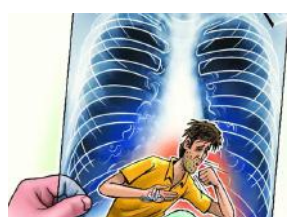


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P3 CITY

SRINAGAR QUALIFIES FOR SUB NATIONAL CERTIFICATION FOR REDUCTION IN TB: DC

The District Tuberculosis Control Society, Srinagar, Department of Health Services Kashmir today organized a grand function at Govt Dental College, Srinagar to observe

P5 THINK

THE ROYAL HEADGEAR: QARAKUL

Not everyone can go to Hogwarts and be honoured by the Sorting hat, but in the old city of Srinagar Kashmir, a traditional hat maker has been making "Qarakul" for the world leaders and the locals alike, and the build quality is no less than magic.



P7 STATE

INDIA SLAMS OIC FOR RESORTING TO 'FALSEHOODS, MISREPRESENTATION'

India on Thursday said references made to it at a meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Islamabad were based on "falsehoods and



Quote!

"No one has ever become poor by giving."

- Anne Frank

NEWS DIGEST

J&K Records 31 New Covid Cases

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday recorded 31 fresh cases of coronavirus, taking the infected number of people to 4,53,626 while no death due to the virus was reported in the last 24 hours, officials said. Of the fresh cases, 30 were from the Kashmir division **More on P6**

2 Tourists Among 7 Killed In Road Mishaps

SRINAGAR: Two non-local tourists were among seven persons killed while 27 persons were injured in two separate accidents in Ganderbal and Udhampur districts on Thursday. Reports said two non-local tourists were killed **More on P6**

High Court Get 2 More Judges

SRINAGAR: President of India on Thursday appointed Rahul Bharti and Ms. Moksha Khajuria Kazmi as Additional Judges of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh for a period of two years. With their appointment, the bench strength of the top court, common to J&K and Ladakh, shall go to 15. **More on P6**

4 Drug Peddlers Booked Under PSA

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday said to have booked four persons under stringent Public Safety Act in Awantipora of south Kashmir's Pulwama district. "Acting tough against the drug dealings and to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police in **More on P6**

Police To Attach Properties Used In Militant Activities

Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday warned that properties of people providing shelter to militants or their associates will be attached under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Talking to Kashmir Observer SSP Srinagar Rakesh Balwal said that they have already started the process of attaching the immovable properties in the Srinagar city which have been used for purpose of "terrorism" as per section 2(g) & 25 of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

He said over a dozen such houses have been identified in Soura, Downtown, Pantha Chowk, Soura, Batamalo, Nowgam, Harwan etc.

He said the people need to inform the police forthwith if a militant comes to their house forcefully and asks for shelter, food etc. Balwal said the houses that **More on P6**

DGP Urges Youth To Shun 'Path Of Violence'

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir's DGP Dilbagh Singh on Thursday said while the number of militants is decreasing in the Union Territory, violence will not end till youngsters possess guns and grenades.

He appealed to the youngsters who have joined militancy ranks to shun the path of violence and join the country's mainstream.

"The number of terrorists is decreasing but till the time there are guns or grenades, violence will continue. A person carrying guns or grenades has the capacity to injure and kill people. Their number is decreasing every year, terror-related events are also decreasing,



but killings still take place," Singh told reporters on the sidelines of a function here.

He said the killings by militants are condemnable and such acts need to be stopped.

"That is why preventive action is taken by us. Wherever there are OGWs (overground workers of terror outfits) or their support system, which **More on P6**

THE FAMILIES NEED TO INFORM the police when the militants leave the house and if the information wasn't given it will be considered a crime."

CBI To Probe Ex-J&K Guv Malik's Rs 300 Cr Bribe Allegation

Agencies

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government has recommended a CBI probe into the allegations levelled by former Governor Satya Pal Malik that he was offered a bribe of Rs 300 crore.

On October 17, 2021, Malik had said at a function in Rajasthan, "Two files had come for my



consideration. One of the secretaries told me that if I approve these, I can

get Rs 150 crore each. I turned down the offer saying that I had brought five 'kurta-pyjamas' to Kashmir and will just go back with them."

Malik had alleged that he was offered Rs 300 crore in return for clearing the files of two big industrial houses. However, he refused to accept the money and cancelled the deals. **More on P6**

Yechury Urges SC To Hear Art-370 Petitions

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The CPI (M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury on Thursday demanded early hearing by the Supreme Court on a batch of petitions challenging the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's semi-autonomous status by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led government on August 5, 2019. Yechury, who was **More on P6**

72 Lakh Tourists Visited J&K Since Sept 2021: GoI

Agencies

SRINAGAR: More than 1.43 lakh tourists visited J&K in December 2021 and the number of tourists who visited J&K since September 2021 is over 72 lakh, the Tourism Ministry said on Thursday.

While replying to a question in Rajya Sabha, Minister of Tourism G Kishan Reddy said that the

winter season has witnessed 100 percent occupancy of hotels in Srinagar and other tourist destinations.

He said that on 28 June 2021 the government announced a stimulus package to boost diverse sectors of the economy affected by COVID-19 pandemic. The package comprises a total of 17 measures in three broad categories, **More on P6**

Govt Panel To Explore Job Opportunities

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Government on Thursday constituted a 15-member Task Force headed by Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Finance Department, for generating employment opportunities in the new and upcoming destinations identified by the Mission Youth, J&K.

The members of the committee, as per a government order include Administrative Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department, Administrative Secretary, Animal, Sheep, Husbandry and Fisheries Department, Administrative Secretary, Horticulture Department, Administrative Secretary, Agriculture Production and Farmer's Welfare Department.

Administrative Secretary, PW(R&B) Department, Administrative Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, Administrative Secretary, School Education Department, Administrative Secretary, Transport Department, Administrative Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment Department, Administrative **More on P6**

DISCRIMINATION IN CAPITAL

Police Files FIR After Kashmir Resident Denied Hotel Room

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police on Wednesday filed a case against a hotelier after a Kashmiri man was allegedly discriminated against and denied accommodation despite advance booking.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (northwest) Usha Rangnani said a complaint was received at Mahendra Park Police Station stating that some people from Jammu and Kashmir were denied accommodation in a hotel in the area.

A case under section 153-B(1)b (any member of a religious, racial, language or regional group or caste or community denied of rights) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered and investigation is in progress, the DCP said.

The Delhi Police also clarified that it has not issued any direction against giving reservation in hotels to those furnishing identity cards



from Jammu and Kashmir.

The statement comes after a purported viral video on social media shows a man allegedly being denied reservation in hotel as he is from the union territory.

Syed, a resident of Srinagar, who works in a multi-national company as an auditor told Kashmir Observer that he booked the room through OYO rooms on 22 March at around 8am and when he reached the hotel namely The Pleasant Inn, he was denied the room **More on P6**

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LG Unveils Rs 34,829 Cr Potential Linked Credit Plan Of NABARD

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday unveiled Rs. 34,829 crore potential linked credit plan of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for the Union Territory aimed to bridge gaps in rural infrastructure and strengthen the co-operative credit systems to transform the agricultural economy.

The credit plan was announced at the 'UT Credit and Development Seminar' organized by NABARD in Jammu for presenting the 'UT Focus Paper 2022-23' for J&K, covering physical and financial potential under Agriculture & Allied activities and other priority sectors including the off-farm sector activities in the UT, an official spokesperson said.

Speaking on the occasion, he said, the LG underlined the need to focus on the development of rural economy for unlocking its full potential by filling the gaps vis-à-vis infrastructure, human resources and financing.



"Our next big growth story is rural J&K, and we must ensure that rural economy actively participates in this growth process. We need inter-sectoral coordination to improve infrastructure, empowerment of women & employment generation and NABARD has a vital role to play in this

endeavour," Sinha said.

According to the spokesperson, it was informed that in J&K, NABARD has been a vital driver of the rural economy by meeting the basic needs of infrastructure under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund, where under 4178 **More on P6**

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75
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Lessons From Volcano Warnings In Predicting The Next Pandemic

360info

Covid-19 alerts and warnings can be better developed by bringing together lessons learned from natural hazards like volcanoes.

Just a year after Covid-19 was identified, the world's pandemic warning system was deemed a failure by both the World Health Organisation and its independent panel, which found the world was not prepared for what lay ahead, despite the warnings. There are still no standardised alert systems for viral threats that cut across borders, but many lessons can be learned from the management of other hazards and threats. Warning systems for volcanoes are well established, and can provide best-practice lessons for the development of much-needed pandemic-alert systems at all scales.

Volcanoes have the most diverse range of any hazard. They are subject to one of the world's most frequently used warning systems, which consists of more than 80 volcano observatories that have been reviewed and improved to enhance their effectiveness over decades. Though pandemics unfold differently to volcanic crises, volcanic eruptions involve many of the same issues. Scientific uncertainties, large at-risk populations, different industries, government bodies and non-profit organisations are all involved. We do not have time to reinvent the wheel and fine-tune global health warnings.

Volcanoes are incredibly complex and require constant anticipatory monitoring. It is often too late to evacuate the surrounding region once a volcano erupts, when pyroclastic flows at temperatures over 1000 degrees Celsius can travel at the speed of a jet plane.

Volcanologists use a wide range of monitoring equipment to detect the movement of magma under the earth, the movement of the ground as the magma rises (ground deformation), gas emissions (gas trapped in the magma escaping to the surface) and water chemistry (mixing of the magma with groundwater). All this data provides clues about what a volcano is doing, but combining it is ex-



tremely challenging, so alerts are often issued in anticipation of potential activity. Scientists, emergency and disaster specialists, local communities and different levels of government must cooperate well to prepare and immediately respond. The 1985 tragedy of Nevado del Ruiz in Colombia, where warnings were not acted upon, resulted in more than 23,000 deaths. The White Island Whakaari volcano eruption in 2019 killed 22 people who were part of a tour group exploring the New Zealand island. These events taught the hard lesson that, despite improvements in scientific data and warnings, tragedy can still result if no action is taken in response.

The level of monitoring and warning we apply to volcanoes is needed to detect future pandemics. Most pandemic warnings focus on the event once it has spread to the community, but a radical shift to anticipatory warnings is needed. Too little attention is paid to the prevention of circumstances that increase health risks, such as deforestation, land-use change, intensive livestock production and climate change. Many nations have devised alert-level systems to protect local populations during the shift from full Covid-19 lockdown precautions to normality. To be effective and

timely, these alerts must be embedded in an extensive system of observation and communication that integrates different expert cohorts, tipping points, communication channels and iconography. Existing warning systems are already used for hazards and threats such as severe weather, tsunamis, terrorism or chemical accidents. They often follow a traffic-light colour structure or numerical order (as commonly used in military contexts) and are standardised at national and international level.

Numerous alert systems were devised or used during the Covid-19 pandemic, there is no comparative study to establish which were most successful, and why. However, there have been some success stories seen in New Zealand, South Africa, and South Korea amongst failures as seen in the UK, and the US.

Covid-19 alerts and warnings can be better developed by bringing together lessons learnt from the warning world from a range of hazards and threats to review elements of what makes warnings succeed and what makes them fail. There are three key lessons.

Firstly, warning systems can be effective in generating general awareness and act-

ing as triggers for initial communication, policy and action. But they require everyone in the scientific and decision-making communities to understand and effectively communicate all relevant information both ways.

Mind the gap: this phrase bellows out of most London Underground stations but captures the essence of the second key lesson learnt the challenges of negotiating gaps between hazard and risk information. Alert levels can change due to the perceived threats at hand, but the decision to progress or downgrade these levels can be challenging due to difficulties in interpreting scientific data and understanding what response is required.

Finally, the decision to move between alert levels requires negotiations of perceived political, livelihood and environmental factors rather than just evaluation of the scientific data.

Standardisation of alert systems is also vital to convey information across communities, but systems need to be designed according to national and international policies while considering local threats.

This is very hard to achieve due to the diversity and uncertain nature of hazards across different geographical areas, as well as cultural and political factors. But many volcanic communities globally can do this for volcano ash hazards, particularly in the context of aviation hazards.

Decision-makers at all levels have often failed to recognise or act upon early warnings. This lack of action is a huge problem for all hazard and threat warnings, and will inevitably play a role in the next big pandemic, which will arise sooner than we might think. Plenty of examples exist of excellent science communication but lack of action.

Action depends on collaboration across the many silos that exist in organisations, disciplines and hazards, and the newly founded UCL Warning Research Centre aims to foster such collaboration. We can draw on hard lessons learnt from other hazards and threats to be more resilient to single, multiple and cascading hazards.

