP leader, officials said here Monday.

The court of Judicial Magistrate First Class has directed police in Kokernag area of the district to register a case and investigate the allegations of sexual exploitation against

BJP leader Mohammad Sidiq Khan and Shahid Bhat, they said.

The court order said the complainants have apprehension that the accused persons are highly influential and may hamper or tamper with witnesses of the complainants.

It asked the present dispensation to do justice with regard to the alleged atrocities and condemnable acts committed by the accused.

Meanwhile, a BJP spokesman said the party would not become a hurdle **More on P6**

BJP Corporator Held For Driving Stolen Vehicle

A BJP corporator from Srinagar was detained on Monday for questioning after he was found driving a stolen vehicle in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. Nazir Ahmad Gilkar was on his way to Srinagar along **More on P6**

2,250 Square Km Of Forest Land Degraded In J&K: Govt

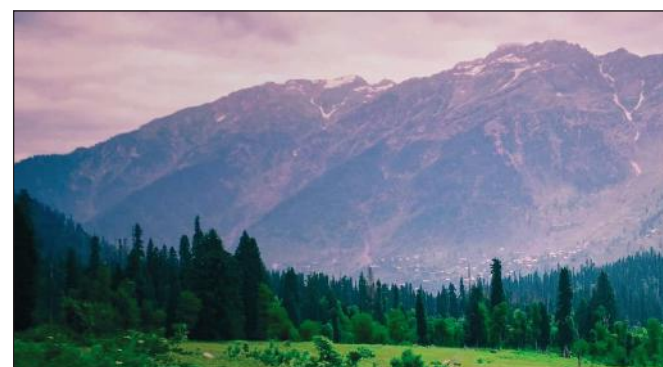
Observer News Service

JAMMU: Over two thousand square kilometres of forest area has been degraded in Jammu and Kashmir even as the forest department restores 100-200 sq km on an average annually, officials said Monday.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Mohit Gera told a meeting here on Monday that out of total of 20194 sq km of the forest area in J&K, around 2250 sq km forest area has degraded, an official spokesperson said Monday.

Gera, he said, added that the department on an average restores 100-200 sq km of the degraded forest area in a year.

The PCCF was made these comments in a meeting chaired by the



Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta to review UT capex of the forest department in which administrative secretary, forest and other senior officers of the forest departments were present.

According to the spokesperson, the Chief Secretary urged

the forest department to replenish the denuded forest cover, increase plantation outside forest areas and repair the neglected water bodies using both traditional ecological knowledge and modern practices in convergence with **More on P6**



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Researchers Link Transient Blood Pressure Rise To Learning In Brain

ANI

It is natural for people to get stressed in their everyday work, but at times, this stress can lead to an increase in blood pressure. Recent research has revealed that minor everyday rises in blood pressure due to short-term stressors can be linked to a brain area that controls conscious and learned motor skills. This discovery, presented by University of Gothenburg researchers, paved the way for a chance to influence the rises in blood pressure and, in the long run, prevent hypertension. The study was published in 'Scientific Reports'. In roughly half of all people with hypertension — persistently high blood pressure (BP) — there is no known cause. One plausible theory is, however, that hypertension might be the result of a long period of many recurrent BP peaks. Hundreds or thousands of micro-stress events may occur daily — the telephone ringing, a car horn sounding in the street — with BP spiking every time as a result. For nearly 20 years now, a University of Gothenburg research group has been investigating how this kind of micro-stress affects nerve signals to our muscles and the throughput (perfusion) of blood in their vessels (muscle vasculature). In half of the over 150 men included in the group's studies to date, the pattern of their reaction system leads to BP peaks, while for the other half the reactions taking place in their bodies do not bring about any change in BP. For the study, 20 men aged 19-45 were examined. The experiment involved triggering a response in the nervous system with unexpected electric shocks that emulate the sudden and/or stressful stimuli to which we are exposed daily. The researchers combined two measurement methods. In one, a traditional research technique called microneurography, very thin needle electrodes are used to probe the signalling in nerve fibres (specifically, mus-



cle sympathetic nerve activity, MSNA) directed to the vascular bed (blood vessels) of the muscles. The other was a modern brain-imaging technique known as magnetoencephalography (MEG). For the first time, the researchers could link the increased susceptibility to micro-stress to a reflex-like signal in the brain. The brain area (the "rolandic area") that activated the signal-controlled several conscious brain functions. This finding opened the question of whether the BP peaks may be learned and could therefore also, with training, be eliminated. "We see a surprisingly strong connection between the peripheral autonomic vascular reaction, which takes place subconsciously, and a reaction pattern — one that was already previously well known — in a part of the brain

where emotional impressions and motor skills undergo conscious interpretation. This raises questions about how independently the 'autonomic nervous system', as it's called, really works," said Mikael Elam, Professor of Clinical Neurophysiology at Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg. The idea that the discovery might come to be used to prevent hypertension was not unrealistic, but much research was needed. "If we can develop ways of boosting the signal-to-noise ratio, in the future, it may be possible to extract the relevant brain signals from a regular electroencephalogram [EEG], which is available in every Swedish hospital today. That would enable us, at an early stage, to identify people who react with BP spikes before they develop hypertension. Many other

opportunities for preventive measures and research would then follow," said Justin Schneiderman, Senior Lecturer in experimental multimodal neuroimaging at Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg. Interestingly, our environment seemed to matter more than our genetic code when it came to which reaction pattern we developed, and thus whether we experience many daily BP spikes or not. An earlier study by the research group on identical twins showed that basic activity in the twins' blood-vessel-regulating autonomic nervous systems was very similar, while their stress-triggered reactions diverged. "One may speculate that today, many people have learned to suppress the primitive fight-or-flight response, since it's not that relevant in modern society. It's an im-

pulse that prepares us for action, by reducing the vasoconstrictor nerve activity and thereby increase blood flow in the muscles. In terms of long-term health consequences, it might be beneficial to preserve the old flight-or-flight impulse in response to sudden stressors," Elam pondered. The research group hoped to be able to facilitate studies at the population level, monitoring large groups of people over a long period. This would enable investigation of, first, whether individuals with reaction patterns that cause many peaks in blood pressure during the day are indeed at increased risk of developing hypertension later in life and, second, whether influencing this reaction pattern is feasible.

If we can develop ways of boosting the signal-to-noise ratio, in the future, it may be possible to extract the relevant brain signals from a regular electroencephalogram [EEG], which is available in every Swedish hospital today. That would enable us, at an early stage, to identify people who react with BP spikes before they develop hypertension. Many other opportunities for preventive measures and research would then follow

از ریاست دیپٹگم با اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار دیپٹگم
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R/O :- Darpeth Nepora

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My name has been wrongly written in my Driving License bearing No:- JK -25044 MVD/ANG Arif Rahim Bhat S/o: Ab Rahim Bhat R/o Nipora Anantang . While my correct name Arif Rahim S/o Ab Rahim Bhat R/o Nipora Anantang which needs immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO AN-ANTNAG within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Name :- Arif Rahim
S/o :- Ab Rahim Bhat
R/o :- Nipora Anantang

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PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my Driving License bearing No: - JK -0320170037469Zubar Ahmad Wani S/o: Manzoor Ahmad Wani R/o Mir Danter Anantang. While my correct name Zubar Ahmad Wani S/o Manzoor Ahmad Wani R/o Mir Danter Anantang which needs immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO ANANTNAG within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Name :- Zubair Ahmad Wani
S/o :- Manzoor Ahmad Wani
R/o :- Mir Danter Anantang

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RASM-I-Chaharum

This is to inform with grief and sorrow that Mrs. (Late) Mirza Mohammad Jaffar has left for her heavenly abode on February 20th 2022 and her "Rasm-i-Chaharum" will be observed at Ancestral graveyard Namchabal, Shamaswari, Khan Khai Moula, Srinagar, on February 23, 2022 , Wednesday at 7:30 AM (to be followed by Taziat Puri at our residence Hakeem Mohalla, Bagwanpora, Lal Bazar, Srinagar).

Grief Stricken
Family of
Mrs. Late Mirza Mohammad Jaffer

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 11th under Below mentioned particulars
Name : Suhail Ahmad Ganaie
S/o Ghulam Nabi Ganaie
R/o Bechipora Tangmarg



Details of Marks Certificate lost
Secondary School Examination (class 10th)
Roll No 2406463 Session /Year Bi-Annual 2018-19

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is treated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Sub Office Magam

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Quality Of Antibodies Improves For Months After Covid-19 Vaccination: Study

Press Trust Of India

Antibodies produced by immune cells become steadily more formidable and precisely targeted against the SARS-CoV-2 virus for at least six months after Covid-19 vaccination, according to a study. The researchers at Washington University School of Medicine in the US assessed the antibody response to the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine in detail in people. The findings, published on Tuesday in the journal Nature, suggest that declining antibody levels in the months after vaccination primarily represent a shift to a sustainable immune response. The researchers also noted that even quite low levels of antibodies would continue to provide some protection against disease, as long as the virus does not change. "If the virus did not change, most people who got two doses of this vaccine would be in very good shape," said senior study author Ali Ellebedy, an associate professor at Washington University. "The antibody response we saw is exactly what we would expect from a robust immune response. We never thought that six months following that second injection, many people would still be actively improving the quality of their antibodies, Ellebedy said. The researchers collected blood from 42 participants and lymph node samples from 15 participants before each person received their first dose of the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine and at weeks three, four, five, seven, 15 and 29 afterwards. They also obtained bone

marrow samples from 11 participants 29 and 40 weeks after the first vaccine dose. Eight people provided all three kinds of samples, allowing the researchers to track the development of the antibody response over time within those individuals. The researchers found that B cells, a family of immune cells that produce antibodies, targeted against SARS-CoV-2 persisted in the germinal centres of all participants for months. Even six months after vaccination, 10 out of 15 people

It indicates a strong antibody response that continued to mature and improve, he said. Six months after vaccination, the antibodies were noticeably better than they had been in the beginning, they said. In one set of experiments, the researchers found that only 20 per cent of early antibodies bound to a protein from the virus. Six months later, nearly 80 per cent of antibodies from the same individuals bound to the viral protein, they said. "When you look at antibodies, quantity should not be



still had B cells in their germinal centers - boot camps where B cells are trained to make ever-better-quality antibodies. The more time B cells spend in germinal centers, the more potent their antibodies get. Germinal centers had been thought to last only a few weeks, so finding these boot camps still training B cells in a majority of people so long after vaccination was a surprise, Ellebedy said.

your only concern. The antibodies at six months might be less in quantity, but they are much better in quality," Ellebedy said. The researchers, however, noted that the quality of the antibodies is measured against the original virus that was used to design the vaccine. If a new variant is different enough from the original, it may be able to escape once-powerful antibodies, they added.

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WATER SUPPLY MASTER PLAN DIVISION SRINAGAR

Fax-Phone: 0194-2401904 E-mail ID:xenwsmp@gmail.com

Subject:- CANCELLATION NOTICE.

The following workput to tenders vide Short e-NIT NO:- 30/WSMP OF 02/2022 Dated: 02-02-2022 (2021-22) issued under endorsement No. 8584-8615 dated 02-02-2022 is hereby cancelled due to poor response.

S.No	Name of Work	Tender ID
1.	PROVIDING AND INSTALLATION OF 125KVA DG SET OF STANDARD MAKE AT 20MGD WATER TREATMENT PLANT RANGIL (UNDER LANGUISHING PROGRAMME).	2022_PHE_159080_2

No: WSMP/CC/9020-23
Date: 19/02/2022

DIPK-18467/21

Sd/
Executive Engineer
Water Supply Master Plan
Division Srinagar

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal

Address: Mini Secretariat Ganderbal Tel No. 0194-2416058

Subject : - Invitation of tenders for various works under various sectors.
Reference:- This Office NIT No.352 of 2021-22 issued under endorsement No.23003-12 dated: 19-02-2022.

