



P3 CITY

NC TOP BRASS MEETS JOURNALISTS TO BRIDGE COMMUNICATION 'GAP'

The top brass of National Conference (NC) including the party President Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Omar Abdullah on Tuesday held an informal interaction with

P5 THINK

ON INNOVATION: WHAT MAKES PEOPLE CREATIVE

Knowing What Motivates People To Be Creative Is Essential For Any Manager, Teacher, Or Student Concerned With Creativity And, Ultimately, Innovation. So Let's Take A Look At Some Extremely



P7 STATE

GOVT CHANGES NOMENCLATURE OF CLASS-IV POSTS

Government on Tuesday changed the nomenclature of class-IV to "Multitasking Staff (MTS)" and sweeper as "sanitation" worker. "In exercise of the powers



Widom Quote!

Memory is the scribe of the soul

- Aristotle

NEWS DIGEST

Petrol Bomb Lobbed At CRPF Picket

SRINAGAR: Unidentified people on Tuesday hurled a petrol bomb at a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) picket in Sopore town of Baramulla district. According to reports, the petrol bomb was lobbed towards the CRPF bunker in Main Chowk of **More on P6**

4.3-Magnitude Quake Hits Ladakh, J&K

LEH: A 4.3-magnitude earthquake jolted Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, the National Centre for Seismology (NCS) said. There was no report of any loss of life or damage to property, officials said. The **More on P6**

Misfire Injures Soldier In Kulgam

SRINAGAR: A soldier was injured on Tuesday after his service rifle went off accidentally inside an army camp in south Kashmir's Kulgam district. According to reports, a soldier identified as Vishnu was cleaning his service rifle inside the camp of 34RR at Behibag this morning **More on P6**

Train Mows Down Man In Samba

JAMMU: A 32-year-old man died after being struck by a train in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, a railway police official said on Tuesday. The body of the unidentified man, hit by the Varanasi Express, was found on the track near Bari Brahmana on Monday, the official said. **More on P6**

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China-Pakistan Tango

Army Chief To Review Security Preparedness

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Army Chief Gen MM Naravane will carry out a comprehensive review of India's military preparedness along the borders with China and Pakistan as well as possible implications of the ongoing geopolitical turmoil for national security at a high-level meeting on Wednesday.

Senior commanders of the three services will attend the meeting being held at the headquarters of the Army's central command in Lucknow, official sources said.

The conflict in Ukraine and the situation in Afghanistan are expected to be discussed in the context of their possible long-term implications for India as well as the region, they said.

The sources said extensive deliberations will be held on ensuring smooth transitioning of the troops from winter to summer posturing in sensitive locations, especially along the Line of Actual Control (LAC)



with China.

"The Army Chief is scheduled to review the deployment of Indian Army formations deployed in Western and Northern borders while they are transitioning from winter to summer posturing," said a source.

The deliberations on various aspects of the national security challenges began at the central command on Tuesday.

"Senior Army, Navy and Air force officers are attending a series of discussions focused on reviewing the current

international and regional environment with a view to progressively increase own capabilities through force level optimisation, technology adoption, induction of force multipliers, as also modernisation and improvement of infrastructure," said the source.

The sources said that operational readiness of troops and equipment to match the strategy and tactics of the adversaries are also being reviewed to respond to the emerging threats and challenges. **More on P6**

Petition Moved Before SC Challenging Delimitation Process In J&K



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A plea has been moved in the Supreme Court by two Kashmir residents challenging the Centre's decision to constitute the delimitation commission for redrawing the assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies in Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The plea filed by Srinagar residents Haji Abdul Gani Khan and Dr. Mohammad Ayub Mattoo sought declaration that the increase of number of seats from 107 to 114 (including 24 seats in Pakistan

controlled Kashmir) in Jammu & Kashmir is Ultra vires the Constitutional Provisions such as Articles 81, 82, 170, 330 and 332 and Statutory Provisions particularly under Section 63 of the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.

The plea said that if August 5, 2019 was to unite the Jammu and Kashmir State with India, then the delimitation process defeats new order of One Nation One Constitution in the country.

It said that while Article 170 of the Constitution of India provides that the **More on P6**

34 Outsiders Bought Properties In J&K Post-Art-370: Govt

Properties Located In Jammu, Reasi, Udhampur And Ganderbal Districts
Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: As many as 34 people from outside Jammu and Kashmir have bought properties in the Union Territory after abrogation of Article 370, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

The Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir and also barred people from outside to acquire properties, was abrogated on August 5, 2019 and the erstwhile state



was bifurcated into two Union Territories Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

"As per the information provided by the government of Jammu and Kashmir, 34 people from outside the

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir have bought properties in the UT of J&K after abrogation of Article 370," he said replying to a written question.