It is action that is needed the most, yet the ability to make the necessary changes remains our biggest challenge, especially if we don't go beyond the silos.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my Share certificate bearing Follo No: JK8043614 . Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the JK Bank Akingam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Name Peer Aljaz Ahmad S/O Peer Abdul Rashid Rna
R/O Achabal Anantnag

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my Passport bearing No: U9536281 from Khul Chohar To Anantnag on 23-03-2022. General Punlic is requested, If anybody has found the same may contact on 9149993864.
Shahid Hamid Bhat rna
S/o Abdul Hamid Bhat
R/o Khul Chohar

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Mohammad Ramzan Pandith S/o: Mohammad Sultan Pandith R/o: Checki Kawoosa Narbal Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04F 8935 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J & K Bank Budgam B/U .



Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .
No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.7026
Dated 24/03/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Mohammad Maqbool Mir S/o: Ghulam Rasool Mir R/o: Yarikah Khansahib Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04E 3717 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S Mahindra & Mahindra Fin Ser B/U Srinagar .



Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.7019
Dated 24/03/2022

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

My DOB has been wrongly written in school records as 04/10/2004 While my correct DOB 10/04/2004 which need to be rectified. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Govt Middle School Bonasharan Karhama Baramulla within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Umar Irfan Dar
S/o Farooq Ahmad Dar
R/o Bonasharan Karhama Baramulla

bmj

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

BRANCH OFFICE SOPORE

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th & 12th under Below mentioned particulars
Shahid Ashraf



Father's Name: Mohammad Ashraf Tantray
Mother's Name: Shakeela Begum
Roll NO: 3117487 (Class 10th) , 3203616 (12th class)
Session / Year: Bi-Annual 2016 & Bi-Annual 2020
Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the some before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Sub Office Sopore

fko

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Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

NOTICE

Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Aamir Younis Khan S/O Mohd Younis Khan R/O Tangha Mohalla Shopain (Transferor) of vehicle bearing registration No. JK01U3224 in favour of Chowdry Abdul Hameed Chahara S/O Habibullah Chara R/O Chodery Manzil Rakhi Brah Aho Paisan Anantnag (Transferee).

Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general, public that representation/ Objection, if any in connection with proposed transfer will be received within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer to the address of undersigned.
No, representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the aforesaid period.

NOJK-RTOK -- Sd/-
Dated: -- Regional Transport Office,
RNA Kashmir

Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR

-----Telefax:- 0194-2496089, Email ID:- xenmhchdk@yahoo.in-----

Gist of e-tender

NIT No: MHCHD/TS /2021-22/374/e-tendering

Dated:-23.03.2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited from registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:-

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	EMD Amount (In rupees)	Time of completion (in days)	AA Accorded Vide No:	TS No
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Construction of Operator Cabin and allied works at SDH Achabal.	3.37	200	6700	3	106 –CMOA of 2021 Dt:- 07.09.2021	MED/K/TS/81 Dt:08.09.2021

- Downloading of Bids:- The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 23.03.2022 (17.30 hrs) and can be downloaded from 23.03.2022 (17.30 hrs).
- Uploading: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site 23.03.2022 (18.00 hrs) to 28.03.2022 (14:00hrs) in two (02) covers.
- Opening of Bids :- The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 28.03.2022 at 16.00 hrs or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar
Executive Engineer,
MHCHD, Srinagar

DIPK-19965/21

MHCHD/TS/12979-83

Dt:-23-03-2022

ازنیات اچھل

مضمون کاغذات درخواست منجانب محمد اشرف کھورو ولد عبد صمد کھورو ساکنہ اچھل تحصیل وڑگام بمبرادعطا گی RBA سرٹیفکیٹ تحت 294 SRO بحق محمد سلام و محمد لطیف پسران ع عظمی اشرف عصمت اشرف دختران محمد اشرف کھورو اشتہار بمبراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر ہذا میں زیر کارڈی ہے اس سلسلے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول ریکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل اور اس کا والد گزشتہ پندرہ سال سے وہاں رہائش پذیر ہے اور یہی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے کمبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

محمد اشرف کھورو مژدوری 52 سال سربرہ کمبہ مسانت فاطمہ بیگم گھریلو کام 45 سال عصمت اشرف دختر زیر تعلیم 20 سال محمد سلام پسر زیر تعلیم 17 سال محمد لطیف پسر زیر تعلیم 15 سال عظمی اشرف دختر زیر تعلیم 11 سال

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کمبہ نہیں ہے سرٹیفکیٹ اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ یوم اندر دفتر ہذا میں پیش کرے معیاد گرنے بعد کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار

fko

ازنیات انت ناگ

مضمون درخواست منجانب راجہ بانو بیوہ عبدالسلام ڈاگرساکنہ بانگی دانت انت ناگ بغرض حصول ڈیپنڈنسی سرٹیفکیٹ

اشتہار بمبراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ کی نسبت پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جسکی رو سے سائل کا شوہر عبدالسلام ڈاگہ موجودہ 16-11-2020 کو مت دی ہے۔ متنی کے ڈیپنڈنسی تفصیل بذیل ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	رشتہ منبراد حوتی	پیشہ	عمر
01	راجہ بانو بیوہ عبدالسلام ڈاگہ	بیوہ حوتی	گھریلو کام	55 سال

اسطور متوفی کے صرف ایک ہی ڈیپنڈنسی موجود ہیں۔ ان کے علاوہ متنی کا کوئی ڈیپنڈنسی موجود نہیں ہے اسطور سائل ڈیپنڈنسی سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کی خواہا کرتی ہے۔ اگر کسی شخص کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ دفتر ہذا میں سات دن کے اندر اندر پیش کریں۔ بعد از معیاد گرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

na

ازعدالت ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ دیہادول (تحصیلدار انت ناگ) بااجلاس عجزا رصاحب درخواست منجانب: محمد یعقوب ریشی ولد عبد الرشید ریشی ساکنہ تھن میر بازار انت ناگ بغرض اجرائی تارخ بنیاد انش سرٹیفکیٹ بنام :صہیب یعقوب ولد محمد یعقوب ریشی اشتہار بمبراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل اسلامیلہ مذکورہ بلانے عدالت ہذا میں ایک درخواست طلبی بیان پیش کیا ہے سائل اسانکہ کپڑا کارخانہ بنیاد 17/01/2014 سے اس شخص میں سرٹیفکیٹ ایک ایشیالنگانے کا جواہ ہے لہذا سرٹیفکیٹ مذکورہ کارخانہ کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر درودان دفتر کی اوقات میں پیش کرے بصورت دیگر کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ دیہادول (تحصیلدار انت ناگ)

rna



‘Yet To receive Dues’, Say Artists Who Beautified City Walls

Agencies

Srinagar: Professional Artists who beautified blank spaces and walls with graffiti artwork in parts of Kashmir capital Srinagar under the Srinagar Smart City Project have been wandering from pillar to post to get their dues.

In December last year, the Government hired several professional Artists to paint artwork on walls depicting different species of birds, Kashmiri culture, and other things. Over one dozen Artists beautified the walls in parts of Srinagar includ-

ing MA Road, Ram Bagh, Lal Chowk and Dalgate.

“We were promised payment as soon as work is started but even after finishing our assignments, no payments have been made. The officials resort to dilly daily tactics,” a group of artists said.

“We are now being threatened of losing our future contracts in case we continue to press for the payment,” they alleged.

Pertinently, some works carried out under Srinagar Smart City Project had drawn flak when netizens alleged that money is being wasted for no reason.

Public Health Workers Decry Delay In Salaries

Agencies

Srinagar: Public Health Workers (FMPHW) of the Family Welfare Department Thursday staged a protest in Srinagar, demanding an immediate release of their pending salaries, which according to them is withheld from the past four months.

Health workers from different districts assembled at Press Enclave and staged a protest against the authorities for the delay in releasing

their monthly salaries.

“We are the backbone for the health department but it’s unfortunate that we are being forced to stage a protest for our salaries,” said a protestor.

“We have taken loans from banks and in absence of the salaries, we are unable to pay the monthly EMIs. We are not in a position to pay regular School and College fees of our children,” they said and demanded the government to look into the matter and release their pending salaries at an earliest. (KNO)

Hundreds Throng Spring Blossom Fest At Zawoora Garden

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Horticulture Department organized ‘Spring Blossom Festival’ for development of horticulture tourism at a place which is known across the world for its unique quality of horticulture produce and picturesque landscape.

Director General Horticulture, Kashmir, Aijaz Ahmed Bhat, who conceptualized the unique initiative, says the mode of tourism can add value to the horticulture produce sold by farmers and enhance sustainability to the rural areas.

It will also help in promoting the authenticity of varieties sold by producers in Kashmir. Visitors will experience different stages of horticulture produce and also enjoy the natural ambience of fruit orchards,” he said after visiting the ‘Spring Blossom Festival’ at Center of Excellence Zawoora Srinagar, spread over 312 Kanal of land.

The Spring Blossom Festival has attracted thousands of visitors to witness a riot of colours in the picturesque centre of excellence amid the wafting of the fragrance of flowers of hundreds of fruit trees.

The main aim of the department is enhancing destination attraction to both specialist and general tourists besides promoting the horticulture produce.

The Centre of Excellence, set up at a cost of Rs. 902.10 lakh at Zawoora Srinagar

by Government of India under MIDH scheme under Indo-Dutch Work Plan, has facilities for production of high-quality fruit plants and it serves as a demonstration centre for micro-irrigation, high-tech greenhouse technology, tissue culture labs, bio-control labs and plans to have weather disease forecasting station.

The visitors are amazed to see hundreds of flowers of Cherry trees, Plum trees, Peach, Apricot, Pear and Apple which are spread over 312 kanal of land and are presenting an attractive ambience to lift up the soul of people after the dull winter.

Brakesh Singh, a businessman from UP who visited Spring Blossom Festival’ along with his family highly appreciated the gala carnival saying that he was feeling on cloud nine.

“I have always loved Kashmiri apples and today I got to see the apple trees in reality. Like the taste of Kashmiri apple, the fragrance of apple flowers is awesome. This is refreshing to sit in the lap of a huge garden with breeze crossing flowers and touching you giving a divine peace of mind, he asserted.

During his speech at the launch of the festival, Director General Horticulture said, Horti-tourism is a first of its kind initiative launched in Jammu and Kashmir for strengthening farmers’ economy. He added that said such festivals will also help in disseminating latest horticulture technology among the



Srinagar Qualifies For Sub National Certification For Reduction In TB: DC

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The District Tuberculosis Control Society, Srinagar, Department of Health Services Kashmir today organized a grand function at Govt Dental College, Srinagar to observe World Tuberculosis Day with a theme “Invest to End TB. Save Lives” and to celebrate milestones achieved in elimination of TB by district besides commitment towards making Nation TB free by 2025.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Assad was the chief guest while Additional Commissioner Kashmir, Qazi Sarwar was the guest of honour.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the theme is a call to invest to eliminate TB and make India TB free for which resources have to be channelized which includes finances and diversified efforts.

He said, “Due to the pandemic, our efforts to eliminate TB got dented during the last two and half years, and underlined that steady, persistent and collaborated efforts are required to get

results for TB free Srinagar”.

In this regard, District Srinagar has a vibrant TB centre which is playing its role efficiently.

He said our TB elimination score is 91.22 percent which is higher than guidelines of the National Tuberculosis Elimination Plan which is fixed at 80 percent hence district Srinagar qualifies for Sub National Certification.

The Sub National Certification is an initiative to mark the progress of districts, states and UTs towards the TB free status which was initiated in 2020 to achieve the target of TB free India by 2025.

Meanwhile, DC congratulated District TB Officer and her entire team for putting concerted efforts for achieving the milestone in elimination of TB.

He said that unfortunately society has attached a social stigma with TB for which he said that awareness among people is to be spread to eradicate this attitude and create a conducive environment so TB patients do not face any inconvenience.

He said those patients do not only need medical treatment but social and emotional support.

Additional Commissioner Kashmir while speaking on the occasion said that we should take every step to eliminate TB by 2025 for which he impressed on continuation of dedicated efforts by the health department.

A couple of patients who have recovered from TB also spoke about the symptoms of disease and treatment and appealed to all to go for medical examination when symptoms emerge.

Among others present on the occasion were Chief Medical Officer, Srinagar; Epidemiologist Dr Talat, Doctors, Paramedics, ASHA Workers and Students.

On the occasion, a skit was presented to create awareness among the people regarding TB infection, treatment and assistance to be provided by the government including free tests, medicine and monthly Rs. 500 assistance to patients.

Appreciation certificates were also provided to ASHA workers for their contribution in elimination of TB disease.

Later, all the participants pledged to contribute for elimination of TB and signed a signature wall.

Conference On Managing Weather & Climate Risks Kicks Off At SKUAST

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar emphasized that adopting crops to climate variability and uncertainty is the need of the hour in view of the changing climatic conditions across the world.

Advisor Bhatnagar made these comments while speaking at the inaugural session of three days ‘National Conference on Managing Weather & Climate Risks in Agriculture’ at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture Science and Technology, Kashmir (SKUAST-K).

The three day conference is being organized by SKUAST-K in collaboration with Association of Agro meteorologists Anand Gujarat-Kashmir chapter.