CANCELLATION

The above mentioned works floated for tenders vide this Office NIT No. referred to above shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio

No: 23106-15
Dated: 19-02-2022

DIPK-18440/21

Sd/
Executive Engineer,
(R&B) Division
Ganderbal

SCERT Commemorates Intl Mother Tongue Day

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a bid to promote and highlight the importance of mother tongue, the cultural wing of State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) today organized a series of events to commemorate International Mother Tongue Day.

The Day is being observed to promote preservation and protection of all languages being spoken by people of the world.

Various speakers highlighted the importance of mother tongue in framing the thinking and emotions of people.

Director SCERT, Professor Veena Pandita, while speaking on the occasion said that Mother tongue is a powerful tool in advancing the learning of students. She added that when the parents communicate with their children in their mother tongue while telling them stories and discussing day-to-day matters then they effortlessly follow and understand things resulting in educational success.

"Without a mother tongue, a child is deprived of its personal and cultural identity," Prof Pandita maintained while saying that 'Personal identity emanates from children's understanding of themselves, their roots and their history'.

Principal Higher Secondary School, Gund-Hassi Bhat, Mir Shabir, who is a poet and writer as well, elaborated on the importance of Kashmir language. "Persevering and protecting a mother tongue is the most important way of keeping a culture alive," Mir asserted.

Noted journalist and language activist, Javed Matji, discussed the importance of Urdu language in Jammu and Kashmir. "Urdu is a symbol of unity that has tied people in a single cord regardless of religion or sect," Matjee said.

2 Residential Houses, Shop Damaged In Fire Mishaps

Agencies

Srinagar: At least two residential houses and a shop were damaged in separate fire incidents in central Kashmir's Srinagar district.

A residential house in Dachigam belonging to one Mohammad Sultan Wadoo son of Habibullah Wadoo caught fire. The house suffered substantial damage in the incident, destroying property worth lakhs of rupees. The fire was contained after hectic efforts by the Fire and Emergency Department.

Part of a residential house was also damaged in a fire incident at Noorbagh in Palpora area.

Earlier in the day, a shop caught fire in Habba Kadal due to short circuit. The Fire and Emergency Service Department personnel reached the spot and doused the raging fire in a highly congested locality.



Bus Stand or Kennel: Official inattention has turned Hawal busstop into a hotbed of dogs.

'Give Us Citizenship or Deport Us': Kashmir's 'Stateless' Women Protest

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The Pak-origin wives of erstwhile militants staged a protest demonstration on Monday at Press Colony, Srinagar demanding travel documents.

The protestors said if the government cannot provide them with travel documents, they should be given Citizenship. The women protestors were holding placards and were accompanied by their children.

Leading the contingent of protestors was Misbah Junaid. She is among the few hundred Pakistani women of Kashmiri origin who returned to Kashmir along with their spouses, young Kashmiris who had crossed the LoC for arms training but gave up the idea there.

Having returned to Kashmir under the 2010 surrender and rehabilitation policy she remains stateless as she lacks citizenship documents.

Misbah and other women have continued to protest and press for their demands for travel documents and other identity papers but to no avail.



"If the government is not ready to provide us legal documents, they are free to deport us," said Misbah amid sloganeering.

"We met the Lieutenant Governor and submitted a memorandum as well but we received no response from the administration" she said.

Simran Ahmad, a seventeen year old protestor said she has never been

to her maternal home.

"In absence of travel documents I can't travel to my maternal home, I appeal the administration to allow us to go back so that we can meet our relatives". She said.

It is pertinent to mention that protesting women had addressed a press conference on 29th November, 2021 to press for their demands.

Public Notice

I have applied for the renewal of my Driving License bearing DL No: K0420130019238 wherein my residence has been wrongly written as Magam Beerwah Budgam 191111 while the correct residence is Yagi Pora Magam, Tasil Magam, District Budgam Pin code 193401 Which needs which needs to be rectified. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the RTO Budgam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ghulam Hassan Mir
S/o Mohd Abdullah Mir
R/o Yagi Pora Magam, Tasil Magam, District budgam fko

Public Notice

I have applied for fertilizer license. If anybody having any objection in this regard He/She May contact office of the Chief Agriculture officer Anantnag within the period of 7 days. After that no objection will be entertained.

NAME: Riyaz Ahmad Sheikh
S/O: Gh Qadir Sheikh
R/O: Gohan Vailoo rna

بجلی کنکشن کی تبدیلی

ہماری دکان سرسبز میراٹر پرائز نیو بس سٹینڈ پارمپورہ سرینگر کا بجلی کنکشن زیر ترمیم ہے۔ ڈی ڈی نمبر 0203010022338 اور زیر انشالشن نمبر 1244892875 جو کہ میرے بیٹے عابد حمید میر کے نام پر درج ہے۔ کو میں اپنے نام پر درج کرانا چاہتا ہوں۔ اس سلسلے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنے اعتراضات منجملہ پی ڈی ڈی کے ذریعہ تھرڈ پٹی میں باغ وائل کڈل کے دفتر میں سات یوم کے اندر اندر پیش کریں۔ معیاد گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی عذر قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

عبد الحمید میر والد عابد حمید میر

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- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153



HIGHWAY STATUS

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



**HIJRI
CALENDAR**
20 - Rajab
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 56
ZUHR	12:45
ASR	4:41
Magrib	6:25
ISHA	7: 45

This Day In History

- 896 - Pope Formosus crowned Arnulf King of Carinthia and Holy Roman Emperor
- 1071 - Battle of Cappel; Robert I the Frisian defeats Arnulf III/I
- 1281 - Simon de Brion elected Pope Martinus IV
- 1288 - Girolamo Masci elected Pope Nicolas IV
- 1300 - Pope Boniface VIII delegates degree
- 1495 - French King Charles VIII enters Naples to claim crown
- 1744 - Battle of Toulon or Battle of Cape Sicié: British vs. French & Spanish fleet
- 1746 - French troops conquer Brussels
- 1784 - 1st US ship to trade with China, "Empress of China", sails from NY
- 1797 - The Last Invasion of Britain by the French, begins near Fishguard, Wales
- 1821 - Spain sells (east) Florida to United States for \$5 million
- 1825 - Russia & Britain establish Alaska-Canada boundary
- 1828 - Russia & Persia sign Peace of Turkmanstaj
- 1836 - Dutch garrison evacuates fort Du Bus New Guinea
- 1864 - Battle at Dalton Georgia
- 1904 - The United Kingdom sells a meteorological station on the South Orkney Islands to Argentina; the islands are subsequently claimed by the United Kingdom in 1908.
- 1904 - The Hague Tribunal gives its decision in claims against Venezuela; it sets the sum to be paid by Venezuela and gives preferential treatment to the three powers that initiated the block - Britain, Germany, and Italy.
- 1922 - London issues a unilateral declaration of Egyptian independence
- 1940 - German air force sinks 2 German destroyers, killing 578
- 1942 - World War II: President Franklin Roosevelt orders General Douglas MacArthur out of the Philippines as American defenses collapse
- 1945 - Arab League forms (Cairo)
- 1945 - British troops take Ramree Island, Burma
- 1965 - USSR launches Kosmos 57 into earth orbit (Voskhod Test)
- 1966 - Soviets launch Kosmos 110 with Veterok & Ugolek, 1st 2-dog crew
- 1972 - US President Richard Nixon, meets with Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai in Beijing.
- 1973 - US & China agree to establish liaison offices in Beijing & Washington, D.C.
- 1979 - St Lucia gains independence from Britain.
- 1980 - Afghanistan declares martial law
- 1983 - Hindus kill 3000 Muslims in Assam, India.
- 1986 - Start of the People Power Revolution in the Philippines.
- 1989 - UK physicist Stephen Hawking calls Star Wars a "deliberate fraud".
- 1989 - US authors demonstrate against Iranian death threats against Salman Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses"
- 1991 - Bush & US Gulf War allies give Iraq 24 hrs to begin Kuwait withdrawal.
- 1995 - Algiers police kill at least 99 prison rioters.

From KO Archives

If There Is Hell On Earth, It Is Here

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR - The devil himself could not have conceived of tortures more horrible. Security forces drenched a local imam of Rafiabab with kerosene, set him alight, and flung him half-dead into his home, with a dire warning of consequence! still more hideous if the family let out even a chirp about the incident. As the cleric hovers between life and death in hospital, his relatives say police have refused to register a case.

Locals say the 35-year-old imam, Ghulam Hassan Kumar, of Shalakot, Rafiabab, was arrested by personnel of the 28th Rashtriya Rifles (RR) last Wednesday evening, i.e. the 14th of February, when he was on his way to the mosque. The RR-patrol which picked him up had accused him of signaling away some foreign militants, who they said, had been working near the place of worship.

Residents of the area and the imam's relatives and neighbours say that Kumar's captors had torn off flesh from his arms and legs during his eleven-day-long 'detention'.

He was flung into a blazing fire, and when he crawled out badly burnt, he was put through another ordeal: kero-sene oil was poured on his chest, and set on fire again.

When he miraculously survived the torture, the RR major set him free on February 15. Dumping the imam near his home, he was warned neither to go to a hospital nor to inform anyone else. Ghulam Hassan had been 1 suffering his agony in silence, but seeing his condition deteriorate, some villagers and relatives mustered courage and shifted him to the Baramulla hospital. He is said to have sustained 90 per cent burns and doctors say his condition is critical. Relatives say they had tried to register an FIR but the police had refused to do so.

Meanwhile, Hassan has been shifted to the SMHS hospital here. (KASHMIR OBSERVER, 22 February, 2001)



er vigil in and around the schools to keep check on supply and use of drugs across the district. He was also asked to ensure effective implementation of COTPA Act around the educational institutions so that students do not resort to Tobacco based products.

SSP Srinagar Rakesh Balwal also spoke on the occasion and said that a dedicated anti-drug unit of Police is working to track the drug trafficking modules besides tracing their source. He also stressed upon the need for close coordination between the Civil Administration, Police and all other stakeholders to save the youth of the district from the menace of the drugs.

Earlier, HoD Department of Psychiatry/Incharge Drug De-addiction Centre, SMHS, Hospital Dr Yassir

shared his clinical experience in handling victims of substance abuse. Mr Shabbir of Rahat centre also gave valuable inputs to the forum. They also suggested several preventive measures to combat the drug menace and monitoring of Drug Trafficking. They said taking vigilant efforts to check drug trafficking will help in creating deterrence.

Meanwhile DC also sought cooperation from the family particularly from parents to overcome the menace among the youth which also leads to other social evils and crimes. He said parents have an important role to keep the youngsters away from the use of drugs and also the family support for the affected people could lead them towards normal life once again.

District Admin Srinagar initiates “Mission Waapsi” to Curb Drug Menace

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Concerned over the rising incidence of drug abuse among the youth in the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad AijazAsad Monday chaired a meeting at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex here to review the drug abuse scenario and measures to be taken to curb the menace.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Rakesh Balwal was also present on the occasion.

The meeting held threadbare deliberations on the rising trend of drug abuse-a reason behind many other crimes. The challenges like cracking on the peddlers, local drug supply hubs, consumption hotspots, rehabilitation, etc. were discussed in detail and strategies to tackle them were highlighted.

On the occasion, the DC stressed upon the prevention and curability aspects of drug de-addiction so that youth would remain far away from the consumption of narcotic substances and simultaneously they are guided and rehabilitated under different self-employment schemes.

The DC emphasised for better co-ordination among all the line departments, stakeholders and Drug law enforcement agencies to keep a check on drug trafficking and related issues and ensure prompt sharing of inputs within all enforcement units so that timely action is taken against the drug peddlers.

He further stressed on the need to make joint efforts to break the supply chain and demand for drugs in the district.

