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P5 STATE

MAN ATTEMPTS SELF-IMMOLATION **AGAINST DEMOLITION DRIVE**

A 27-year-old man suffered severe burn injuries as he set himself on fire on Tuesday during an anti-encroachment



ON INNOVATION: WHAT MAKES

Knowing what motivates people to be creative is essential for any manager, teacher, or student concerned with creativity and, ultimately, innovation. So let's take a look at some extremely creative people. What about Leonardo da Vinci, for



P12 SPORTS

Tuesday decided not to reveal the identity of the journalist who had sent him a threatening message.



C Quote

The greatest happiness is to know the source of unhappiness

- Fyodor Dostoevsky

NEWS DIGEST

LeT 'Militant' Held In Bandipora

SRINAGAR: Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militant from north Kashmir's Bandipora district. Police, 26 Assam Rifles and the personnel of CRPF 3rd battalion established a checkpoint in | More on P10

Train Mows Down Youth In Budgam

SRINAGAR: A youth was killed on Tuesday after being hit by a train near Wanabal area of central Kashmir's Budgam district. 25-year-old Zakir Ahmad Khatana of Lolab Valley in Kupwara was crossing the railway track near | More on P10

Patwari Suspended For 'Casual Approach'

SRINAGAR: The authorities in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Tuesday order suspension of a revenue official over causal approach' towards preventing encroachments. In an order, the Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) placed Patwari for Halqa Wopzan in Bijbehara under | More on P10

UP Hawker Found Dead In Srinagar

SRINAGAR: A body of a nonlocal hawker was found at Sheen Mohalla area of Noorbagh here in this capital city, officials said on Tuesdav. They identified the deceased as Papu, son of Sohan Lal of Saharanpur Uttar Pradesh. The 31-year-old, they said, was putting up as a | More on P10



If Not

Contact Circulation Incharge: Irshad Ahmad: 7006276927

drive in Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials



PEOPLE CREATIVE



SAHA SAYS HE WON'T REVEAL IDENTITY OF **JOURNALIST WHO THREATENED HIM**

Veteran India wicketkeeper-batter Wriddhiman Saha on



PAGE 1 ANCHOR

17 Tremors In 30 Days Is A 'Warning Signal' For Kashmir

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: In the past 30 days, Kashmir has experienced around 17 tremors—five of magnitude 4.0 or above, ten between 3.0 and 4.0, and two between 2.0 and 3.0.

These recurrent rattles have coerced seismologists into believing that Kashmir should brace up to face a major earthquake in the future.

"I would say that tremors in Kashmir are the warning signal for us to worry about the incoming of a significant



earthquake and prepare the ground to deal with it," said

Dr. Afroz Ahmed Shah, an

Since Kashmir falls in Seismic zone 5, Dr.Afroz says that one of the most critical components of the preparation is building earthquakeresistant structures.

'We should create a culture first where earthquake education should be at the core of our daily routine because we live on faults and know what that means," said Dr Shah who teaches Physical & Geological Sciences at the University of Brunei Darussalam.

"The faults can get activated anytime, so please start working on it before it is too late." An old hand at understanding the region's shaky ground Dr Shah in an interview with the Kashmir Observer talked about the reasons behind

Why're we suddenly experiencing so many earthquakes in Kashmir?

means for Kashmir.

frequent tremors and what it

Earthquakes in Kashmir are not a surprise and are expected as we live on top of active faults. However, to exactly

know the whereabouts of the recent earthquakes, we have to first map and understand the depth of faulting.

I've done that by looking at the vertical distribution of earthquakes under Kashmir in

the following figure.

It seems that the earthquakes have originated at shallow depths, which suggests rupturing of internal faults within the Kashmir basin, like the Kashmir Basin fault.

The coloured dots are earthquake events, which have dominantly | More on P10

DELIMITATION EXERCISE

Panel Given 2 More Months To Draw J&K's **Political Map**

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: The Ministry of Law and Justice on Tuesday granted two-month extension to the Delimitation Commission. tasked to redraw the assembly constituencies of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, to complete the exercise.

In an order issued on Monday, the Union Ministry of Law and Justice has said that in exercise of powers conferred by section 3 of the Delimitation Act 2002 (33 of 2002) the central government hereby makes the further amendment of two months in the notification of government of India in the Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative department no So-1015(e) dated 6th March 2020.

"In the notification in paragraph two for the words 'two years' the words 'two years and two months' shall be substituted." reads the order

The term of the panel was coming to an end on March 6 and it needed more time to ready its final report on the delimitation exercise that is being carried out in the entire J&K. Pertinently the panel had

inputs and objections."

extension to complete its final report on the delimitation As per sources aware of the

asked the GOI for a two month

developments, the GOI has asked the panel to complete its work by May this year and share its report. The sources have also said that the panel will share its final report in the first week of May.

Notably, if sources are to be believed then the panel is likely to make its draft public before submitting the final report.

Earlier, the panel had so mitted its second draft to associate members who are the three leaders from National Conference and two from Bharatiya Janata Party, in the first week of February and the associate members had filed their objections on February 14 with National Conference members strongly rejecting the report.

However, as per sources, the commission won't be asking the five associate members to give their inputs and objections on the draft as they have already submitted their inputs and objection.

"The associate members have already | More on P10

THE ASSOCIATE MEMBERS HAVE

objections with the commission. So,

that's why the delimitation commission will ask

the public and other political parties to give their

ALREADY SHARED THEIR inputs and

J&K Preferred Destination For Industrial Investments, Films: LG **Observer News Service**

JAMMU: Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir has become one of the preferred destinations for industrial investment, tourism, film industry and real estate sector, the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday that his government is committed to ensure adequate and timely availability of credit to industrial and different productive sectors of the economy to finance growth.

Union Territory, The Lieutenant Governor made the remarks while reviewing the progress towards financial inclusion by banks in J&K with MK Jain, Deputy Governor RBI, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary and other officials, here on Tuesday, an official spokesperson said.

Sinha, he said, shared the vision of the UT Government for extending the banking and financial services to the doorsteps of the people of J&K. The LG, he said, also stated that efforts are being made to

enable far-flung areas of rural interiors to become fully connected with financial sector. "To broaden the social base of development, we are enhancing people's access to financial products, promotion of 'One District One Product'. institutional credit to women, youth, SMEs, handicrafts, horticulture and various other priority sectors for effective contribution to growth processes

of the UT," Sinha said. "J&K has | More on P10

'Ensure Disposal **Of Every Genuine**

Public Grievance

he Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoi Sinha on Tuesday directed officials to ensure the disposal of every genuine public grievance to make the system more accountable, responsive and efficient. The LG made these remarks during his interaction with applicants of J&K Integrated Grievance Redress and Monitoring System during "LG's Mulagaat-Live Public Grievance Hearing" through virtual mode, in which he took first hand appraisal of people's issues and grievances. "Our aim is to reduce redressal time of a grievance and response to every genuine complaint within a reasonable timeframe. It has been our endeavor | More on P10

Outnumber New Corona Cases

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As many as 381 Coronavirus patients recovered in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday while 137 confirmed cases of infection were reported in the Union Territory during the last 24hours.

According to the officials, 381 more Covid-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 257 from Jammu division and 124 from Kashmir Valley.

During the same time, officials said, 137 people tested positive for virus - 100 in Jammu and the remaining 37 in the Valley, taking the number of people infected since the onset of pandemic to 452547. In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar registered the highest | More on P10

Late Snowfall Makes Nights Warmer In Valley

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Valley on Tuesday received fresh spell of snowfall and rains under the influence of a western disturbance, even as the night temperature witnessed a rise by a few notches.

Heavy snowfall was reported from Gulmarg resort in Baramulla district where over seven inches of fresh snow had accumulated, the MeT officials said.

They said snowfall was also reported from Ganderbal district and adjoining areas.

Srinagar city, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, was lashed by rains in the morning and sleet -- a mix of rain and snow -- in the afternoon.

Srinagar recorded a rise of 6 degrees Celsius with mercury settling at 3.8°C against



last night's minus 2.2°C in the summer capital of the J&K. The temperature was above 2.9°C than the normal for this time of the year in Srinagar, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 2.2°C against minus 2.8°C on the previous night, he said.

Kokernag, also in Kashmir, had a low of 2.2°C against minus 3.0°C on the previous night, the official said. Pahalgam, the famous resort in south Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 2.4°C against minus 6.0°C last night,

he said. | More on P10

Kashmiri Artisan Weaves Silk Carpet For Salman Khan

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A 50-year-old carpet weaver from Srinagar city's Fateh Kadal area has made a silk wall hanging carpet of his idol and Bollywood superstar Salman Khan, and wants to present his artwork to "Bhaijaan". Mohammad Hussain took six

months to make the 900mm x 750mm artwork, which comprises 576 knots per square inch, in pure silk and carries the actor's portrait on both sides.

"Since there was not much work during the lockdown, I thought of paying my tributes to Bhaiiaan. With my savings, I created this piece of work and I want to gift it to him," Hussain said.

Asked about the cost incurred in making the wall hanging, Hussain said one cannot put a



price to such things. "I made this out of love for him. It cannot be measured in money," he said.

Hussain said he used 10 natural dyes just to make the silk yarn for the hair strands. "It commands a lot of time....from the perfect combination of | More on P10



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Kashmir Observer Wednesday | 23-02-2022 |

Youtube Adds Tiktok-Style Live Rings To Show When Someone Is Streaming



Tube TV users.

Established: 2017

NO:SOA/22/07

Dated: 21-02-2022

28-02-2022 (4 Pm)

Name of

the post

Lecturer

ture)

25-02-2021.

DIPK-18493/21

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01

Google-owned video-streaming giant YouTube is adding a new indicator to show when a channel is live streaming on the platform.

The feature would make it easier to find live content. The new update will display a ring with the word "Live" on it around a channel's profile picture when they are live streaming.

"Really focused on making it easier for users to find live streams on YouTube, so we are rolling out the Live ring feature on mobile. YouTube creators streaming live will now have a ring around the channel avatar and clicking on it will take you directly to the livestream," Neal Mohan, Chief Product Officer, YouTube, said in a statement.

Currently, TikTok uses a pulsing ring effect on a channel's profile picture to alert the user that it

Meanwhile, YouTube TV is finally getting support for picture-in-picture (PiP) on iPhone and iPad. Mohan said while he couldn't share an exact date, picture-in-picture support on iOS should arrive "hopefully in the next few months" for You-

The feature has been available to Android users for quite a while, but support for YouTube TV users on iOS is long overdue.

YouTube TV is also working on expanding some other features that include surround sound, which was launched last year on a very limited subset of

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India To Have 1 Billion Smartphone Users By 2026: Deloitte

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi- India will have 1 billion smartphone users by 2026 with rural areas driving the sale of internet-enabled phones, a Deloitte study said on Tuesday.

India had 1.2 billion mobile subscribers in 2021, of which about 750 million are smartphone users. It is poised to be the second-largest smartphone manufacturer in the next five years.

"The smartphone market is expected to reach 1 billion smartphone users by 2026," according to Deloitte's 2022 Global TMT (Technology, Media and Entertainment, Telecom) predictions.

This growth is likely to be propelled by the rural sector at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 6 per cent, compared with the urban sector growing at a CAGR of 2.5 per cent from 2021 to 2026.

"Higher internet adoption is expected to fuel demand for smartphones; this increased demand will be propelled by the need to adopt fintech, e-health, and e-learning,

Internet-enabled devices in the rural market will also get a push with the government's plan to fiberize all villages by 2025 under the BharatNet programme.

Deloitte said 95 per cent replacements in the urban market in 2026 will be toward new smartphones, while only 5 per cent will be toward pre-owned phones compared with 75 per cent and 25 per cent, respectively, in 2021.

The rural population is expected to demonstrate a similar trend where the average lifespan of a phone is four years. About 80 per cent replacements are likely to be for new devices, while 20 per cent for pre-owned ones in 2026. Correspondingly, the replacement of feature phones with smartphones is expected to gradually decrease due to a rise in the number of smart-

Feature phone replacements



will reach 60 million in 2026 from 72 million in 2021 for the urban sector. These replacements will drop to 60 million in 2026 from 71 million in 2021 for the rural sector

According to Deloitte's analysis, demand for smartphones in India is expected to increase at a CAGR of 6 per cent, to reach about 400 million smartphones in 2026 from 300 million in 2021.

This high demand is likely to be primarily created after the launch of 5G, which will alone contribute 80 per cent of the devices (about 310 million units) by 2026.

5G is believed to become the

fastest-adopted mobile technology due its diverse applications, such as high-speed gaming and remote healthcare. After the launch of 5G, addition-

al shipments of smartphones are expected to be 135 million (cumula-

"The total cumulative shipments of smartphones in the country are expected to reach 1.7 billion over 2022-2026, creating a market of about USD 250 billion, of which, nearly 840 million 5G devices are expected to be sold in a span of five vears," it said.

From 2022, 5G uptake will see year-on-year growth, leading to an increase in 5G smartphone sales in India. It will phase out the 3G mobile network given the evolution of

BEFORE THE HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF

JAMMU AND KASHMIR AND LADDHAK AT SRINAGAR

the digital ecosystem and the industry's efforts to launch affordable 5G handsets.

The recently announced incentive package of USD 10 billion to boost semiconductor manufacturing in India will drive handset manufacturing and make the country the second-largest smartphone market in the next five years, it said.

The India edition of Deloitte's 2022 Global TMT predictions indicates that digital and mobile are the key enablers of the future of technology.

Deloitte said the global shortage of semiconductor chips has affected the manufacturing industries across the world. As demand soars, supply is likely to be constrained in the near term, but gradually ease in 2023.

"As the ecosystem matures in the medium to long term, we expect India to emerge as a strong regional hub in semiconductor and electronics manufacturing," said P N Sudarshan, Partner and TMT Industry Leader, Deloitte India.

"The government's recent announcement on the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the semiconductor and electronics manufacturing industries has the potential to create an end-toend ecosystem for manufacturing electronic products. We expect the broader shift to digital to continue in 2022 and drive the industry growth in the future.'

مضمون: درخواست منجانب ارشا داحمه وار ولدعبدل احد وارسا كنه منگلوره نسبت Unemployment سرٹفیکیٹ بحق خود بمراد JKSSB Class IV Recruitment

اشتهار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر کے نسبت سائل کے کاغذات زیر بحث دفتر ہذامیں زىركاروائي ہے۔ بيان رپورٹ پٹواري حلقه سائل مذكورہ دھ مذاميں راہائش پذير ۔ ہےاور تجھی ترک سکونت اختیار نہیں کی ہے۔ نیز سائل مذکورہ تا حال سی بھی سرکاری یا غیرسرکاری محکمه میں کا منہیں کررہائے۔ اور ناہی سائل ندکور کے تمہ کا کوئی بھوفر دسرکاری ملازم ہے۔اور ٰ نہ ہی پیشن یافتہ ہے۔قبل اس کے کہ سائل کی درخواقست يرمذيدكاروائي كي ججائي-اول مرخاص وعوام كوبذريعاشتهار مطلع كيا جا تاہے کہا گراس بارے میں منسی شخص یااشخاص کوکوئی عذر یااعتراض ہوتوا یک ہفتہ کے اندر دفتری اوقات میں اسالتاً یا و کالتاً اپنے عذریا اعتراض پیش کریں۔ بعد گذرنےعیاد کوئی بھی عذر قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا تج پرالصدر

از نیابت رنبیر بوره بااجلاس غلام محی الدین بٹ صاحب رخواست منجانب . قرانساء دخر شوكت احديث ساكندرنير يور وتحصيل منن بغرض حصول: _RBA سر نفکیٹ

اشتهار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام۔

عاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائلہ نے ایک درخواست سرفطیٹ دفتر ہذامیں پیش کیاہے جس کی فوارر پورٹ جو لہ زیرکاروائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے ہے کہ سائلہ مجھلے بندرہ سالوں

شوكت احدث في بردالا وراحم في في 43 مال برائيويث المازم LPC Certificate ريحانهاخترز وجه شوكت احمر شيخ 40 سال گريلوكام

سطرح سائلہ کا کنبہ 04افراد بیشتمل ہے۔ اورسائلہ کے کنبہ میں کوئی سرکاری ملازم موجونہیں ہے ۔. سائلہ کے لبیہ کے پاس دھذامیں 4 کنال آراضی موجود ہے۔ جبکی سالانی آمدانی=/000,70 ہزاررو پیہ تک ہےسائلہ ک کنید کی سالاند آمد نی تمام زراعی یے تقریباً آٹھ لا کھرو پیرینگ ہے۔ اسطور سائلہ RBA سر نفلیک اجراء لرنے کیخواہیش رکھتاہے اگر کسی مخض کو کوئی عتراض ہوتو وہ بعدسات دن کے اندرا ندرآ پناعذریا عتراض دفتر ہزامیں پیش کریں۔بعد گزرے میعاد کو بی عذریاعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

PUBLIC NOTICE

Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objecton 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. Sameer Ahmad Sheergojri

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S/O Habibullah Sheergoiri

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ANANTNAG within a period of seven days from the date of publi-

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Name:- Adil Ahmad Wani

R/o:-Thajiwara Anantnag

S/O:- Mohammad Yousuf Wani

SCHOOL OF CAVEAT NO:- /2022 R/o Zalangam Kokernag **ARCHITECTURE-KASHMIR** JK Board Of Professional Entrance Examinations

through its Secretary

to a maximum of ten per cent, of the total seats in each category."