Addressing a large gathering of Agro meteorologists, scientists, PhD scholars, researchers, students and other delegates from across the country, Advisor Bhatnagar said that this conference is relevant in today’s time as the world is witnessing unprecedented change in climatic conditions. He added that the deliberations of this conference will significantly address the impact of climate change on Ag-



riculture.

Highlighting on the issue of rising climate change, Advisor Bhatnagar said that extreme weather events are happening on daily basis and it is really time to take some proactive steps on the issue. He asked all the participants and delegates that some concrete steps must be taken so that less impact can be put on Agriculture sector which forms the core area of GDP of our country.

Talking about some remarkable developments the UT of J&K has witnessed in last few years, Advisor Bhatnagar said that the whole ecosystem of Jammu and Kashmir has undergone a massive change and fast-track development and progress is happening on the ground. He added that the UT has observed transformation on all aspects like transpor-

tation, highway construction, health sector and several other fields of public importance.

On the occasion, Advisor Bhatnagar also conferred societal awards and fellowships among the scientists and researchers of different universities of the country.

Congratulating the awardees on the occasion, Advisor Bhatnagar said that their contribution to Agro meteorology is worth appreciating and their presence adds value to this conference.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai while speaking on the occasion highlighted about the climate change and its impact on agricultural sector. He added that the brainstorming on various aspects in this conference will significantly

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HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
20 Shaban
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 08
ZUHR	12:40
ASR	4:58
Magrib	6:48
ISHA	8: 08

This Day In History

- 1802 - Great Britain and the French Republic sign the Treaty of Amiens
- 1817 - Tsar Alexander I recommends formation of Society of Israeli Christians
- 1820 - Greece freedom revolt against anti Ottoman attack
- 1821 - Greece gains independence from Turkey (National Day)
- 1895 - Italian troops invade Abyssinia (Ethiopia)
- 1902 - In Russia, 567 students are tried for rioting and 'political disaffection' are found guilty; 95 are banished to Siberia
- 1911 - Triangle Shirtwaist Factory catches fire 145 die, all but 13 girls submarine disaster; a US F-4 sank off Hawaii, killing 21
- 1920 - Greek Independence Day.
- 1937 - Italy & Yugoslavia sign non-aggression treaty (Pact of Belgrade)
- 1944 - RAF Flight Sgt Nicholas Alkemade survives a jump from his Lancaster bomber from 18,000 feet over Germany without a parachute; his fall was broken by pine trees and soft snow, and he suffered only a sprained leg.

From KO Archives

Legislative History Created, Entire Opposition Expelled

Observer News Service

Jammu- History of sorts was created here today, with at least fifteen people including seven legislator sustaining injuries in a clash between watch and ward staff of the Assembly and opposition MIAs in the course latter's forcible removal as ordered by the Speaker Ali Mohammed Naik. Barring Dilawar Mir (JD), Yusuf Tarigami (CPM) and Bhagat Ram Chand (BSP) entire opposition was expelled for the rest of the current session.

The Speaker's order followed unprecedented pandemonium that broke out in the house, soon after today's session started, with Naik announcing the question hour. The agitating members left their seats and assembled in the well of the house demanding suspension of the question hour and asking for a discussion over the situation arising of the agitation of Jammu students against the alleged "injustice" done to the students from that division. The opposition members also demanded that the list of selected candidates for MBBS and BDS courses be scrapped.

The trouble started immediately after Speaker resumed his seat when members the BJP, Congress and Janta Dal got up to raise the issue of "large scale bungling, irregularities and corruption" in the recently released selection list of MBBS and BDS. The speaker Ali Mohd Naik however ignored the shouts of opposition and instead named the member, on top of the list of questions slated for today, to ask his question. But the agitated opposition continued with slogan shouting and amidst unruly noisy scenes in the house, nothing was audible. As the protest continued, CPM member Yusuf Tarigami was heard inviting the attention of the speaker about the "environment of the state house" saying "we want to speak about environment of the state but the environment inside the house is not well".

When the speaker disallowed all pleas of the opposition, the agitated members walked to well of the house and staged a dharna shouting slogans against ministers and ruling party members. Harsh Dev Singh (NPP) Mohd Yusuf allies Kuka Parrey (AL) Satpal Lakhittra and Jagdish Dubey (JD) also joined the dharna and continued shouting slogans demanding scrap of list. The BJP and Congress members including Mehbooba Mufti, Ashok Sharma, Balbir Singh, Lal Singh. Searing Dorjay, and Tara Chand also joined the BJP legislators headed by Shiv Charn Gupta and demanded suspension of question hour and a reply from the government. At one stage some opposition members were seen rushing towards the Speaker's podium amidst shouts of slogans.

At this stage Law minister P L Handoo, who also hold Parliamentary Affairs portfolio, moved a motion seeking expulsion of all the members for rest of the session. The motion was seconded by Finance Minister Mohd Shafi carried by a voice vote and then followed Naik's order expelling all the 17 members, indulging in "uncalled for behaviour" for remaining period of the current session of the assembly. After the motion was adopted and Speaker gave his ruling, the members were asked to leave the house. However as the members defied the repeated orders of the chair, the Speaker adjourned the house for half an hour. But the opposition members continued their dharna and slogan shouting in the well of the house.

As the house re-assembled, after stipulated time, the opposition was there in the well busy in slogan shouting and making it impossible for the Speaker to go ahead with the proceedings.

The Speaker at this stage ordered the Marshall of the house to remove the expelled members physically with the help of watch and ward staff, this resulted in violent clashes between the members and the watch and ward staff with the former offering stiff resistance. Chairs and microphones were used in the melee that followed leading to multiple injuries to Ashok Sharma, Ch. Lal Singh,

Shiv Charn Gupta, Prithvi Chand, Bali Bhagat, Ch Chuni Lala, Ch Piara Singh and Satpal Lahotra. Seven members of the watch and ward staff also received injuries.

The Chief Minister and his ministerial colleagues did not respond to opposition members' demand for scrapping the list or discussion over the issue.

(Kashmir Observer, 25 March, 1998)

Workshop On ‘NGA Pro 3D Bioprinter’ Concludes At NIT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A two-day-long training workshop on ‘ANGA PRO 3D Bio-Printer’ concluded on Thursday at Mechanical Engineering Department, National Institute of Technology (NIT), Srinagar.

The workshop was headed by Prof. Nazir Ahmad Sheikh, HOD, Mechanical Engineering Department, while Dr. M. Mursaleen was the coordinator of the two-day-long event.

The valedictory session of the workshop was presided over by the Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh

Seghal was the chief guest on the occasion. While Dr. Sumant Bhutoria from ALFATEK system was the resource person for the workshop.

On the occasion, Prof. Seghal spoke about the developing software technologies like ANGA PRO 3D Bio-Printer and congratulated HOD Mechanical Engineering Department Prof. Nazir Ahmad Sheikh and his entire team for organizing a successful workshop.

“We should not use any software as a black box and know what is happening inside, how they are selecting tools,” he said.

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Biden in Europe

US President Joe Biden is on his visit to Europe to rally the European leaders to respond to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The war in Ukraine is now one-month old and it has not only caused widespread devastation in the country but has also confronted the dominance of the US its most formidable challenge since the end of the cold war in 1990. So Biden's visit to Europe is very consequential in nature. Europe has been most worried about its energy supply in the wake of the US-led sanctions on Russia, one of the major global producers of oil. Though Europe now wants the Gulf kingdoms to compensate for their boycott of Russian oil supply, it will take time before the former are in a position to increase the production. Besides, Arab kingdoms are seeking long-term contracts as generating more oil will need more investment into the infrastructure.

But for the west or the US-led world order, the Russian invasion of Ukraine is nothing short of an existential challenge. Even a negotiated settlement let alone the Russian victory will re-order the world and shift the balance of power away from the US. So, for the west, the war basically is not about Ukraine, at stake is its own dominance of the world.

Meanwhile, the war is causing a humanitarian catastrophe in Ukraine. Millions of people have fled the country and they are painting a horrible picture of the state of affairs prevailing back home. Considering that the west has shown no sign of backing down let alone make calls for negotiations to address mutual concerns, the war is looking set to continue.

Russia too has shown no signs of being mellowed by the sanctions. But the war so far seems to have not gone according to Putin's calculations. Russia appears far from taking control of Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine. West has, meanwhile, armed Ukrainian forces with the latest weaponry which is believed to be mainly responsible for stalling Russian advance.

The coming few weeks would be crucial. It needs to be seen whether Russia makes more advances or suffers reverses from the territory it has captured so far and this would determine how each side would calibrate its response. Though Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky has called for direct talks with Russian President Putin, the latter is in no mood for such a meeting. West has also been cautious not to join the war directly, so as not to expand the conflict which could culminate into a nuclear exchange, a frightening scenario that could bring about doomsday for the world. This makes it urgent for the world powers to climb down from their hubris and work together to find a way out of the ongoing war. But going by the tough postures adopted both by the US and Russia, such an outcome looks unlikely in near future.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Media repercussions for
Israel, post-Ukraine coverage

With the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine, the western media's framing of fundamental aspects of what constitutes invasion and legitimate resistance will have negative long-term repercussions for Israel's informational narrative.

The western corporate media's glorification of Ukrainian resistance has shown the reality that in many situations, the notion of journalism being a 50-50 reporting affair is inapplicable. This notion was long championed by the prominent global affairs journalist, the late Robert Fisk.

The veteran journalist famously stated that "we must be neutral and unbiased on the side of those who suffer, would we give equal time to the stories of the slaves and the stories of those slaves thrown overboard with the slave-ship captain and interview him for 50% of the report? Our job is to have a moral conscience when we are reporting; the occupier and the occupied should not necessarily have an even playing field." Fisk's framing of what journalism is, instead of what it ought to be in theory peddled by western academia used to be applied in a less obvious manner.

However, the ongoing war in Ukraine has propelled Fisk's understanding of journalism into practice of journalism on a mass scale.

Post-Ukraine war, it will be very difficult for western media to hide behind the objectivity excuse and not view Palestinian resistance through the angle of self-defense and liberation struggle. Media coverage of the war in Ukraine established that impartiality is not as sacred a principle that many assumed it to be, which one must uphold at all costs.

When covering the right of the invaded people, the impartiality notion can become a method of delegitimization of occupied people.

As the world's media scene has become more even and the multipolar global order is here to stay, together these two notions will further undermine Israel's narrative as it will not be able to shed its role as the occupier

Crescent International

MINDFUL FRIDAYS

Parenting Gone Rogue?

Parenting Practices and Mental Health of Children

Wasim Kakroo

In Kashmir, a lot of importance is pinned on the treatment of elders by kids. The discipline to treat elders with a certain level of respect is inculcated in children from a very young age. Children are taught the rights of elders, especially parents, over them. However, rules and ways of parenting are either inherited, adopted or adapted without much thought. Some children get lucky and others face the brunt of bad parenting all their lives. The bad parenting practices often go unnoticed because our society only places importance on the rights of parents over kids while ignoring the rights of children. Therefore, bad parenting practices are neither flagged nor chided — it continues unabated without correction.

Since at least the 1920s, developmental psychologists have been interested in finding how parents impact the development of children's social and emotional competence. In this regard, a construct known as "parenting style" has been under study for all these years as it is one of the most important constructs that has helped researchers to understand the link between parenting and its impact on various developmental aspects of a child's life.

The term "parenting style" refers to the strategies that parents employ when raising their children. It's about how you engage with your kids, as well as how and why you raise them the way you do. The way you parent your children depends on many factors such as the philosophy you have about parenting, the experiences you had about parenting you received when you were growing as a child at your home, your own personality etc. Parenting style is also influenced by subconscious factors that you are unaware of. Your parenting style may have an impact on your child's or adolescent's mental health, as well as their academic, social, and emotional development, no matter how it develops.

There are various types of parenting styles that have been described. The four major recognized parenting styles are:

In the Authoritative Parenting style, parents are loving, responsive, and supporting, but they also set firm boundaries for their children. They use rules, discussion, and reasoning to try to manage their children's behavior. They consider a child's point of view but do not necessarily accept it. Parents who practice authoritative parenting provide clear guidelines and are democratically responsive to their children's needs. Rather than behaving like a rigid boss, they are communicative and willing to listen to their children. Authoritative parents are able to understand their children's emotions and teach them how to manage them. Misconduct is punished in a measured and consistent manner, rather than in an arbitrary or violent manner. Rather than punishing the inappropriate behaviors, the natural repercussions of indulging in various inappropriate behaviors are discussed with the child, helping him/her to recognize that the behavior is wrong and should not be repeated. Thus child may stop the behavior because he/she understood that continuing the behavior is not healthy for him/her rather than simply for avoiding negative consequences. Authoritative parents set boundaries and expect maturity from their children, and they are more likely to explain why they are punishing their child in a particular situation. In some situations, this may lead to the child's better understanding and compliance. This parenting style elicits cooperation from the children. Growing up in an authoritative family not only gives a child a firm foundation, but it also ensures that they keep a close bond with their parents throughout their lives. This parenting style produces children who are pleasant, energetic, joyful, self-reliant, self-controlling, curious, cooperative, and goal-oriented.