The DC said that District Administration Srinagar is launching "Mission Waapsi" aimed at full-fledged war against drug abuse. Rehabilitation of victims of Drug addiction shall be the key to provide them dignified livelihood through proper handholding and guidance under Government self-employment schemes.

The DC also directed the CEO and other concerned to ensure prop-

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Ukraine Crisis

With every passing day, the west and Russia are getting closer to confrontation over Ukraine. In an extraordinary development on Friday, US president Joe Biden said he was now “convinced” that Russia has decided to invade Ukraine. He added that the US believes Russian forces intend to attack Ukraine “in the coming week” or sooner and that an attack will target the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv. The US and the other western nations have already warned of putting Russia under severe economic sanctions should it proceed with the invasion. Vice President Kamala Harris who was in Munich, Germany, also warned of “swift, severe and united” consequences for Russia in the event of an invasion. The stalemate, however, continues. According to White House, Biden will hold a National Security Council meeting on Ukraine. On the other hand, in a positive development, France and Russia have agreed to defuse the Ukraine crisis and Putin and Biden are likely to meet. Whether this hectic diplomatic activity will succeed is anyone’s guess. But one thing is Russia has thrown down the gauntlet at the west.

And this is not the first time Russia has done it. A few years ago, Russia’s intervention in Crimea had brought back the geopolitics of cold war. Russia’s increasing defiance of the west and the China’s inexorable rise has confronted the US and the EU with a new existential crisis. The new and more powerful global enemies like Russia and China could help create a new geo-political narrative and also its fallout will have implications for the world as a whole.

In South Asia, India and Pakistan will also be hardpressed to grapple with the new geopolitical reality should the war break out. They will find themselves in a difficult position of choosing sides. More so for India which has drawn close to the US over the past two decades. Washington’s priorities with India are no longer regional in their nature but their scope is the larger geopolitics. In recent years, the US-India engagement has also been about the remaking of the global power equation with India not only being recognized as a global power in its own right but also as a countervailing force to China, effectively the world’s No 2. It goes without saying that India’s 1.3 billion population with a value addition of a burgeoning middle class has become an ultimate attraction for the west.

Russia is the new entrant to this game. Having substantially recovered from a drastic power meltdown following the collapse of USSR in 1989, Russia has again thrown its hat in the ring. And it isn’t bound by its old equations and associations with the countries of the region, including India. Russia is now getting closer to Beijing and even Islamabad, a prospect that hasn’t been to the liking of New Delhi.

Here’s hoping that diplomacy wins the day over Ukraine. The war, should it break out, could easily take on global proportions. And it will be a nightmarish scenario.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Gaming And Banning:
On Ban On Online Games

Yet another legislative attempt to prohibit online gaming has failed under judicial scrutiny. The amendments brought to existing regulations on betting and gambling in Karnataka have been struck down by the State’s High Court. Last year, the Madras High Court invalidated similar amendments that targeted online rummy and poker. What is common to both cases is that the legislature assumed a paternalistic role, arguably with the laudable aim of protecting the people, especially the youth, from the temptations of online gambling. However, the resulting provisions failed to make a distinction between games of skill and games of chance, and sought to bring under the proscription all games played online, regardless of the extent to which skill was required. Further, the Karnataka High Court has rejected a key submission that it could be upheld as a ‘public order’ law. It referred to “the menace of cyber games” of epic proportions, and the registration of about 28,000 cases by the police in the State in the last three years. The government did have a point when it said many have taken their own lives and families ruined as a result of gaming addiction and indebtedness. However, as the court has pointed out, if the objective was to curb the menace of gambling, the government should prohibit activities that amount to gambling as such, and not the games of skill. While enacting the extreme measure, it did not consider the feasibility of regulating wagering on games of skill.

While the idea of betting and gambling conjures up the image of a ‘bucket shop’ associated with dingy gaming-houses frequented by hustlers, there is an element of ‘information, expression and entertainment’ that has constitutional protection. And gaming platforms are also a legitimate business that enjoy the freedom of trade when used for online versions of games of skill. The court has drawn attention to the fact that what such bans do is to create “a wholly new category of medium-based regulation, when chance of medium per se does not alter the true nature and content of the games”. In other words, what is targeted is not the gambling part but the ‘online’ part. Also, the amendments contradicted a general exemption in the original law to ‘games of skill’ by making all online gaming punishable even if they involved skill. It is clear that an absolute embargo on games of skill involving money or stakes could not have been upheld by the court, as the line between individual freedom, both to carry on the business and to participate in it as a consumer, and state action could not have been obliterated. All legislation that assumes that sections of society require the hand of the state to guide and support them have some populist appeal. And there is an addictive element to online gaming, but that does not mean there is no individual freedom and choice at all.

The Hindu

Is Indian Federalism Under Threat?

Despite All The Criticism That These Laws And Schemes Drew, It Appears That The Government Did Not Violate Indian Federalism. Why Else Would States Accept The Jurisdiction Of The Center In All These Matters?



Haris Rashid

Ever since the current central government led by Narendra Modi came into power in 2014, there have been concerns that the government is sounding a death knell for federalism in India. Certain policies brought by this government have given rise to this concern. These concerns reached a crescendo recently when the Ministry of Home Affairs’ extended the jurisdiction of BSF from 15 Kilometers to 50 Kilometers from the international border. This move brought a large area of border states of Punjab, Assam and West Bengal under center’s jurisdiction and drew harsh criticism from the opposition parties. Before that, the GST regime brought by the Modi government was criticized for its assault on Indian federalism. Besides, the implementation of the “One nation, One ration card” scheme also drew criticism from different opposition ruled states because it went against the idea of federalism. Further, Narendra Modi is often seen advocating “One nation, One election” and “One nation, one voters’ list” under which his government has proposed to hold simultaneous elections across different levels using a single electoral list. Despite all the criticism that these laws and schemes drew, it appears that the government did not violate Indian federalism. Why else would states accept the jurisdiction of the center in all these matters?

Indian federalism is considered sui generis. At the time of constitution-making, there were three competing arguments on the location of power-anti-statists, Gandhi and his supporters, argued for a Village Republic while advocates of centralization, Ambedkar and Nehru, argued for a strong center and others who advocated considerable autonomy for the regional units. It is often claimed that a concentrated authority was preferred in an effort to prevent secession or “Balkanization of India”. However, as Madhav Khosla argues, the “existence of a centralized state involved a turn to modernity” and “to distance power from local actors meant that power

could be exercised progressively.” Ambedkar complemented this argument with several examples. He illustrated that the central legislation banning untouchability would find resistance in several regions

INDIAN FEDERALISM IS considered sui generis. At the time of constitution-making, there were three competing arguments on the location of power- anti-statists, Gandhi and his supporters, argued for a Village Republic while advocates of centralization, Ambedkar and Nehru, argued for a strong center and others who advocated considerable autonomy for the regional units.

and it would remain unexecuted if the center does not have its force. Similarly, Ambedkar argued that laws concerning child marriage and labour legislation will remain unexecuted if the centre does not have enough authority. Hence, the founders of the Indian Constitution preferred a strong center in order to ensure compliance of regional units with the laws made by the parliament.

Even though there is formal partitioning of power between the center and regional units and both enjoy exclusive powers of legislation, there are certain features of a unitary state in the Indian Constitution, like- regional units have not been granted independent political identity, they can be territorially altered without their consent by the parliament, unequal representation of

states in Upper House, Rajya Sabha, and the existence of strong emergency provisions. Therefore, the framework of the Indian Constitution is not straightforwardly federal. K. C. Wheare refers to this framework as “quasi-federal”.

Although the Indian Constitution is quasi-federal in its framework, the Seventh Schedule of the constitution specifies distribution of power and responsibilities between the state and the center. State legislatures enjoy exclusive jurisdiction over 61 subjects under the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. Earlier there were 66 subjects under the State List but five subjects were transferred to the Concurrent List by the 42nd Amendment, 1976. Regarding the Concurrent List, both the Union and State legislature can legislate on subjects contained in the list but in case of a conflict between the state and union law on the same subject, Union law prevails over State law.

The concern right now is that a majority (more than half) of the states and the union territories are ruled by the BJP, which is also ruling at the center. This provides little resistance against the central government’s attempts to usurp the rights of the states. Therefore, concerns about the current government at the center trying to create a “unitary state” are genuine because the same party is in power at the center as well in the majority of the states. However, there is hope in the fact that Indian voters differentiate between state and national elections. Rahul Verma argues that the verdict in assembly polls may not indicate the possible results of the Lok Sabha polls or the vice-versa because voters keep different issues in consideration while voting for the assembly elections and the national elections. In the case of assembly elections, regional issues matter more to the voters while in the case of national elections, voters keep national issues in mind.

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

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All letters intended for publication must include the writer’s name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, spaceand 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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Facilitate Drug De-Addiction

A recent study conducted by Srinagar based Institute of Mental Health and Neuroscience (IMHANS) in a Drug De-addiction centre in Srinagar, found that over two-third of patients in the study had started substance abuse in the age group of 11-20 years. The most common substances of abuse identified included nicotine (94.4%), medicinal opioids (65.7%), cannabis (63.6%), benzodiazepines (45.5%), other prescription medications (43.4%), alcohol (32.5%), inhalants (11.1%), and cocaine (7.5%). The study revealed that poly-substance abuse was found in 91.9% of the studied patients. Inhalant use was seen predominantly among adolescents (54.5%) whereas nicotine (50.2%) , cannabis (49.2%), alcohol (51.1%), opioids (58.4%), and benzodiazepines (53.48%) were more predominant in the age group of 21 to 30 years. According to a survey conducted by

the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) in February 2019, 600,000 people, i.e. 4.6 percent of the total population of Jammu and Kashmir use opioid drugs, 80 percent of the drug addicts in Kashmir use heroin and morphine.

The problem of drug abuse not only affects the physical, mental and social health of the individuals but it disturbs and burdens the whole family. It also gives great threat to family happiness and creates individual, family, economic and social disorganization.

The Kashmir disputes such as political turmoil, armed conflict, Militancy, violence, terrorism, psychological distress, unfavorable environmental conditions and rapid socio-economic problems like poor industrial and infrastructural development, massunemployment, corruption, poverty, underdevelopment etc. have leading a rising number of drug addicts in Kashmiri society.

The use of tobacco, charas, Ganga, cocaine, heroin, opiates cannabis, alcohol and inhalant substances etc. has been growing rapidly among the adolescents in Kashmir. The use of these illicit drugs posing a big threat to humanity,by deteriorating adolescentsmentally and physically, damaging family relations, spoiling potentiality, dreams, degrading the social and moral values and becoming a hindrance in shaping their career as well as progress and development of the societies

The measures of drug abuse are critical, because drug use, at its core, is a health issue. Unless we reduce demand for illicit drugs, we can never fully tackle cultivation, production or trafficking. Governments have a responsibility to counteract both drug trafficking and drug abuse, but communities can also make a major contribution. Families, schools, civil society and religious organizations can do their part to rid their communities of drugs.

Businesses can help provide legitimate livelihoods. The media can raise awareness about the dangers of narcotics. We can succeed if we reinforce our commitment to the basic principles of health and human rights, shared responsibility, a balanced approach to reducing supply and demand, and universal access to prevention, treatment and support. This will foster communities free of drug-related crime and violence, individuals free of drug dependence who can contribute to our common future and a safer world for all.

It is high time to save our generation from drug abuse and If we do not take concrete steps now, then after some years, the young generation of Kashmir will be destroyed. Police taking action against drug abuse is not enough. We as a society have to act responsibly.

M Ahmad
abhome78@gmail.com

WELLBEING: How Living Well Together Works For The Common Good



Iza Kavedžija

The World Health Organization (WHO) describes mental health as “a state of well-being in which an individual realises his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and is able to make a contribution to his or her community”.