(Caveators)

(Non Caveators)

Public at large IN THE MATTER OF: CAVEAT PETITION

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIPS; The Caveators most humbly and most respectfully submits through its counsels as under:

That, the J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examination (BOPEE) is a statutory body competent to conduct examination and subsequent counselling for admissions to the professional colleges/courses. However, after the introduction of NEET, Board does not conduct examinations for UG/PG Medical/Dental courses but conducts the counselling of the candidates for admissions to these courses in accordance with the rules. That, for the conduct of counselling and allotment of seats the Board takes into consideration the reservation policy of the

UT govt. and the rules in vogue on the subject. That, an amendment was carried out in SRO-294 of J&K Reservation rules of 2005 vide SRO-518 of 2019 dated 2.9.2019 with

which provisions have been carved out for "Economically weaker section" However, Reservation Act 2004 has been amended through the Re-organisation Act of 2019 by the parliament consequent upon which UT of 1&K Govt has amended the Reservation Rules, which

That, the Govt. of India, Ministry of Health and Family welfare increased the intake capacity of various Medical colleges ina. Govt. Medical College, Jammu Govt. Medical College, Sgr c. SKIMS, Sri-

d. Govt. Medical College, To provide 10% EWS quota with a view to implement 103 constitutional amendment. these four colleges has been increased from 150 to 180 in respect of (a) and (b) and from 100 to 125 in respect of (c) and from 100 to 115

in respect of (d) above with the total increase of 100 seats. The intake capacity of the other medical colleges has not been increased. That, as per the Sub-clause (b) of Section 2 of the constitutional (103 Amendment) Act, 2019 which reads as follows: "(b) any special provision for the advancement of any economically weaker special provisions relate to their admission to educational institutions including private educational institutions, whether aided or unaided by the State, other than the minority educational institutions referred to in clause (1) of article 30, which in the case of reservation would be in addition to the existing reservations and subject

That, the Board in session 2019-20 and session 2020-21 had given the 10% of EWS quota in only those medical colleges where the intake capacity for this purpose had been increased: Now, in Session 2021-2022, the matter was taken up by the Chairman, JKBOPEE/ Financial Commissioner, Health and Medical Education Department with the Principal Secretary, General Administration Department, Secretary Social Welfare Department and Special Secretary, Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs on 11 of February, 2022 and it was opined that the 10% reservation of EWS quota is to be given on the total number of seats in all the Medical Colleges of UT of J&K, Lc, 960 after deducting the 40 seats which is to be given exclusively to UT of Ladakh and not in only those medical colleges where the intake has been increased The decision of earmarking all the enhanced seats for EWS in the 4 colleges is also in conformity with SO 249 dated 23 July 2021 of the Social Welfare Department of the J&K Reservation Rules, 2005 stating that the benefit of reservation under Economically Weaker Section category shall be available only in respect of those Institutions where the intake capacity has been increased over and above its annual permitted strength in each branch of study and faculty by the competent authority, so that the number of seats available, excluding those reserved for the persons belonging to the EWSs are not less than the total seats available in the immediately preceding academic session.

That, the BOPEE has issued the testativet max on 1 of February 2012 wheety the 10% EWS quota has been given only in the instinis where the imde capacity has been increased for the said purpose. As the wond tentative e com that the said seat matrix was provisional, unconfirmed and preliminary which was to changes and confirmation. That, the IKBOPEE has issued the revised seat matrix of NEET UG, 2021 on 21.02.2022 vide notice No. 007-BOPEE of 2022 and

has also withdrawn the native scat matrix issued on 01.02.2022, in view of the decision taken in the meeting held on 11 of February, 2022 as already mentioned in the supra para to meet the purpose and purport of the 103 Constitutional Amendment. That, it is expected that the aggrieved students may approach Court before this Hon'ble High Court against the said notice. That, the Caveator being a statutory body competent for conduct of counselling and allotment of seats taken into consider-

ation the reservation policy of the UT Government and the rules vogue on the subject is entitled to be heard in case any proposed petition is being submitted to appear before the Hon'ble Court for proper adjudication involved in the matter. That this caveat is supported by an Affidavit duly sworn.

In the premises, it is therefore, most respectfully prayed that the Hon'ble Court may be pleased to direct the opposite party/ proposed petitioner to provide the copy of proposed writ petition, interim application to the caveators or their counsel and caveator being given the opportunity of hearing before passing any order/ direction against them. The order sought to be passed would meet the ends of

Place: Srinagar.

Principal

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER - BUDGAM

NOTICE Whereas a joint application has been received from Shri

Abdul Hamid Sheikh S/o Gh. Mohidin Sheikh R/o Bogam Batpora Chadoora (as transferor) and shri Mohd Ishaq Bhat S/o Haji Ab. Karim Bhat R/o Bogam Batpora Chadoora (as Transferee) for transfer of Pick Up carriage route permit No covering vehicle no JK04D-4998.



Now, therefore, it is notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said rout permi/vehicle shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper S.News/K. Observer. Sd/- Assistant Regional Transport Officer

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Caveators through counsel

(Government Advocate)

Rekha Wangnoo



Contact:-9149965005/9682370979

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District Level Plastic Waste Management Cell Holds Meet



Observer News Sevice

RINAGAR: A meeting of District Level Plastic Waste Management Cell was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad AijazAsad at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex, here.

The Cell has been set up to address the issue of plastic pollution by strictly implementing Plastic Waste Management Rules and eliminating single use plastic in the district.

At the outset, threadbare discussions were held on the action plan of Plastic Waste Management and present status with regard to implementation of the Action Plan to eliminate the plastic waste management.

On the occasion, the DC emphasized on the concerned authorities for taking measures so that the plastic waste is properly and adequately collected, segregated and reprocessed. He also called for mass mobilization for elimination of single use plastic with wider public participation including educational institutions.

The DC asked the SMC authorities to launch an IEC campaign on a massive scale so that people are made aware about the ill effects of the use of polythene. He instructed them to set up material recovery facilities for proper segregation and removal of biodegradable waste. He also asked them to achieve 100 percent door to door collection of waste material including plastic. He also directed them to launch a massive drive against the violators selling and purchasing items in polythene bags.

The DC was informed that SMC is taking various measures to manage the plastic and solid waste by incorporating latest interventions like Waste Energy Processing Plant, Bio Remediation/ Bio Mining, Garbage Transfer Stations and other latest interventions to ease solid waste management issues in a scientific manner.

The DC stressed the SMC to take measures for cleaning of bunds along the Jhelum and take strict action against the people throwing plastic and garbage into the River Jhelum.

He asked the Industries Departme courage and incentivize the industries involved in the manufacture of eco-friendly biodegradable substitutes for single use plastic and polythene.

Similarly, the RDD Officers were directed to take all measures to make all panchayats of Srinagar district free of polythene to preserve the ecological balance.

The DC also stressed on better coordination among the line Departments so that desired results are achieved regarding elimination of single use plastic in the district.

Besides, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Dr Syed HaneefBalkhi, the meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats, Chief Sanitation Officer, SMC, Deputy Chief Education Officer, District Officer Pollution Control Board and Officers of Rural Development, Industries and other concerned Departments.

Mayor Takes Stock Of Development **Works In Srinagar**

Agencies

Srinagar: Srinagar Mayor Junaid Azim Mattu visited various city areas to take stock of developmental projects besides initiating new projects. He passed on directions for prompt initiation of work on upcoming Cricket stadium at Shanapora Habbak. He also visited ShanporaHabbak ground where a Cricket Stadium and a High School is coming up and passed on several directions to the concerned for immediate initiation of work.

He also passed on directions for the development of Public Parks at Nandipora, Mir Behri andRainawari areas of city.

He directed the officials to prepare a DPR within a weeks' time for development of Public

Park at Mir Behri. Mayor interacted with the inhabitants of the place who put forth their several issues before him. He assured them that all the grievances

would be resolved in time. Mattu earlier visited Meerak Shah Colony to review the ongoing constructional work on protection wall of a Mosque and also took stock of

PHE works of Fisherman Colony Habak Mayor directed the concerned officers to accelerate with the work so that the projects are completed in a time bound manner.

JLNM Hospital Gets NBE Accreditation In Anesthesia, Ophthalmology, Pediatrics

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Director Health Services Kashmir (DHSK), DrMushtaq Ahmad Rather on Tuesday congratulated JLNM Hospital Srinagar for getting National Board of Examination (NBE) accreditation for the department of Anesthesia, Ophthalmology and Pediatrics for Diplomate of National Board (DNB)

The director while hailing the contribution of Shri Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary, J&K Health and Medical Education Department said they have been able to get the accreditation under the guidance and support of the ACS.

He said the ACS has been constantly taking the reviews about the progress of DNB accreditation and has solved all the issues pertaining to DNB courses and has been the guiding force in achieving the desired results

JLNM has been accredited in the department of Anesthesia (2 post MBBS seats and 1 post-diploma seat) Ophthalmology (1 post MBBS seat and 1 post-diploma seat) and Pediatrics (4 diploma seats). JLNM has already got accreditation in medicine besides DH Kupwara and DH Kulgam had been accredited for

Spokesperson DHSK, Dr Mir Mushtaq said the director congratulated the staff and administration of JLNM hospital and hoped that other institutions of the valley will also get the accreditation for DNB courses in near future.

He said the NBE programs are the cornerstones for the upgradation of health care services since it

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commis-

sioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aija-

zAsad today finalized the Action

Plan and arrangements put in place

in the district for smooth conduct of

Intensified Pulse Polio Immuniza-

tion Programme (IPPI) -2022 sched-

uled for February 27, in a meeting

prised that as many as 198984 chil-

dren of the district in the age group

of 0-5 years will be administered po-

lio vaccines on February 27 across

the district for which adequate ar-

rangements have been put in place.

vaccination booths have been es-

tablished in five medical zones of

the district with deployment of 3154

officials, besides, 19 Transit vac-

The DC was informed that 668

On the occasion, the DC was ap-

Observer news Service

held here.

Plan for IPPI-2022



provides an opportunity to doctors to upgrade their skills.

"It will help in producing more qualified doctors and help in better patient care delivery and will overcome the shortage of specialist doctors at peripheries," he said.

The DNB courses have been introduced in district hospitals and new Govt. Medical Colleges besides old GMCs and SKIMS in order to strengthen the institutions, decongest the GMCs and to address the shortage of specialists in J&K.

Meanwhile, DH Udhampur has been accredited in the department of obstetrics and gynecology (1 Post MBBS Seat).

GMC Anantnag has been accredited in the department of Psychiatry which includes 2 post MBBS seats and 1 post-diploma seat) and in ENT

cination booths operated by CMO/

Dy CMO, Block and Zone level have

Vaccination Booths will be set up at

JVC, SKIMS, Bemina, G B Panth,

LD & SMHS Hospitals, CMO Office,

DC Office, Directorate of Health Ser-

vices, Batamaloo Bus Stand, Gan-

taGhar, B.B Cant hospital, Dy CMO

office, Soura, Jehangir Chowk, TRC,

near Mughal Darbar, JLNM Hospi-

operated at Block/Zone levels have

also been arranged at Batamaloo

Bus Stand, Parimpora Bus Stand

Panth Chowk Bus Stand, HMT

Crossing, Nowgam Railway Cross-

ing, Qamerwari Chowk, LD Hospital

Booths will be established at ITBP,

Similarly, 6 special vaccination

Gate, Harwan and Nishat areas.

While 9 Transit Booths to be

tal and PHC Khanvar.

It was given out that 10 Transit

been set up to facilitate the people.

DC Srinagar Finalizes Action

1 post MBBS seat and 1 post-diploma seat and in medicine 4 post MBBS seats have been accredited.

Similarly, GMC Kathua has been accredited in the department of obstetrics and gynecology which includes 2 post MBBS seats and 2 post-diploma seats.

GMC Rajouri has been accredited in the department of Anesthesia which includes 2 post MBBS seats and 1 post-diploma seat.

The DNB courses are expected to drastically improve the health care services in the far-flung districts and improve the services in the tertiary care institutions as well.

This is also expected to markedly bring down the referral from the far-flung districts to the already overburdened tertiary

Pantha Chowk, Police Hospital,

Trans Muslim University, Kash-

mir Tibbia College, Police Housing

Colony and Composite Hospital Sri-

DC said that it is the collective re-

sponsibility of all stakeholders to

achieve the fixed targets to keep

the district polio free. He stressed

for wide publicity of the program

through mass media so that no child

is left out especially in the far-flung

up special sites at construction sites,

Brick kilns and areas under Nomad

attended by Chief Medical Officer,

DrJameel, Deputy CMO, DrNighat

and all Zonal Medical Officers.

The DC directed the CMO to set

The meeting among others was

areas of the district.

ic Populations.

Speaking on the occasion, the

DIAL-EMMA

TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686 PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883



PDD: 0194-2450213 FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488,2452222,2452155 CAPD: 18001807011

SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259 ANANTNAG: 01932-228243 BARAMULLA: 0194-102029 BIJBHERA: 01932-228243 PAMPORE: 01933-294132



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

PATTAN: 01954-293507

QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

CALENDAR 21 - Rajab 1443

| PRA | PRAYERS | | | | |
|--------|----------------|--|--|--|--|
| FAJR | 5: 45 | | | | |
| ZUHR | 12:44 | | | | |
| ASR | 4:42 | | | | |
| Magrib | 6:24 | | | | |
| ISHA | 7: 44 | | | | |
| | | | | | |

This Day In History

1883 - American Anti-Vivisection Society organized (Philadelphia)

1886 - Aluminum manufacturing process developed 1886 - "The Times" of London publishes world's 1st classified ad

1903 - The US and Cuba sign an agreement by which Cuba releases Guantanamo and Bahia Hondo to the US for naval stations.

1903 - The Sultan agrees to an Austro-Russian plan to reform the government of Macedonia in yet another effort to stifle the rising disorder among the rival Bulgarian

1904 - United States acquires control of the Panama Canal Zone

1904 Having occupied Korea, Japan signs a treaty with Korea under which it becomes a Japanese protectorate in return for Japanese protection from other powers

1919 - Fascist Party forms in Italy by Benito Mussolini

1940 - Russian troops conquer Lasi Island 1943 - German troops pull back through Kasserine-pass Tunisia

1944 - Forced deportation of the Chechen and Ingush people to Central Asia. 1954 - 1st mass inoculation against polio with Salk vaccine (Pitts-

1958 - USSR performs nuclear test at Novaya Zemlya USSR.

1967 - US troops begin largest offensive of Vietnam War.

1983 - The United States Environmental Protection Agency announces its intent to buy out and evacuate the dioxin-contaminated community of Times Beach, Missouri. 1987 - Supernova 1987A in LMC 1st seen; 1st naked-eye supernova

since 1604. 1991 - US insists Iraq publicly announce it is leaving Kuwait by 12

1997 - Scientists in Scotland announce they have cloned an adult

mammal, producing a lamb named "Dolly" 1998 - Osama bin Laden publishes a fatwa declaring jihad against

all Jews and Crusaders. 2007 - Japan launches its fourth spy satellite, stepping up its abil-

ity to monitor potential threats such as North Korea. 2012 - A series of bomb attacks across 12 Iraqi cities kills 60 and

2013 - 51 people are killed and 62 are injured in conflict between

rival tribes in Darfur, Sudan,

From KO Archives

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER REW DIVISION BANDIPORA

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

SHORT TERM E- NIT No. 87/2021-22 Dated: 21/02/2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Of Union Territory Of J&K, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with UT of J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

| S. No | Name of Work | Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs) | Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.) | | Class of Contrac- tor | Earnest Money (In Rs.) | Major Head | Panchayat /Gram Sabha |
|----------|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---|------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 10 | hi |
| 1 | Constt of foot-path with foot culvert from irrigation khul to HO Gh Rasool baba and others Constt of foot-steps with tile path from main road to HO Bashir Ahmad khan sumandar khan and Constt of saintry complex near HO Miya Mushtau at Dardoora | 4.00 Lacs | 200/- | 30 DAYS | DEE | 2%FDR/ CDR/ of Advt. Cost at time of tender- ing by all bidders | BDC-Grants | BLOCK:- ARIN |
| 2 | Fencing of Patwar khana at Gamroo | 2.00 Lacs | 200/- | 20 DAYS | I | 2%FDR/CDR/of Advt. Cost at time of tender- ing by all bidders | BDC-Grants | Block:- Bandipora Halqa : Gamroo |
| 3 | Fencing Of Khawaja Padshah at Chittaybanday-A | 2.50 Lacs | 200/- | 20 DAYS | I | 2%FDR/CDR/ of Advt. Cost at time of tender- ing by all bidders | BDC-Grants | Block:- Bandipora Halqa :Chittiban- |

Position of AAA: Accorded Position of funds:Partiality Available

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates.

| 1. | Date of Issue of Tender Notice | 22-02-2022 |
|----|--|--------------------------|
| 2. | Period of downloading of bidding documents | 22-02-2022 |
| 3. | Bid submission Start Date | 22/02/2022 from 6:00P.M. |
| 4. | Bid Submission End Date | 28/02/2022 at 4:00 P.M. |
| 6. | Date & time of opening of Bids (Online) - | 28/02/2022 at 6:00 P.M. |
| 7 | Note: Hard copy of original Treasury ChallanReceipt, EMD in shape of CDR of 2% Adv cost Cost and | |
| 1 | other hid relevant documents within three days after opening of hid by the 1st lowest hidders | |

Special Condition: As per Govt. Order No: 238 -FD OF 2021 Dated: 07-09-2021: Special Condition: Participation/Allotments of works can be limited to members of Gram Sabha of each panchayat upto amount of 3.00 lacs only and participants should be registered with District

Development Commissioner (in case of non availiblity of contractors card in said panchayat) BANDIPORA also members from nearest panchayat may

be included in case of non availablity of card in concerned panchayat. The tender / bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)

No.Xen/REW/BPR/17289-98 Dated:-21/02/2022 DIPK-18517/21

Sd/-**Executive Engineer REW Bandipora**

APHC chairman escapes bid on life

Observer News Service

RINAGAR - The chairman of the Hurriyat Conference, Prof Abdul Ghani Bhat and about 10 of his colleagues had providential escape at Tarzoo today when residents spot-ted a grenade tied to the footboard of their vehicle just as the APHC delegation was about to drive off from the village.

Prof Bhat had addressed a public gathering outside the local mosque, and he and the rest of the delegation, which among others Included Qazi Manzoor, Gbulam Nabi Zaki, Syed Iftikher Hussain Jalali, Mukhtar Ahmad Naqshbandi, Iftikhar Geelani, Sheikh Abdul Hameed, had boarded their Tata Sumo at about 3:30 p m when someone from the surrounding crowd shouted in

There is a grenade tied to the vehicle! Get down, "the crowd shouted," Prof Bhat told Kashmir Observer.

The grenade, found tied to the rod that serves as the footboard of the Sumo (JKOIB 7032) was detached by our of Prof Bhat's personal security guards. The grenade pin had been pulled half-way out of the

socket; the bumpy ride and the vehicle's vibrations would have done the rest", Prof Bhat said. Whether or not it would have killed us, but the grenade would certainly have exploded once we were on our way In all probability the grenade had been planted on the

vehicle at the spot when it had been left parked in Tarzoo, Prof The grenade was handed over to police guard on duty at the

local branch of the JK Bank, as, according to Prof Bhat, there were no policemen around in the vicinity We didn't encounter a single policemen, even when the public raised an outcry against the attempt', he said. In fact, it

was from the local bank that the SHO Sopore was informed. It is a wild and tendentious assertion on part of the police to claim that they recovered the grenade. There were absolutely

no policemen around". The attack was probably in honour of the three-month extension of the cease-fire. Evidently, a big morsel was required". Apart from Bhat, nearly 10 of his colleagues had boarded the

Sumo when the alarm was raised. He said he would not like to apportion blame, but that he found the police statement shocking

The Hurriyat chairman said Tarzoo had not been on their itinerary for the day The Hurriyat group had set out for Bulgaam and Amarpora to meet the next kin of firing victims and it was at Amarpora that the delegation, on an Impulse, decided

It was prayer time when they had arrived at Taarzoo. "Infact, I led the prayers at the local mosque, and later, at public insis-

tence, addressed a gathering in the adjoining grounds," he said.