Yet another type of parenting style is the Authoritarian Parenting style. Children are expected to follow the firm rules established by the parents under this parenting style. Failure to observe such regulations is frequently met with punishment. The reasons for these rules are never explained by authoritarian parents. If asked for, the parent may simply say, "Because I said so."

Despite their great expectations, such parents are not very responsive to their children. They want their children to behave extraordinarily and avoid making mistakes, but they give very little guidance on what they should or should not do in the future. Children of such parents who make mistakes are punished often

harshly, but they usually are unable to understand what mistake they have made.

Such parents confuse respect with fear. They expect their children to be fearful of them than to be respectful towards them. Authoritative parents are more interested in inducing obedience in their children, and they expect their commands to be followed without question. They are frequently seen as autocratic and overbearing. "Spare the rod, spoil the child" is their philosophy.

Such parenting practices may have various adverse effects on the mental health of children who receive such a type of parenting. Because the authoritarian parent generally tells the child what to do rather than allowing the child to choose for themselves, such children have less social competence, making such children appear to excel in the short term but limits development in ways that become increasingly apparent as direct supervision and control from parents decline with the passage of time. Children reared by authoritarian parents are more likely to be conformists, obedient, silent, and unhappy. These kids are vulnerable to depression and self-blame. These traits might persist throughout adulthood for some children raised by authoritarian parents. Children who are bitter or angry about being reared in an authoritarian household yet have developed high behavioural self-confidence frequently fight back in adolescence and/or early adulthood.

Children who experience anger and resentment, as well as the negative effects of low self-efficacy and high self-blame, are more likely to engage in avoidance behaviours, such as substance abuse, and are more likely to commit suicide.

It is important to note that our society unfortunately praises this type of parenting practice without understanding its adverse effects on the mental health of children.

Diametrically opposite to the authoritarian style of parenting is the Indulgent/Permissive/permissive/non-directive/libertarian/anti-authoritarian parenting. The parent in this style is responsive but not demanding. Indulgent parenting is defined as having little behavioral expectations for the child. "Indulgent parenting" is a parenting style in which parents are very involved with their children yet do not impose many demands or limits on them. Parents are loving and accepting of their children, and they respond to their wants and desires. Indulgent parents don't expect their children to self-regulate or act responsibly. Children of indulgent parents will pay less attention as adults to avoid behaviours that cause others to be aggressive.

Parents with permissive style try to be "friends" with their children rather than playing their role as parents. The child's expectations are modest, and there is little discipline. Permissive parents also allow their children to make their own decisions while providing friendly guidance. There are little punishments or regulations in this form of parenting. Permissive parents also offer their children whatever they want in the hopes that their accommodating behavior would be noticed and appreciated by their children. Other permissive parents make up for what they lacked as children by providing their children with the freedom and resources they lacked in their own childhood. Researchers have observed that pre-school children with permissive parenting later turned out to be immature, lacked impulse control, and were unruly.

Children of permissive parents never learn to control their own behaviour and always expect to get their way and as adolescents may get involved in various delinquent behaviors such as substance abuse.

Yet another parenting style, albeit poor is Neglectful/uninvolved parenting. Here the parent is indifferent and undemanding. Such parents let their children do anything they want. Neglectful parents, unlike indulgent/permissive parents, do so because they are disconnected from their children's needs. Neglectful parents are unaware of what their children are up to, and if they do find out, they are unconcerned.

It has been seen that parents who have an uninvolved parenting style were frequently raised by parents who were uninvolved and disapproving. They may find themselves repeating the same patterns as they received when they were growing as children. Other parents who exhibit this style may simply be so preoccupied with their own life that they find it simpler to interact with their children in a hands-off manner.

In some situations, parents may be so preoccupied with their own issues (e.g., being overworked, dealing with depression, or battling substance abuse) that they fail to recognise how uninvolved they are with their children or are simply unable to provide the emotional support that their children require.

In practically every sphere of life, the children with uninvolved parents fare poorly. Deficiencies in cognition, attachment, emotional skills, and social skills are common in these children.

Children raised by uninvolved parents may struggle to build healthy attachments later in life due to a lack of emotional responsiveness and love from their caregivers. Children with uninvolved parents are more prone to misbehave since there are no boundaries in the home, making it difficult to learn proper behaviors and limits in school and other social contexts. As a result, children of such parents are generally lonely, depressed, and immature, have poor self-esteem and have a hard time adjusting to societal norms. They are more prone to fall victim to abusive relationships, engage in dangerous behaviors such as substance abuse, promiscuity, and sustain injuries

Some lesser known parenting styles include Helicopter parenting in which parents are excessively focused on their children. It involves involvement in a child's life in an overprotective, overcontrolling, and overperfecting manner. Helicopter parenting refers to parents who assist high school or college-aged children with chores that they are capable of completing on their own (for instance, calling a professor about poor grades, arranging a class schedule, managing exercising habits). In toddlerhood, a helicopter parent may continually hover over the child, playing with and controlling his actions, leaving him with no time alone. Helicopter parents in elementary school try to ensure that a child has a specific teacher or coach, choose the child's friends and activities, or provide excessive help with homework and school projects.

Children of such parents may have low self-esteem and self-confidence, they may have underdeveloped social, emotional and other coping skills, may experience more anxiety and may feel entitled to have their desired positions in almost every area of their life.

Additionally, there is Lawn mover/snow pillow/bulldozer parenting. Snowplow parents are willing to drop everything to meet their child's wishes and demands, no matter how insignificant they are. They essentially "plow down" anything that gets in the path of their child. Lawnmower parents frequently have good intentions and do not want their children to suffer through hardship. These practices, however, do not provide a basis for long-term happiness, and they might actually exacerbate a child's fear of failure.

So what can parents do to improve their parenting skills?

Looking at the impact parenting can have on the mental health of children; parents have a huge responsibility towards their children so that they become effective parents and hence help their children live a mentally healthy and respectful life.

To understand more about effective ways that are beneficial to children, parents should read books, websites, and articles devoted to childrearing. They should join workshops to understand and listen to the experts in the field of child rearing.

Additionally, research has shown that parent training can help parents become more involved in their children's lives in an effective and scientific way.

Moreover, speaking with a mental health expert such as a psychologist can help you put your own experiences into context and learn new skills that will help you form healthy ties and limits with your children.

One must also make a concerted effort to spend more time with your kids. Listen to what they have to say and gain insight into their lives. It's not simple to change, and it's even more difficult if you're a busy working parent. Focus on carving out as much time as you can to give your children your undivided attention.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar). He can be reached at 8825067196



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Horrors in the Ways of Women Commuters in Kashmir

I'm writing this with profound grief, but it was very important to put this issue in public domain, again. The most common issue "Sexual Harassment".

Not that we are not aware of this already but we have normalized this issue like it doesn't exist.

I am a local transport commuter and to be honest I experience a lot of sexual harassment in its diverse forms, just like all other girls do. But today when I left

for the office in the morning, I was waiting at the stop for the transport when a very traumatic incident happened.

While standing there, other than unnecessary honking and gazing that were making me uncomfortable. I saw an altogether different side of that man who initially honked to an extent where he made it noticeable for me to look up at him. The guy had the audacity to stop his car in front of my feet, rub off his fogged window

and invited me into his car while smirking at my miserable startled self. I got numb, couldn't even move my body to run, or even confront the man for his sheer shamelessness. Somehow I mugged up my courage and went past him. It was only after I boarded a vehicle that I could understand what had happened and an unmatched anger rushed in my blood. But all I could do was convert every ounce of that anger into a tear.

People might say that my crying showed my cowardliness or weakness but the truth is that I didn't cry for only this incident but for all other such incidents I experience on an everyday basis or other girls do, irrespective of their age, religion, clothing etc.

Being a girl was not made difficult by the Creator, but we humans have constructed a society where it becomes difficult for her to exist.

*Samina Rehman**

The Royal Headgear: Qarakul

From the Late Mohammed Ali Jinnah (in 1942) to Rajiv Gandhi (in 1984) to Narendra Modi (in 2014) and also to the Late King of Oman, Qaboos bin Said, the Jan Cap house has made Qarakul caps for all of them. From the political leaders like Farooq Abdullah to the separatists like Late Syed Ali Shah Geelani, the list goes on



“Sometimes a politician specifically wants me to make his Qarakul cap taller than some rival politician. That is why I always ask about the height of the cap. I know it matters a lot,” says Jan

Muneeb Nageeb

SRINAGAR- Not everyone can go to Hogwarts and be honoured by the Sorting hat, but in the old city of Srinagar Kashmir, a traditional hat maker has been making “Qarakul” for the world leaders and the locals alike, and the build quality is no less than magic.

The Jan family has been designing, crafting and manufacturing the esteemed Qarakul caps for about a hundred and twenty-five years today. Ever since their inception, the Qarakul caps have been an accepted symbol of prestige. The Czars fashioned it atop their scalps, as did the African monarchs and other people of such ilk.

“I make different styles of Qa-

rakul at our shop that include caps from Russian, Turkish, Afghani, Persian, Jinnah style and I am even adapting to the contemporary styles of caps like the one worn in Ertugrul”, says Muzaffar Ahmad Jan, the owner of the shop.

From the Late Mohammed Ali Jinnah (in 1942) to Rajiv Gandhi (in 1984) to Narendra Modi (in 2014) and also to the Late King of Oman, Qaboos bin Said, the Jan Cap house has made Qarakul caps for all of them. From the political leaders like Farooq Abdullah to the separatists like Late Syed Ali Shah Geelani, the list goes on. Rumour has it that the UFC Champion Khabib as well would have been added to the list of the prominent figures whom the Jan House serves, if

only the then circumstance would have allowed for the assimilation of the proper arrangements.

“Sometimes a politician specifically wants me to make his Qarakul cap taller than some rival politician. That is why I always ask about the height of the cap. I know it matters a lot,” says Jan.

It is common knowledge that the globalization of the western culture is often held responsible for the demise of our traditional attire. Jeans have conquered a lot that once used to be the culture of the land. In times like ours when the youth are swaying away from the fashion choices of their ancestors, it is no surprise that the Jan Cap House’s major clients

are seasoned politicians locally.

From a business perspective, Jan says “The Qarakul sales locally are not what they once were, as the age-old design fails to appeal to the youth.” The Jan Cap House, however, is cashing in on the trend of the Ertugrul style Caps, which are popular among youngsters.

“I constantly try to evolve and experiment with my craft to keep up with the pace of the ever changing world”, says Jan. The Qarakul cap is peaked and folds flat when taken off. With the introduction of circular caps, they have managed to dam the loss to a certain limit.

Jan is the only one from his generation of his extended family who decided to carry forward the de-



cadest-old family business. Unlike his cousins, he took up the craft of making Qarakul when his father, Ghulam Mohammad Jan, passed away.

“I never formally trained to learn this craft, it came to me naturally, and I see my 6-year-old son showing quite the similar interest in this craft”

“Earlier, I would get all of my raw material directly from Afghanistan, the quality there is superior to other places. But as fate would have it, ever since the new regime came into power there, India has stopped trading with them. So, naturally, I cannot import the material that the customers are looking for”, says Jan.

On the other side of the plain, multiple animal rights organizations have raised questions about how the material that goes into the making of the Qarakul cap is procured. Where certain reports suggest that the lamb whose skin is flayed in order to obtain the material required for the making of the Qarakul is aborted as it lies in the womb, others suggest that this could not be true as the skin of the foetus is not yet developed enough to make the Qarakul. Thus, another word follows that the said lamb must be at least 5 to 6 months old (gestation period of a lamb is 152 days) to produce the quality material that is required for producing the Qarakul of

sound quality.

“Had there been any inhuman practices involved in the process, I would not have been making so many Qarakul caps for religious leaders and Islamic scholars,” says Jan, pointing out that it is not only politicians who wear his sought-after headgear.

The good quality Qarakul lambskin costs around 5 to 10 thousand rupees. One skin usually makes one cap. Jan says that on average he spends around another 3000 on the raw material and labour of the cap, which usually fetches him anything in between Rs 5000 to Rs 20000. It takes him four to five hours to make a single piece and on an average he makes about two a day.

“This business runs on your eye for the skin. We get most of the skin from Afghanistan and Central Asia,” Jan says. “We tried to get some Qarakul lambs to breed in Ladakh mountains but it didn’t produce very good results”, he added.

Though Mr. Jan’s local clientele is diminishing but the sales are not slowing down outside of the Valley.

“I keep getting requests for making Qarakul from Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow, Jaipur. People that I have never personally met, call me and place an order. I am grateful for each client that I get to have, for each sale made, I thank the Almighty.”