In its definition, the WHO emphasises the importance of environment and community for mental health and wellbeing, and that they should be promoted and protected. But the fact remains that mental health and wellbeing are mostly seen as states of individuals.

A different view might start from a sense that wellbeing is social: people need social connections to thrive. But it also means recognising that social institutions and organisations systemically affect health and suffering. Institutional racism and sexism, for example, contribute to suffering in both direct and indirect ways.

Health and illness are at once deeply personal and affected by the social situation of the sufferer. In other words, depending on their circumstances or their place within the society, some people are distinctly at a disadvantage. Being poor, for example, puts people's health at risk in a multitude of ways.

My work explores the concept of wellbeing in different cultural settings across the world. In my latest research, I reviewed work by anthropologists who consider the importance of conviviality and care in the communities they study.

Community and conviviality

Conviviality refers to the art of living well together. Researchers see it as particularly important for understanding how people in certain small communities strive to live well when state institutions and other organisations are a relatively remote presence in their lives.

Many Amazonian peoples, for example, strive to

with the communal bathhouse offering a much-needed space for socialising and reconnecting.

Living well with others requires skilful effort in modern cities, especially, perhaps, where neighbourhoods are made up of people of different backgrounds. It also entails figuring out how to live with other species – from animals and plants to even the microbes living in our gut.

Care makes us who we are

“CONVIVIALITY AND CARE DRAW OUR attention to the fact that wellbeing is not only social, but deeply relational. It is not simply what an individual feels about their life, somehow enclosed within a body. It plays out in the relationship with one's surrounding environment: with materials, with tools and technologies, with human and non-human beings

live well by caring for others in their community, by sharing resources and cultivating particular emotional conditions such as tranquillity. Close and intimate bonds are created through sharing food; one becomes kin by eating together, or estranged by eating apart.

Until a few decades ago, when many Japanese houses did not have a bathroom, neighbourhood communal baths were abundant. Even now, bathing with friends or family members is not unusual,

In my own research with older Japanese people in the city of Osaka, I observed that although caring for ageing relatives is still a strong family value, many older people were worried about growing increasingly dependent and a burden on their children.

They were active in providing care themselves, and looking out for one other in all kinds of ways, from arranging a visit to the dentist to recommending a hairdresser. It became clear that vari-

ous forms of care worked in interconnected ways: looking after elders and children required looking after mothers, who were often the carers for both. Care, I concluded, is at its best in circulation, continually being “paid forward” between people in numerous ongoing relationships.

Conviviality and care draw our attention to the fact that wellbeing is not only social, but deeply relational. It is not simply what an individual feels about their life, somehow enclosed within a body. It plays out in the relationship with one's surrounding environment: with materials, with tools and technologies, with human and non-human beings.

The way we think about these relationships affects others and their wellbeing and health, which in turn reflects on us. Witnessing the suffering of others, for instance, or living in a deteriorating environment, is likely to affect us negatively.

It is not inconceivable that our current mental health crisis is intertwined with our witnessing of large-scale suffering and neglect of humans, nonhumans and the natural world. Treating mental health as internal, or as pertaining only to the individual, may be inadequate for addressing these kinds of issues.

We not I

How then to think about wellbeing in the context of environmental crisis and rising inequalities? We need to start treating wellbeing as a process of connecting with others – or even a form of “commons”.

Commons refer to resources used collectively and shared, like water. Similarly, the emotional or “affective” resources (such as resilience, friendship or care) that promote wellbeing do not merely pertain to individuals, but emerge in relationships, spaces and communities. Unlike scarce resources such as trees or urban spaces, wellbeing and the qualities that underpin it are not finite. Like the care between generations of Japanese families, they thrive in circulation.

A good example is hope. Being faced with hopelessness can be trying, while surrounding ourselves with optimistic people might make us more hopeful. In this sense, affective states like optimism can be contagious. Who we surround ourselves with matters. Perhaps it's time to think of wellbeing as a commons that we must cultivate together: the more it thrives for others, the more it benefits us.

The author is Assistant Professor in Medical Anthropology, University of Cambridge. The article was originally published by The Conversation

AMALIAH TEAM

What we learn about money as children and the habits we build around spending can stay with us well into our adult years. According to research by MoneyHelper, children's attitudes towards money starts forming by the age of seven. Helping kids understand money and getting them money smart is a vital life skill and as Lloyds Bank emphasises, “It's never too early for your children to learn about money...So it's important to start good money habits as early as possible.”

Money is one of those things that affects our life, regardless of whether we actively think about it or not. That's why Amaliah has partnered with Lloyds Bank to bring you a series of articles and information to help you feel better equipped for the big and small financial decisions in life. We haven't forgotten about kids too because helping them understand spending and saving at a young age will put them on the right track to making good financial decisions as adults and the practical tips and guidance from Lloyds Bank will help you feel more confident educating your child about money.

- Wedding | Small Nikah to a £100k Wedding: 3 Brides Share Their Financial Tips With Us
- Maternity | 4 Women Tell Us How They Prepared Financially to Have Children
- Financial MOT | 4 Ways to Level up Your Finances

Teaching children how to have a healthy relationship with money starts with parents first reflecting on what they have learnt or may even need to unlearn.

To help parents on this journey, we came up with SIDES (**S**pend – **I**nvest – **D**onate – **E**arn – **S**ave), a framework to teach kids (and ourselves) about money.

1. SPEND

Spending may often be a child's first interaction with money, especially if they are present when a parent or elder is out and about shopping. A family shopping trip is always a fun and practical place to start. Setting them a small budget when going out to help them with decision making, getting them involved in comparing different prices and even giving them an opportunity to handle money and pay for the shopping at the end will all contribute to helping them understand what's involved when it comes to spending money.

Lloyds Bank's Top Tips on Educating Your Child about Spending Money

How To Talk To Your Kids About Money



- Explain the difference between needs and wants when shopping or when helping them make spending decisions
- Write a shopping list and stick to it. If your children ask for things outside the list, remind them that you're only buying items from today's list.
- Counting pennies – Place a pile of 1p coins next to a 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p and £1 coin to show their different values.
- Playing with cash – Spend only cash for a week. Let your child hand it over when it's time to pay or count it and check the change with them
- For younger children aged 3-4 years old, help them understand that:
- Coins have different shapes, colours, sizes and values
- Notes and coins are worth different amounts
- Money can be spent in different places on different things
- Things have different prices, such as a toy, or a bus fare
- You can keep money safe in a money box or bank account.

2. INVEST

With young children, whilst they may not grasp ISAs or shares and stocks, using language that is age-appropriate and continuing to expose them to such topics and in turn options, will familiarise them and upskill them when it comes to managing their money.

Investing also doesn't have to just be through the lens of financial investments. Helping your child to understand the concept of investing in their akhira (spiritual life) through spending, donating and saving is a great way to have a holistic approach to money.

Giving them examples from their own purchases on how something may be seen as a 'good investment' in the long term and will help them to save money can also get them into the habit of thinking about the importance of the financial decisions they make. Telling them stories like that of The Little Hen about the tale of a hen who invested a lot of time and effort over the long-term to turn wheat into bread or playing games like Monopoly can really help them to visualise this concept.

Lloyds Bank's Top Tips on Educating Your Child about Money

“HELPING children build consistent good habits including giving to charity is a lesson that can serve them well into their life and across all areas.

- Giving children pocket money and having conversations around how to spend that money can help their decision-making when it comes to investing.
- The average amount of pocket money in the UK is around £7 a week. But how much money children get is less important than how much they practice with their own money.
- Introducing the concept of budgets will allow children to understand the importance of financial planning and to build good financial habits from a young age.
- Give your child the freedom to make decisions and learn from their mistakes and successes with their own money. Talk with them about how their choices worked out and what they have learned.

3. DONATE

Helping children understand the tenets of faith through money can be easily done through teaching them the concept of charity, donating and Sadaqah. The word Sadaqah is derived from the Arabic word Sidq (truth). All actions of righteousness in Islam is considered as Sadaqah. Teaching children about Sadaqah allows us to nurture our children's relationships with money from the lenses of Islam and rooted in having barakah (blessing) in our wealth through how we manage it.

When children receive money, in the form of gifts, Eid money etc., talk to them about their options and if they would like to consider donating some or having a separate physical saving pot for donations.

Helping children build consistent good habits including giving to charity is a lesson that can serve them well into their life and across all areas. Building a habit around a specific day like Jummah (Friday prayers) is a great opportunity to build the habit of giving Sadaqah and helping the community.

If as a parent you are eligible to pay Zakat, explain the practice and how your money is recir-

culating to help not only those who receive the Zakat, but also how it is spiritually nourishing and purifying for the giver.

Ramadan is also a good time to build habits or pick a cause to raise money for. Involving your children in these practices will help them to understand the language around goals, targets and timelines.

4. EARN

Helping your children understand money holistically will help to ensure they have a healthy approach to money. When it comes to earning money a good place to start is by helping your child understand the concept of earning money along with a reminder about ensuring your money is earned from a halal source.

In an ever-changing world, helping your child understand the diversity of ways in which people earn money can help broaden their own horizons. Using real-life examples e.g. explaining what a friend does for a living or how the corner shop is run as a business will help them get a grasp of different ways to earn.

It is also important in this conversation that they recognise that ultimately all forms of provision including money, come from Allah!

Lloyds Bank's Top Tips on Educating Your Child about Earning Money

- Giving children pocket money enables them to learn about the basics of earning and spending. Providing them with the opportunity to earn money for doing extra chores will help them understand the connection between work and financial gain.
- Begin by letting your child handle coins, notes and cards to help them see money as part of everyday life.
- Discussing finances in front of the children shouldn't be a taboo subject. Hearing their parents talk about money, budgets and what is affordable will help give kids – young and old – an understanding of the importance of money.

5. SAVE

Giving a child responsibility over things such as saving and spending can help your child build a sense of value for money and give them an understanding of patience and planning. It may be that they want to purchase a significant item or it may be that they want to save to do a special activity or even donate to a cause, helping them understand how they can work towards this goal will help your child understand the concept of saving and give them a sense of satisfaction when they reach their goal!

If your child gets pocket money, helping them calculate how long it will take to save their desired amount against this will help them stay motivated.

Amaliah

Court's Decision On Hijab Issue Should Be Accepted By All: Amit Shah

Press Trust of India

LUCKNOW: Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday that the matter related to the hijab controversy is in court but he personally feels that a school's dress code should be followed by people of all religions.

He said ultimately it has to be decided whether the country will function on the basis of the Constitution or whims.

Shah said once the court takes a decision on the matter everyone should accept it.

On the issue of implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), Shah said there was no question of going back on it.

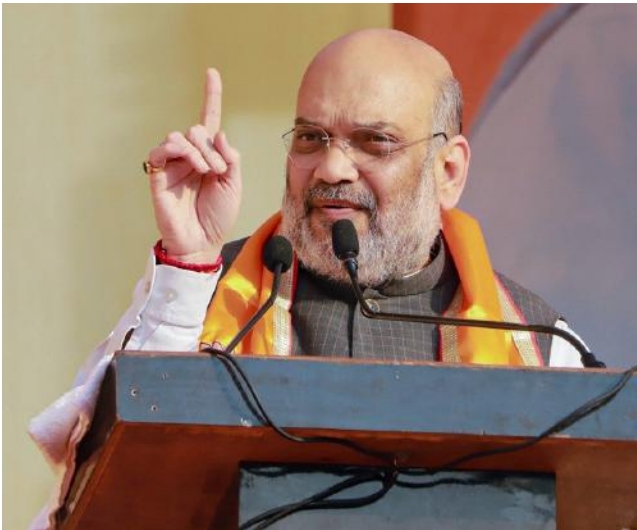
He, however, said the decision is linked to the Covid situation.