KASHMIR OBSERVER, 23 February (, 2001)

Regular Int'l Flights Likely To Resume From March 15



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Regular international flights are likely to resume from March 15 and will follow the standard operating procedures effective at Indian airports for foreign arrivals and departure, government sources said on Monday.

Given the consistent decline in Covid cases, a decision on resuming scheduled international flights has almost been arrived following consultation with the Health Ministry, they said.

However, no official announcement has been made by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation so far.

15. The Guidelines for Internatries on a reciprocal basis. tional Arrivals, which came into effect from February 14, will be countries 'at-risk' and other followed at airports for the pas- countries has been removed. sengers of these flights," an official source said.

Such flights have been suspended in India since March 23, 2020, due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Special passenger flights have been functioning between India and around 40 countries since July 2020 under air bubble arrangements.

The Health Ministry has issued revised guidelines for international arrivals, with effect from February 14, doing away with the mandatory seven-day home quarantine and the need at by the Civil Aviation Ministry for them to undertake an RT-PCR test on the eighth day.

Apart from uploading a negative RT-PCR report, taken 72 hours before the journey, there is an option to upload certificates of the completion of the "Regular International flights full primary Covid vaccination is likely to resume from March schedule provided from coun-

Also, the demarcation of

Accordingly, the need for giving samples on the port of ar-The ban on scheduled inter- rival and waiting till the result national passenger flights in is obtained from countries 'at-India is in effect till February 28. risk' has been dispensed with.

UP Polls: Yogi Brings The 'Bulldozer' Reference **Again; Akhilesh Counts Utility Of 'Bicycle'**



Press Trust Of India

LUCKNOW: Samajwadi Party chief Narendra Modi's jibe linking his party's election symbol 'cycle' to the bicycles used in the 2008 Ahmedabad bomb blasts an insult to the nation.

"By connecting the farm and the farmer, our cycle lays the foundation of farmers' prosperity. Our cycle breaks social barriers by taking girls to school. Our cycle is not affected by inflation, and races ahead."

"Cycle is the aircraft of ordinary people, pride of rural India, insulting the cycle is the insult of the entire nation," he tweeted in Hindi on Sunday, counting the utility of bicycle.

The comments by Yadav came after Modi accused the Samajwadi Party (SP) of being sympathetic to terrorists.

Days after a court convicted 49 people for the Ahmedabad serial blasts, Modi had said that he had vowed to punish the perpetrators even if they took refuge in 'paatal' (hell).

He said he had wondered why the terrorists had opted for bicycles to plant bombs in the initial blasts in Ahmedabad.

On February 18, a special court in Ahmedabad had sentenced to death 38 members of the terror outfit Indian Mujahideen in the 2008 serial blasts case

The court also sentenced 11 other convicts to life imprisonment. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi

Adityanath on Monday described the "bulldozer" as a UP government "brand", saying it is effective both for building expressway and running over the mafia.

The UP authorities have been using bulldozers to demolish illegal buildings constructed by criminals and Samaiwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav had earlier called the CM "bulldozer baba"

Attacking the Samajwadi Party (SP) during an election meeting, Adityanath said his government has created a new "brand".

"Bulldozer is effective for expressway and also to run over the mafia," he said.

Adityanath said the state does not need those who dream but a government that moves forward with a firm resolve.

He also accused the previous SP government of withdrawing cases against those involved in acts of terror.



Putin Declares Lugansk And Donetsk Independent Republics

Agencies

Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a decree recognizing breakaway Lugansk and Donetsk regions in eastern Ukraine as independent republics.

Putin made the announcement live on television after an an emotional address in which he referred to eastern Ukraine as "ancient Russian lands" and said it was "managed by foreign powers".

"I deem it necessary to make a decision that should have been made a long time ago - to immediately recognize the independence and sovereignty of the Donetsk People's Republic and the Lugansk People's Republic," he said.

Announcing his recognition, Putin signed treaties on friendship, cooperation and mutual aid with Donetsk leader Denis Pushilin and Lugansk leader Leonid Pasechnik.

Putin also told Russia's defense ministry to deploy troops into the two regions to "keep the peace" in a decree issued shortly after announcing his recognition of their independence from Ukraine.

The decree said Russia now had

I CONDEMN Russia's decision to

extend recognition to the self-proclaimed 'Donetsk People's Republic' and 'Lugansk People's Republic',"

the right to build military bases in the breakaway regions and that troops' mission would be to uphold the peace.

In a lengthy televised address, Putin described Ukraine as an integral part of Russia's history and said he was confident the Russian people would support his decision.

He also vented his grievances against the West, saying the recognition was a direct result of the failure of the 2014 Minsk agreements designed to put an end to a protracted fighting between Ukrainian troops and pro-Russia forces.

The Russian leader took a swipe as Western powers which supinterested in peaceful solutions they want to start a blitzkrieg".

Putin also accused Ukraine of

"extreme nationalism," and "Russophobia", saying Kiev was sending saboteurs to target Russian infrastructure and attempting to "drag foreign states into conflict with our country."

He denounced Ukraine's ambitions to join NATO as an "immediate threat of attack" against his country.

Earlier, Ukraine rejected as "fake news" claim that Russia had killed five "saboteurs" attempting to cross into the country.

European condemnation

NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg accused Russia of continuing to fuel the conflict in eastern Ukraine and "trying to stage a pretext" for an invasion.

"I condemn Russia's decision to extend recognition to the selfproclaimed 'Donetsk People's Republic' and 'Lugansk People's Republic'," Stoltenberg said in a statement.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said European Union countries port Ukraine, saying "they are not have agreed to impose a limited set of sanctions "targeting those who are responsible" for Russia's recog-"Every day they are amassing nition of the breakaway regions.

Russia-Ukraine: Why Putin Recognised Separatist-Held Regions

SAINT PETERSBURG, RUSSIA -The tense standoff between Russia, and Ukraine and Western governments sharply escalated on Monday night as Russian President Vladimir Putin recognised two breakaway regions held in eastern Ukraine by pro-Russian rebels as independent states and ordered troops into the territories.

"I deem it necessary to make a decision that should have been made a long time ago – to immediately recognise the independence and sovereignty of the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) and the Luhansk People's Republic (LNR)," he said in a televised speech.

The move was condemned by Western countries at a marathon meeting of the United Nations Sespeakers raised an alarm of a Rus-



sian invasion into Ukraine. The United States also responded by barring citizens from doing business with the rebel territories and warned of further sanctions, as did other allies.

Putin's announcement came that Russia will intervene on the front lines, is not yet known.

rebels' behalf and launch a campaign beyond areas already ruled by the separatists.

Ukraine has denied it is behind the attacks.

Although a law officially recognising the DPR and LNR has yet to pass the Federation Council, Russia's upper chambers of parliament, the matter could be settled as early as Tuesday.

Putin also instructed the Russian army to act as peacekeepers to the newly recognised "republics", where he had earlier described the situation as a "genocide".

Further complicating things, as more than 100,000 Russian the two self-proclaimed "people's soldiers remain stationed on the republics" also claim the rest of Ukrainian border, with tens of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions thousands more taking part in as their territory, beyond where training exercises in neighbour- they already control. Whether ing Belarus, amid accusations of this means Russian forces will attacks by the Ukrainian military attempt to push further into curity Council, during which many on rebel positions, sparking fears Ukraine, past the pre-existing

Imran Khan Arrives In Moscow Today Amid War Fears

Press Trust Of India

Prime Minister Imran Khan will visit Russia on February 23-24, diplomatic sources said in Islamabad on Monday, signalling the first visit by a Pakistani premier to Moscow in 23 years.

An official from Pakistan's Foreign Office confirmed that Prime Minister Khan will visit Moscow on February 23-24.

He has been officially invited by Russia and Prime Minister connection with the Pakistan Gas Khan will hold talks on key issues of bilateral interest with top leadership, the official told PTI.

Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Sunday confirmed that preparations for the visit of the Prime Minister Khan were underway, the staterun TASS news agency reported.

"The visit will take place on February 23-24," it quoted a source in diplomatic circles as saying. Khan's visit has not been officially announced by Pakistan and Russia.

The visit, which comes amid heightened Russia-Ukraine tensions, is expected to focus on bilateral ties, particularly economic and trade cooperation.

Progress is also expected on the country towards Russia and China. Pakistan Stream Gas Pipeline project that the Russian company would undertake in Pakistan laying a pipeline from Karachi to Kasur near the Indian border

proceedings and tax exemptions in possible help to Islamabad.



Stream Project.

Khan is also expected to hold a key meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, sources in Pakistan said earlier.

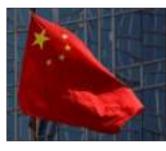
Khan will become the first Pakistani premier to visit Russia in 23 years after former premier Nawaz Sharif travelled to Moscow in 1999.

Though former presidents General Pervez Musharraf, Asif Ali Zardari and former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi visited Russia, none

of them was an official trip. Pakistan's ties with Russia have moved past the bitter Cold War hostilities in recent years and the chill in the relations between Pakistan and the US has further pushed the

In April last year, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov visited Islamabad after a gap of almost nine years. During the visit, he conveyed a message to Pakistani leadership A Russian delegation was in Paki- on behalf of President Putin that stan recently to negotiate toll-free Moscow was willing to extend all

China Promises To "Work For Early Return" Of **Stranded Indian Students**



Press Trust Of India

BEIJING: China has promised to India to work for the "early return" of over 23,000 Indian students stranded at home for over two years due to Beijing's rigid COVID-19 visa ban sion that Indian students may be and assured New Delhi that they discriminated against in view of the will not be discriminated against in current political stalemate between any manner, as their resumption of the two countries due to the milistudies is not a "nolitical issue"

In its first positive communication on the vexed issue of stranded medicine in various Chinese colhas informed the Indian Embassy "they are cognizant of the welfare Indian students".

(MFA) of China has assured the Embassy that they are cognizant of the welfare of all foreign students, the opening ceremony of the Beijing including Indian students, and have also conveyed that they will work on their early return to China in a coordinated manner and will continue contact with the Embassy on to permit its medical students studythis matter," an Indian Embassy press release here said on Tuesday.

'Chinese MFA also conveyed that the return of Indian students was not a political issue and they will not be discriminated in any manner while deciding on the return of foreign students to China to resume their education," it said.

Embassy "continuously highlighting these issues with the relevant Chinese authorities in the last two years", it said.

The MFA too has made vague assurances in the last two years whenever the Indian media here questioned the delay of the return of the students and the plight they suffered at home despite paying hefty fees. The references to not to make the students return a political issue and assurance to not to discriminate against them followed China assuring leaders from Pakistan, Mongolia and Singapore that it will allow their early return.

It also aims to dispel an imprestary standoff at eastern Ladakh

China had promised during the visit of Pakistan Prime Minister Im-Indian students, mostly studying ran Khan early this month to "arrange" for the return of about 28,000 leges, the Chinese Foreign Ministry Pakistani students who are stuck back home for the past two years following visa curbs imposed by Beijing of all foreign students, including under its zero COVID-19 case policy.

China reportedly made similar as-"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs surances to leaders of Mongolia and Singapore whose leaders like Khan also visited Beijing to take part in Winter Olympics in early February.

Recently, the Sri Lankan government urged Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi during his visit to Colombo ing in Chinese universities to return as their future was at stake.

While making these promises, Beijing has not given any definite timelines to those countries to permit the students to return. Since 2020, China has stopped

issuing visas for Indians and currently, there were no flights in op-The assurance followed the eration between the two countries.

IN FOCUS

Can Hijab Be Worn In Classroom? What Karnataka Government Told Court

Press Trust Of India

BENGALURU: The Karnataka government on Tuesday told the High reasonable restrictions subject to of the Karnataka High Court.

institutional discipline. on Hijab inside the educational institutions, Karnataka Advocate General Prabhuling Navadgi said the right to wear the headscarf falls under the category of 19(1) been argued by the petitioners.

"The right to wear Hijab falls Hijab, then there is no restriction

'subject to the institutional discipline'. The rights claimed under Article 19(1)(A) is related to Article 19(2) where the government places a reasonable restriction Court that there is no restriction subjected to institutional restricon wearing Hijab in India with tion," Navadgi told the full bench

The full bench of Chief Jus-Countering the petitioner tice Ritu Raj Awasthi, Justice J Muslim girls from Udupi district, M Khazi and Justice Krishna M who challenged the restriction Dixit is hearing a batch of petitions seeking permission to wear Hijab inside the classroom.

Navadgi further said the institutional restriction in the present case is only inside the (A) and not Article 25 as has educational institutions and not anywhere else.

Arguing further, he said the inunder Article 19(1)(A) and not dependent claim of 19(1)(A) can-Article 25. If one wishes to wear not go together with Article 25. "The consequence of the de-



sential religious practice is huge Indian constitution. because there is an element of compulsion or else you will be nothing in sub clause (a) of expelled from the community," Navadgi told the court.

The Article 19(2) says that clause (1) shall affect the operation of any existing law, or pre- gate religion.

Article 19(1)(A) is related to vent the State from making any

reasonable restrictions on the exercise of the right conferred by the said sub clause in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence.

Article 25 deals with freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion and says that subject to public order, morality and health and to the other proviequally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propa-

On January one, six girl stu-

law, in so far as such law imposes dents of a college in Udupi attended a press conference held by the Campus Front of India (CFI) in the coastal town protesting against the college authorities denying them entry into classrooms wearing hijab.

This was four days after they requested the principal permission to wear hijab in classes which was not allowed. Till then, students used to wear the headscarf to the campus, but entered the classroom after removing it, college principal Rudre Gowda had said.

"The institution did not have sions of this part, all persons are any rule on hijab-wearing as such and since no one used to wear it to the classroom in the last 35 years. The students who came with the demand had the backing of outside forces," Gowda had said.

Brick Kiln Worker Finds 1 Cr Diamond **PANNA:** A man operating a small scale brick

kiln business has found a 26.11 carat diamond in a shallow mine in Madhya Pradesh's Panna district, an official said on Tuesdav. The precious stone may fetch up to Rs 1.20 crore in auction, Panna's diamond officer Ravi Patel said. Sushil Shukla, a resident of Kishoreganj in Panna town, and his partners found the diamond on Monday in the mine located near Krishna Kalyanpur area, the official said. The gem will be put up for auction in a couple of days and the proceeds would be given to the miner after the deduction of government royalty and taxes, he said. Shukla, who runs a small scale brick kiln busi-

ness on a rented land, told reporters that he and his family were also involved in the diamond mining work for the last 20 years, but this was the first time that he unearthed such a big gem. The man said he had taken the shallow mine, where the diamond was found, on lease along with five partners. -PTI

Transhumant Tribal Population To Get Smart Cards Soon

Major Step For Hassle-Free Biannual Migration: Choudhary



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Tribal Affairs Department in coordination with J&K Police, Forest Department and Census Operations Department finalised the modalities for Smart Cards to be provided to Transhumant tribal families for hasslefree movement during migration and access to various services. The meeting to finalise the design and contents of the Smart Cards was chaired by Secretary, Tribal Affairs, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary. A detailed presentation was made about the survey of migratory population and planned interventions in various sectors.

Director, Census Operations, G Prasanna Ramaswamy, Chief Conservator of Forests, Samuel Chankija, Director Tribal Affairs Mushir Ahmed Mirza, Secretary, Advisory Board, Mukhtar Ahmed, Superintendent of by the department last year.

Police, Hafizullah, Jt Director Planning Shama un Ahmed, OSD Dr Abdul Khabir and other senior officers and members of the UT level Committee attended the meeting.

The Smart Cards are planned to replace the multiple permissions regime and offer a unified central database to all the organisations and agencies for smooth and hassle-free movement of Transhumant families during the biannual vertical migration. Embedded with chip containing the demographic details, transit routes, originating place, destination and other vital statistics these Smart Cards will end the process of multiple permissions. These cards will also be utilised for various government services rolled out of migratory population and will be issued based on the survey conducted

met NC president Abdullah at his

residence and had a "heated argu-

ment" with him over the issue. "I

walked out and submitted my res-

ignation from the basic member-

ship of the party." Bukhari claimed

he was ready for any sacrifice for

"We will leave for Delhi to meet

the Central government under the

shortly to push for Scheduled

Tribe status before the holding of

next assembly polls in Jammu and

Kashmir... We are not ungrateful if

Centre accepts our long-pending

BJP leader Devender Singh Rana

and sought his support for the de-

mands of Pahari speaking people.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh, had

resigned from the post of provin-

cial president (Jammu) of National

Conference along with party col-

league S S Slathia in October last

south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

gorge after skidding off the road

while coming from Anantnag to

Pahalgam, resulting in injuries to

eight persons. The Injured persons

reffered to PHC Pahalgam where

doctors reffered them to GMC An-

Reports said that a Tavera ve-

Rana, the younger brother of

Bukhari had recently met senior

the welfare of the tribe.

demand," he said.

NC Leader Mushtaq Ahmad Shah Bukhari Quits Party

6 Soldiers, 2 Tourists Among 24

ing six army soldiers and two tourists hicle (JK018A-0320) fell into a

a vehicle they were travelling in official said that a case has been

skidded off the road at Laganbal Pa- registered in this regard. (GNS)

Injured In Separate Accidents

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: National Conference leader Mushtaq Ahmad Shah Bukhari resigned from the party's basic membership on Tuesday after a "heated argument" with Farooq Abdullah over the issue of Scheduled Tribes status for Pahari speaking people.

Bukhari, a two-time ex-MLA banner of Pahari Tribes ST Forum from Surankote in Poonch district, had on Sunday chaired a convention by the Pahari Tribe ST Forum here which saw over 350 delegates in attendance with Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina as the chief guest.

"I had stated that we will not hesitate in supporting any party which will help the community in achieving its long-standing demand of Scheduled Tribe status.

"The remarks had not gone down well with the National Conference leadership and I was asked for an

SRINAGAR: At least 24 persons includ-

were injured in four separate acci-

army soldiers were injured when

a gypsy they were travelling had

a collision with Dumper vehicle

(JK01R-1833) at Choora area of

Sangrama in the district. Six army

soldiers were injured and imme-

The injured have been identi-

fied as Dharmender Singh, Muttu

Kumar, Puneetkar, Taranjit Singh,

Mandeep Singh and Taminder

Singh. A police official said that a

case has been registered and fur-

Eight persons were injured after

ther investigations taken up.

diately removed to hospital.

Official sources said that six

dents in Kashmir Valley on Tuesday.

explanation," Bukhari told PTI. The former minister said he year and joined the BJP.

A GIRL WALKS THROUGH a snow-covered road in Fakeer Gujri hills on the city outskirts on Tuesday.