Sustainability Crisis of Fast Fashion

Mark Sumner

The fashion industry has some major sustainability problems. By 2030, it is predicted that the industry’s water consumption will grow by 50% to 118 billion cubic metres, its carbon footprint will increase to 2,791m tonnes and the amount of waste it creates will hit 148m tonnes.

These predictions are in spite of significant progress being made by brands and retailers to minimise their impact. Many are using sustainable cotton initiatives to reduce water, energy and chemical use, new dyeing technology to reduce water consumption by up to 50% as well as numerous energy and chemical saving schemes throughout the supply chain. In the UK, the result of this work is percolating through to stores, with a reduction in the carbon and water footprints per tonne of clothing of 8% and 7% respectively since 2012.

So the industry is reducing the environmental footprint of its products. But the problem has now shifted to the consumption side: the insatiable appetite for fashion means people are buying more and more clothes. Since 2012, there has been a 10% increase in the amount of clothing purchased in the UK alone. And not only are British consumers buying more; more of their clothing gets discarded quicker as they chase the latest fashion trends. It is estimated there is over £30 billion of clothing sitting in wardrobes across the UK that hasn’t been used for over 12 months.

Fast fashion is seen by many as the fundamental cause of all the sustainability issues the industry faces. And so it has been suggested by numerous commentators, academics and NGOs that ethical consumerism can and will lead to a paradigm shift in behaviour. Over time, it is thought, slow fashion will become the norm, with consumers wearing classically styled garments that last for ten years. This, so they say, will minimise the need to make new purchases of the latest fashion fad, therefore reducing impacts. The logic of this argument is predicated on the idea that consumers are rational



animals with behaviour that is controlled and predictable.

But the growth of ethical consumerism has not materialised in mainstream fashion. Ethically minded brands believe the single biggest issue stopping them becoming more sustainable is the consumer; either through their lack of awareness of the issues faced by the industry or through an unwillingness to pay for sustainable products.

So can ethical consumerism really exist in the mainstream fashion market? Psychology and behavioural science may suggest that ethical fashion consumerism is a pipe dream. We believe our purchasing decisions are based on rational, conscious and well thought out deliberations. But the complexity of human behaviour and the fundamental nature of fashion

implies that ethical consumption may not be an attainable goal.

FASHION AND ETHO

Why is this the case?

First, it is important to explain that marketing tools such as questionnaires and surveys used to predict the growth of ethical consumption are problematic. They are good for identifying purchase intention but poor for predicting actual behaviour. Surveys tend to illicit a response that presents the participant in a positive light: non ethical shoppers tend to state they are ethical to protect their external image. And surveys are reliant on the participant being truthful and knowledgeable about their behaviour. How truthful we are is debatable and research shows we are not as knowledgeable as we think

we are about the drivers for our behaviour.

Our behaviour is far more selfish than we might like to believe. Rational models of consumption are based on the idea that individuals make choices that balance costs and benefits. An ethical consumer will make rational judgements about purchases on the best outcome in terms of costs and benefits for them and the environment.

But consumption, and in particular fashion consumption, is quite irrational. Purchase decisions are more likely to be driven by desires linked to pleasure and excitement. Fashion is a social activity for setting our status (the egoistical drivers) but it is also an activity that is driven by emotional desires such as the fantasy, excitement and aspirations of living a better, more

fulfilling life.

These hedonistic subconscious forces are what make shopping for clothes exciting and pleasurable. They create a less rational approach to consumption which ultimately reduces the influence of rational thoughts about ethics and the environmental consequences of our purchases.

FAST AND ETHICAL FASHION

Ethical campaigners, journalists and even some brands have argued that consumers would be able to overcome these subconscious forces of fun and excitement if they had more information about the ethical issues. But evidence shows that this does little to increase ethical behaviour. In fact, more information tends to reduce the influence of ethical issues due to the complexity of the issues.

This complexity is doubled by the amount of conflicting information produced by NGOs, the media and brands themselves: cotton is bad for the environment; microfibres are poisoning the oceans; bamboo is ethical (it’s not). When the experts can’t agree on the big issues for fashion, it’s that much easier for the consumer to turn a blind eye and buy that new shirt.

An alternative, radical approach may be to recognise that humans have always used fashion to satisfy emotional, egoistical desires. So the challenge should be shifted from trying to control these primal, irrational behaviours to finding a systemic and ethical approach to embrace them.

Can we find sustainable solutions that actually move ever

closer to a disposable fashion industry? The desire for new clothes is something that may be impossible to change. So instead of trying to appeal to the

“So can ethical consumerism really exist in the mainstream fashion market? Psychology and behavioural science may suggest that ethical fashion consumerism is a pipe dream. We believe our purchasing decisions are based on rational, conscious and well thought out deliberations. But the complexity of human behaviour and the fundamental nature of fashion implies that ethical consumption may not be an attainable goal

consumer’s supposed ethical streak, perhaps brands should aim instead to use new technology and business models to design products that can be recycled or re-engineered into new styles with minimal use of virgin materials, water, energy and chemicals.

In this model, we would not aim to change thousands of years of evolution in the space of a generation, but use innovation and creativity to make industry bend to our inherent needs. It is a major technical and commercial challenge, but shifting to such a consumer-driven model may open up new opportunities for business, as well as becoming more sustainable.

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Upload 'The Kashmir Files' on YouTube: Kejriwal to BJP MLAs seeking movie be made tax-free

New Delhi: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said the BJP MLAs demanding 'The Kashmir Files' be made tax-free in Delhi should upload the movie on YouTube and make it free for all.

During his address in the Delhi Assembly, Kejriwal also accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of using the movie for political gains.

Hitting back, Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta said that Kejriwal, by his remarks over the issue, has crossed all limits of political decency.

The movie, based on the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the Kashmir Valley due to terrorism, has kicked up a political storm. It is being actively pushed by BJP-ruled states by either offering tax concessions or giving government employees special leave to watch it.

The Opposition has, however, termed the film one-sided and too violent.

Kejriwal said the BJP leaders were demanding to make 'The Kashmir Files' movie tax-free when Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal was speaking in the House on Wednesday.

"They (BJP) are demanding that the movie be declared tax-free in Delhi. Upload it on YouTube, the movie will become free and everyone will be



able to watch it," he said in the Assembly.

Kejriwal slammed Prime Minister Modi, alleging that even after ruling the country for eight years he has to take the help of the movie for political gains.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, referring to the response to 'The Kashmir Files', had said the film has rattled the "entire

ecosystem" which claims to be the torchbearer of freedom of expression but does not want the truth to be told.

Kejriwal, who is also the AAP national convener, further alleged that the entire BJP machinery was busy sticking posters of the movie across the country.

"Some people are earning crores in the name of Kashmiri

Pandits and you (BJP) have been sticking posters of the film," he said in the House.

"Even Hitler gave jobs to his lackeys. What did he (Modi) give you? Kejriwal works even for you. If someone in your family is ill, Kejriwal provides you medicines, not Modi. Open your eyes, leave BJP and join AAP."

Reacting to Kejriwal's response to the BJP MLAs' demand, the party's Delhi unit

chief Adesh Gupta said that Kejriwal's response showed his insensitivity towards the pain of Kashmiri Pandits.

"The AAP had in the past supported the demand for a plebiscite by Kashmiri separatists. "So, appreciation for The Kashmir Files' movie cannot be expected from him (Kejriwal)," he said.

Later in the statement, Kejriwal appealed to the BJP MLAs not to promote 'The Kashmir Files' film.

"Do whatever you want to do, but for the sake of god, stop wasting your time and position to promote this movie. It doesn't look good for the position you command. Don't act like children on the Internet, please," the statement quoted Kejriwal as saying.

He also claimed that the opposition "cannot digest" that AAP governments in Delhi and Punjab are honouring Babasaheb Ambedkar and Shaheed Bhagat Singh. "BJP asks why didn't you put up Savarkar and Hedgewar's portraits while Congress asks for those of Indira and Rajiv Gandhi. Is this a joke?"

"The BJP and Congress can put up whoever's portraits they want. We want to honour Shaheed Bhagat Singh and Babasaheb Ambedkar and no one can stop us," Kejriwal stated.

Parallel dialogues with different groups not to help resolve Naga issue: Zeliang

Kohima: Parallel dialogues with the NSCN(IM) and Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs) comprising seven organisations and signing separate pacts with them will not help in finding a common solution to the Naga political issue, United Democratic Alliance (UDA) chairman T R Zeliang said on Thursday.

All 60 members of the Nagaland Assembly came together to form the UDA, an opposition-less government in September 2021 to pursue an early solution to the Naga political issue (NPI).

The Union government has been holding two separate parleys with the NSCN(IM) since 1997 and PGs since 2017. The Centre signed a framework agreement with the NSCN(IM) on August 3, 2015, and also entered into an agreed position with PGs in December 2017.

"There cannot be parallel dialogue and two different agreements for one common solution to the Naga political issue," Zeliang, a former chief minister, said in the Assembly.

The framework agreement came after over 80 rounds of negotiations spanning 18 years, with the first breakthrough in 1997 when the ceasefire agreement was sealed after decades of insurgency in Nagaland

which started soon after Independence in 1947.

The framework agreement signed in presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi gave high expectations but the problem still remains unresolved, he said.

The Centre's then interlocutor R N Ravi had declared that the demand for separate Naga constitution and flag cannot be granted, leading to a stalemate, Zeliang said.

The Centre is not willing to accept the demands probably because it had abrogated Article 370 which gave a special status to Jammu and Kashmir. With the annulment of the special status in 2019, the separate flag and the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir cease to exist.

On the initiatives of the Core Committee of the State Government on the Naga issue, Zeliang informed the House that after this Budget session, the panel would go to Delhi and meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah to know the latest position of the Centre on the matter.

The members of the House should mediate between the two parties - the NSCN(IM) and PGs - so that they can come together and in that case, the Centre will succumb to the pressure, he said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Police To Attach

were identified by the police are those where encounters took place or the ones where militants took shelter.

When asked what if the shelter wasn't voluntarily given by the people, he said "the families need to inform the police when the militants leave the house and if the information wasn't given it will be considered a crime."

Balwal further said that most of the houses that have been identified are those where the owners or other family members have provided the shelter to the militants voluntarily.

"We carried-out the exercise carefully and kept all this thing into consideration that any person who hasn't voluntarily provided the shelter to the militants are exempted," he said, adding that "at the same time, we haven't left anyone who has committed this crime,"

Balwal added that they will carry out the exercise every year now.

Earlier in a tweet, the Srinagar police said "Don't give shelter or harbour terrorists/terror associates. Legal action will be supplemented by property attachments as per law."

When asked whether the policy will be implemented in other districts of Kashmir, Balwal said "I can comment about my district only"

DGP Urges Youth

helps them keep terrorism alive, we are taking action and such actions will continue," the director general of police (DGP) said.

He said Jammu and Kashmir has seen violence and destruction for the last 30 years and thousands of lives have been lost.

"Youngsters, children, older people, women, security forces and police personnel have sacrificed their lives. There is a need to shun the path of violence and destruction and tread the path of peace," Singh said.

He appealed to the youngsters who have joined militant ranks to shun the path of violence.

"I want to tell those who are still on the wrong path, who are being instigated by our neighbour and are carrying guns and pistols to kill innocent people, that this path is not right in any way, but will lead to destruction. Shun this path. There is a need to follow the path of development and prosperity," the DGP said.

Asked about the steps being taken for the security of panchayat members, he said security measures have been initiated wherever there is a threat assessment by security forces.

"Whenever the need arises, the measures will be strengthened," Singh said.

Govt Panel

Secretary, Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Administrative Secretary, Tourism Department, Chief Executive Officer, Mission Youth, J&K, Managing Director, Jammu Power Development Corporation Limited and Managing Director, Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited.

Police Files FIR

after the receptionist saw his Aadhar card.

His video showing the receptionist denying entry into the hotel has gone viral on social media.

Syed, who wished not to reveal his

full name due to fear of reprisal, told Kashmir Observer that he was hurt after being denied accommodation despite advance booking on online hotel booking website OYO.

"When I reached there, the lady receptionist asked me for my Aadhar card to complete the booking formalities, which I did," he said.

He further added that the receptionist then rang one of the officials of the hotel and asked that a customer from J&K has come for the accommodation.

"I think he must have told her to deny the room because as soon as he dropped the call, the receptionist told me that we can't provide a room to a Kashmiri as the Delhi Police has instructed us to do so," he said.

Syed, in the video can be seen demanding an answer from the receptionist for the denial of room.

He said, "I am giving you my identity card. Here is my Aadhaar Card. Why are you denying it?" When the female employee said she had orders not to give room to anyone with an ID from Kashmir, he said, "I can give you my passport as well." As Kashmir's address was mentioned on the passport, it was denied as well.

The video, which was shot by the Kashmiri man himself, was shared by many on social media.

The man said that he has been living in different states of the country for the last 12 years and has never faced such humiliation.