It is my personal belief that people of all religions should accept the school's dress code. And the issue is now in court, and the court is conducting its hearings on the matter. Whatever it decides should be followed by all, Shah said in an interview with Network18.

Ultimately, it has to be decided whether the country will function on (the basis of) the Constitution or whims. My personal belief only remains until the court makes a decision. And once the court makes a decision, then I should accept it, and everyone should accept it.

"But, I still personally believe that every student should function according to the dress code and uniform mandated by the school, he added.

Asked about the



involvement of the Campus Front of India on the issue, the minister said, "These people may have their active involvement, but I'll just say that their intentions will not come to fruition."

"The people of India will accept the court's judgement once it comes."

The hijab issue in Karnataka had triggered a major controversy across the nation. The matter had its echo in the ongoing assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh too.

According to a statement from the news group, Shah said on the CAA implementation: As long as we are not free from COVID-19, this can't be a priority. We have seen three waves. Thankfully, things are getting better, the third wave is receding. The decision is linked to the Covid situation. But there is no question of going back on it. The question does not arise."

He also hit out at the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party for withdrawing cases registered under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) during their respective tenures in Uttar Pradesh.

The law and order issue is important. And now PM Modi has also spoken on terrorism. He spoke in Haridwar in the Ahmedabad blasts case in which 38 accused have been sentenced to death. He said these terrorists were freed from jail during the SP regime, he said.

Eleven such instances took place during the SP and BSP eras when UAPA and POTA cases were withdrawn. What do SP and BSP have to say about security in the country? They will have to answer the public, he added.

Shah expressed confidence of his party's victory in the politically significant state.

ICCR To Offer Online Courses On Indian Epics, Vedas, Art, Heritage; Portal To Be Launched Soon

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Aiming to disseminate traditional Indian knowledge, including about its art, architecture, timeless epics and Vedas, among the world community, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations will soon start online courses, and a dedicated portal is likely to be launched on April 2, ICCR president Vinay Sahasrabudhe said on Monday.

Addressing a press conference at Azad Bhawan here to share details about the Ministry of External Affairs' (MEA) plans to hold celebrations under the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', he also said that a three-day crafts fair 'Coalescence', will be hosted in the city from February 23-25, wherein artists and craftspeople from 11 states will showcase traditional art forms.

The MEA has already hosted events like 'GenNext Democracy Network Programme' (in November 2021) and many more programmes are lined up as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations, to which delegates from various democratic countries have been invited, he said.

When asked by a reporter if Pakistan was an invitee, he replied, "As I said, only democratic countries have been invited".

On a question regarding several Afghan students who had received ICCR scholarships, wanting to come to India, Sahasrabudhe said, "These are issues which are inter-disciplinary, involving MEA and the Ministry of Home Affairs. And, it is their job, whether to give or extend visas. Our job is limited that way to offering scholarships and facilitating their entry into India, and that we are doing whenever they get permission."

The situation in Afghanistan has changed since the Taliban takeover of the government last



August, leaving the fate of many students in limbo.

The MEA has planned multiple celebrations in the coming days as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations. Due to COVID-19, the schedule was impacted, but by early April, the situation is expected to be better, he said.

During the ongoing celebrations to mark 75 years of India's Independence, "We are also going to start Universalisation of Traditional Indian Knowledge System or UTIKS, as part of which people living in foreign countries will be able to learn about traditional knowledge of our country through online courses, and appreciate our art, culture and epics like Mahabharata and Ramayana," Sahasrabudhe said.

When asked about the courses to be offered, Sahasrabudhe, also a Rajya Sabha member, said, "This will be our own way of running an eDX or a Coursera on traditional Indian knowledge."

"There will be short-term and long-term online courses, ranging from four hours to 40 hours, on everything under the sun about the Indian culture. From recipe for rosogullah to fundamentals of Warli paintings, Madhubani art, appreciating the art of Ajanta and Ellora caves, understanding the basics of Vedas, introduction to Ramayana and Mahabharata, life

of Babasaheb Ambedkar, among other subjects," he said.

The academic partner for this programme is Savitribai Phule Pune University, he added.

"Other institutions may join later, but to begin with, Savitribai Phule Pune University is our partner. This permanent course is open to all, and there is no bar on age or anything else. And, fee will be very nominal," Sahasrabudhe said.

The ICCR president said a portal for UTIKS is ready and it is likely to be launched on April 2.

Asked who will launch the portal, he said, "We have requested our foreign minister for it."

The portal will allow people across the world to register themselves online and enrol for these courses. One can complete a course and switch to another too, the Rajya Sabha member said.

As part of the celebrations, the ICCR will also offer an 'Indian alumni i-card' to those foreign students who have learnt music or musical instruments from 'gurus' in India, and completed their learning, he said.

On the crafts mela, he said, this is perhaps for the first time in the history of ICCR that an event of such a nature been hosted by it, as "art and culture is essentially depicted in soft diplomacy through music and dance forms".

A senior official of ICCR said, Union Minister of State for

External Affairs and Culture Meenakshi Lekhi is slated to inaugurate the event at Bikaner House. Several diplomats have been invited for the event.

The opening ceremony will be witnessed only by the diplomatic community and general visitors can visit the fair later, he said.

Craftspersons from 11 states will exhibit several forms of traditional art and craft forms like bamboo art, textiles, traditional and folk art, beauty aromatics and recycled products. On all three days, participating artisans in turn will give 45-60 minute talks with demonstrations of the skill or show videos to explain their creative processes to visitors, said the ICCR, the cultural wing of MEA.

The lecture demonstration will be on Gond art of Madhya Pradesh; miniature art from Rajasthan; bamboo craft from Delhi; Kalamkari art from Telangana; moon grass baskets from Uttar Pradesh; Warli art form from Maharashtra and natural dye-cotton from Gujarat, among others, it said.

The 'Craft Mela' is to highlight how India's craft practices can help balance the ecology of the planet while sustaining India's cultural heritage, local livelihoods and meeting the Millennium Development Goals, the ICCR president said.

The 'mela' has been curated by Jaya Jaitley of Dastkari Haat Samiti, New Delhi, the ICCR said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Polls In J&K

integral part of India. There is no point of discussion here. It is a part of India, this is the position taken by all governments in our Parliament. This is also the position of our country," he said.

Govt Begins

government or against equivalent post or a professor of a university or college.

As per law governing the appointment of BOPEE chairman, he/she shall be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor on the recommendations of the screening committee consisting of the vice chancellors of Kashmir and Jammu Universities to be headed by the chief secretary.

In January this year, the government ordered that Vivek Bhardwaj, financial commissioner (additional chief Secretary), Health and Medical Education department shall discharge functions of chairman BOPEE in addition to his own duties, as an interim arrangement—(KNO)

MeT Predicts

Jammu recorded a low of 8.1°C, same as on the previous night, the official said. The temperature was 2.5°C below normal for the J&K's winter capital during this time of the year, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 4.6°C, Batote 3.4°C and Bhaderwah 0.8°C, the official said.

Ladakh's Leh recorded a low of minus 13.5°C against last night minus 10.7°C while mercury at automatic station in Kargil settled at minus 18.2°C. Drass, the second coldest place in the world after Siberia, recorded a low of minus 21.6°C against minus 13.5°C on the previous night, official said.

Covid Pandemic

number of patients without symptoms, the report said

"The picture that we are seeing does not fully reflect the exact number of cases as opposed to what things were like when the pandemic just broke out and the Delta strain started spreading," the WHO envoy said.

Several countries have seen a decline in Omicron variant-led Covid surge. The decrease in cases has also led to lifting restrictions. Sweden, Denmark, and Norway have all lifted Covid restrictions as they look to reclassify the virus as a disease that does not pose a threat to society. The UK and the US are soon likely to follow.

However many experts, including the WHO, have urged caution. WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus had recently stated "it's premature for any country either to surrender or to declare victory".

J&K Sees More

During the same time, officials said,

Kashmir reported 19 new cases of virus while the remaining 85 cases were detected from Jammu division.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar reported 12 new cases of Coronavirus, Baramulla 4, Anantnag 2 and Kupwara 1. No cases were detected in the six districts of Bandipora, Ganderbal, Kulgam, Shopian, Budgam and Pulwama in the Valley.

In the winter capital, officials said, Doda registered the highest 29 fresh cases of virus, Kishtwar 24, Jammu 13, Udhampur 12, Kathua 3, Rajouri 2 and one new case each in Samba and Ramban. The twin districts of Poonch and Reasi witnessed no new cases of Covid-19.

Also, officials said, the deadly infection claimed life of another person in Kashmir Valley thus taking the total number of fatalities since the outbreak of pandemic to 4747—2324 in Jammu division and 2423 in Kashmir.

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

Jammu Schools

excited and expressed their happiness to be back in their schools.

"So far we have been getting education through online classes but today we are happy to be back in our school, among our friends and teachers after a long gap, Geetika, a Class 7th student of a private school, said.

"It is nothing short of a festival for a teacher, especially of the primary and middle classes as their students are back in their classrooms. We are thankful to the administration for taking such a decision, Rameshwar Mengi, principal of Shiksha Niketan Higher Secondary School in Rajeev Nagar, said.

Welcoming the students back in their classes, Mengi assured the parents that they have taken all necessary precautions in accordance with the government guidelines for the safety of the children.

He said the students do not know their classrooms and some of them in pre-primary will have schooling experience for the first time.

It is like bringing them back from mother's lap to the school. It is a challenging situation for the teachers to adjust them in the classroom atmosphere but we are confident of the success, he said.

After the outbreak of Coronavirus pandemic in March 2020, the educational institutions shifted to online mode of teaching on the orders of the government to prevent the spread of viral disease. While the high and higher secondary schools were opened several times in the past, the lower classes were opened for the first time.

Many private schools in the city with large enrolment have decided to hold physical classes for the students in two shifts to ensure strict adherence of the

COVID-19 guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures.

In a latest order issued on Sunday night, the state executive committee (SEC) headed by chief secretary A K Mehta said the heads of Institutions will be responsible for adherence to Covid Appropriate Behaviour in their respective schools and prepare proper plans for the same.

"Symptomatic students should not be allowed to attend school. No student should be allowed to attend school without a mask, the order said ahead of the opening of lower classes.

It said the heads of the institutions must ensure that guidelines related to social distancing and Covid Appropriate Behaviour are strictly followed including regular screening at the entrance of the institution.

HC Junks Plea

that ordinarily, the Courts are always slow in interfering in religious matters or with sentiments based upon religion or on the practice of any community.

It may be noted that Section 28 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act provides that nothing contained in the Act shall render it an offence to kill the animals in a manner required by the religion or any community.

Apart from this, taking into account the averments in the plea against the practice of religious sacrifice of animals, the Court observed thus: "Which practice of slaughtering or sacrificing animals is legal or illegal depends upon the traditions and customs of a particular religion and the place of worship. It is a matter of evidence which cannot be appreciated in the exercise of discretionary jurisdiction" reads the order, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer.

"Which practice of slaughtering or sacrificing animals is legal or illegal depends upon the traditions and customs of a particular religion and the place of worship. It is a matter of evidence which cannot be appreciated in the exercise of discretionary jurisdiction," the Court said.

Chand stated in his plea that the religion of Islam does not prescribe any form of animal sacrifice and the same is a 'cruel age-old practice that has arisen out of the misinterpretation of the texts of the Islamic faith'.

Not only Qurbani but any other form of accepted cruelty to animals is beyond the imagination of a civilized society and the same is constitutionally abhorrent and requires it to be banned, the plea added.

Institute Launched

was set up by the globally acknowledged Ishwar Ashram Trust on Kashmir Shaivism.

BJP Leader Faces

in police investigation but extended support to Khan saying "we believe our

leader is clean".

"Let police probe and get to the root of the allegations levelled against BJP leader Muhammad Sidiq Khan about sexual exploitation. However, we believe our leader is clean and as a responsible party leader, he won't indulge anything that would defame the party," BJP spokesman Altaf Thakur said in a statement.