Man Attempts Self-Immolation Against Demolition Drive

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A 27-year-old man suffered severe burn injuries as he set himself on fire on Tuesday during an anti-encroachment drive in Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

Following many complaints, the Irrigation and Flood Control Department had launched a demolition drive against illegal constructions along the water bodies, the officials said.

During a demolition drive along the banks of the Sindh stream, Amir Hamid Shah came from behind an illegal structure, climbed on its roof and set him- cued by SHO Ganderbal and loself on fire in protest, they said.

The flames were doused by

the officials said, adding a deep the police spokesperson said. trench dug to prevent demolition personnel coming in which hampered a prompt rescue.

The incident was caught on camera and was doing the rounds on social media. prompting the police to urge people not to share the clip.

Meanwhile, police in a statement said that the youth suddenly appeared from behind the illegal structure and self immolated on its roof in protest against demolition of illegal structure raised on the banks of the water body.

"The person was however, rescals on spot. He received burn inthe locals and police personnel, off and was shifted to hospital," PTI inputs)

"A deep trench was dug by the owners of structure to pre-

vent any ingress into the premises which prevented a prompt rescue," he added. The spokesperson further said that the police extended all

help and support in the hospitalisation of the youth besides assuring family members best medical treatment.

"One police team is already there in hospital and facilitating his treatment," the statement reads, adding, "Moreover Police requests to media fraternity and general public not to circulate the video of unfortunate incident which is too graphic juries before flames were doused for the common people." (With

Minus Cong, No Third Front Can Fight BJP: Mehbooba

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Any political alliance or third front without the Congress statement that the J&K cannot fight the BJP, J&K Peoples Democratic Party president Meh- will be held within booba Mufti said on Tuesday, ac- six to eight months cusing the saffron party of "shaking" of the completion of the basic foundations of the coundelimitation exercise, try by its divisive policies.

She said the assembly elections said the election is a are part of the democratic process normal activity in a ing it in Jammu and Kashmir is not a favour to its people.

Without the Congress, no alliance or third front can succeed in defeating the BJP. The Congress has this nation over the past 70 years and there is no alternative to the Congress in the country, she said, winding up her five-day tour of Jammu province.

antnag for specialized treatment. The injured persons identified Reacting to the reports about as Mohammad Saleem Dar from Telangana Chief Minister K Chan-Pahalgam, Fahameda wife of Mandrasekhar Rao's bids to forge an zoor Ahmad from Anantnag, Imtianti-BJP front ahead of the 2024 yaz Ahmad from Anantnag, Shageneral elections, Mehbooba said hid Nazir from Kokernag, Muneer what the Congress and other gov-Ahmad from Mujgund Srinagar, ernments build over the past seven decades is being sold by the BJP Vipal Chohan from Gujrat, Jyoti which needs to be dislodged in the Chohan from Gujrat and driver Imtiyaz Ahmad Mir from Batkot. interest of the country. Confirming the incident, a police

On Union Home Minister Amit Shah's the PDP president

ernment is behaving like it is going to give a big favour to the people by holding the polls.

Election is a routine process in a played a pivotal role in building democracy which should happen without any delay. There is no need to give much hype to it. By holding the elections, they are not doing any favour to the people of J&K, she said.

Mehbooba said the interim report of the delimitation commission has caused an uproar across Jammu and Kashmir as all the parameters under which the exercise should have been conducted were thrown to the winds.

Quoting the interim report which the delimitation shared with its five associate members -- three of the National Conference and It is not possible without the two of the BJP -- the PDP leader Congress. No third front or any al-said there are some constituencies country by following the RSS agenda liance, minus Congress, can defeat which have 70,000 voters, while and sidelining the Constitution.

SRINAGAR ACID ATTACK CASE

ome have two lakh voters.

were supposed to carry out the exercise on (2011) census which is not evident, she said adding the BJP-led government is stubborn and one does not know if the commission will address the the people and make

necessary changes in its report. Over 750 farmers died during their agitation for revocation of three

central farm laws which were finally revoked ahead of the state assembly elections. When they are making a decision, they feel it is something unalterable, Mehbooba said. She said India is a country of all

its citizens irrespective of their religion, creed and caste but they want to turn it into (Mahatma Gandhi's assassin) Godse's country.

There is a need for all opposition parties to come together against the BJP which is shaking the basic foundations of the country through polarisation and divisive politics, she added.

She also alleged that the BJP wants to end the (secular) identity of the

2-Week 'Research Methodology' Workshop **Begins At IUST**

Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: To aware the research scholars about the new trends in research methodology in the field of Management & Social Sciences, two week online interactive workshop on "Research Methodology in Management, Commerce and Social Sciences" being organised by the Department of Management Studies (DMS), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) commenced here.

Vice Chancellor Prof Shakil Ahmad Romshoo who was the Chief Guest and Chief Patron while congratulating the Department for holding such workshops in series, stressed on developing cognitive skills among the researchers so as to build the research capacity through these interactions.

Keynote Speaker Prof. Azhar Kazimi from the Department of Management and Marketing, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Miner- tor of the workshop Dr Shakeel-urals, Saudi Arabia deliberated upon Rehman also detailed the design of conceptual clarity in the process of

research and the steps to be undertaken while pursuing research.

Prof. Azhar Kazimi also highlighted the practical problems of research scholars in doing a research. Professor of Management Studies at KU Prof. Shabir Ahmad Bhat who was the Guest of Honour while appreciating the efforts of university in highlighting the scope of research spoke about the relevance of being a good researcher in contemporary times.

Earlier, in his address, Associate Dean, School of Business Studies During the Inaugural session, and Head Department of Management Studies, Dr Asif Iqbal Fazili briefed about the theme of the workshop while formally welcoming the guests.

Associate Professor, DMS and Convener of the workshop Dr Anisa Ian extended her appreciation to all partners who contributed for the realization of the workshop while Assistant Professor, Department of Management Studies and Coordinathe workshop.

SKIMS To Start Postdoctoral Fellowship Programs, NBE Grants Accreditation

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Sher-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), is all set to launch a Postdoctoral Superspeciality Fellowship Program as an enhanced academic activity.

This follows the acknowledgement from NBE which has granted accreditation to the institute for its established record and potential to undergo such academic pursuits because of constant endeavour of the faculty for advancing medical research and training, an official spokesperson said.

SKIMS will be providing two seats each in the two specialties for fellowship in Interventional Cardiology and Infectious diseases. Further, SKIMS has also achieved two seats for Emergency Medicine from the current session. Director SKIMS & EOSG who

described the accreditation as an achievement for the institute said that this has come as an added strength to academic structure and as an avenue to aspirants for excellence in advanced studies. He added that shortage of ad-

cialists will also be addressed It is pertinent to mention that SKIMS is one of the few centres in the Country to have accreditation to run Superspeciality Fellowship Courses in various specialties including Minimal Access Surgery, Spine Surgery, Neuro Anaesthesia. Hand & Micro Surgery (Laparoscopy).SKIMS has a dedicated NMC (National Medical Commission) section managed by Prof. Aijaz Ahmed Malik to facilitate the processes regarding accreditation and course recognition with National authority viz-a-viz vanced human resource of spe- NMC Delhi and NBE New Delhi.

DC Kulgam Reviews **Functioning Of Revenue Dept**

Observer News Service

missioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat on Tuesday chaired a meeting of Officers of Revenue Department to review its functioning.

ious revenue matters including implementation of eviction plan, removal of encroachments from state/kahchari 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 **SRINAGAR:** The Deputy Com- state and kahcharai land, the DC sought details from all Tehsildars about the retrieved land under their jurisdiction.

The DC directed all the Tehsildars to intensify anti-encroach-During the meeting, thread-bare discussion was held on var-tehsils to retrieve the encroached land and provide photographic proof of land retrieved during such anti-encroachment drives. The meeting also discussed

the status of writing of Jamabandies, digitization of land records and concerned Tehsildars were directed to expedite the process of completion of pending Jamabandies at an earliest.

Anantnag Admin Launches Project 'Manzil'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr Piyush Singla on Tuesday launched Project Manzil here.

Project Manzil is an online initiative of the District Administration Anantnag in collaboration with Mission Youth launched with an aim to provide civil service aspirants an opportunity to interact with working civil service officers, provide guidance for clearing the exam and understand the nuances of the civil services as a career opportunity.

Speaking on the occassion, the DC said that there is a lot of enthusiasm among the youth to take up civil services as a career. He said however the lack of understanding and the preparation strategy is a barrier faced by many. A chance to interact with people, who have qualified the exam and are already in service, can be a beacon of light for many aspirants. "We will help you sail through this exam and reach your manzil" added the DC.

Police Files Charges, Want Juvenile Accused To Be Treated As Adult

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Completing its investigation in three weeks, Jammu and Kashmir police on Tuesday filed two separate charge sheets against three accused, including a juvenile, in the acid attack on a woman in downtown city, officials said.

Two of the accused, identified as Sajid Altaf Rather and Mohammad Saleem Kumar alias Tota, were produced before Chief Judicial Magistrate here as the police submitted a 1,000-page charge sheet against them. The court committed it to the Principal Sessions Court and the hearing will begin from March 8.

A similar charge sheet was filed against the minor before the Juvenile Justice Board with an additional application

that he be treated as an adult under the amended Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, whereby youngsters in the age group of 16-18 can be tried under Indian Penal Code (IPC) if they are accused of heinous crimes.

The juvenile accused is 17 years old in this case and was riding pillion on a scooty when Rather allegedly threw acid on the face of the woman in downtown Srinagar.

The officials said the two accused and the juvenile were charged under sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and 326-A (voluntarily causing grievous hurt by use of acid) of the IPC.

"We have filed a water-tight charge sheet and we will make a plea to the court for a daily hearing of this case. If a daily hearing

is not possible, we would request the honourable court for a speedy trial," Senior Superintendent of Police (Srinagar) Rakesh Balwal said. He said they have applied to

the Juvenile Board to treat the minor as an adult according to Section 15 of the amended Juvenile act. The charge sheets were filed

within three weeks of the incident to ensure swift and exemplary punishment to the accused and to deter those who may be having such "barbaric" tendencies, officials said.

"The maximum punishment under these sections is life and the minimum is 10 years but we will press for maximum so that it acts as a deterrent," Balwal said.

He said a dedicated inspector

rank officer has been appointed for liasoning with the prosecution team to secure a fast conviction in this case.

"I am glad that the charge sheet has been presented and I will be contesting against the accused in the court of law and ensure speedy justice for the victim," advocate Mir Naveed Gul, representing the victim's family,

On February 1, a man accompanied by a juvenile allegedly threw acid on the 24-year-old woman after she rejected his marriage proposal, an incident that shook entire Srinagar and drew widespread condemnation from across society.

After initial treatment in Srinagar, the victim was sent to a Chennai eye hospital for specialised treatment.

JK-IGRAMS

Baramulla Gets 3rd Rank In Grievance Redressal

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Adding one more feather in the cap, the District Baramulla on Tuesday was declared as the 3rd leading district that has performed remarkably well in public grievance redressal mechanism being monitored through Jammu and Kashmir Integrated Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (JK-IGRAMS), supervised directly by the Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory.

This was informed today during the 10th episode of LG's Mulaqaat- a programme whereby the issues of randomly selected applicants across the Union territory of J&K are taken up and heard by LG himself and on spot directions are given to the concerned officers.

The Lt Governor expressed his satisfaction over the progress report on the status of grievances and applauded top five leading performers.

It is worth here to mention that, since the inception of JK-IGRAMS portal, District Baramulla has received 5416 applications, among which as many as 5134 grievances have been resolved with a disposal percent-

Expressing satisfaction over the constant increase in the rate of disposal of grievances since the portal was launched, the Lt Governor asked the officers to focus more on the quality disposal of public issues.

OBSERVER 1

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KO VIEW

Abating Third Wave

ndia is witnessing a gradual return to normalcy following an overwhelming spike in Covid-19 infections during the third wave. From over three lakh cases successively over five days from January 19 to 25, the country's daily caseload on Tuesday came down to as low as 13,405. Similarly, there have been 235 fresh fatalities, This underlines that the third wave is on its way out. And as an indication that things are improving in the right direction, Dubai has scrapped pre-departure RT-PCR Covid test for Indian travelers. Until recently, the passengers were supposed to take an RT-PCR test at the departure airports within six hours of the flight. Various states in India are also lifting the restrictions including the Covid curfew. India is also restarting regular international travel from March 15 after remaining suspended for nearly two years.

But there is still cause for concern. There is already talk of a fourth wave triggered by new Covid variants. More than two years after the coronavirus first surfaced in China's Wuhan, the world remains far from getting a grip on it. In the process, the virus has wrought havoc on the global economy. In the first quarter of 2020, India's GDP declined by one-fourth. It is only now that some recovery is underway. But to keep up the progress, the world needs to act in concert to ensure there is no further surge in cases of infections. This calls for governments around the world to stay alert. There is a greater need for collaboration on vaccination and also strict observance and enforcement of Standard Operating Procedures.

One thing about Omicron-driven wave is that while it has triggered intense flare-ups, there have been less hospitalizations and deaths. In that sense, the mutant is less virulent than the earlier version. Here's hoping that Omicron spread doesn't lead to the emergence of yet another deadly variant.

That said, there is still a significant section of the population, both in the country and in J&K, which is without vaccination. And they remain most vulnerable. It is time that they too get their shot. Similarly elderly population and healthcare workers need booster doses. The union government has now fully approved the use of Covaxin and Covishield vaccines which would be now more widely available. The centre has also suggested changes in rules for booster doses. According to these changes, precautionary third doses of vaccines would be given to health and frontline workers and adults above 60 years of age, dealing with illnesses. The recommended gap between the second and the third dose is currently nine months. There is hope that the ongoing wave will be over by the end of this month and by March, the situation could be more or less normal again.

OTHER OPINON

Turnout indications On Polling In Punjab, U.P.

f recent elections are anything to go by, turnout numbers are no indication of which way the mandate is swinging. Conventional wisdom has been that high turnout numbers correspond to an antiincumbency effect, and indeed, a sudden spurt in voting numbers could indicate a wave in a particular direction. But with voter turnouts, especially among the poor, going up significantly in recent years across India, changes in turnout numbers offer little by way of explaining the outcome. The drop in voter turnout in Punjab from 77.4% in 2017 to 71.92% in 2022, however, indicates a certain frustration with the polity in the State. In the last few months, there have been drastic changes in the party system following the removal of Captain Amarinder Singh from the Chief Minister's post, his leaving the Congress and joining hands with his erstwhile arch-enemy, the BJP. The anger over the farm laws that were later repealed, was felt the most in rural Punjab and the farm agitations against the Centre's policies should have provided a viable path for the ruling Congress to succeed. But the infighting within the Congress and its belated but logical promotion of incumbent Charanjit Singh Channi as the "chief ministerial" candidate complicated matters for the ruling party. Reports from the ground suggested that the Aam Aadmi Party was also able to capitalise on the general resentment with the two national parties and the Shiromani Akali Dal, but the fragmentation of the polity and a general lack of clarity among them over the issues that have affected the electorate seems to have dampened voter enthusiasm in the State.

In the third phase of polling in 59 seats in central Uttar Pradesh, the voter turnout was 60.46%, marginally lower than the 62% voting in 2017 in the same seats. As with the earlier phases, there were a higher number of voters in rural areas compared to cities, a case in point being Kanpur city which registered only a 56.14% turnout. With identity politics, welfare and patronage dominating the narrative of the elections here, urban voters seemed less enthused compared to their rural brethren perhaps because of the lack of an adequate emphasis on civic issues in the political discourse. That said, ground reports from the three phases have indicated a closer contest in comparison to 2017 when the BJP had a field day sweeping district after district in the Assembly polls. Except in Bundelkhand, there has been enough of a wind behind the sails of the Opposition — the Samajwadi Party-led coalition in particular – and the high pitched third phase campaigns in the potato-growing areas are an indication that the election is not done and dusted. The relatively peaceful nature of the polls and the centering of socio-economic issues rather than religious identity bodes well for the next four phases of voting in India's most populous State

The Hindu

This Is The Russia-China Friendship That Nixon Feared



Farah Stockman

ao Zedong arrived in Moscow in 1949 expecting to be feted for delivering China, the world's most populous country, to Communism. Instead, Joseph Stalin humiliated him by making him wait for a meeting.

Although Stalin and Mao eventually signed a Treaty of Friendship, Mao chafed at being treated like a hayseed from a backward country. By the 1960s, Mao was openly feuding with the Soviets over leadership of the Communist world. The Soviet Union and China even battled each other in 1969 over disputed territory along their long border.

That created an opening for Richard Nixon's trip to China on Feb. 21, 1972, a diplomatic overture aimed at peeling China away from the Soviet orbit. In the short term, Nixon's eight-day visit was an unambiguous success. Chinese leaders agreed to help spy on the Soviet Union. Nixon won re-election. The stage was set for China's eventual integra-

tion into the global economy.

But as we mark the 50th anniversary of that visit, some U.S. officials and foreign policy analysts have second-guessed the wisdom of partnering with Beijing. Even Nixon apparently looked back on the strategy with mixed feelings, and possibly some regret. Russia was a military threat, but never an economic rival. China, however, is becoming the first power in a century capable of challenging American dominance on both economic and military terms

Some American policymakers felt that China would eventually rise, with or without U.S. help. If you take that view, then welcoming China as a friendly partner, instead of a hostile power, made sense. Today, China has a far bigger stake in the international system and the U.S. economy than Nixon could have imagined possible.

Still, over the years, American policymakers have oversold the benefits of engaging China and have underplayed the risks. Steps by China toward a free-market economy didn't turn it into a democracy, as many argued it would. And although a lot of American businessmen grew wealthy off China's success, and American consumers were able to buy a lot of cheap stuff, many American workers suffered when factories moved to China. Over the last 20 years, Washington has been too preoccupied with the war on terrorism to think about how to prevent the United States from becoming too dependent on a Communist country that could prove to be fundamentally at odds with us.

President Xi Jinping of China makes no secret of his view that the United States is a fading superpower

that is intent on blocking China's ascent to its rightful place in the world. Donald Trump slapped tariffs on Chinese goods, bringing an era of hopeful engagement to an end. But Mr. Trump's isolationism benefited China, which filled the void of America's global retreat. President Biden, who has rallied Europe, Australia and Japan with talk of fighting autocracy and making democracy bloom around the world, presents a thornier problem for Mr. Xi.

CIT'S TOO EARLY TO

tell how far China will stick its neck out for Russia in its confrontation with the West over Ukraine. China's leaders have long argued for a world free of formal military alliances. They've been cautious about getting entangled in other countries' military conflicts

If the United States and Europe remain united, they form an economic bloc that is still roughly twice the size of China's economy. But by framing the struggle as a fight between the "free world" and dictatorship, the Biden administration risks pushing Russia and China closer together into what some are calling a "new axis of autocracy." This time, Moscow is the little brother, seeking support from Beijing. It could prove to be among the most consequential geopolitical develop-

ments in decades

"What the West is doing now is the exact opposite of what Nixon did back then," Adrian Geiges, the co-author of the forthcoming "Xi Jinping: The Most Powerful Man in the World," told me. "Russia and China are not natural partners. They are partners because of the common enemy — the United States and Western Europe."