Earlier, in a series of tweets, the Delhi Police stated, "A purported video is viral on social media wherein a person is being denied hotel reservation due to his J&K ID. The reason for cancellation is being given as direction from police. It is clarified that no such direction has been given by Delhi Police.

"Aggrieved person in the video while posting the same on YouTube has stated that he stayed in the same area in another hotel and it was a lame excuse given by the hotel." "Some netizens are trying to discredit the image of the Delhi Police through willful misrepresentation of the video in circulation which can attract penal action," it further mentioned.

The video assumes significance in the wake of a controversy over Bollywood movie 'The Kashmir Files', which depicts the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the Valley.-(With PTI inputs)

CBI To Probe

Following such serious allegations by a former governor, the J&K government has recommended that the CBI investigate the matter to ascertain the facts and the details.

Yechury Urges

speaking to reporters at a press conference at party leader M Y Tarigami's residence here lamented that petitions, including that of the CPI(M), challenging the constitutional validity of the Centre's decision are not being heard in the Supreme Court.

"The time the Supreme Court is taking to hear the petitions, gives time to the government to de-facto implement the laws (in J&K). It is because of this that (changes in) land laws, delimitation, etc., are going on. We understand that till the basic question that whether it (revocation of Article 370) is constitutionally valid or not (is answered),

such laws should be put on hold.

"By not doing so, you are giving a fait accompli. If the matter is heard after that and even if it (court) says it is wrong, then it will be difficult to repeal all these laws. So, we request the Supreme Court to hear the matter sooner," he said.

He said the CPI(M) believes that Jammu and Kashmir is a part of the country, but there should be "100 per cent, implementation" of the promises and assurances on the basis of which it acceded to India.

"The discontent and alienation you (government) are creating is not in the interests of our country. There is a need to correct it," he said.

He also called for the formation of the "broadest possible front" of secular forces to "isolate and defeat" the BJP, saying the priority is to save the Constitution and safeguard people's rights.

Yechury also urged all "democratic forces" to keep their differences aside and come forward to save the country.

He also accused the BJP of using the legitimacy of election victories for the "complete destruction" of the fundamental pillars of the Constitution.

"The top priority is to save the country and the Constitution and safeguard the rights of people. To do this, it is important to remove the BJP from power. We need to isolate and defeat the BJP. For that, there is a need to have the broadest possible front of secular forces whenever elections come," Yechury said.

He said the CPI(M) will try to form the united front so as to keep the BJP out of power as the saffron party "misuses" it to "destroy the country's Constitution".

"We appeal to all the democratic forces, let us keep our differences aside. We can discuss what we want for the country only when this country is saved. Come forward, this is very important for the future of India and its citizens," he said.

The CPI(M) leader claimed the country has witnessed the "worst degeneration" of the economy under the BJP's rule.

"Unemployment is the worst in history. Over 50 per cent of our youth have stopped searching for jobs as they see no point in doing so. There are economic attacks on people, there is hunger, unemployment, price rise... India is down on every index in the world. It means that India's situation is declining very fast," he claimed.

Referring to last year's report by Sweden's V-Dem Institute that classified India as an "electoral autocracy", Yechury said the BJP is using the legitimacy of election victories for the "complete destruction" of the Constitution's fundamental pillars.

"That is what is happening (in the country) today. How you (BJP) win elections is a different matter, but you use the legitimacy and there is complete destruction of the fundamental pillars of the Constitution be it the secular democracy, social justice, federalism, and economic sovereignty.

"Nothing is left in the country which is not being sold... and profits go to a few people. Everyone knows who they are. Even farms are being handed over to them," he alleged.

He said the BJP has "legitimised political corruption" through electoral bonds.

"A petition against electoral bonds is also pending before the Supreme Court for the last three years. The BJP has made billions of rupees from electoral bonds and they use that money in elections. So, where is the level-playing field? You totally distort the concept of level-playing field and free and fair elections," he said.

It is in this scenario, the CPI (M) leader added, that it is important that all the secular powers unite to save the country and the Constitution.

Yechury said the BJP is weakening the country's institutions, which "is fatal" for the nation.

Yechury said the CPI (M) has decided to organise its all-India Congress in Kerala from April 6-10.

72 Lakh Tourists

which include economic relief from pandemic with special focus on health and reviving travel and tourism sectors and impetus for growth and employment.

"The scheme will be subject to a maximum loan of Rs 10 lakhs each for Travel & Tourism Stakeholders and up to Rs 1.00 lakh each for registered Tourist Guides. Corpus of Rs 250.00 crore has been allocated under the scheme for a period of 5 years. Validity of the said scheme has been extended till 31.03.2023 or till the guarantee of Rs 250.00 Crore is issued under the scheme, whichever is earlier. Since this is a Pan-India scheme, it is also applicable for the UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh," he added.

"Domestic tourism is at its peak in the UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. It is corroborated with the Budget Speech of the Finance Minister while presenting the budget of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh for the year 2022-23. As per this, the tourism sector is also registering an increase in footfall of tourists. Around 1.43 Lakh tourists visited Kashmir in December, 2021 which is the highest in the last 7 years. From September 2021 onwards around 72.09 lakh tourists including pilgrim tourists visited Jammu & Kashmir which is much higher than the previous year. Winter season has witnessed 100% high-end hotel occupancy in Srinagar and at prominent tourist destinations particularly Gulmarg and Pahalgam," the minister added--(KNO)

LG Unveils Rs 34,829 Cr projects have been completed in the last 26 years at a cost of Rs 8457 crores, focusing mainly on irrigation and rural connectivity.

Highlighting that Agriculture & Allied sector sustains over 70% of our population, he said, the LG also announced that NABARD and J&K's Agriculture Department have jointly planned a development package of Rs 25,991 crore to improve agricultural inputs, farmers' income through easy availability of credit, technical up-gradation of agriculture and entire agriculture & horticulture production chain.

The spokesperson said that the LG noted that this comprehensive plan was in line with the vision of the Prime Minister to double the farmers' income.

"In J&K, 36 Farmer Producer Organizations have been formed by NABARD which are benefiting about 6,000 farmers and 26 more such organizations will be formed in this financial year, decisively advancing the

development of a strong base of modern agriculture and horticulture in the UT," Sinha said.

The LG, as per the spokesperson, expressed hope that NABARD will work closely with the UT administration in bringing self-reliance and efficiency in the Agriculture & allied sector. Sinha, he said, noted that this year, the UT's Agriculture department is distributing new high yield variety of seeds to about 9 lakh farmers, besides targeting to link more than 33,000 farmers with farm mechanization.

"On the occasion, the Lt Governor appreciated the role of NABARD in organizing and nurturing Self Help Groups engaged in creating employment opportunities and empowering women and marginalized sections of the rural population," he added.

According to the spokesperson, the LG also urged the officials of NABARD to collaborate with Jammu Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission, and in a planned manner, devise the expansion of already established 56,000 Self Help Groups under its UMEED programme, which presently connects around five lakh women. Sinha, he said, also asserted the expansion will open up new horizons for them and in turn boost their economic potential.

J&K Records

and one was from the Jammu division, they said.

Srinagar district recorded the highest of 22 cases, they said.

Fourteen of the total 22 districts in the Union Territory did not report any fresh cases, they said.

There are 134 active cases in the Union Territory, while the number of recovered patients is 4,48,742, officials said.

The death toll stands at 4,750. Meanwhile, there are 51 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) in the Union Territory as no fresh case was reported since Wednesday evening.

2 Tourists Among

and 25 others were injured when a vehicle they were travelling in met with an accident in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Thursday afternoon.

A police officer said that the vehicle—minibus (JK01N-9382) skidded off the road and turned turtle near Hari Ganiwan area of Kangan in the district. Two women tourists died on the spot while 25 other tourists were injured who have been shifted to SKIMS Soura and district hospital Ganderbal.

The injured have been identified as Taparvi Dev, Seep Shankar Dey, Samir Kumar Das, Banashree Kumar, Rupali Koul, Shifali Basu, Alok Mukhrjee, Jarna Das, Modan Mondal, Shamali Gosh, Gyan Mayali Som, Yonobijari Hazra, Monika Karmokar, Shanol Karmokar, Piru Bora, Subroto Karmokar, Banku Koul, Rekha Pal and Rono Jeet, all residents of west Bengal besides Bashir Ahmad of Dargah Hazratbal and Shahid Ahmad of Rainawari Srinagar.

"Deeply saddened by the tragic and unfortunate road accident in Ganderbal in which two tourists have lost their lives," Lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha said. "My heartfelt condolences to bereaved families, prayers for speedy recovery of the injured. Directed district admin to

provide all necessary assistance to injured."

Meanwhile, five persons including husband-wife duo along with their minor daughter were killed in when a Ecco vehicle (JK14H-0952) they were travelling in skidded off the road and fell into 150-ft deep gorge at Santhal at around 1630 hours.

The vehicle was on way from Ramnagar towards Santhal and driver namely Praveen Kumar (27) son of Sant Ram of Kela Tehsil Ramnagar lost control over the vehicle and fell down into gorge about 150-200 ft down. Besides driver Praveen Kumar, his 16-month daughter Preeti Devi, Lakshmi Devi (7 months) daughter of Sanjay Kumar and Bishan Dass (52) son of Tej Ram of Kela Ramnagar died on spot. Rita Devi (24) wife of Praveen Kumar, their daughter Shivani Devi (4), Anjali Devi (23) wife of Sanjay Kumar were injured. Later Rita Devi also succumbed to injurious at SDH Ramnagar, the officer said.

"In this connection, case FIR no. 45/2022 U/S 279/337/304-A IPC has been registered and investigation started," the police officer said.

The other two injured have been shifted from SDH Ramnagar to DH Udhampur for further treatment. The postmortem of all the deceased has been conducted at SDH Ramnagar and after postmortem the dead bodies have been handed over to the legal heirs for last rites. Further investigation of the case is going on. (GNS)

High Court

In exercise of the power conferred by clause (1) of Article 224 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint (i) Shri Rahul Bharti, and (ii) Ms. Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, to be Additional Judges of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, for a period of two years, with effect from the date they assume charge of their respective offices," reads a notification issued by additional secretary to government of India, Ministry of Law & Justice Department of Justice Rajindra Kashyab.

The High Court has a sanctioned strength of 17 judges including 13 permanent judges and 4 additional judges. With the appointment of 2 more judges, the Court currently has only two vacancies. (GNS)

4 Drug Peddlers

Awantipora booked four notorious drug peddlers under PSA," said a police spokesperson in a statement here.

"Earlier Police in Awantipora in a series of actions have seized huge quantity of contraband substances from the possession of four notorious drug peddlers identified as Mohammad Ayoub Akhooon son of Bashir Ahmed, Tariq Ahmad Mir alias Tariq Tiger son of Ab Salam Mir, both residents of Tullbagh, Lateef Ahmad Wani alias Lateef Kala son of GH Mohammad and Yawar Yousf Sofi alias Yawer Kandru son of Mohammad Yousuf, both residents of Kadlabal Pampore," the spokesperson as per the statement said.

"Accordingly, cases were registered at various police stations of Police District Awantipora and the accused were arrested. Subsequently, the cases were duly processed and after obtaining sanctions from the concerned authorities, the arrested drug peddlers were detained under Public Safety Act," the statement further read.

Hapatnaar Village In Bandipora Finally Gets A Road

BANDIPORA: For the residents of Hapatnaar in Arin block of district Bandipora, this spring not only put an end to the miseries of bad weather but also put a full stop on the lifelong miseries owing to absence of approach road to the village.

Last week the department threw open the road constructed at the cost of Rs 18 lac under Panchayat grants in rural grants of UT sector bringing respite to the people who had to travel 4 kilometers on foot to reach to the nearest road at GujjarPati area.

The population of 300 souls had to carry their patients on shoulders up to Gujjarpati village where they would shift them to hospital. "This week we feel we have been freed from the shackles of these miseries," said a local resident Mohammad Abdullah.

The village wore a festive look when the road was thrown open by the Assistant Commissioner Development Abdul Rashid Dass and members of District Development Council (DDC) Gh. Mohi-ud-Din Rather.

The Men, Women and the children wearing traditional dresses came on road to celebrate the occasion and sang folk songs and performed Bhangda to the tunes of Dhol to celebrate the landmark event and to welcome their representative and officers of the Rural Development.

The locals credited the success into the kitty of Panchayat Raj Institutions and said that they got representation at local level after the three-tier system of Panchayat Raj was implemented in the UT.

While thanking the Government, they said their voice was heard and steps were taken for resolution of their long pending demand.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad said the administration

has laid a special focus on the rural connectivity from the past few years and a web of roads, bridges, culverts and lanes have been constructed in rural areas for the convenience of the rural population.

He said this year about 1200 works have been taken up in rural areas for the construction of roads, culverts and lanes.

Dr Owais said the various programmes and schemes launched by the government aimed for holistic development of rural areas of the district. He said the effective implementation of RDD schemes has changed the lives of people by reshaping the rural economy.