BJP Corporator

with two personal security officers in a sports utility vehicle (SUV) when he was stopped by the traffic police led by Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Himmat Singh for checking of documents, they said.

The officials said Gilkar was taken to the Udhampur police station after it was found that he was driving a stolen vehicle having a Haryana registration number.

"The chassis and the registration numbers of the vehicle were not matching and on scrutiny, we came to know that it is a stolen vehicle. The number plate of the vehicle resembled a high security registration plate (HSRP)," DSP Singh said.

He said the case was handed over to the Udhampur police for a thorough investigation. PTI

2,250 Square

the MGNREGA to kickstart a virtuous cycle of good soil health, increased land productivity, food security and improved livelihoods in J&K.

Terming forests as an important climate mitigation strategy, Mehta he said, asked the department to involve local communities/panchayats in applying deep knowledge of the local ecology in restoring their commons.

"Hailing the departmental initiative- 'Van se Jal -Jal se Jivan', the chief secretary said the campaign has to be focused more in areas of water stress in J&K and the views of the local people should also be sought in making this programme a success," he said.

Urging the department to achieve the target of plantation of 1.3 crore plants set for this year, Mehta, as per the spokesperson said there is also a need to focus plantation in vulnerable areas, particularly on the highways where green cover can help in slope stabilization and prevent landslides.

Mehta, he said, directed the department to restore 1000 sq km forest area during the next year in convergence with the funds available under labour component under MGNREGA.

"The Chief Secretary directed the department to repair all 3700 ponds within next six months in convergence with MGNREGA. He said repair and rejuvenation of these ponds will recharge the ground water and improve the whole ecosystem of lives and livelihood in the villages," he added.

Saying that the practice of the people feeding monkeys on the national

highways/tourist places has to be stopped, the Chief Secretary, as per the official spokesperson said the department needs to improve enforcement thorough heightened vigil and imposition of fines to deter people from doing so as it causes unnecessary accidental deaths of monkeys.

Mehta, he said further stated that the department needs to put a high premium on climate mitigation and ensure that vehicular pollution is effectively checked and the violators are suitably penalized.

"He asked the department to ensure that visibly polluting vehicles from outside the UT are not allowed entry at Lakhampur border," he said.

The spokesperson said that the Chief Secretary directed the department to erect hoardings/billboards at Lakhampur border carrying unequivocal directions from the department for the interstate commuters that the vehicles not conforming to the pollution norms will not be let into J&K.

Holding plastic littered on the roadsides and in and around forest areas as the terrible pollutant and eye sore, Mehta, he said, asked the department to mount a campaign titled- 'Say No to Plastics' in the media advising the people against the use of the plastics.

"Dr Mehta also asked the department to spearhead a plastic cleanliness campaign on war footing across J&K," he said.

Appreciating the conservation works carried out in the surroundings of the wullar lake, the Chief Secretary, according to the spokesperson said the unrivalled beauty of the lake needs to be celebrated and asked the department to hold wullar lake festivals thrice- during spring, summer and autumn- in a year.

Mehta, he said, lauded the effort of the department in starting 12-day training for 20 youth of the Kishtwar district for Eco Guides and asked the department to connect them with the youth clubs and the Mission Youth for availing incentives to buy trekking gear like tents, other camping material etc.

"He said post training; these youth can use the trekking gear while as guides for the tourists on the identified trekking routes in this region and earn a living for themselves," he added.

Earlier commissioner Secretary, Forest, Sanjeev Verma, the spokesperson said made a presentation on UT capex in which he gave a broad overview of the UT capex during the current fiscal year.

He said that Verma informed that out of Rs 90 cr released by Finance department from an approved outlay of Rs 132 cr, the department has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 70 cr till 15th February 2022.

"He said the department will fully spend the funds released by the Finance department during the current fiscal year," the spokesperson added.

In the meeting, he said, it was informed that the campaign-Har Gaon Hariyali' has been well received by the people at large and the panchayats in the UT are locked in a healthy competition of outdoing one another on the issue of plantation.

'Hybrid Militant'

checkpoint near Sultanpora Bridge at Zachaldara on the basis of specific input regarding movement of a militant, a police spokesperson said Monday.

During checking of pedestrians and vehicles, he said, one suspect on noticing the joint forces tried to conceal his presence and flee from the spot but was apprehended tactfully by the alert party.

Police identified him as Ubaid Bashir Wani of Maidan Pora in Lolab.

"Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition including 1 Pistol with magazine and 5 pistol rounds were recovered from his possession," the spokesperson said.

He said that the preliminary investigation has revealed that the accused is a hybrid militant of JeM and working on the direction of his Pakistan handlers across the border.

"He also confessed that he was in the area to carry out an attack," the spokesperson said.

Accordingly, he said, a case vide FIR No. 42/2022 registered under relevant sections of law in Police Station Handwara and further investigation is in progress.

Forest Fire Sparks

last night in the Balnoi area of Krishna Ghati sector in Mendhar.

The forest fire was raging, when the last reports came in.

A police official confirming the outbreak of fire in the area told local news agency GNS that around a dozen mine blasts have been heard so far, with the blaze yet to be brought under control.

Train Crushes

spot and his identification is being ascertained, he said.

Pertinently, a 20 year old youth was killed after being hit by a train in between Hamre-Sopore railway section in Baramulla district on Saturday evening—(KNO)

Ladakh Logs

and 60 in Kargil, they said. There was no death reported from Ladakh on Sunday, they said.

As many as 91 patients were cured and discharged from hospitals in Ladakh. Of these, 67 were discharged in Leh and 24 in Kargil, they said.

With these, the total number of cured patients is 27,266, they said.

Of the total of 34 fresh cases from Union territory, 31 such cases were reported from Leh district and 3 from Kargil district, they said. (PTI)

A strong NC 'eyesore' for elements opposed to J&K's spirit of inclusiveness: Farooq

PTI

JAMMU: A strong National Conference is an eyesore for the elements opposed to Jammu and Kashmir's spirit of inclusiveness, party president Farooq Abdullah said as he exhorted the cadre to remain steadfast in their resolve of serving people and strengthening inclusiveness.

The former chief minister complimented the people in general and the party cadre in particular for their commitment to the secular ethos and hoped that this glorious tradition would continue to inspire future generations.

"The emergence of National Conference as a big political force is an eyesore for elements opposed to J&K's spirit of amity, brotherhood, harmony and inclusiveness," Abdullah said after reviewing the functioning of the party units in Pir Panjal and Chenab Valley regions of Jammu province.

He said massive support to the National Conference in every nook and corner of Jammu and Kashmir is reflective of the deep faith of the people in the party, which has met the challenges with courage and fortitude.

"The strength of the party emanates from the people at ground zero and there is a need to channelize this support for the betterment of the people, irrespective of caste, creed, region or religion, he said.

Abdullah said the National Conference has all along cherished great values of pluralistic ethos that have actually been a



binding force between regions and religions.

This spirit has not only to be sustained but promoted in a big way to keep at bay the divisive forces, he added.

He said unity in diversity is the real strength of Jammu and Kashmir and this is what has seen us overcome all the challenges.

Abdullah exhorted the cadre across Jammu and Kashmir to remain steadfast in their resolve of serving the people and strengthening bonds of inclusiveness -- the political philosophy of the party that has withstood the test of times.

The NC president complimented party functionaries for mass outreach in their areas, saying this would further galvanise the party at the grass-roots level.

"The politically empowered people hold the key to change and given their sagacity and sense of understanding the day is not far when they will become the masters of their own destiny, he said.

The NC leader said the people were the real fountain of power and the power is not to rule but to serve humanity. This has been the core of our political philosophy, he maintained.

International Mother Language Day Celebrated At IUST



Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: On the occasion of 'International Mother Language Day', the Habba Khatoon Centre for Kashmiri Language and Literature, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) Awantipora held its first Advisory Board meeting, which included eminent scholars and poets, such as Prof. Shafi Shauq, Prof Ratan Lal Shant, Zareef Ahmad Zareef, Prof. Naseem Shafae, Prof. R. L Talashi, Prof. Farooq Fayaz, Prof. Mehfooza Jan, Mr. Rafiq Raz, Dr. Shafqat Altaf and few others.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Shakil A. Romshoo, who presided over the meeting, spoke about the objectives and mission of the Centre and thanked the distinguished experts in the field of Kashmiri language, culture and philosophy for their association with the Centre.

The aim of the Centre is to promote the richness of Kashmiri culture, language and syncretism.

Furthermore, he stated that the Centre will go way a long way towards fulfilling its mandate of preserving and promoting Kashmiri Language and Culture both within and outside

the valley with the help of the eminent experts. The Centre will serve as focal point for accomplishing different initiatives for the promotion of culture and language as envisaged and outlined in the NEP 2020.

Earlier, Director of the Centre Prof. Majrooh Rashid, had earlier welcomed the guests and shared the agenda of the meeting as well its mission to promote the language. The experts congratulated the university for establishing and envisioning the goals of Habba Khatoon Centre for Kashmiri Language and Literature and assured their full support to the Centre.

Also present during the meeting were Dean Academic Affairs Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Malik, Registrar Prof. Naseer Iqbal, Dean Research Prof. A. H Moon, Associate Dean School of Humanities and Social Sciences Dr Munejah Khan.

In the second session, a special One Day seminar on 'Naji Munawar' who recently passed away and had remarkably contributed to the Kashmiri Language was organized in which three papers were read by Prof. Mehfooza Jan, Dr. Shafqat Altaf and Dr. Tahir which were followed by a discussion moderated by Dr. Tahir.

Man Killed In Rajouri Accident

Observer Monitoring Desk

RAJOURI: A man was killed while three other persons sustained injuries in a road accident in Rajouri town on Monday morning.

Police officials said that the accident took place when a tempo traveller moving on Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch highway hit a tipper near Army water point station of Rajouri town, in which

one person was killed and three others were injured, reported news agency KNO.

The deceased has been identified as Sajjad Ali, son of Mohammad Ali of Swari village of Rajouri.

The injured, they said, have been hospitalized in GMC Rajouri.

Meanwhile, police said that necessary legal formalities have been started into the matter.

New Power Schedule To Be Out By March 1: KPDCL

Agencies

SRINAGAR: As the weather conditions have started to improve in the Valley, the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) has decided to announce revised electricity schedules in the Valley after March 01.

Chief Engineer, Aijaz Ahmad Dar, said that there is no change

in the power schedule as of now.

However, he said that the revised schedule will be announced after March 01.

Pertinently, the power department issues a curtailment schedule during winters as the electricity demand goes high due to the bone-chilling cold.

Unlike previous years, the 40-day harshest period, chila-i-kalan, didn't witness any major

snowfall this year.

Notably, a local weatherman here has predicted rain as well as snowfall on February 22-23.

Sources within the KPDCL said that the demand of power during the day has decreased manifold due to rise in temperature.

However, they said that the demand increases in the morning and evening hours only in the last couple of days—(KNO)

Faith Healer Looted By Her 'Disciples' In Qazigund

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: A female faith healer was looted by her 'disciples' using chemical spray in Badragund area of Qazigund on Monday morning, local sources said.

Local sources said that two

unidentified thieves entered the home of Raasiya Banoo, wife of Manzoor Ahmad Najar of Badragund as a disciples and sprayed some chemical on her face, reported news agency KNO.

She got unconscious and in

the meantime, thieves fled with jewellery and some cash.

A police official said that a team has been deputed to the spot to assess the details. "We will be in a position to say more once we are done with our investigations".

Shortlisted Health Educators Allege Delay In Promotions

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Four months since the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir(DHSK) had reportedly given its consent for promotion of Health Educators working in the Health department through Departmental Promotion Committee(DPC), the promotion of these employees has been "unnecessarily" delayed by the authorities, thus depriving these educators of their promotions.