It's too early to tell how far China will stick its neck out for Russia in its confrontation with the West over Ukraine. China's leaders have long argued for a world free of formal military alliances. They've been cautious about getting entangled in other countries' military conflicts.

But President Vladimir Putin of Russia and President Xi took pains to present a common front recently when they issued an extraordinary joint statement hours before the opening night of the Winter Olympics in Beijing. The statement pledged that their cooperation would be "superior" to the one forged between the two countries during the Cold War. No area of cooperation would be off limits, presumably including Russia giving China its most advanced weaponry.

The two countries began edging closer together in 2014, after Russia's invasion of Crimea prompted Western sanctions. Russia weathered the fallout with some support from China, which beefed up trade and its purchase of Russian oil and gas.

This month, the friendship appeared to break new

This month, the friendship appeared to break new ground. The statement marked the first time that China has supported Russia's demand for an end to NATO expansion. By signing onto the text, Russia also supported China's claim to Taiwan and both sides said they were "seriously concerned" about the U.S. decision to forge a military alliance with Britain and Australia and to cooperate "in the field of nuclear-powered submarines."

President Putin and President Xi might not be natural allies, but they have an awful lot in common. Both see the United States as a chaotic hegemon. Both men were profoundly shaken by the collapse of the Soviet Union, which they viewed as a cautionary tale of what not to do. Both have clamped down hard on dissent and dispensed with or circumvented presidential term limits, paving the way for the potential to rule for life.

And both, longing to restore their countries' role as great powers, are striving to recover territory that they see as having been lost to the West: Ukraine, in Russia's case, and Taiwan, in the case of China.

The most striking thing about their statement was its sweeping declarations. It reads like a manifesto calling for the United States to recognize that it is no longer the boss of the world.

Two months after President Biden presided over a "democracy summit," Mr. Putin and Mr. Xi assailed "certain states' attempts to impose their own 'democratic standards' on other countries, to monopolize the right to assess the level of compliance with democratic criteria, to draw dividing lines based on the grounds of ideology." The world has changed, they asserted. Russia and China should be respected as "world powers" that get to dictate what happens in their own backyards. The statement can be read as an attempt to peel America's allies away, or to make Americans lose the will to fight.

The truth is that the world has changed. American democracy doesn't look as shiny as it used to. Many people in around the world are tired of Westerners telling them what to do.

And yet the world is not jumping at the chance to be bossed around by the world's largest surveillance states, either. It's not an exaggeration to say that the fate of the world depends on our ability to get the response to this "axis of autocracy" right. Americans have to stand up for our values and our allies without ending up in a catastrophic war. No matter how testy relations become, we should remember that the biggest threats we face today — climate change, the pandemic and nuclear proliferation — threaten Russia and China, too.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by the New York Times

The author joined the Times editorial board in 2020. For four years, she was a reporter for The Times, covering politics, social movements and race. She previously worked at The Boston Globe, where she won a Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 2016.



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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

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Power Theft – Who's Responsible?

ITH the potential to generate 20,000 megawatts of hydropower, Kashmir is still in darkness. Being the chief producer of electricity in India, Kashmir should have the least electricity crisis but that is far from the ground reality. The valley faces power cuts throughout the year but during winter it becomes very hard to live with electricity for several days.

Electricity, in the 21st century, is not a luxury rather a necessity, like air and water. But in Kashmir, even the capital city of Srinagar faces a lot of power cuts. And even when electricity is available the voltage is so low that a bulb doesn't work properly, let alone other heavy electrical appliances.

With such circumstances, people are left with no option but to go through unethical and illegal means like electricity theft. The PDD department needs to understand the necessity and provide electricity accordingly. That's the only solution to curb power thefts. Also, transformers burn at least every five days during winter, leaving people suffering for days.

The price people pay for electricity is unfair because first of all rates are higher than the supply and secondly, electricity should be cheap because it is generated domesti-

cally. Why would anyone pay such a huge amount for a bare minimum? If the government had to purchase electricity from outside then it was somewhat justified.

One of the reasons for electricity theft is that many people don't consider it as theft because they feel it's their own as it is produced in the valley. It could be stopped only when the population is made aware that this is theft as most of the population doesn't consider it as theft. The clergy delivering Friday sermons should educate people regarding the theft.

The PDD should carry regular checks to make sure employees are not indulging in corruption and do-

ing their work with proper ethics. Whenever any field staff member is caught taking bribes and helping the public in thefts, strict action should be taken against them.

While government agencies should set an example by taking strong action against the field staff and public involved in the wrongdoing, at the same time PDD should update their infrastructure and make sure that the public is getting sufficient amounts of electricity during winters, so that they won't resort to theft.

Tabia Masoodi Srinagar

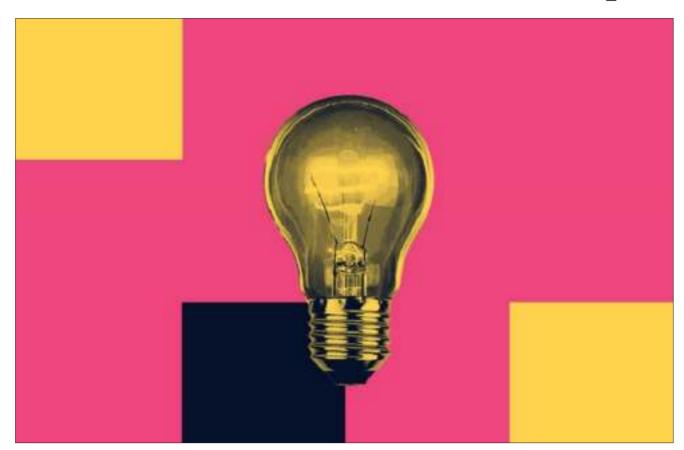
ON INNOVATION: What Makes People Creative

Muzamil Faroog

NOWING what motivates people to be creative is essential for any manager, teacher, or student concerned with creativity and, ultimately, innovation. So let's take a look at some extremely creative people. What about Leonardo da Vinci, for example, the well-known 15thcentury artist and scientist? He created beautiful paintings as well as nice blueprints for various types of innovations, such as aeroplanes, long before they were built. He is regarded as one of the greatest minds that ever lived. How about Thomas Edison? Among many of his novel inventions, he invented the light bulb and the motion picture camera, both of which were implemented in various products and found to be extremely useful. What about the well-known artist Salvador Dali? He was well-known not only for his beautiful surrealistic paintings, but also for his sculptures and jewellery. What do these individuals have in common? What inspires these creative geniuses? Some argue that creative geniuses are slightly insane, and that it is the madness that drives them to be creative.

Let's take a look at what inspires people to be creative. Teresa Amabile, a Harvard scientist, developed a model that specifies the factors that are important for people to become creative as early as the 1980s. She specified three variables. The first is expertise, which includes technical, procedural, and intellectual knowledge of the domain in which one works. The second factor is motivation, or the willingness to complete a task. Finally, the third factor is creative thinking abilities, which refer to how effectively and imaginatively people can approach problems. According to the Amabile arc, all three of these factors are required for creativity to emerge. So, rather than having just one of them, you need to have all three to some extent in order to be creative.

Let's take a closer look at these three components. When people consider expertise, they frequently believe that there is such a thing as too much knowledge. And perhaps this is true in the sense that some people have been working in a job for too long and have learned so much that they can no longer think outside the box. But, in all honesty, what is far more of a problem is a lack of knowledge. Why is a lack of knowledge such a problem?



THIS IS DIFFICULT BECAUSE MANY PEOPLE LIVE THEIR lives like robots, as if everything is pre-programmed for them, which makes sense because it is very efficient. For example, when we say goodbye to someone, we simply wave and say bye bye. This is something we do automatically. We don't have to consider it. This is also true for many of the things we do. We don't consider them; we just do them

For example, if you don't know enough about a subject, you won't know what has been done before, so you might be working on something that isn't novel. You also have no idea where the boundaries in this area are because you have insufficient expertise. So you could be working on something spectacular and not even realise it, and then abandon it because you don't see the value of your idea. Or you're unsure what's feasible. Maybe you're working on a solution that simply doesn't work, and because you don't realise it, you keep working on it for far too long. Finally, you might not know what's useful and come up with ideas that are completely unrelated. It is therefore difficult to be creative unless you have sufficient knowledge and expertise to speak for these four elements.

Let's take a look at the second aspect of motivation. People frequently distinguish between two types of motivation when discussing motivation: extrinsic motivation and intrinsic motivation. Extrinsic motivation refers to doing a task not because you enjoy it, but because of something you gain from it. Consider the carrot and the stick. Maybe you work because you want money or a promotion, or maybe you work to keep your house from being foreclosed on be-

cause you owe money on it. All of this is an example of extrinsic motivation. You engage in an activity, but you do so in exchange for a reward. There is also intrinsic motivation, which is when you do something simply because you enjoy it and would do it anyway if you didn't get anything out of it other than joy and satisfaction. And we know that intrinsic motivation has some advantages. For instance, if you are more intrinsically motivated, you are more likely to overcome obstacles that arise. You are more willing to overcome them and go the extra mile. You are more willing to continue after a failure, and this is an important

aspect of creativity, failing, failing, failing before you can succeed. Intrinsic motivation increases your willingness to work hard and think about the problem continuously, and all of these factors combine to make intrinsic motivation such an important component of creativity. So, if you want to be creative, it helps to be intrinsically motivated.

Let's take a look at the final aspect of creativity. The final component is called creative thinking skills, and it is all about how adaptable and imaginative you can be when approaching problems. This is difficult because many people live their lives like robots, as if everything is preprogrammed for them, which makes sense because it is very efficient. For example, when we say goodbye to someone, we simply wave and say bye bye. This is something we do automatically. We don't have to consider it. This is also true for many of the things we do. We don't consider them; we just do them. While this is beneficial because it is efficient, it works against you if you want to come up with a creative solution. Being creative may be difficult if you behave like a robot. When you use automatic scripts and schemas from your head, you stop thinking too soon before you find the best solution. You also make far too many assumptions about what is going on. In some ways, it's better to think like a child, like someone who hasn't learned all of these assumptions, all of these automatic scripts and schemas, a person who sees a box and thinks it's more than just a box.

It's a fortress. It's a ship. That kind of thinking, thinking outside of the box, is exactly what it takes to create and be creative. So, let's sum it up. What inspires people to be creative? Is this insane? Perhaps for some, but for others, there are three critical elements. Having enough knowledge, being intrinsically motivated, and having creative thinking skills are all necessary for being creative. Creativity is the generation of novel and useful ideas, while innovation is the successful implementation of these ideas within a company. In other words, every innovation begins with a creative idea, and with the mentioned three elements of creativity, the good news is that everyone has the ability to be creative.

The author is a Student M.Sc. Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship at NIT Srinagar

'Right Now' Doesn't Exist In The Universe

The Concept Of Time Is Key To Understanding Perception, But It Is Not As Simple Or Easy To Understand As We Would Like

PABLO G. PÉREZ GONZÁLEZ

his is the story of two nearly identical twins, Iris and Hera. In a way it's a dystopian story, negative by our current standards: it was their destiny to be separated from a very young age and end up in places very far removed from one another. A few months before turning three, Iris, who missed her sister but did not know where she might be, had her own picture taken. Many copies were made and sent in every direction, in the hopes that this would help locate Iris's missing twin. Hera did something similar, as they were like two drops of water, even in their thoughts. Considering that neither one knew where the other one lived, the letters containing the photographs traveled for a long time without reaching their intended recipient, a highly improbable event.

One day, when Hera was already 90 years old, she received a letter, opened it and found a picture of herself inside. She looked at it and was reminded of something. She compared it with a picture of herself and recognized her own image at age three. It was a photograph of her longlost twin sister Iris! But what did she look like these days? Did she grow up to have friends, get married and form a family like herself? Hera liked to think that her twin's life was similar to her own, full of experiences, some happy, some less so. Perhaps her surroundings were not exactly the same, but the main things surely were not so different, because after all, they were nearly identical sisters!

But there were other, more worrying thoughts in her mind as well. Was Iris still alive? She thought of reaching out and sending her another photograph, but it might take more than the 87 years that had passed since her sister sent her picture. Melancholy, she figured that she, at age 90, could right now only know how her sister Iris was doing at age three. They shared a moment in time that was in reality separated by a whole different existence and life paths.

Hera kept thinking about it. If Iris was doing something right now, if she was still



alive, but Hera was not there to see it with her own eyes, did her sister really exist? It was then that Hera understood a bit better the famous phrase "If a tree falls in a forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?" – a question that was pondered by philosophers such as René Descartes and David Hume. If she could not see or hear her sister right now, it was as though her sister did not exist. But it was so sad to think that way! It was almost better when she was unaware of her sister's existence, because it was terrifying to realize that reality was not in fact the way she had thought about it until now.

This story about twin sisters could be the story of two galaxies if we multiply it by 155 million every year. The farthest known galaxy at this time is GN-z11, which could be considered our Iris, who sent "photos" of herself in every direction in the form of electromagnetic waves when the universe was around 400 million years old,

just three percent of its current age. At that time she had a sister galaxy, perhaps a twin, Hera, which by today's standards was not that far away. This other galaxy was in fact our own Milky Way, and it had a lifetime ahead of it.

Now that the universe is nearly 14 billion years old - the 90 years of Hera in our story – we finally know what GN-z11 looks like. Or perhaps we should say what GN-z11 looked like 13.6 billion years ago. But what does "right now" mean to the universe? Is it the union of our earthly present with what we can learn about what happened to GN-z11 a long time ago, together with what we know about other galaxies that are closer and whose light has traveled shorter times allowing us to learn about the universe in younger times? Or is "right now" something we might say exists even though we cannot know it, have no information about it and will not for a long time, perhaps never, because our species will go extinct before that?

More questions: where is, or perhaps more accurately when is (or to create a new cosmological term altogether, wherewhen) GN-z11? Might there be someone in the galaxy that GN-z11 has evolved into that is receiving photons of our own Milky

reformulated to say that physical laws are universal and apply to the entire cosmos.

Or, if we go a step further, the universe at all times and in all places is ruled by the same physics. If so, and there is nothing to prove the contrary so far, although it hasn't been proven either, like all good axioms; if the

we haven't yet received its light, it will have followed a timeline of its own that has yet to cross our own. So we will not be able to know about them until a long time from now, perhaps, as is most likely, when humans have disappeared altogether. In that case, do they exist? Just like the solitary tree in the forest, do they "make a sound"?

Way? In that case, they would be images of our past, of the way the Milky Way looked like 13.6 billion years ago (neither the Sun nor the Earth existed back then). Could there be someone in another galaxy contemporaneous with GN-z11? If that other galaxy exists and we haven't yet received its light, it will have followed a timeline of its own that has yet to cross our own. So we will not be able to know about them until a long time from now, perhaps, as is most likely, when humans have disappeared altogether. In that case, do they exist? Just like the solitary tree in the forest, do they "make a sound"?

And as a last turn of the screw: is there right now anyone in a remote and physically (meaning scientifically) inaccessible spot in the universe? If the answer is yes, then reality exists far beyond our own perception and there are aspects of today's existence that we will never be able to prove, chiefly for lack of time. If the answer is no, they do not exist because we do not perceive them, then we would be breaking the foundations of modern cosmology, the so-called Cosmological Principle, which says that the universe (at a certain scale, but that's another story) is the same no matter where you are or in which direction you look. This principle, or axiom to use mathematical jargon, can be

universe is more or less the same in all places at a given moment, it would seem that whatever it is that GN-z11 has evolved into, and in any galaxy that shares with us what we might call "a disjointed and unmeasurable right now" (meaning we have no information about it, as that's impossible), right now there should be the necessary conditions for the emergence of life. And using the same argument, there must also have been the conditions for the existence of intelligent life. If not the case, we would be alone in the universe, which is a very self-centered thought of the kind that time and again throughout history has been proven wrong and even detrimental to our existence.

To conclude, let us consider what we want to be. A Hera who knows about the Iris of the past and is resigned to the fact that she will never get in touch with her? An Iris who doesn't know and perhaps will never know anything about her sister? Or do we want to be someone who wants to know what happened and where Iris' letter to Hera traveled and send our own letter back? There will be answers for all tastes.

The author is a researcher at the Astrobiology Center of the Spanish National Research Council and the National Institute of Aerospace Technology (CAB/CSIC-INTA). The article was originally published by El Pais

Pandemic Effect

'Indian Consumers Now More Conscious Of Health, Fitness And Holistic Nutrition'

Press Trust Of India

Indian consumers are willing to spend more on fitness classes and activities, consuming natural foods, health supplements, and following specialised diets with the Covid-19 pandemic creating 'the biggest seismic shift' taking health and immunity to the centre stage, according to a survey by consultancy firm EY India.

Around 94 per cent of Indians are worried about their family's health against 82 per cent globally, while 52 per cent of respondents think changes in their approach to mental wellbeing will persist beyond Covid-19, globally it is just 39 per cent as per EY India's report 'The Sunrise Consumer Health and Nutrition Sector'.

"While some see this as a short-term phenomenon, we expect this phase to catalyse a larger acceleration in the propensity towards personal health, hygiene, fitness and holistic nutrition," EY India National Leader - Consumer Product & Retail Sector Angshuman Bhattacharya said in a statement.

European and Asian nations have adopted functional foods and supplements, the Indian consumer is still pre-



dominantly showing a preference for "better for you" foods and home remedies, he added.

"Ayurveda and herbal are increasingly becoming 'back to roots' answers to modern problems," Bhattacharya noted.

EY said Indian consumers have opened their wallets towards fitness classes and activities, consuming natural foods, health supplements, and following specialised diets.

According to the survey, 40 per cent of Indian respondents stated that they will pay a premium for products promoting health and wellness, which is higher than their global counterparts at 29 per cent.

The survey numbers are based on EY Future Consumer Index (November 2021) with a total of 16,000 global respondents out of which 1,002 were from India.

The dietary supplements market, always considered to be high potential given the growing lifestyle diseases, has witnessed an accelerated adoption curve, post Covid-19, EY India said, adding over the last year, the demand for herbal supplements and vitamins and minerals have witnessed a growth of over 25 per cent.

The growing interest in natural and ayurvedic products has encouraged companies, already active in this segment, to assert their credentials more strongly, while it has also attracted the attention of players from pharmaceuticals, the EY report said.

Have You Been Holding Your Phone Wrong This Whole Time?