DDC member Gh Mohi-ud-Din Rather said he has witnessed the construction of durable assets for the first time under Rural Development Schemes including MGNREGA and other grants. He said the will of the people is being considered through Gram Sabhas and the plans are drafted as per the wishes of the people.

He said people decide where they will spend their money and prioritize work as per their importance. "We have focused on rural connectivity by constructing roads that have eased the problems of the people, especially women and children".

The DC said that 253 works of the Rural Development Department have been completed out of the total 803 approved works executed under Area Development Fund, including DDC, BDC, and other PRI grants.

While informing about physical progress under Capex Budget from previous fiscal till date, informed that that 2185 works have so far been completed out of the total target of 3339 works of last fiscal in various sectors including MGNREGA works, DDC Grants, BDC grants etc while 1033 works have been completed out of the target of 1530 works during the current fiscal.

Sibling Killed, Another Injured As Land Dispute Turns Violent

Agencies

URI: A person was killed and his sibling injured in a scuffle in Nambila Uri of Baramulla district.

"Two parties had assembled to sort out some land dispute, however it happened that during the course of meeting the parties started exchanging heated arguments", a local source said adding the arguments only intensified with time, leading to a scuffle.

"During the scuffle, few members from the other side attacked the opposite party with

sharp-edged weapons which resulted in injuries to two brothers namely Abdul Karim Bhat and Mohammad Sulaiman Bhat (sons of Abdul Karim Bhat)", the source said.

"Both of them were evacuated to GMC Baramulla, where Abdul Karim, 85, succumbed to his injuries."

When contacted a police official said that though it was not immediately known to him about the demise of any of the two persons', however he was quick to add that a party has been sent to the spot to assess the situation. (GNS)

J&K Emerging As An Attractive Destination For Investments: Advisor Bhatnagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar on Thursday emphasised that adopting crops to climate variability and uncertainty is the need of the hour in view of the changing climatic conditions across the world.

Advisor Bhatnagar made these comments while speaking at the inaugural session of three days 'National Conference on Managing Weather & Climate Risks in Agriculture' at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture Science and Technology, Kashmir (SKUAST-K).

The three day conference is being organised by SKUAST-K in collaboration with Association of Agrometeorologists Anand Gujarat-Kashmir chapter.

Addressing a large gathering of Agrometeorologists, scientists, PhD scholars, researchers, students and other delegates from across the country, Advisor Bhatnagar said that this conference is relevant in today's time as the world is witnessing unprecedented change in climatic conditions. He added that the deliberations of this conference will significantly address the impact of climate change on Agriculture.

Highlighting on the issue of rising climate change, Advisor Bhatnagar said that extreme

weather events are happening on daily basis and it is really time to take some proactive steps on the issue. He asked all the participants and delegates that some concrete steps must be taken so that less impact can be put on Agriculture sector which forms the core area of GDP of our country.

Talking about some remarkable developments the UT of J&K has witnessed in last few years, Advisor Bhatnagar said that the whole ecosystem of Jammu and Kashmir has undergone a massive change and fast-track development and progress is happening on the ground.

He added that the UT has observed transformation on all aspects like transportation, highway construction, health sector and several other fields of public importance.

Advisor Bhatnagar further remarked that with the introduction of new investment policy, J&K is emerging as an attractive destination for investments. He added that several big corporate houses of the country have shown keen interest for investments here.

The Advisor said that it is the firm resolve of our Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha to make J&K one of the most developed regions of our country.



TWO BOYS WALK THROUGH a mustard field on a warm sunny day in the Srinagar outskirts on Thursday.
KO Photo, Abid Bhat

India Slams OIC For Resorting To 'Falsehoods, Misrepresentation'

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India on Thursday said references made to it at a meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Islamabad were based on "falsehoods and misrepresentation".

The strong reaction by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) came a day after the OIC at its foreign ministerial meeting in Pakistan criticised India

for its policy on Kashmir.

"The statements and resolutions adopted at the meeting demonstrate both the irrelevance of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation as a body and the role of Pakistan as its manipulator," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

He was referring to media queries on references made to India in the resolutions adopted at the OIC meeting.

"References have been made to

India that are based on falsehoods and misrepresentation. The absurdity of this body commenting on the treatment of minorities, that too at the instance of a serial violator of human rights like Pakistan, is so evident," Bagchi said.

"Nations and governments that associate themselves with such exercises should realise the impact it has on their reputation," he said.

DGP, FC Home Reviews Security Scenario In Kashmir

SRINAGAR: Director General of Police, J&K, Dilbag Singh and Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Home Department, Raj Kumar Goyal on Thursday jointly chaired a high level security meeting to review the security scenario of the Kashmir valley.

DGP J&K while addressing the meeting directed the officers for strengthening the security measures against militant violence. He stressed for effective counter measures regarding militant incidents and directed for further strengthening of the security grids, a police spokesperson said in statement.

Singh directed the officers for enhancing the communication within the ranks as also between the sister agencies for desired results, the spokesperson said.

He directed the officers to ensure best possible security measures and drills to prevent the militant incidents. "The DGP stressed for strict action against the OGVs and elements involved in anti peace activities. He directed for target oriented approach of areas of domination."

Singh stressed for alertness and said that no space should be given to any subversive and pro-militant elements, he said.

"He emphasized on revisiting



the listed area and improving the area domination," the spokesperson said.

Referring the recent civilian killings, the DGP directed for improving the immediate response to militant incidents. "He stressed for stepping up operations to check the movement of (militants) and other suspicious elements."

The DGP stressed upon the officers to enhance synergy at different levels to make the efforts more fruitful.

"Stressing for counter strategies and preventive measures, he emphasized upon the officers to remain extra alert and take appropriate counter measures to prevent evil attempts of (militants)," the spokesperson said in a statement to GNS, adding, "He directed the officers to intensify the operations against (militant/ militancy support network."

Financial Commissioner (Ad-

ditional Chief Secretary) Raj Kumar Goyal appreciated the co-ordinated efforts of J&K police and CAPFs on anti-militancy front, the spokesperson said. "He stressed for keen documentation and fulfilling the technicalities of investigation of cases of special nature."

He emphasized on quick disposal of UAPA cases. "He also directed for putting up proposals for strengthening the infrastructure of the Police Establishments particularly those sanctioned in recent times."

The officers representing different district and units briefed regarding the security measures put in place in the areas under their command. Recent trend of soft killing and hybrid terror module were also discussed during the meeting. The officers also apprised the meeting regarding the security of vulnerable person/ places as also the infiltration attempts.

FUNDING CASE

Court Grants NIA More Time For Probe, Extends Accused's Custody

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Thursday allowed the NIA more time to complete its investigation in a case of militant funding in Jammu and Kashmir against human rights activist Khurram Parvez and two others.

Special NIA judge Praveen Singh also extended the custody of Parvez, Muneer Ahmad Kataria and Arshid Ahmad Tonch by 50 days, saying chances of tampering with evidence cannot be ruled out.

"I find that as investigation is in progress, the chances of tampering with evidence cannot be ruled out," the judge said.

He added that it was a "fit case where further extension for the period of investigation as demanded should be granted".

In its application, the NIA alleged that Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) has established a widespread network of operatives for providing sup-

port in planning and execution of its militant activities in various parts of India.

It claimed that the accused have been running a network of overground workers of LeT and recruited persons from various states of India.

"In pursuance to conspiracy, accused are in contact with their foreign based handlers and upon their directions are engaged in gathering intelligence on vital installations, security forces as well as identification of target locations for launching of terrorist attacks. During investigation, searches were conducted at various places across Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir and West Bengal and incriminating documents/

materials and objects were seized," the NIA said in the application.

According to the NIA, investigation has revealed that certain official secret document of the agency was shared by accused IPS officer Arvind Digvijay Negi with Kataria through encrypted communication channels.

The NIA further submitted that investigation is being conducted against a number of suspects including the aforesaid accused on a number of aspects which will not be possible to conclude within the period of 130 days.

In the case, the NIA court recently sent Negi to judicial custody for allegedly leaking secret documents to an overground worker of LeT.

MeT Predicts Mainly Dry Weather Till March 30

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Rains lashed Kashmir Valley and parts of Jammu division while the weatherman on Thursday predicted mainly dry weather for now till March 30.

"Today, a brief spell of light rain/snow (over higher reaches) is likely at scattered places of Kashmir whereas weather will be partly to generally cloudy in both Jammu and Kashmir (divisions)," a meteorological department official here said, adding, "From tomorrow (Friday), weather is most likely to remain mainly dry till March 30th. There is no forecast of any major rain/snow."

The meteorological department official said that Srinagar, the summer capital of J&K had 4.4mm of rainfall and recorded a low of 8.6°C against last night's 7.2°C. The temperature was 3.6°C above normal for Srinagar during this time of the year.

Qazigund received 1.2mm of rain and recorded a low of 7.1°C against 5.4°C on the previous night. The temperature was above normal by 3.4°C for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a low of 7.1°C against 7.2°C the previous night. It was 3.8°C more than normal during this time of the season,

the official said.

Pahalgam, the famous resort in south Kashmir, recorded a low of 3.3°C against 1.9°C last night. The temperature was 2.9°C above normal for the place, he said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 1.°C against 2.5°C on the previous night, the official said. While minus 1.6°C is normal for the world famous skiing resort during this time of the season, the official said that the temperature was 0.6°C above normal for the place in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Kupwara town in north Kashmir recorded a low of 6.8°C against 5.1°C on the previous night. The temperature was 3.6°C more than normal, the official told Global News Service.

Jammu recorded a low of 18.6°C against 17.6°C on the previous night, the official said. The temperature was 3.1°C above normal for J&K's winter capital during this time of the year, he said.

Banihal had 0.3mm of rainfall and recorded a low of 10.0°C. Batote received 2.4mm of rainfall and had a minimum of 9.3°C while Bhaderwah with traces of rain recorded a low of 9.7°C, the official said.

Ladakh's Leh recorded a minimum of 2.0°C against 0.4°C previous night while automatic Kargil station recorded a low of 0.8°C.

WORLD TUBERCULOSIS DAY

3 Kashmir Districts Receive Gold Medals

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On the eve of World Tuberculosis Day three Kashmir districts Anantnag, Kupwara and Pulwama were awarded gold medals and one bronze for Baramulla at a function held at Delhi.

The event was attended by a joint team headed by Additional Chief Secretary Health and Medical Education, Vivek Bhardwaj, Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Rather, Deputy Commissioners of An-

antnag, Kupwara and Pulwama and DTOs and STO.

They had gone to receive the gold medals in Delhi which were given to them by the Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya.

More recently Anantnag, Kupwara and Pulwama have shown progress of 60-80% reduction in TB cases and have claimed Gold category while Baramulla district has shown progress of about 20% and is under Bronze category along with 55 other districts in the entire country.

Career Counselling Held for Students of Kashmir Valley

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Shivalik College of Engineering Dehradun organized awareness camps in Srinagar, Budgam, Ganderbal, Anantnag and Pulwama for students of different coaching centres and also conducted workshops for students and their parents regarding ongoing admission in engineering and other faculties.

Ranked 8th, Shivalik College has been playing a vital role in the field of technical education since 2008 earning it a unique position in India.

Shivalik College is approved by All India Council for Technical Education, Pharmacy Council of India, Ministry of Education and Uttarakhand Technical University.

The college has partnerships with leading industrial companies and other important institutions of India, said Dr. Danish, Dean of college.

Dr. Danish further said that from the last one and half decade, Shivalik College of Engineering has been a part of the DNA. Referring to the modern facilities available in this college, he said that Excellent classrooms,Internet, State of the art laboratories, World class e-library, experienced and professional professors and other associated staff are available in this college.

There are separate hostels and mess facilities for boys and girls in a staff-friendly environment. The college is being run accord-

ing to international standards.

Referring to the performance of the college, he said that Times Engineering Awards 2021, was given to Shivalik College of Engineering Dehradun as the best engineering institute in Uttarakhand. The college helped placement more than 4,000 successful alumni worldwide.

The highest package was 30 Lakh. Besides this more than 400 companies from around the world are providing satisfactory jobs to our bright students. The ratio of faculty students in this college is 1:15.

In response to another question, Dr. Danish said that various courses offered by Shivalik College are : B.Tech Civil, Electronics and Communication, Computer Science, Mechanical Engineering, B.Tech (Honors)/Civil Construction Engineering, B.Tech (Honors) CSC, Data. Science, B.Tech (Honors) Mechanical Engineering, AI & Robotics, 3D Printing & Design, ECB Internet of Things, B.Sc Agriculture, B.Pharm, BBA Retail Management, Marketing, Finance and Innovation, Business Analyst, Information Technology, Healthcare, and Hospitality Tourism Management etc. in which admission process is going on nowadays.

He stressed upon the parents to enroll their children in Shivalik College of Engineering, Dehradun with confidence for their bright future. The students and their parents expressed satisfaction with the information they received during the awareness camps.