On November 10, DHSK had issued an order in local dailies and called for any objection in promotion of 35 health educators, who were shortlisted in third tentative seniority list, allegedly to be promoted to Community Health Officer(CHO).

However, even after more than four months and without any objection from anyone, the distressed health educators have alleged that the authorities have hampered the process and deprived these "eligible candidates of their rightful promotion."

"There has been a four month delay already but the health

department is not issuing any order that makes us eligible for the promotion as CHO. This is injustice." A group of health educators who are waiting for their promotion, told Kashmir Observer.

They said that the Government of India and DHSK have already given their consent for the promotion. "However, the department hasn't moved forward with our promotion order." The disgruntled employees said. "We are fully eligible for these posts, so why're we being deprived of our rights? Isn't this unfair and against the rules."

They have also alleged that the Government of India had also castigated the department for its failure to promote them. "But, GOI's strict warning fell on deaf ears in the department." The employee said.

Pertinently, these 35 candidates were shortlisted out of more than 200 employees from the first tentative seniority list and second tentative seniority list.

The final selection list of 35 selected candidates was declared through a DHSK order No. Est-ii/Sen.H.Educator/102/4455-85

on10 November, 2021, while a notification inviting objections for 1st and 2nd office circulars No.'s Est-ii/Sen.H. Educator/102/2015/102/848-66Dt:- 01-01-2016 and Est-ii/Sen. Health Educator /102/7942- 7970 Dt:- 29.06.2019 respectively from the concerned office.

"We've nothing personal with anyone in the department. What we demand is completely our right." The dismayed health educators told Kashmir Observer.

However, refuting these allegations being leveled up against the department, spokesperson for the Health Department, Dr Mir Mushtaq said that the given order has nothing to do with promotion.

"This order is sometimes used as a base for promotion of a candidate but has nothing to do with any promotion. Nowhere, in the order, has it been mentioned that any candidate is being promoted. This order was issued for objections, if any, against the shortlisted candidates of the third seniority list." Dr Mir Mushtaq told Kashmir Observer.

Mehta Reviews Functioning Of Tribal Affairs Department



Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Monday chaired a meeting to review the functioning of the Tribal Affairs Department.

The Administrative Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department, Director Tribal Affairs Department, and concerned officers of the Department participated in the meeting.

The Chief Secretary was apprised about the outcome of the first-ever survey of the transhumant population in Jammu and Kashmir which has captured various socio-economic indicators of this segment of population.

It was informed that the Tribal Affairs Department has taken various flagship initiatives during 2021-22 for the welfare of the beneficiaries with a focus on implementation of Forest Rights Act, tribal tourist villages scheme, cluster tribal model villages, tribal health plans, and transit facilities.

The Chief Secretary was apprised about the deficient mobile/internet connectivity and limited availability of health facilities at higher pastures and dhoks. The Chief Secretary directed the Department to ensure mobile and internet coverage of all tribal habitations, besides, establishment of teleconsultation medical facilities specifically in dhoks; within 6 months. It was further directed that the local youth is provided with adequate first-aid train-

ing to tackle emergency situations, besides ensuring primary health care facilities at base camps, in consultation with the National Health Mission.

Under the Integrated Village Development Scheme, the Tribal Affairs Department is undertaking various projects to improve the parameters of health and nutrition, drinking water and sanitation, education, livelihood, electricity supply, road connectivity, and mobile and internet connectivity; in the tribal habitations.

Dr. Mehta emphasized on holistic development of the community and directed initiation of slew of measures to be accomplished in a time-bound manner. It was decided that intensive efforts will be undertaken for saturation of aadhaar cards, golden health cards, bank accounts, besides ensuring vaccinations of livestock.

The Department was also given the target of doubling income of the tribal population by focusing on integrated development of wool, milk, and forest-based industries. The Department was further asked to complete the pending FRA cases within three months and ensure the formulation of TSP by all de-partments within one week.

The Chief Secretary was also apprised about the pilot project to assist the bi-annual tribal transhumance in Jammu and Kashmir by providing dedicated vehicular transportation facilities. The Chief Secretary directed

broadening the scope of the project by facilitating the migration preferably through national highway in vehicular mode.

The Department was also asked to establish a tribal helpline number and ensure completion of all 08 transit accommodations by July 2022 with 02 to be completed by the end this financial year.

Moreover, Dr. Mehta impressed upon the Department to prioritize skilling of tribal youth through the network of youth clubs and asked Mission Youth to exclusively provide gainful employment opportunities to the eligible youth from tribal areas for which Rs. 10 crores will be specifically earmarked. The Department was also asked to promote tourism in tribal areas by roping in various stakeholders.

To promote education among the targeted population, the Department is establishing Eklavya Model Residential Schools in Anantnag, Kulgam, Gurez, Kotranka, Rajouri and Mendhar which will commence operations from April 2022.

On the occasion, the Chief Secretary also launched the departmental scholarship portal for streamlining the disbursement of scholarships to tribal students. With the launch of the portal, Rs. 12 crores were disbursed to the eligible beneficiaries through DBT by the Chief Secretary. The Department is providing scholarships to more than 2.02 lakh students from the tribal community.

Vigilance Awareness Fortnight Concludes At Anantnag

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The vigilance awareness fortnight organised by District Administration Anantnag aimed at social audit of the implementation of National Food Security Act concluded on Monday.

During the 15 day period, public interactions and social audits were organised across 335 panchayats in the district and more than 10000 people participated in the program.

Speaking to the people on the last day of the fortnight at Yanner Pahalgam, the DDC Chairman, MY Gorski said the program has been instrumental in dissemination of information among the public. He said several observations have been received regarding the beneficiary lists and after due verification, action as appropriate under rules will be taken to refine the lists.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr Piyush Singla said that they have already constituted teams under Tehsildars to verify the observations made during the programme. He said there has been an overwhelming response to the program and people participated in large numbers.

During his personal visit to some gatherings, he was satisfied to see enthusiastic participation of the people and their endeavour to bring transparency into the system.

He said the program has been a quintessential demonstration of Jan Bhagidari at the grassroots level and more initiatives of this kind will be taken up.

The DC said that active involvement of the PRI members has been instrumental for mass public participation in the program. He said the efforts of PRIs in making this program a success are appreciable.

DC Ganderbal Reviews Functioning Of Revenue Dept

Directs For Carrying Massive Anti-Encroachment Drives To Retrieve Encroached Land

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Kritika Jyotsna on Monday chaired a meeting of the Revenue Department to review its functioning.

During the meeting, threadbare discussion was held on various revenue matters including implementation of eviction plan and removal of encroachments from state/kahchhari and Migrant land, status of updation of revenue records, status of un-scanned updated Jamabandies, pending land acquisition cases, disposal of migrant complaints and other revenue related matters.

While reviewing the status of removal of encroachments on state and kahchhari land, the DC sought details from all Tehsildars about the retrieved land under their jurisdiction.

The ACR informed that inventory of state land is already prepared with complete details of encroachers.

The DC directed all the Tehsildars to start massive anti-encroachment drives in their respective tehsils to retrieve the encroached land and pro-

vide photographic proof of land retrieved during such anti-encroachment drives in the DC office.

The DC also directed the Tehsildars to hold weekly revenue meetings at tehsil offices to have regular monitoring of tehsils under their jurisdiction besides tour diaries shall be properly maintained by all Tehsildars.

The meeting also discussed the status of writing of Jama-bandies, digitization of land records, attestation of mutations and concerned Tehsildars were directed to expedite the process of completion of pending Jama-bandies at an earliest.

The meeting was attended by ACR Ganderbal, Baseer Ahmad, Tehsildars and Naib Tehsildars of the district.

Meanwhile, in a separate meeting, Jyotsna also reviewed progress under the PM-JAY SE-HAT scheme in the district.

On the occasion, the DC directed all Tehsildars to ensure mobilization of the left-out population in their respective jurisdictions by utilizing the services of grass roots level workers so that every citizen is covered under the scheme and are entitled to the benefits of Golden Card.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Ganderbal, Khurshid Ahmad Shah, MS, DH and District Coordinator CSC.

DC Anantnag For Vigorous Campaign To Boost Golden Card Registrations

Directs SDMs To Devise Area Specific Strategies To Achieve Complete Coverage

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: A meeting of senior district officials and health department was convened on Monday at Dak Bungalow here under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr Piyush Singla to take steps to pace up the registrations for Golden Cards.

At the outset, DC Anantnag congratulated the participants for successful containment of the spread of COVID-19 during the third wave. He said the focus is on ensuring complete coverage of the district population under PM SEHAT.

He said that every citizen in the district must have a golden card and all steps must be taken to facilitate registration under the scheme.

Dr Singla, after deliberating with officials from Health department, SDMs and ACR, chalked out implementation strategy and area wise targets were set. A daily review will be held to track the progress. He advised the SDMs to prepare detailed micro plans in consultation with BMOs so that mobilization takes place on the ground level and targets are achieved.

Directions were issued to ADDC to take the PRLs onboard. He said that PRI intervention will be instrumental in achieving last mile registration.

The DC took stock of the Jan Aushadhi stores functioning in the district. He directed the health authorities to set up more such stores. Further, he said the BMOs should communicate the stock of medicinal supply to the administration on a regular basis. He said reports that some doctors are not prescribing generic medicines are being investigated through prescription

audits and doctors found to be involved in such practices will be taken to task.

On the sidelines, all SDMs were directed to hold sub-divisional level development review meetings every week and fix timelines for completion of works under CAPEX.

SDM Dooru elaborated that they have held detailed discussions with stakeholders to identify impediments in registration.

Dr Singla said that dissemination of IEC material to inform the public about the benefits of the golden card is critical.

SDM Pahalgam said that micro level awareness camps will be organized to cover far flung areas. He said that the interventions will be focused on facilitating registrations.

SDM Kokernag said that they have collaborated with the ICDS department & RDD to spread awareness among the people. Teams have been formed at patwar level to register for the golden card.

DC Anantnag said that CSC operators can be placed at Naya-bat and Patwar offices to serve as local centers of registration.

SDM Bijbehara said the focus has been on door to door awareness camps. He said registration camps will be organized at PHCs and focus will be on information dissemination.

ACR Anantnag said that a sustained online campaign will also be started to share the benefits among the people.

Dy CMO said that a pulse polio programme will be started this week. Booths have been identified and about 1.5 lacs drops will be given to eligible children during the drive.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Dy CMO, all BMOs and CSC Operators of Anantnag among others.

India Climb To Top In ICC T20 Rankings After Series Sweep Over WI



Press Trust of India

DUBAI: India claimed the top spot in the ICC men's T20 International Team Rankings on Monday, riding on their 3-0 series sweep over the West Indies at home.

Rohit Sharma's men eased to a 17-run victory over the West Indies in the third and final T20 of the series on Sunday in Kolkata and in the process, clinched an emphatic 3-0 clean sweep.

The triumph helped India catapult England at the top of the T20 team rankings, with the side now matching the top rating of 269. India last attained the number one spot back in 2016, a reign that lasted a little over two months.

While England and India both have the same rating across 39 international matches in the current rankings period (269), India has a total of 10,484 points, 10 more than England's 10,474.

According to a statement issued by the ICC, Pakistan (rating of 266), New Zealand (255) and South Africa (253) complete the top five list, while current world champions Australia (249) remain in sixth after their 4-1 series victory over Sri Lanka.

West Indies (235) are placed seventh, followed by Afghanistan (232), Sri Lanka (231) and Bangladesh (231).

Prior to the recently-concluded contests against the West Indies, India had whitewashed New Zealand 3-0 at home in November last year.

The men's T20 Players Rankings are yet to be updated.

According to the last updated list, only two Indians -- KL Rahul and Virat Kohli -- feature in the top 10.