Sarah Showfety | Life Hacker

Quick, how do you hold your phone? Is the bottom of it resting on your pinkie, while you cradle the back with your index, middle, and ring fingers, and your thumb does all the scrolling? Alas, like the many other seemingly easy, intuitive things we do, it is wrong.

While the one-handed claw is seemingly the most convenient way to grip your device, over prolonged periods of time, it could be doing damage to your wrist and aggravating your ulnar nerve—among other issues.

What is smartphone pinkie?

You may already be familiar with the term "smartphone finger," also known as texting tendinitis, texting thumb, and gamer's thumb. But now we must also contend with "smartphone pinkie" (not a medical termyet). According to Healthline, "The fingers most impacted by holding a smartphone, tablet, or video game controller are your pinky and thumb," which can become cramped or inflamed. Ann Lund, an occupational therapist and certified hand therapist at the Mayo Clinic told the Washington Post that given the smaller size of the pinkie, it won't "tolerate the pressure and the positioning as well as a larger digit." Michelle G. Carlson, a hand and upper extremity surgeon at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York added that using your pinkie to hold up the weight of your phone can strain the ligament that connects the finger to your hand. But that's



What is the ulnar nerve?

After this tweet telling us all to stop using our pinkie as a phone anchor went viral, Ben Lombard, a member of the UK's Chartered Society of Physiotherapy told HuffPost UK, "We tend to hold our phones with the little finger underneath supporting the weight of the phone and our wrist turning inward to told the screen to our faces. This can cause ulnar nerve compression if sustained for long periods of time." One of three main nerves in your arm, the ulnar nerve runs from the armpit, down to your elbow, alongside the ulna (the long bone in the forearm) and finally to the pinkie side of your palm. According to the Cleveland Clinic, "It controls nearly all of the small muscles in the hand." Ulnar nerve "entrapment" happens when there's direct pressure on the nerve "in the elbow or wrist [which] causes a pinched nerve, nerve

And then there's the median

(neuropathic) pain and neurop-

athy (nerve damage)."

In a 2017 study, Peter White, as-

sistant professor in the department of health technology and informatics at Hong Kong Polytechnic University, examined the effects of electronics device overuse on the median nerve, which runs alongside the ulnar nerve and helps us move our forearms, wrists, hands and fingers. White found that students who held electronic devices in excess of five hours a day experienced more wrist and hand pain than "non-intensive users"

(less than five hours a day). In a follow-up study, White found that, "Wrist deviation from neutral [an all fingers extended position] can lead to more pronounced deformation of the median nerve." To minimize the damage, "It is important to keep the wrist as near to the neutral position as possible during computer-related work and avoid keeping the thumb and fingers in a static flexed position when using mobile devices, especially for singlehand use.'

So how should we hold our phone?

În an interview with the Nation-

al Desk, hand surgeon Dr. Steve Beldner said though everyone wants a small, thin device, "Our hand wasn't designed to handle small objects." Ideally, instead of zeroing our thumb in on a thin object, which loads the joint unfavorably, we want to "bring the thumb out into what we call abduction or away from the palm."

To do this, Beldner said, make the device thicker-by propping a rolled up washcloth or t-shirt behind it—to take the stress off the joint. (Presumably, a PopSocket provides some of the same joint relief.) He also suggests keeping your elbow and wrist as straight as possible to allow for better circulation through the nerve.

Occupational hand therapist Dina Delopoulos advises smartphone users to take frequent rest breaks and stretch the flexor and extensor muscles by pushing our fingers up and back, perpendicular to the wrist. She recommended using a non-restrictive but supportive CMC neoprene splint and putting the phone down on a flat surface to scroll with fingers other than your thumb whenever possible. Driving the point home, she cited a patient who was immobilized in a cast for four weeks because he had severe tendinitis in his thumb. From the phone."

To recap: Staring at our phones nonstop is unnatural and damaging, not just for our mental health, but for our pinkies, thumbs, and forearm nerves. So consider this your daily reminder to quit scrolling, stretch your wrists, and go outside.

Why Urban Greening Isn't A Panacea For **Extreme Weather Under Climate Change**

The Conversation

rban greening is often touted as a way waves and floods in cities. This includes through green roofs, living walls, vegetated urban spaces, private and community gardens, habitat corridors, bushland and parks.

But our latest research shows that, for most cities worldwide, urban greening can either subdue floods or mitigate heat. It generally cannot do both in one city.

As the climate change cities around the world are enduring both heatwaves and floods more frequently.

Perth, for example, sweltered through a record-breaking heatwave last month, with six days in a row over 40 degrees Celsius. A few months earlier, Perth recorded its wettest July in decades, with 18 straight days of rain.

Our findings ensure we can plan urban greening projects more effectively to suit cities. So let's take a closer look at these findings, and the benefits Australia can derive from urban greening.

What we found

Temperatures in cities are often several degrees higher than rural areas, due to the urban heat island effect, where the predominance of concrete and steel absorb and retain heat, and there is a lack of cooling by water evaporating from plants.

These same heat-intensifying features are also often responsible for flash flooding in cities, as sealed surfaces can't act like a sponge to soak up and store rain, unlike the soil they've replaced.

To find out whether the benefits of urban greening on cooling and flood prevention hold true, we analysed global climate models and weather information from 175 cities around the world spanning 15 years of daily observations, from 2000 to 2015.

Our results, published in the journal Nature Communications, show the greatest cooling potential occurs where abundant rainwater is available for plants to transpire (release water vapour during photosynthesis). This is common for cities around the Equator and in much of northern Europe.

The cooling potential of



Urban spaces are expensive, and many greening strategies require more complex engineering than traditional buildings. Also, the cooling benefits can only be significant in some areas if irrigation is used, and this is impossible to do sustainably in many parts of the world.

urban greening varies with the seasons it's more effective if periods of higher rainfall coincide with summer.

In contrast, the greatest potential for water retention by soils, which is crucial for flood prevention, occurs in drier areas where there's plenty of energy from sunshine, but rainfall is more limited. These areas are common in North Africa, Australia and the Middle East.

Such areas have higher average water retention in the long term, and its potential varies less from season to season. This is because large rainfall events that exceed the storage capacity of the soils and result in water runoff are less common.

What do the findings mean for Australia?

While our findings suggest urban greening can't reduce both flooding and heat in many, if not most, of the world's cities, parts of southeast Australia are among the rare exceptions. This includes parts of Melbourne and Hobart.

Melbourne, for example, can endure urban heat island-induced temperature increases of 3 degrees Celsius. City greening initiatives are an important way to mitigate

this heat.

On the other hand, Canberra, Adelaide, Perth and Brisbane are water-limited, which means urban greening is ineffective at reducing the urban heat island effect.

However, because much of Australia has a relatively dry climate which is good for water retention, large-scale urban greening initiatives can help reduce flash flooding in these cities.

For example, Brisbane has lots of sunshine in summer, providing ample energy for evaporation, which often exceeds the amount of available summer rains.

Darwin is Australia's only state capital that, according to our modelling, would not derive strong stormwater or cooling benefits from urban greening.

This is because Darwin is in an area that transitions between the arid Australian interior and the more humid tropical climates to the north. It doesn't benefit from the high cooling or water retention performance that comes with either extreme.

Where to from here?

While it seems we can't assume urban greening can mitigate cooling and flooding

at the same time, it's still an excellent strategy to address either in many places.

Urban greening also has other positive benefits it provides habitat, filters air and has demonstrable effects on people's well-being.

However, there are important cost-benefits of these kinds of schemes to consider, both environmentally and economically. Urban spaces are ex-

pensive, and many greening strategies require more complex engineering than traditional buildings. Also, the cooling benefits can only be significant in some areas if irrigation is used, and this is impossible to do sustainably in many parts of the world.

Policymakers worldwide can use our results as a firstpass guide for more local feasibility studies on urban greening. While it's a crucial planning and climate change adaptation tool, urban greening has to be understood within specific local conditions one size does not fit all.

Councils, governments, planners and developers need to be fully aware of the benefits and pitfalls before embarking on urban green-



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MAJOR MARKETING BOOST FOR J&K'S SILK & WOOLEN PRODUCTS

JKI Products To Be Available **In Reliance Mart & Lifestyle Outlets: Pr Secy I&C**



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Silk and Woolen products of Jammu and Kashmir, known for their unique quality with traditional blend which contribute significantly in UT's economy, are again set to be promoted and marketed in a big way at National and International markets.

The Jammu and Kashmir government, as part of its endeavor towards reviving the economy of J&K, has roped in two Indian leading national business hubs to help employment generation in the Union Territory.

Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department, Ranjan Prakash Thakur, during a review of Jammu and Kashmir Industries Limited, informed that Reliance Trends and Lifestyle would be selling silk fabrics and products being manu-

between JKI and Reliance.

He informed that, over the last three years, the government has invested heavily on the revival of JKI through development of its infrastructure by procurement of technologically advanced machinery. JKI has successfully commissioned the new silk weaving and reeling units in Jammu besides upgrading silk factory Rajbagh, Bemina woolen mills and Wool spinning units located at Solina and Nowshera respectively.

With revival of JKI, the livelihood of a vast number of people associated with cocoon rearing and wool production has been secured. Besides, JKI is now providing a ready market for their produce within J&K at very lucrative prices. This has not only economically benefitted the people associated with production of silk and wool but has also factured by JKI Limited. In this resulted in revival of silk and regard, an MoU has been signed wool sectors in J&K significantly.

New Excise Policy To Ensure 'One Person One Vend': Dulloo

Only domiciles having immovable property eligible for participation in bid process



Observer News Service

IAMMU: Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Atal Dulloo, Tuesday reiterated that the new excise policy would ensure that only single vend is secured by a bidder whose eligibility has been capped to the domiciles of Jammu and

Policy 2022-23' here at Excise Taxation Complex, maintained that the policy would bring greater social consciousness and awareness about harmful effects of liquor consumption and drug abuse. He further said that it would also put an effective check on the menace of bootlegging and smuggling of all narcotic drugs in J&K from neighboring states and UTs.

It was informed that besides making quality liquor available to consumers this policy would encourage transition from high to low alcoholic content beverages to safeguard the health of consumers.

no evasion of rules occurs and the

vends go under auction in a transparent manner, it was apprised that the eauction portal would be governed by J&K bank as a 3rd party nodal agency.

The policy has added features of encouraging local production by exempting export duty on all kinds of liquor for the policy year 2022-23. It would also fulfill the need of ACS, while announcing the 'Excise providing quality drink to consumers in unserved/underserved areas as some new vends have been proposed in the policy.

The department has made certain amendments in the previous policy by increasing Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 7 lakh and Minimum Guaranteed Revenue (MGR) by 10 per cent.

Moreover, the bidder should be having good character without being convicted for any non-bailable offense. It has also been added that the bidder should have immovable property equivalent to 100% of bid amount in the UT and should not be defaulter Regarding changes to ensure that of taxes department under different acts governing J&K.

Oil Nears \$100 A Barrel: **Petrol, Diesel Price Hike Coming After Elections**

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: International oil prices surged close to USD 100 a barrel on Tuesday after Russian President Vladimir Putin sent troops into Ukraine, but petrol and diesel prices in India continue to be on freeze and are expected to rise once assembly elections in states like Uttar Pradesh end.

Amid fears of supplies being disrupted because of Russian aggression, the price of futures contract for Brent crude oil with April delivery on London's ICE rose by 4.18 per cent to USD 99.38 per Punjab and three other states barrel on Tuesday morning, before paring some gains to settle just above USD 98.

The last time Brent exceeded USD 99 per barrel was in September 2014.

Russia makes up for a third of Europe's natural gas and about 10 per cent of global oil production. About a third of Russian gas supplies to Europe usually travel through pipelines crossing Ukraine.

But for India, Russian supplies account for a very small percentage. While India imported 43,400 barrels per day of oil from Russia in 2021 (about 1 per cent of overall its imports), coal imports from Russia at 1.8 million tonnes in 2021 made up for 1.3 per cent of all coal imports. India buys 2.5 million tonnes of LNG a year from Gazprom of Russia

While supplies at the moment seem to be of little worry for India, it is the prices that are a cause of concern.

Domestic fuel prices - which are directly linked to internarevised for a record 110 days in

Rates are supposed to be revised on a daily basis but stateand HPCL froze rates on sooner did electioneering to elect a new government in Uttar Pradesh, days post-May 14, 2018. Petrol



Retail pump rates are aligned to a price of USD 82-83 per barrel and they would certainly go up once elections end next month, industry officials said.

Petrol costs Rs 95.41 a litre in Delhi and diesel is priced at Rs 86.67. This price is after accounting for the excise duty cut and a reduction in the VAT rate by the state government.

Prior to these tax reductions, petrol price had touched an alltime high of Rs 110.04 a litre and diesel came for Rs 98.42. These rates corresponded to Brent soaring to a peak of USD 86.40 per barrel on October 26, 2021. Brent was USD 82.74 on November 5, 2021, before it started to fall and touched USD 68.87 a barrel in December. Prices, however, started to rise thereafter and have risen by 12 per cent in February alone,

Petrol and diesel prices have been in the past frozen before crucial elections.

There was a 19-day price freeze tional oil prices - have not been on petrol and diesel ahead of Karnataka polls in May 2018, despite international fuel prices going up by nearly USD 5 per barrel. However, no sooner were the elecowned fuel retailers IOC, BPCL tions over, oil companies rapidly passed on to customers the desired increase — over 16-straight

price climbed by Rs 3.8 per litre and diesel by Rs 3.38 per litre after the hike.

Similarly, they had stopped revising fuel prices for almost 14 days ahead of the assembly elections in Gujarat in December

These companies had also imposed a freeze on petrol and diesel prices between January 16, 2017, and April 1, 2017, when assembly elections in five states — Punjab Goa, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Manipur – were held.

During the 2019 general elections, they moderated the revision by not passing on all of the desired increase in rates to consumers, industry sources said. The rates began to rise a day after the final phase of polling for the Lok Sabha elections ended.

The current 110-day hiatus is the longest since daily fuel price revision was adopted in June 2017. Prior to this, there was an 82-day hiatus in rate revision between March 17, 2020, and June

The 82-day hiatus in rate revision in 2020 followed the government raising excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 3 per litre each to mop up gains arising from falling international rates. The government on May 6, 2020, again raised excise duties by Rs

J&K Bank Wins Best Performance Award For Implementing PMEGP In North India



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank has been ranked No. 1 by the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (GoI) under Khadi India Awards for its excellent performance in implementing the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) in North India.

Presiding over the felicitation ceremony Chairman, Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) Vinai Kumar Saxena presented the top performance award for the financial year 2020-21 to Zonal Head Delhi Kirti Sharma who represented J&K Bank during the Zonal Level Monday at Panchkula in Haryana.

succession, MD & CEO Baldev of the scheme. Pertinent to men-Prakash attributed the reception tion, the Bank recently bagged of consecutive awards to persist the 'Best Digital Financial Inclutent and dedicated efforts put in sion Initiatives' Award, second by the staff besides uninterrupted Government support for systematic financial empowerment of the people especially youth Banking Technology Conference across the operational geography of the Bank.

He said, "The award will go a long way in boosting the moti- PMEGP implementation in the vation of our staff, which is the country.

success of every organisational undertaking, to further the mission of financial empowerment through effective and efficient interventions."

"However, while providing satisfaction to all of us, such recognition for hard-work from prestigious platforms also raises expectations of all our stakeholders. And with full faith in your capacities, I hope together in future, we will excel further and keep providing our stake-holders occasions to cheer and feel proud of this premier financial institution", he added.

Notably, the bank contributed around 50 pc to the total PMEGP Review Meeting held on achievement under PMEGP Scheme in the entire north India. Expressing his pleasure on which ranked first among all the winning the 4th honour in regions in the implementation position in 'Best IT Risk & Cyber Security Initiatives' at Indian Bank's Association's 17th Annual and Awards: 2020-21 and 4th Position in Khadi India Awards from Ministry of MSME (GoI) for

State Level Committee Clears 213 New Licences For Wood Based Industry



Observer News Service

IAMMU- The 8th meeting of the State Level Committee (SLC) on Wood Based Industries met today under the chairmanship of Dr. Mohit Gera, PCCF & Head of Forest Force, J&K

fresh licence or enhancement of ca- Districts of Kashmir. pacity of Wood Based Industry subject to availability of raw material.

Dr. Gera emphasised that as ment, the Forest Department is including an online system for application of license and its renewal, simplification of issuance of transit permit for forest produce etc.

Dr. Gera also informed that the Government is considering drafting I&K Wood Based Industries (Establishment & Regulations) Rules for further facilitation of the Wood Based Industry in J&K.

As many as 213 applications were placed before the SLC by T. Rabi Kumar, APCCF (Kashmir) for

sawmills including 73 cricket bat units and 8 plywood/ veneer units. The committee approved all the applications. So far the SLC has cleared 226 cricket bat units for issuance of licence under SRO 103 which governs the establishment and licensing of Wood Based In-The Government of I&K consti-dustry. These units are located prituted the SLC to approve the grant of marily in Pulwama and Anantnag

The SLC also cleared tions for setting up plywood and veneer units in Srinagar circle. So per the initiative of the Govern- far 143 licenses have been issued for setting up of plywood and veneer facilitating Wood Based Industries units in Kashmir. The consumption pattern of the raw materials by different Wood Based Industries in Kashmir was also placed before the committee. Sanjay Sinha, APCCF (Central), Vasu Yadav, Managing Director, JK Forest Development Corporation, Brij Mohan Sharma, Addl. PCCF, Jammu, Tawheed Ahmad Deva, Conservator of Forests, Mahmood Ahmad Shah, Director Industries & Commerce, Kashmir, all the conservator of forests of Kashmir region and representative of IRO, its consideration for setting up Jammu attended the meeting.

Ukraine Situation, Crude Prices Posing Challenge To Financial Stability: FM

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said the Russia-Ukraine cris and the ensuing jump in global crude prices are a challenge to financial stability in India.

The two issues were discussed at the meeting of Financial Stability Development Council (FSDC), which comprises all the financial sector regulators, Sitharaman told reporters here.

"It is difficult to say how it the things. International wor- capital, said. risome situations where we



(crude prices) will go. Even a diplomatic solution for the insurance behemoth filed its today, in the FSDC, when we situation that is developing in were looking at the challenges Ukraine... all these are headwhich are posed for the finan- winds, Sitharaman, who is on cial stability, crude was one of a two-day visit to the financial

She said the brent has touched actually voiced that we want over USD 96 per barrel on Tues-

day and added that the country is keeping a watch on the same. The finance minister said the oil marketing companies will take a call on the retail prices Trade has not been impacted

because of the geopolitical tensions but the government is keeping a close watch on the same, Sitharaman said adding that we are careful that the exporters should not suffer. Parrying questions on the ex-

act timeline for the LIC IPO, she said there is a buzz and interest in the market after the life papers with Sebi for the over Rs 60,000 crore issue, and the government will be going ahead

She also said that the government is looking into the lapses that happened at the NSE.