Road To Margan Top Cleared In Record Time

ANANTNAG: Owing to early snow clearance operations and smooth coordination between various departments, the snow clearance operations on the road to Margan Top have been completed in record time.

The Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr Piyush Singla said that dedicated hard work of Mechanical Engineering and PMG-

SY departments has resulted in early clearance of the road. He said that the clearance operations usually begin in April but this year the clearance has been completed before the end of March.

SDM Kokernag said that he is in touch with his counterpart in Marwah and soon the road to Warwan will also be operational.

UT Level Taekwondo U-17, U-19 Competitions Conclude At Jammu

Gazanfar Ali felicitates winners



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Director Youth Services and Sports, Gazanfar Ali on Thursday gave away mementos and medals to the winners and participants of UT level Inter District Taekwondo competitions here at an impressive valedictory function held at Khel Gawon Nagrota. He was accompanied by District Youth Services and Sports Officer Jammu, Sukhdav Sharma, and other senior officers and officials of the Department.

"The UT-based Youth have excelled in the game of Taekwondo and every year our boys & girls

clinch many medals not only at National but International level," the Director YSS noted. He appreciated the efforts of DYSSO Jammu for organizing the event successfully.

About 100 student girl players from different districts of J&K participated in the Tourney.

District Jammu topped in the medal tally with 6 Gold, 5 silver and 7 Bronze medals with a total of 1110 points, while district Doda stood 2nd with 4 Gold, 6 silver and a total of 940 points. Poonch District bagged 5 Gold, 4 silver and 6 Bronze with a total 920 points.

World TB Day: Div Com Flags-Off Walkathon



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In connection with the commemoration of World TB Day, a Walkathon was on Thursday flagged-off by Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole from DTC Srinagar Dalgate to Nehru Park, here.

The Walkathon was organized by District Tuberculosis Control Society Srinagar at 7:00 am in the morning.

Dr. Bashir Ahmad Chalko Deputy Director Headquarter Health Services Kashmir, Dr. SM Qadri Deputy Director Health Services Schemes Kashmir, Dr. Jehanzeb Deputy Director Dentistry Health Services Kashmir, Dr. Talat Jabeen Divisional Epidemiologist cum Director STDC Srinagar, Dr. Jameel Ahmad Mir, Chief Medical Officer Srinagar were also

present on the occasion.

The walkathon was attended by Assistant Directors Health Services Kashmir, Block and Zonal Medical Officers, Medical officers, Asha workers, Paramedical Staff, religious leaders, students and National Tuberculosis Elimination staff from State and District level and staff from JEET 2.

On the occasion, Div Com stressed upon early diagnosis/

early treatment of TB and appealed to the general public to avail the benefits of latest technology methods for the diagnosis and treatment of Tuberculosis.

Dr. Bashir Ahmad Chalko Deputy Director Headquarter in his speech highlighted the importance of TB awareness among masses and channelling Tuberculosis suspects from the community to NTEP facilities.

JK Bank Lifts 17th J&K Police Martyrs Football Tournament



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: 17th J&K Police Martyrs Memorial Football Tournament 2021-22 organised by Jammu and Kashmir Police under its Civic Action Programme and in collaboration with J&K Football Association concluded on Thursday at Synthetic Turf Ground TRC Srinagar with JK Bank emerging as tournament champions.

JK Bank defeated J&K PDC XI in the final. Bank's talismanic striker, Akif Reshi was declared player of the tournament.

Director General of Police J&K, Dilbag Singh was the chief guest at the prize distribution ceremony.

ADGP Armed J&K SJM Gillani, IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar, DIG CKR Sujit Kumar SSP Srinagar Rakesh Balwal, Kashmir based

Commandants of JKAP/IRP battalions, JK Football Association President Zamir Ahmad Thakur, General Secretary JKFA Prof. Shah, Nazir Ahmad Bhat, District President Srinagar Football Association Fayaz Ahmad Sofi, members of JK Sports Council and other senior civil and police officers were present on the occasion.

DGP J&K speaking at the closing ceremony congratulated the winners/runners up teams and said that Jammu & Kashmir Police is committed to boost to the sports and other Youth Development activities in J&K. He congratulated the ADGP Armed J&K and JK Football Association for successful conduct of the mega event.

The DGP said that the Jammu and Kashmir Police has been organising various youth oriented

tournaments and added that J&K Police would provide all possible support to the youth looking forward to make their mark at bigger levels. He appreciated the youth for taking part in the positive activities and wished all of them good luck.

The J&K Police Martyrs Football Tournament was inaugurated on 17th of March in which 16 top teams from Kashmir and 02 teams from Jammu division participated. Total 16 league/quarter/semi final and final matches were played. The tournament is organised by J&K Police every year in the memory of those brave officials who gave supreme sacrifices of their lives for the sovereignty and integrity of the nation. The tournament was started in the year 1998 in the memory of Inspector Mushtaq Ahmad Baba.



INDIAN ARMY ON THURSDAY organised a Shikara Race on Dal Lake with a total of 75 shikaras participating. The 1st position was bagged by Amin Harook, 2nd position by Imran Kulu and 3rd position went to Tanveer Kulu. Cash awards of ₹10000, ₹8000, ₹6000 and ₹5000 were awarded.

Pakistan Chasing 278 On Final Day After Australia Declare



Agencies

LAHORE: Pakistan survived an intriguing last session to reach 73-0 on day four after a bold declaration by Australia set a tricky target of 351 runs in the series-deciding third test on Thursday.

Opening batters Imam-ul-Haq, 42 not out, and Abdullah Shafique, 27 not out, survived television referrals against off-spinner Nathan Lyon to leave the home team still needing 278 runs in a minimum 90 overs on the last day Friday.

Shafique had a close escape when Steve Smith's poor run in the slips continued as the Australia vice-captain couldn't hold onto a sharp chance off Marnus Labuschagne's penultimate ball

of the day.

Captain Pat Cummins declared Australia's second innings at 227-3 shortly after tea, Usman Khawaja having achieved an unbeaten 104, his second successive century to round off a brilliant tour to the country of his birth.

It gave Australia nearly four sessions to have a crack at Pakistan, after missing out in the second test at Karachi where Pakistan batted for 171.4 overs and forced an epic draw.

"It's a brave declaration, no doubt about it," Pakistan batting coach Mohammad Youssif said. He added he was expecting Australia to bat for a few more overs and set a target of around 380 runs. (AP)

Japan & Saudi Arabia Qualify For Qatar WC



Agencies

SYDNEY: Japan qualified for a seventh successive World Cup after beating Australia 2-0 in Sydney and ending the Socceroos' chances of automatic qualification on Thursday. The result also qualified Saudi Arabia from Asia Group B.

Japan was on top of the group with 21 points, two ahead of Saudi Arabia before it faced China later Thursday. Australia remained in qualifying contention in third place. It faced a playoff against the third-place team from Group A, currently the United Arab Emirates, and a possible final game against South

American opposition.

The two late goals from substitute Kaoru Mitoma ended an entertaining game during which Japan had been wasteful. Takumi Minamino came close on five occasions. Australia, however, thought it took the lead after 26 minutes when Gianni Stensness headed home a corner only for the referee to rule Trent Sainsbury fouled goalkeeper Shuichi Gonda. Deep inside stoppage time, Mitomo's low shot bobbed under Ryan and sealed the vital win. On Tuesday, Japan hosts Vietnam, bottom of the group with just one win, while Australia travels to Jeddah to take on Saudi Arabia. (AP)

Dhoni Steps Aside, Hands Over CSK Captaincy To Jadeja



Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Twelve seasons, four title triumphs and five runner-up finishes later, the iconic Mahendra Singh Dhoni has decided to hand over the captaincy of Chennai Super Kings to his trusted lieutenant, Ravindra Jadeja.

However, in a brief statement, CSK said the 40-year-old will continue to represent the franchise for the "season and beyond", having led one of the most successful IPL sides since the tournament's inception in 2008 -- barring the two seasons when the team was suspended in the wake of the spot-fixing scandal.

"MS Dhoni has decided to hand over the leadership of Chennai Super Kings and picked Ravindra Jadeja to lead the team. Jadeja, who has been an integral part of Chennai Super Kings since 2012, will only be the third player to lead CSK," said CSK in a statement on Thursday.

"Dhoni will continue to represent Chennai Super Kings this season and beyond," the franchise added.

Dhoni, 40, who had announced his international retirement on August 15, 2020, had led CSK to their fourth title last season. CSK play KKR in the IPL 2022 opener here on Saturday.

A Look At Bowlers Expected To Make An Impact In IPL 2022

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Bowlers have always played an important role in the Indian Premier League since its inception.

In the last few seasons, the league has witnessed some stunning match-winning spells by spinners and seamers alike.

PTI takes a look at the top five bowlers, who are expected to make a difference in the 15th edition of the lucrative event.

KAGISO RABADA (PUNJAB KINGS)

After spearheading the bowling unit for four seasons at the Delhi franchise, where he also won the Purple Cap in 2020, Rabada will now turn out for Punjab Kings.

Known for his breathtaking fast bowling and toe-crushing yorkers, South Africa's premier pace bowler Rabada has established himself as a force to reckon with.

At Punjab, the 26-year-old will be their most experienced pace bowler and will be expected to produce some remarkable performances with the ball in hand.

With ample bounce expected at Wankhede and the Brabourne Stadium, Rabada,



who is a proven match-winner, could prove to be lethal. The pacer would also be keen to make up for the underwhelming outing he had last season.

YUZVENDRA CHAHAL (RAJASTHAN ROYALS)

In the past few years, Chahal has established himself as a vital cog in the Royal Challengers Bangalore set-up, becoming the backbone of the team's bowling line-up.

The fact that he is ninth on the list of all-time leading wicket-takers in the league, having claimed 139 scalps in 114 games since 2013, speaks volumes about his skills.

He enters the new season on the back of a good run of form and could be bowling match-winning spells in tandem with senior India spin-

ner Ravichandran Ashwin for the Rajasthan Royals, especially on the spin-friendly Wankhede track.

As the tournament progresses the tracks will get slower and spinners are expected to play a vital role.

JASPRIT BUMRAH (MUMBAI INDIANS)

One of the best bowlers in modern-day cricket across all formats there is no denying that Bumrah is an impact player.

The death overs specialist and perhaps the best T20 bowler around the world right now, Bumrah has been a consistent performer for Mumbai Indians with an ability to take wickets at will.

Since his debut in the IPL in 2013, Bumrah has taken 130 wickets in 106 games at an

economy of 7.42.

A consistent performer, Bumrah has been among the top 10 leading wicket-takers in every season since 2016. His brutal pace and movement up front, and accuracy at the death, makes him one of the most dangerous bowlers in the league and he is expected to continue troubling the batters on Mumbai and Pune pitches.

RASHID KHAN (GUJARAT TITANS)

After serving as the bowling mainstay of Sunrisers Hyderabad since his arrival in the league in 2017, Rashid Khan will now ply his trade for new entrants, Gujarat Titans.

The star Afghan leg-spinner boasts of the best economy rate of 6.33 in the history of the tournament while also taking 93 wickets in 76 matches.

He is known to choke the opposition for runs every time his captain hands him the ball, as batters often just opt to play out his four overs without taking any risks. And this season is expected to be no different for Rashid.

The 23-year-old, currently ranked number five in the world in the shortest format of the game, is proficient in bowling flighted leg-spinners,

googlies, flippers alongside other variations as well which make him a lethal player.

With the league phase being played in Mumbai and Pune where the conditions would aid the spinners, Rashid could be lethal.

HARSHAL PATEL (ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE)

Having made his IPL debut way back in 2012, Harshal Patel enjoyed his breakthrough season last year with Royal Challengers Bangalore. He picked up a record-equalling 32 wickets in 15 games to win the Purple Cap in the 2021 edition of the league.

The 31-year-old was extremely effective in the death overs, a department RCB had lacked in before and that was the reason why the franchise shelled out a whopping Rs 10.75 crore to secure his services once again.

A right-arm seamer with a big outswinger, Patel uses smart angles and variations to make up for his medium pace. Slower bouncers, variations in yorkers and cutters are all part of his arsenal.

Having played eight T20s for India, Patel would look to continue in similar vein as last season.

Mumbai Police Says It Will Ensure Full Security For IPL



Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Mumbai Police is geared up to ensure full security for the Indian Premier League (IPL) which will kick off this weekend, an official release said here on Thursday.

There have been no intelligence inputs about any terror threat to the cricket extravaganza that will begin at the Wankhede stadium in South Mumbai from March 26, it added.

Adequate security arrangements will be made at the two stadiums in the city (Wankhede and Brabourne) where matches will be played as well as the hotels where the players and support staff will be staying, police said.

Some unverified viral messages on social media had said that "terrorists" had conducted reconnaissance at Hotel Trident, the Wankhede Stadium and along the bus route between these two locations, but the police release said they had not received any such information.