While Rahul is placed fourth in the T20 batting chart, Kohli is at the 10th spot. However, no Indian features in the top 10 bowlers and all-rounders' list.

No Set Formula But We're Clear About World Cup Team Combination: Dravid

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: Finding the perfect combination can be tricky and there is no set formula, but India head coach Rahul Dravid says he and skipper Rohit Sharma are pretty clear about the team for the T20 World Cup in Australia in less than eight months' time.

The former captain, who took over from Ravi Shastri after India's group stage exit in last year's T20 World Cup in UAE, will have his first big challenge in Australia. Dravid said he and Rohit understand what should be the team combination for the mega-event.

"I think we have got a fair idea between Rohit and myself and the selectors and the management," Dravid said after their 17-run win over the West Indies in the third T20I that ensured a 3-0 clean sweep here on Sunday.

"I don't think there's a set formula to it. But we're pretty clear about the balance and the combination (for the T20 World Cup)...We are just structuring a little bit of the team around it and also balancing individual

workloads as well.

"We have got a pretty fair idea of the kind of skills we're looking for in Australia, with the kind of guys who are in running. Not everything is set in stone but we want to give everyone a fair chance to stake their claim for those spots," he added.

The T20I series against West Indies was India's first in a packed calendar in the build-up to the World Cup and they next take on Sri Lanka in an identical three-match rubber in four days' time.

In the absence of some Team India regulars like opener KL Rahul, and pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami, India gave opportunities to youngsters such as Ishan Kishan, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Avesh Khan to stake their claim in the World Cup-bound squad.

With Virat Kohli and Rishabh Pant being given a 10-day bio-bubble rest, India also tried out Shreyas Iyer, while Kishan doubled up as the wicketkeeper in the third and final T20I. Dravid said the whole process was about having the backups ready.

WI Should Not Feel Disgraced: Pollard



Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: They might have been handed a 0-3 clean sweep in the T20I series but West Indies skipper Kieron Pollard said his team shouldn't feel disgraced as the scoreline is not an indication of the fight put up by them during the three-match rubber against India.

Suryakumar Yadav came up with an explosive 65 and was backed up by a spirited bowling effort by the seamers as West Indies fell short by 17 runs in their chase of 185 in the final T20I here on Sunday.

"Yes we lost 3-0 but the guys put their hands up and gave a good account of themselves. I don't think we should be disgraced by what has taken place," Pollard said in the post-match virtual media interaction here.

"We are not happy losing, let

me put that on record. It's not like that at all. We are trying to win cricket games."

West Indies had their best chance to level the series in the second T20I with Rovman Powell and Nicholas Pooran slamming explosive fifties in a 100-run partnership.

But India fought back with Bhuvneshwar Kumar bowling a tight penultimate over as West Indies fell short by just eight runs.

"It just goes to show the fine line in International cricket between winning and losing, and the margins for error -- when you are bowling or batting," Pollard said.

"Executing in the backend is something we need to work on. From a bowling perspective, for the first 15 overs of this game, we had India right where we wanted them to be.

Valley Girl Sadia Tariq In Indian Squad For Moscow Wushu Stars Championship

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Sadia Tariq, a two times consecutive Gold medalist in the Junior National Wushu championship, has been shortlisted by the Wushu Association of India technical committee for the Moscow Wushu Stars Wushu Championship from 22-28th February 2022 in view of the Youth Asian Games 2022.

Kashmir Valley-born Sadia has been sanctioned by the MYAS and the Sports Authority of India at 'Cost to Government'. The Moscow Wushu Stars championship is the approved event in the ACTC (Annual Calendar Training and Competition) of SAI. The Junior and Senior India team is participating in the championship.

Sadia Tariq is based from Srinagar and has recently secured Gold medal in the 20th Junior National Wushu Championship at Lovely Professional University, Jalandhar, in which the J&K Wushu team remained overall 3rd in the medals tally.

In view of the Youth Asian Games slated to be held in the month of December in China, The SAI is enrolling all the probables of the YAG on the recommendations of the Wushu As-

sociation of India in the NCOEs, so that the players will be groomed to give the best in the Youth Asian Games. 05 Players from UT J&K are probables for the Youth Asian Games, which will be shortly enrolled in the different NCOE's for the preparation of the Youth Asian Games.

Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul, congratulated Wushu 'Golden Girl' Sadia Tariq for being the member of the Indian Wushu team for the Moscow Wushu Stars championship and wished all the best to her for the championship. She also congratulated the Wushu Association of J&K for promoting this combat sports in every nook and corner of J&K and giving platform for the Wushu athletes to exhibit their best at national and international arena.

President of Wushu Association of J&K Vijay Saraf along with all office bearers has congratulated for the feat and wished all the best for the championship.

Kuldeep Handoo, National Chief Coach of India, who is already at the National

Wushu coaching camp at KIC Meerut for the 19th Asian Games, also congratulated Sadia and the whole Indian contingent for the championship. He thanked Sports authority of India and Wushu Association of India for providing the best facilities to

the Wushu athletes to bring laurels for the country at the International arena.



J&K FA Announce Fixtures For 29th Annual Football Championship

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Football Association (J&K-FA) on Monday announced the fixtures list for its upcoming Annual Football Championship featuring 16 teams from both Kashmir and Jammu divisions.

The matches are set to begin from today, i.e., Tuesday, February 22 at Synthetic Turf TRC, Srinagar.

The first match of the Championship will be played between DFA Zone Rafiabab and DFA Zone Hajin, with kick off at 11:00 AM.

DFA Kupwara will take on DFA Pulwama in the second match of the day, with kick off at 1:30 PM.

Further fixtures for February 23 and 24 are as shown in the image below:

29th Annual Football Championship 2021-22 organized by :- J&K Football Association Under the aegis of J&K Sports Council					
M-NO 1	DFA ZONE RAFIABAB	VS	DFA ZONE HAJIN	22nd Feb 2022 at 11:00AM	SYNTHETIC TURF TRC SGR
M-NO 2	DFA KUPWARA	VS	DFA PULWAMA	22nd Feb 2022 at 1:30PM	SYNTHETIC TURF TRC SGR
M-NO 3	DFA BANDIPORA	VS	DFA ZONE PAMPORE	23rd Feb 2022 at 11:00AM	SYNTHETIC TURF TRC SGR
M-NO 4	DFA BARAMULLA	VS	DFA DFA KULGAM	23rd Feb 2022 at 1:30PM	SYNTHETIC TURF TRC SGR
M-NO 5	DFA ZONE HANDWARA	VS	DFA GANDERBAL	24th Feb 2022 at 11:00AM	SYNTHETIC TURF TRC SGR
M-NO 6	DFA ANANATNAG	VS	DFA ZONE PATTAN	24th Feb 2022 at 1:30PM	SYNTHETIC TURF TRC SGR



J&K RANJI TEAM poses for a group photo after their victory in the opening match of the tournament.



PARVEZ RASOOL is all smiles as he was awarded Man of the Match for his 10-wicket haul, helping J&K begin their Ranji Trophy 2022 campaign with an 8-wicket victory over Pondicherry. Parvez took 4 wickets in the first innings and 6 in the second to help J&K restrict the Pondicherry batters. Abdul Samad hit a century, while Qamran Iqbal smashed 96 in the first innings to give J&K the upper-hand in the 4-day test. Sharing the picture, Parvez wrote on his Facebook page: "ALHAMDU LILLAH #MOM #10wkthaul #Ranjitrophy."

BCCI To Ask Saha About Tweet Detailing Threat From A Journo

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: The BCCI will ask out-of-favour senior keeper-batter Wriddhiman Saha about the context of his tweet which alleged that a journalist had threatened him for not agreeing to give an interview.

Saha, 37, who has been dropped from Indian team, had taken to Twitter to allege that one "respected" journalist took an aggressive tone after his refusal to grant him an interview.

After his tweet, former head coach Ravi Shastri, and former stars like Virender Sehwag, Harbhajan Singh came out in his support and asked him to reveal the name of the journalist.

"Yes, we will ask Wriddhiman about his tweet and what is the real incident that has happened. We need to know if he was threatened and also the background and context of his tweet. I can't say anything more. The secretary (Jay Shah) will certainly speak to Wriddhiman," BCCI Treasurer Arun Dhimal told PTI on Monday.

Saha, who has played 40 Tests for the country, was told by head coach Rahul Dravid after the tour of South Africa that the team would moving on from him and he could take a decision on his career.

Saha had revealed the dressing room conversations with Dravid but the head coach said that "he was not hurt" as he respects the cricketer and just wanted to give him a clear picture on his position with honesty and clarity.

Saha had also claimed that BCCI president Sourav Ganguly had texted him to assure that he would never be dropped from the team till he was at the helm of affairs.



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Shakib Named In Bangladesh Squad For Afghanistan T20 Series

Press Trust of India

DHAKA: Allrounder Shakib Al Hasan was recalled to Bangladesh's squad for a two-match T20 series against Afghanistan next month.

Shakib missed the side's most recent T20 series against Pakistan last year due to injury.

Uncapped players Munim Shahriar and Yasir Ali were also included in the 14-man squad after impressive performances in the Bangladesh Premier League.

Opening batter Shahriar made 178 runs in six matches for Fortune Barishal, a strike rate of 152. Yasir Ali, who previously was named to Bangladesh's ODI squad, scored 219 runs in 11

matches for Khulna Tigers for a strike rate of 139.49.

Nurul Hasan Sohan, Akbar Ali, Shamim Patwari, Aminul Islam Biplob, Najmul Hossain Shanto and Saif Hasan were dropped from the 16-man squad that played against Pakistan.

The T20 series will be played March 3 and 5. Prior to that, the teams will play a three-match ODI series beginning Feb. 23.

Squad: Mahmudullah (Captain), Liton Das, Munim Shahriar, Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim, Afif Hossain, Mahedi Hasan, Yasir Ali Chowdhury, Mustafizur Rahman, Taskin Ahmed, Shoriful Islam, Nasum Ahmed, Shohidul Islam, Naim Sheikh.

Wasim Akram Formally Inducted Into PCB Hall Of Fame



Agencies

mained my home ground during my playing career."

Former cricket captain and fast bowling icon Wasim Akram was formally inducted into the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) Hall of Fame on Sunday.

West Indies batting legend Sir Vivian Richards inducted Akram by presenting him with a commemorative cap and plaque before the start of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) match between Karachi Kings and Quetta Gladiators in Lahore.

In a press release, the PCB noted that Akram had taken a total of 916 wickets and scored 6,615 runs during his international career from 1984 to 2003.

"Akram is one of the eight Pakistan stalwarts who are members of the PCB Hall of Fame. Others are Abdul Qadir, Fazal Mahmood, Hanif Mohammad, Imran Khan, Javed Miandad, Waqar Younis and Zaheer Abbas, who will be formally inducted into the prestigious group in the coming days," the press release said.

Commenting on the achievement, Akram said: "I feel privileged to have received this great honour from Sir Vivian Richards, one of the most iconic figures in cricket, and at a venue that re-

mained my home ground during my playing career."

He also appreciated the PCB for launching the initiative to "recognise and acknowledge the contributions of former cricketers."

"It has been an honour to represent Pakistan over 18 years during which I played in 460 international matches. Every wicket and every run I scored in these matches was priceless," he said.

"I want to thank all my fans who have been my greatest strengths. Their support has been invaluable. I also want to thank my family and friends who stood beside me during this incredible journey," Akram said.

Meanwhile, Richards said that he felt "delighted" to have been given the opportunity to formally induct Akram into the PCB Hall of Fame.

"My first encounter with Akram was in 1985 in Australia, and in the twilight of my career, I was happy I would not be facing him much. I clearly remember telling my junior partner that he will cause a lot of problems for his generation of cricketers and [he] proved me right," he said.

He added that Akram had been an "outstanding cricketer" and a "great ambassador" for the sport.