SHORT TAKES

Advisor Inaugurates Sale Of Vegetable Seedlings

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan Tuesday inaugurated the sale of seedlings of different vegetable crops produced purely on scientific lines in High Tech Polygreen Houses at Lal Mandi here.

The sale witnessed tremendous enthusiasm of people with overwhelming participation, not only from Srinagar but also from far-flung areas of the Valley.

While distributing the seedlings among the beneficiaries, the Advisor said that the department is committed to promote Kitchen Garden and backyard vegetable culture in the urban areas of Kashmir and a number of steps have already been taken in this regard.

Advisor Khan said that seedlings of different crops produced on scientific lines are more disease resistant and productive, which ultimately makes venture of vegetable production economically viable.

He asked the Kitchen Garden lovers to avail this opportunity and take maximum benefit of all such initiatives offered by the department.

KVIB Releases Subsidy Worth Rs 348.48 Cr To **Young Entrepreneurs**

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (J&K KVIB) has released a whopping amount of Rs. 348.48 crore as margin money (subsidy) in favour of entrepreneurs who had applied loan from the board since 2019.

These details were given in a presser held today by Vice Chairperson KVIB, Dr Hina Shafi Bhat at Press Club, Jammu.

VC informed that the board has released this amount to 15,459 unit holders under JK Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP) and Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) directly benefitting 118,188 individuals of the UT in these 3 years.

Dr Bhat said that KVIB has no cap on extending assistance to local youth and can provide handholding to any number of youth willing to start their enterprises in the UT. She said that the board has created employment avenues for lakhs of educated unemployed, poor, down-trodden and marginal sections of the society.

She also revealed that KVIB under the mission 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' is ensuring its reach to all segments of the society. She stated that 5338 women entrepreneurs have been assisted by the board under its various programmes including providing subsidy of Rs. 1.58 crore to 49 ex-servicemen and war widows.

Gold Jumps Rs 552, Silver Shoots **Up By Rs 1,012**

NEW DELHI: Gold prices in the national capital on Tuesday jumped by Rs 552 to Rs 50,518 per 10 gram in line with positive global trend and a rupee depreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

The yellow metal had closed at Rs 49,966 per 10 gram in the previous trade. Silver also shot up by Rs 1,012 to Rs 64,415 per kg, compared with the previous close of Rs 63,403 per kg.

The rupee depreciated by 31 paise to 74.86 (provisional) against the US currency on Tuesday as riskier assets took a hit amid deepening geopolitical ten-

HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel said, "Spot prices for 24 carat gold in Delhi surged by Rs 552, in line with rally in COMEX gold prices along with rupee depreciation." In the international market, gold traded higher at USD 1,910 an ounce and silver was up at USD 24.12 an ounce.

"Gold prices traded higher with spot gold prices at COMEX trading near USD 1,910 per ounce on Tuesday," Patel said. (PTI)

I-T Deptt Cautions Public Against Fraudulent Job Offers

NEW DELHI: Cautioning public against falling prey to fraudulent job offers, the Income Tax Department on Tuesday said aspirants should only consider offers or advertisements on official websites of SSC or the department.

"Income Tax Department cautions the public not to fall prey to fraudulent persons misleading job-aspirants by issuing fake appointment letters for joining the Department," the I-T department tweeted. In a public notice, the apex direct tax body said it has come to its notice that some fraudulent persons are misleading candidates by issuing fake appointment letters for joining the I-T department.

It said direct recruitment in all Group B and C posts are conducted by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) and notification/results are made available on the SSC website.

Thereafter, regional allocation of the candidate is done and the list is uploaded on the I-T department portal.

"The general public is hereby cautioned/advised against taking cognizance of such fake advertisement/notification/appointment letters advertised/circulated through any other platform / portal other than the official websites of the SSC and the Income Tax department," it said in the public notice. (PTI)

'Start-Up Firms Growing In India With 10% Being Added Every Year'

KOLKATA: The number of start-ups in the country is increasing significantly with 10 per cent being added every year, an official said on Tuesday.

Nasscom Centre of Excellence for internet of things (IoT) and artificial intelligence (AI) CEO Sanjeev Malhotra said most of the start-ups are on the application side, while a lot of work has also been done in the field of softwareaided services. "The number of start-ups is growing significantly in the country with 10 per cent being added every year. There has been significant growth in the number of companies and funding organisations which are attributing to this cause," he said.

But there is a need to build start-ups in areas of core research, Malhotra said.

The centre of excellence is the largest technology and innovation ecosystem in the country, comprising start-ups, innovators, enterprises and the government. India has the third-largest ecosystem for start-ups in the world, he said.

The Economic Survey 2021-22 had also mentioned that the number of such firms has grown remarkably over the last six years.

The number of new recognised start-ups has increased to over 14,000 in 2021-22 from only 733 in 2016-17. As a result, India has become the third-largest start-up ecosystem in the world after the US and China," it said. (PTI)

Court Seeks Govt's Reply On Plea For Restoration Of Hindu & Jain Deities Inside Qutub Minar Complex

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Tuesday sought response from the Centre and the Archeological Survey of India on a plea seeking restoration of Hindu and Jain deities and right to worship within the Qutub Minar complex, the lawyer said.

The court issued notice to the Union of India, through the Ministry of Culture, Director Archaeological Survey India and Superintending Archeological Delhi Circle, ASI on an appeal filed against a magisterial court's order that has dismissed the civil suit in December 2021, advocate Vishnu Jain, appearing for the applicant, said.

Additional District Judge Pooja Talwar directed the authorities concerned to file their replies by May 11, when the court will



further hear the matter.

The judge passed the order while admitting the appeal filed by Jain claiming that 27 temples were partly demolished by Qutubdin Aibak, a general in the army of Mohamad Gauri, and Ouwwat-ul-Islam Mosque was raised inside the complex by reusing the material.

suit on

December 9, civil Judge Neha Sharma had said, India had a culturally rich history. It has been ruled over by numerous dynasties. During arguments, the counsel for the plaintiff has

vehemently argued on the point

of national shame. However,

nobody has denied that wrongs

were committed in the past, but

such wrongs cannot be the basis

for disturbing the peace of our present and future.

The suit had sought a declaration that principal deity Tirthankar Lord Rishabh Dev and principal deity Lord Vishnu. along with Lord Ganesh, Lord Shiva, Goddess Gauri, God Sun, Lord Hanuman including presiding deities of 27 temples, have the right to be restored and worshipped with rites and rituals, the performance of regular pooja within the alleged temple complex situated in the area.

The lawsuit, filed on behalf of Jain deity Tirthankar Lord Rishabh Dev and Hindu deity Lord Vishnu, further sought the issuance of mandatory injunction directing the central government to create a trust, according to Trust Act 1882, and to hand over the management and administration of the temple complex situated within the

The civil judge had said that once a structure has been declared to be a protected monu-

area of Qutub complex.

ment and is owned by the government, then the plaintiffs cannot insist that the place of worship must actually and actively be used for religious services.

The lawsuit had averred that Delhi was ruled by celebrated Hindu kings up to 1192 when Mohammed Gauri invaded and defeated king Prithviraj Chauhan in the battle in 1192 AD.

Thereafter, Qutubdin Aibak a commander of Mohammed Gauri destroyed Shree Vishnu Hari temple and 27 Jain and Hindu temples and raised inner constructions within the temple complex. The temple complex was renamed as 'Quwwat Ul Islam Mosque, in the Arabic language which means 'Might of Islam', the plea claimed.

Man Held For Robbing Rs 20 Lakh, SUV in Delhi

NEW DELHI: A 35-year-old protective service officer (PSO) of a businessman was arrested for allegedly stealing Rs 20 lakh and an SUV of his employer in north Delhi's Shastri Nagar area, police said. The accused has been identified as Nikhil Goswami, a resident of Raj Nagar in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

On February 15, one Manoj Jain informed the police that his PSO Goswami had decamped with his Rs 20 lakh cash and SUV from near Shastri Nagar metro station.

Jain's driver Vipin Kumar told the police that his employer had asked him to accompany Goswami to Pitampura to collect Rs 20 lakh from a person.

According to Kumar, while returning, Goswami was driving the car. When they neared Shastri Nagar metro station, Kumar asked him to stop the car so he could relieve himself.

As soon as he got off the car,

Goswami drove off, a senior police officer said citing Kumar.

The investigation led the police to a house at Raj Nagar in Ghaziabad, where they found the SUV. However, the flat was locked from outside, the officer said.

The police continued surveillance for a couple of days and nabbed him on Sunday, **Deputy Commissioner of Police** (North) Sagar Singh Kalsi said.

Besides the SUV, they recovered Rs 17.6 lakh of the stolen amount from the accused, he said.

Goswami, who holds B.Tech in mechanical engineering, had been living with a woman following a strained relationship with his wife. He began working as Jain's PSO last year as he was having a revolver licence, the DCP said.

Goswami was in debt and was in need of money. After decamping with the cash, he went to Manali with his girlfriend, her sister and brotherin-law, police said.

Police Suspend 3 Personnel In Student Activist Anish Khan's Death Case

Press Trust Of India

KOLKATA/HOWRAH: Two policemen and a civic volunteer were suspended on Tuesday in connection with the probe into the death case of student activist Anish Khan, while his family sought a second autopsy on his body and refused to speak to the members of the SIT demanding a CBI inquiry.

During a march to protest against the alleged killing of Khan by policemen at his residence last week, clashes broke out between personnel of the force and students of Aliah University in College Street area of Kolkata

ter tried to break barricade and march towards Writers Buildings,

"An assistant sub-inspector, a constable and a civic volunteer of Amata police station (in Howrah district) have been suspended. This is related to the ongoing investigation in the Anish Khan

The police had earlier said that no personnel went to Khan's house at night on February 18 when he

Two senior members of the special investigation team (SIT) of the

during the day, after the latthe erstwhile state secretariat.

case." a senior police officer said.

died after a fall from the roof.

police met the family members of



Khan at his house in Amta amid slogan shouting against the force by a group of people.

Khan's father Salem said,

"I don't have faith in the state police. I don't want to speak to the SIT about my son's death. I want a CBI inquiry. Only they

can solve the case. I also feel that my son's body should be sent for post-mortem examination for a second time," he said.

The family demanded a CBI probe earlier also. According to his family, four people in uniforms of police and civic volunteers had allegedly pushed off Khan from the third floor of his house in the dead of night on February 18.

It is also claimed that during the incident, the men in uniform had held Khan's father at gunpoint after barging into the house, citing an ongoing investigation against him.

On Monday, West Bengal Chief

Minister Mamata Banerjee announced the formation of the SIT.

The SIT, which has been tasked to submit its report to the government within 15 days, visited the Amta police station on Monday night and inspected the duty roster of February 18, official sources said.

The death of Khan, a vocal critic of the TMC government who was at the forefront of many protests, has rocked the state with students of different colleges and universities hitting the streets, questioning why no arrests could be made even after three days of the incident.

Khan, who was earlier with the CPI (M)-backed SFI, was a prominent face of the protests in Kolkata against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). He later joined the Indian Secular Front (ISF).

Meanwhile, police personnel and students of Aliah University clashed in the city's College Street area during a rally demanding justice for Khan.

The students and other protestors participated in a march and made a human chain at the Park Circus seven-point crossing before resuming the rally in the direction of Writers Buildings in the Dalhousie area.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

17 Tremors

originated between 0-40km depth under the Kashmir basin. The white rectangular area shows the cross-section through the earthquake events to show their vertical positions and depth.

It seems we are on a routine of how active deformation is manifested in a tectonically active area.

Has naturally occurring earthquake activity been increasing at a worrisome rate in Kashmir?

The figure above covers earthquake events from 1980 to 2022, and if we use this as a base, it is safe to argue that earthquakes are continuously occurring in this region, and I don't see a drastic change.

a normal consequence of the ongoing to worry about the incoming of a sig-

But we haven't had any high magnitude earthquakes in a long time. Does this mean that the pressure is building up for a big one?

Yes, indeed, the large magnitude earthquake has not occurred in the region for some time. The following figure from Roger Bilham suggests that the region could host a large magnitude earthquake in the future.

The black patches have witnessed significant earthquakes in the past, and gaps are potential areas that may rupture in the future. Kashmir has a record of earthquakes in 1555 and 1885. Now we are within the interseismic cycle, which means the stress is stored within rocks as strain, which can rupture the fault system anytime.

While we are not sure when, but we know it will happen, and we don't wish to see what happened in Muzaffarabad during the 2005 earthquake. We lost more than 85,000 people and property worth billions.

Therefore, we must work on the preparations for the worst possibility. We cannot stop faults from slipping; what we could do is live with earthquake hazards in our backyard. Get ready for any eventuality.

Do we lack a proper mechanism in Kashmir that can help us to know about the earthquake beforehand?

Predicting an earthquake is not possible because science has not reached there yet. However, forecasting is routinely done, and that knowledge suggests Kashmir could see a major earthquake in the future.

Therefore, we have to help people build a society that is ready to live with earthquake hazards.

I am not aware of any locally produced seismic data recorded by the scientific institutes in the Kashmir region. Usually, such capabilities should be within the institutes that run courses and research on Earth Sciences.

Therefore, we need to have our seismographic network, which could measure the ground shaking locally.

What can we deduce out of these regular tremors?

The cause of active faulting in Kashmir is related to the ongoing lithospheric plate convergence between India and Eurasia, which has formed the mighty Himalayas during the collision journey, and the Kashmir basin in the recent past.

Therefore, earthquake events are expected in the region because they are needed to release the buildup strain within the rocks.

We need to map the earthquake hazards in detail, train people on how to live with faults, and start work on the ground on what one must do to minimize the potential damage during earthquakes.

I would say that earthquakes in The data show that earthquakes are Kashmir are the warning signal for us nificant earthquake and prepare the ground to deal with it.

Since we know that Kashmir falls in seismic zone 5, what precautions can people take to minimise the losses?

One of the most critical components of that preparation is building earthquake-resistant structures. We should create a culture first where earthquake education should be at the core of our daily routine because we live on faults and know what that means. The faults can get activated anytime, so please start working on it before it is too late.

We all must learn from the ugly memories of the 2005 earthquake in Muzaffarabad Kashmir. No one would like to see such a situation unfolding in this part of Kashmir.

Therefore, let us work now and build Kashmir from the ruins of the past to the glory of the future; it can be possible if we follow the three-step approach:

First: Extensive work on building earth sciences education culture in Jammu and Kashmir region with a focus on hazards. It should be done from the primary level so that our children know how the planet Earth functions and why earthquakes, floods and landslides occur. It will strengthen their foundations, and they could not be easily dragged and immersed into an ocean of distractions and confusions based on un-scientific discourse that routinely surfaces on social media, the internet etc.

Second: The need to develop Kashmir as the hub of high-quality scientific research on Earth sciences will directly confront the un-scientific culture that is unfortunately prevalent in our societies. We know that education is the key to unlocking the universe's secrets, and those who remain away or are isolated from the light of wisdom are easily tamed into believing the unscientific discourse in the market. So, it is our responsibility to build that culture where scientific insight becomes our weapon to unlock the questions that have remained unanswered about the planet Earth. It includes hazards. climate change, global warming etc.

Third: The earthquake scientists, engineers, and other responsible civil society members must engage with the local administration and frame a policy document that will highlight

the science of earthquakes and what to do to avoid future challenges related to earthquake events in the region. The administration should produce a formal document with information and guidance on building codes. These codes are basically instructions on designing, constructing, and altering buildings in a region that is prone to earthquake hazards. It should be implemented immediately. We are already too late for this, and it is endangering the lives of millions.

As an expert what do you suggest?

I have suggested in the past, and am doing it again, that Jammu and Kashmir needs to establish a highquality research institution that will help us produce primary data on the science of earthquakes landslides floods, etc. It should professionally train, recruit, and engage locals to enhance the research capability of the region and make it the top institute in

the world. We have a massive army of young students ready to make an impact, but they have nowhere to work in Kashmir, where it is highly needed.

Panel Given

shared their inputs and objections with the commission. So, that's why the delimitation commission will ask the public and other political parties to give their inputs and objections," sources said.

As per sources, the Delimitation Commission will put its final draft along with the objections of the associate members in public domain and will start to seek objections and opinion from the public and political parties for a specified time, probably in the month

of March. After receiving objections, sources said, the panel will start working on the final report. "It will take upto a month to prepare the final report after all the objections and suggestions from the public and political parties are submitted," they added.

It is pertinent to mention here that the delimitation is the process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country or a province with a legislative body.

Formed in March 2020, the Delimitation Commission was granted a one-year extension last year. Headed by former Supreme Court

udge Ranjana Prakash Desai, it has Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and the state election commissioner of Jammu and Kashmir as its ex-officio members.

In its draft report shared with its five associated members---all Lok Sabha members from Jammu and Kashmir---the delimitation panel has proposed an overhaul of assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies in the erstwhile state.

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.

J&K Preferred

become one of the preferred destinations for Industrial investment, Tourism, Film industry and real estate sector. The government is committed to ensure adequate and timely availability of credit to industrial and different productive sectors of the economy to finance growth," he added.

The LG, as per the spokesperson said that in the last two years, various reforms have been executed to provide opportunities to scheduled commercial banks to expand operations in J&K.

"We will also work together to make our credit lending system more sensitive to the needs of women & youth entrepreneurs, farmers and artisans," the LG said.

"There is a need for additional banking outlets in rural areas to bring excluded households into the fold of institutional credit and financial services in a structured and sustainable manner," he added.

Sinha, as per spokesperson said that enabling ecosystem will also bridge the gap between government schemes and people living in geographically difficult terrain.

He said that LG asked the concerned officers to explore all possibilities for extending financial handholding to the eligible beneficiaries through various government schemes and

interventions. According to the spokesperson, the Deputy Governor RBI highlighted the importance of increasing the presence of banks for greater financial inclusion.

"He informed that the implementation of Government Sponsored Schemes is monitored through the UT level Bankers' Committee at periodic intervals," he said.

He further said that discussions were also held regarding creation of banking infrastructure, streamlining the working of district cooperatives and other banking cooperative societies, effective utilization of funds under NABARD schemes, concerns of the Industries & Commerce sector, availability of banking services, Micro Finance Institutions and NBFCs, and other important issues.

'Ensure Disposal

to ensure the principles of good governance bring accountability, transparency and better services to citizens," Sinha said, as per an official spokesperson. "Quality of resolution of a grievance

is crucial to promote social justice, faster development and people's participation. We must ensure the disposal of every genuine public grievance to make the system more accountable, responsive and efficient," he added.

The LG, according to the spokesperson also lauded the efforts of five best performing Administrative Departments, five best performing HoDs and DCs of best performing Districts in terms of resolving the grievances received on the JK-IGRAMS. Till now, he said, 189369 applications

were taken up for disposal in mission mode approach. Of these, 185123 have been resolved, it was informed. He said that the LG directed the

Deputy Commissioners to resume public outreach activity for better coverage of government schemes, enhanced interaction with common man and effective monitoring of big-ticket projects.

During the latest edition of the programme, he said, several grievances of the applicants were redressed on the spot by the LG.

Recoveries Outnumber

22 fresh cases of Coronavirus, Budgam 7, three each in Baramulla and Bandipora and one case each in Anantnag and Kulgam. The four districts of Pulwama, Kupwara, Ganderbal and Shopian reported no new cases of Covid-19.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu division detected a maximum of 30 new cases of virus, Doda 25.Udhampur 22. Ramban 8. Kathua 6, Rajouri and Poonch 3each, Samba 2 and Reasi 1. Kishtwar was the only district in the region where no fresh cases of infection were reported.

Also, the officials said that the death toll in the pandemic remained 4747 in I&K as no fresh fatality was reported

during the last 24 hours. **Late Snowfall Makes**

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 5.0°C against minus 8.0°C on the previous night,

he said The temperature was 1.7°C above 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 2.2°C against minus 3.0°C on the previous night, the official said.

While 'Chillai Kalan', the 40-day long harshest period of winter ended on January 30, and 20-day long 'Chillai Khurd' culminated on February 19,

Kashmir is presently under the grip of 10-day-long 'Chilla Bachha'. Jammu recorded a low of 12.8°C against 8.1°C on the previous night, the

official said. The temperature was 2.2°C

above normal for the J&K's winter capi-

tal during this time of the year, he said. Banihal recorded a low of 4.6°C, Batote 7.3°C and Bhaderwah 5.1°C, the official said. Ladakh's Leh recorded a low of minus 8.6°C against last night minus 13.5°C while mercury at automatic station in Kargil settled at minus 12.4°C. Drass, the second coldest place in the

the previous night, official said. Weatherman has forecast widespread light to moderate rain and

world after Siberia, recorded a low of

minus 14.0°C against minus 21.6°C on

snow, during February 22-23. "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 the official here, adding, "It may affect highways 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 next 10 days. (With GNS inputs)

Kashmiri Artisan

dyes in order to get the right tone and shade to getting the design right at the end of the weaving process."

"This piece has 576 knots per square inch which gives the clarity of the design," Hussain explained.

He wants to gift this wall hanging carpet to the actor and hopes that the Bollywood star accepts it.

LeT 'Militant'

Aloosa area of the district on the basis of specific input about the presence of militants, a police spokesperson said Tuesday. "A suspicious individual was seen

challenged by the joint parties, the individual tried to flee into the nearby orchards. He was chased by the joint party and tactfully apprehended," he He said that the detained youth identified himself as Danish Ahmed

approaching the naka and on being

Shah @ Haris of Ellahipora Aloosa and during his frisking one Chinese pistol and a grenade was recovered from his During initial questioning, the spokesperson said that Shah disclosed that he was working at the behest of

Malik, at present in Pakistan, and the arms seized from him had been provided to him through Laskar conduits. Shah, he said, had been recruited as a hybrid militant by killed Lashkar militant Ashiq War and after War's death

in 2019 was subsequently handled by

LeT handlers Samama @ Ali and Hilal

militant Fayaz War. "It further came to light that the individual was currently arranging travel documents to travel to Pakistan for seeking specialised arms and ammunition training," he said.

The spokesperson also said that the detained youth is also suspected to be involved in assisting the recent attacks in Bandipora and it is currently a matter of investigation.

"A Case under the relevant provisions of law has been registered in Police Station Bandipora and further investigation is underway," he added.

Train Mows Down

Wanabal area of Rangreth when the train came and hit him killing him on the spot, reports said.

This is the third such incident in the last four days and second in the last 24 hours in Budgam district.

death by a moving train in between Nowgam-Budgam railway section. Two days earlier, a youth was killed

On Monday, a man was crushed to

in similar circumstances in Hamray area of Sopore in Baramulla district. Patwari Suspended

his office for casual approach towards removal of encroachment. "Tehsildar Biibehara has been directed to conduct an inquiry into the matter and submit a detailed report within

suspension and attached him with

10 days," it adds. **UP Hawker Found**

tenant in the house of Ghulam Mohammad Sofi of Baghwanpora Noor Bagh. Police shifted the body to SMHS hospital for medico-legal proceedings, they said. (GNS)

Inter Block District Level Kho Kho Tournament Concludes At Shopian

Panchayat Lasedavan emerges winner of the tournament



Observer News Service

and Sports Cup-2021 concluded on Tuesday with Panchayat Lasedavan emerging as winner in the finals played at Sports Stadium Batapora, Shopian.

During the finals match, Panchayat Lasedavan beat Panchayat Chittragam to win the healthy.

The District Youth Services SHOPIAN: The Inter-Block Kho and Sports Officer, Shopian, Kho Tournament organised un- Gurmukh Singh Dutta, who was der the banner of Youth Services present on the occasion, distributed medals and trophies among the players.

Speaking on the occasion, Dutta emphasised upon the Youth to come forward and take part in sports activities to keep themselves physically fit and

Sports Deptt Distributes Sports Kits At Udhampur



Observer News Service

JAMMU: In order to make sports a power house in Jammu and Kashmir by promoting sports activities, Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) Udhampur on Tuesday distributed various sports items and kits among eight zones, seventeen blocks of the district.

gaging the youths of the rural Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary, areas in sports by channelising Youth Services and Sports, and the unbounded energy in the overall supervision of Director right direction. Addressing the YSS, Gazanfar Ali. representatives of youth DYSSO Udhampur S. Swaran Singh said occasion were in-charge ZPEO, that these kits would play a Ajeet Singh, Anita Goswami Rapivotal role in the promotion of mesh, Chaner Karun Magotra, Jasports and other social activities tin Sethi, Abdul Qadir, Jai Karan, in the rural areas.

sports items to the youth was to Abisheik, Lalit Sharma, Rajinder, improve their basic infrastruc- and members of various youth ture and provide an impetus to clubs of the district.

the sports facilities to the students hailing from rural areas," he said.

He assured the participants that the department is keen to improve sports infrastructure in the district to enable sports talent to take to new heights.

The sports equipments were handed over to the youths of 11 zones, 17 blocks by DYSSO Ud-The mission is aimed at en- hampur, under the patronage of

Ghaneem Akhter, S K Khajuria, "The aim of the distribution of Meenakshi Madan Lal, Shabnam,

5 Km Trekking Expedition From Jungle Gali To Sukhal Gali Held



Observer News Service

JAMMU: To Promote Tourism in general and Adventure Tourism in particular, the Directorate of Tourism, Jammu in association with JASA on Tuesday organised one day Trek from Jungle Gali to for the host population," she Sukhal Gali which is situated at added. foothills of Trikuta hills in district Udhampur.

photographers and prominent media persons were flagged off by Kanta Devi, Additional District Development Commissioner, Udhampur and Natasha Kalsotra, Joint Director Tourism, Jammu from Jungle Gali near Tikri for the 5 KM trekking passing through small streams, sloppy hills and meadows amid variety of flora and fauna presenting a delightful sight. Huge peaks and hillocks on the way promise to keep the journey magnificent. The surroundings are a visual treat, particularly for nature lovers.

informed that the motive of or-

visiting Katra to other destinations in and around Jammu. "This will also help in promoting the unexplored destinations of Jammu Division and boost the economy of the area and generate employment opportunities

She further informed that a series of Events and Adventure A group of 150 Trekkers in- activities are in the pipeline in cluding bloggers, travel writers, coming months which shall help in boosting tourism in Jammu region. She asked the Trekkers to post the scenic locations on their blogs while traversing through the area to promote the destination. Several participants of the Trekking said, "With resumption of such activities by the Tourism Department post COVID, we are hopeful that these destinations will have a good tourist footfall this year and shall compensate for the loss of the tourism sector to a large extent."

Robin Singh Mehta, Chairman Jammu Adventure Sports Asso-The Joint Director Tourism ciation (JASA) appreciated the initiative of the Tourism Departganizing this Trekking was to ment and said that involvement promote Adventure Tourism in of local communities in Tourism Reasi and Udhampur Districts related activities are an integral and to divert lakhs of pilgrims part of Tourism promotions.

First Phase Annual Football C'ship Kicks Off In Srinagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The First Phase of 29th Annual Football Championship kick started on Tuesday at Synthetic Turf Football Field TRC Srinagar in chilly weather condition. Nuzhat Ara, Divicasion, inaugurated the tourna-

The first match was played between DFA Zone Rafiabad ma by two goals to one. and DFA Zone Hajin. The Hajin

boys dominated the scene from the start of the match and defeated Zone Rafiabad by five goals to one.

The second match was played between DFA Kupwara X1 and DFA Pulwama XI. Both the sional Sports Officer (K), who and first half ended goalless. Srinagar, and other members was the Chief Guest on the oc- In second half DFA Pulwama of JKFA were present on the scored two goals and DFA Kupwara scored only one goal. The match was won by DFA Pulwa-

The Championship will be Sports Council.

played in three phases: the first phase will be played at Srinagar, while the second phase and third phase will be played at Jammu. Z.A Thakur, President JKFA, Iftikhar Lone, vice President JKFA, Fayaz teams played quality Football Ahmad Sofi, President DFA

> The Championship is organized by J&K Football Association under the aegis of J&K

occasion.

Wriddhiman Saha Says He Won't Reveal **Identity Of Journalist Who Threatened Him**

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Veteran India wicketkeeer-batter Wriddhiman Saha on Tuesday decided not to reveal the identity of the journalist who had sent him a threatening message.

In a series of tweets on Tuesday, Saha said he will keep the journalist's name with himself on grounds of "humanity".

"I was hurt and offended. I thought not to tolerate such kind of behaviour and didn't want anyone to go through these kind of bullying. I decided I will go out and expose the chat in public eye, but not his/her name," Saha wrote.

"My nature isn't such that I will harm anyone to the extent of ending someone's career. So on grounds of humanity looking at his/her family, I am not happens, I will not hold back.

who has shown support and matter. extended their willingness to help. My gratitude."

Saha was dropped for the in 2010.



home series against Sri Lanka and is unlikely to be considered for selection in the future with the Indian team management looking to groom a youngster as back-up wicketkeeper.

The Indian Cricketers Assoexposing the name for the time ciation earlier in the day conbeing. But if any such repetition demned the threatening message sent to Saha. The BCCI on "I thank each and everyone Monday said it will probe the

The 37-year-old has played 40 Tests since making his debut

ICA Strongly Condemns 'Threat' To Saha

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Indian Cricketers' Association (ICA) on Tuesday strongly condemned the "threatening" message to veteran wicketkeeper-batter Wridhimann Saha by a senior Indian journalist and welcomed the BC-CI's decision to probe the issue.

The ICA urged the board to take strictest possible action in the matter. "What has happened in Saha's case is totally unacceptable and we call for the respective press organisations too to take up the matter and ensure such things are not repeated.

"At the ICA our foremost concern is the welfare of cricketers. past and present, and we cannot accept such behaviour from anyone let alone a journalist." Malhotra wants Saha to reveal the name of the journalist who sent him that message

7 Unvaccinated India U-19 Players Were Denied Entry Into Caribbean And Told To 'Go Back'

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Covid-19 outbreak in its camp was not the only off-field challenge the Indian team overcame on its way to the U-19 World Cup triumph.

India's problems began on arrival in the Caribbean islands, with as many as seven unvaccinated members of the side detained at the airport for more than 24 hours, requiring the government to step in and resolve the issue.

This was after a long flight from Dubai to Port-of-Spain via

Left-arm pacer Ravi Kumar, who played a huge role in the team's unprecedented fifth World Cup triumph, and opener Angkrish Raghuvanshi were among the players who were told to "go back to India" as they were not jabbed.

Team manager Lobzang G. Tenzing, who came to their rescue with the help of the ICC and colleagues in the BCCI, narrated the "harrowing experience" of the players. The India and Trinidad government, too, had to step in to resolve the situation.

"After we landed at Port-of-Spain, we had to take a charter flight to Guyana but seven of our boys were stopped as they were not vaccinated. We tried to explain to the immigration officials that India had not started their vaccination yet but they instructed us to take the next flight out of the country," Tenzing, who heads the Sikkim Cricket Association,

"We were surrounded by security guys of the airlines as if we would run away from there. And as the argument was on with only came to light before the sec-



the only Lufthansa flight avail- but the virus in the camp came able had departed and the next one was after three days. That gave us time to negotiate with local authorities.'

"I decided to stay with the boys and we had to stay in a shady hotel near the airport for the night. It was only after the intervention of ICC and local government the matter could be resolved. It was quite a harrowing experience for the boys," he recalled. This happened in the first

week of January when India started the vaccination drive for the 15-18 age group. In the Caribbean for the big-role of the troubleshooter.

gest event of their lives, the players were inconsolable. It was not just five players,

entire administrative team got down with Covid. The Indian contingent's troubles in the Caribbean had only begun and soon after the detained players were allowed to join the team in Guyana, a Covid outbreak jeopardised the team's participation in the tournament.

The squad did not have its captain Yash Dhull and his deputy Shaik Rasheed for two of the three league games due to Covid-19. The players testing positive

when the team's SLO Ravindran returned a positive test during a five-day quarantine in Guyana.

Team manager Tenzing and the logistics manager then got infected, sending the contingent into an administrative crisis. "In all probability, our SLO caught the virus on the way to Caribbean from Dubai where we were playing the Asia Cup. And gradually it spread in the camp. "The RTPCR test results would take as long as 48 hours and that contributed to the problem," said the Sikkim cricket chief, having played the

"Tournament bio-bubble was a joke, the authorities were lethargic". The ICC had organised the event with the help of Cricket West Indies. In a challenging time like this, the Caribbean was not the best place to organise a big event like the U-19 WC, felt "It poses additional logistical

issues and people were lethargic." The Indian team had the most comfortable stay in Antigua where they played knockouts and the toughest time in Guyana where they quarantined before playing their opener against South Africa.

KL Rahul Donates Rs 31 Lakh For Budding **Cricketer's Surgery**

Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: In a heart-warming gesture, Indian opener KL Rahul has come to the rescue of an 11-year-old budding cricketer, needing an urgent bone marrow transplant (BMT) to treat a rare blood disorder.

Since September 2021, Varad, a schoolboy from Mumbai, who aspires to don an India cricket jersey, had been under the care of hematologists at Mumbai's Jaslok Hospital. In December, Varad's parents Sachin Nalawade, an insurance agent, and homemaker Swapna Jha, started a fundraising campaign on GiveIndia to raise Rs 35 lakh they needed to pay for their son's treatment.

Rahul's team got in touch with them as soon as they came to know about Varad. Rahul donated a generous Rs 31 lakh of the 35 lakh required for the procedure. Varad was operated upon, and he is now recuperating.

"When I came to know about Varad's condition, my team got in touch with GiveIndia so that we can help him in any way we could. I am glad that the surgery was successful, and he is doing well. I hope Varad gets back on his feet at the earliest and goes on to achieve his dreams. I hope my contribution inspires more and

Since September 2021, the fifth standard schoolboy had ogists in Mumbai's Jaslok Hospital after he was diagnosed with you, Rahul." (IANS)



aplastic anemia, a rare blood disorder.

Varad's blood platelet levels were very low, making his immune system extremely susceptible to infections. Even a normal fever was taking months to be cured. A bone marrow transplant was the only permanent cure for Varad's condition.

The middle-class family had run out of funds, with his father even liquidating his provident fund savings to pay for Varad's mounting medical bills to keep his son's dreams of becoming a cricketer alive. He also bought his son a fancy cricket bat for his 11th birthday to cheer up Varad and give the aspiring young

batsman some hope. Sitting next to a smiling Varad, his mother Swapna, with folded more people to come forward hands, said: "We are thankful and help those in need," Rahul to KL Rahul for donating such was quoted as saying in a release. a large amount for Varad's surgery. But for him, it would have been impossible to carry out the been under the care of hematol- bone marrow transplant in such

Australia's Pat Cummins, **David Warner To Miss Pakistan Limited-Overs Matches**



Agencies

MELBOURNE: Australia test captain Pat Cummins and opening batsman David Warner will not feature in limited-overs meet- over games, management of ings with Pakistan next month several multi-format players in after they were left out of the the medium to long term, and nationals and a Twenty20 clash.

Cummins and Warner, along with bowlers Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Nathan Lyon, have been included in the squad for Australia's three-test tour on this tour and continue our of Pakistan, but will not be in- progress towards those crucial volved following the conclusion of that series.

Australia will be embarking on Rawalpindi, Karachi and Lahore before returning to Rawalpindi for limited-overs matches from March 29 to April 5.

Aaron Finch will lead a 16man limited-overs squad that includes test players Alex Carey, Cameron Green, Marnus Labuschagne and Steve Smith.

"We have picked a talented and versatile squad with a num-

ber of challenges to juggle," national selector George Bailey said in a statement.

"(That includes) the tour structure of predominantly 50 squad for a trio of one-day inter- our need to build experience and depth in preparation for two short-form World Cups within the next 18 months.

"We're confident the squad can both compete successfully tournaments."

The one-day international series will begin on March 29, their first trip to Pakistan since with further matches on March 1998, playing test matches in 31 and April 2. The teams will then meet in a one-off Twenty20 clash on April 5.

Australia Limited Overs Squad: Aaron Finch, Sean Abbott, Ashton Agar, Jason Behrendorff, Alex Carey, Nathan Ellis, Cameron Green, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Marnus Labuschagne, Mitchell Marsh, Ben McDermott, Kane Richardson, Steve Smith, Marcus Stoinis, Adam Zampa.

Russia Risks Champions League **Final Hosting Over Ukraine**

Agencies

fficials at European football's governing body have been holding discussions on the impact of Russia's deepening intervention in Ukraine on whether the Champions League final can still be staged in St. Petersburg.

The showpiece game in European football is due to be played in the Russian city on May 28, the biggest sporting event in the country since the 2018 World Cup. UEFA hasn't issued a fresh

statement since fears were raised of a fuller Russian invasion of Ukraine after Moscow announced on Monday that its recognition of independence for areas in eastern Ukraine extends competition. to territory currently held by Ukrainian forces.

UEFA said over the weekand had no plans to change the sovereign countries."



final venue. But a person with knowledge of the situation said the Ukraine crisis was discussed by top-level officials at UEFA on Tuesday, including its president, Aleksander Ceferin. The person spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss talks assessing the geopolitical situation.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson indicated in the House of Commons that Russia shouldn't be holding such a

Johnson warned of "a Russia that is more isolated. A Russia that has pariah status ... no end that it was "constantly and chance of holding football tourclosely monitoring the situation" naments in a Russia that invades Caringly yours





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