Rai said **More on P6**

'J&K Received Investment Proposals Worth Rs 47,441 Crore'

The Jammu and Kashmir government has received 4,226 investment proposals worth Rs 47,441 crore for land allotment to set up industrial units in the Union Territory. The Jammu and Kashmir administration in January last year announced a new industrial developmental

scheme with an outlay of Rs 28,400 crore to encourage new investment and take industrial development to the block level. The new policy, which has been applicable till 2037, also paved the way for foreigners to invest in the region.

"As many as 4,226 proposals with **More on P6**

13 Test Corona Positive In J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: At least 13 more people tested positive for Coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday while no fresh fatality was reported across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

While Jammu division recorded just a single new case of Covid-19, the remaining 12, officials said, were detected from several districts of the Valley, taking the number of people infected since the onset of pandemic in J&K to 453690.

In the winter capital, officials said, a single fresh case of virus was detected in Kishtwar, while the remaining nine districts of Jammu, Udhampur, Rajouri, Doda, Kathua, Samba, Poonch, Ramban and Reasi registered no new cases of Covid-19.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar registered the highest 11 new cases of virus while Kulgam reported one. No new cases of infection were reported from the remaining eight districts, including Baramulla, Budgam, Pulwama, Kupwara, Anantnag, Bandipora, Ganderbal and Shopian.

"Moreover, 17 more COVID-19 patients have **More on P6**

"Our Effort Is To Remove Rural-Urban Gap: LG Says Prosperity Should Reach 'Home And Heart' Of Every Citizen Of J&K

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday that his government is making efforts to remove the gap between rural and urban, so that prosperity reaches the "home and heart" of every citizen of the Union Territory.

Sinha made these remarks while addressing 20,000 PRI members from across the UT during a Virtual PRI Conference organized by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj in collaboration with IMPARD, J&K at the Civil Secretariat, an official spokesperson said.

Speaking on the occasion, he said, the LG termed the Panchayati Raj Institutions



(PRIs) as the foundation of rural construction and development programmes.

"In governance, from policy to service delivery, PRIs act as the living cell of the system. By strengthening the PRIs, we are

empowering a more effective system to truly realize the vision of Gram Swaraj," the LG said.

According to the spokesperson, the LG expressed gratitude towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi for establishing a three-tier Panchayati Raj system in J&K and said that under the guidance of PM, his administration has been strengthening the roots of PRIs to build an inclusive society.

"Our effort is to remove the gap between rural and urban, so that prosperity reaches the home and heart of every citizen of J&K," Sinha said.

While appreciating the initiative taken to bring the PRIs on a common platform, the LG, as per the spokesperson said that the unprecedented participation of PRI **More on P6**

Man Held Over 'Objectionable' Social Media Post

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Police on Monday night arrested a man here for making objectionable remarks during an interview on social media, an official spokesperson said.

The accused has been identified as Mohammad Yousaf Wani, a resident of Lal Chowk in Srinagar, the police spokesperson said.

During an anti-encroachment drive conducted by the Jammu administration on Sunday, Wani made some 'sensitive' and 'objectionable' remarks in an interview on social media, he said.

The Jammu police have registered a case under sections 153A (promoting enmity between different groups), 505 (making statement of objectionable nature) and 295A (outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting **More on P6**



Nestled on the foothills of Zabarwan mountain range, the Tulip Garden these days is in full bloom drawing huge crowds from Valley and outside. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

IN GOVERNANCE, FROM POLICY to service delivery, PRIs act as the living cell of the system. By strengthening the PRIs, we are empowering a more effective system to truly realize the vision of Gram Swaraj."



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Speeding Is More Common Among People Who Regularly Learn About Speed

The Conversation

Speeding is more common among people regularly exposed to material encouraging speeding, our new study suggests. Our research, published in the journal Traffic Injury Prevention, found self-reported exposure to content promoting or encouraging speeding on social media and mass media (e.g., movies, television or gaming) was higher in speeders compared to non-speeders. Speeders also believed their friends more frequently engaged in speeding. Speeding is a major road safety problem that contributes to many injuries and fatalities in Australia. So it's important to examine factors that may encourage speeding and contribute to making it socially acceptable. Self-reported exposure levels significantly higher in speeders. For our study, a total of 628 Queensland motorists (263 men and 365 women aged between 17 and 88 years) completed an online anonymous survey. The survey included questions about their own speeding behaviour (specifically, how often they exceed the speed limit by more than 10km/h), how often they believe they saw content on social media and mass media (such as TV, movies or gaming) encouraging or promoting speeding, how often they thought their friends



Speeding is a major road safety problem that contributes to many injuries and fatalities in Australia. So it's important to examine factors that may encourage speeding and contribute to making it socially acceptable.

exceeded the speed limit. Overall, the study found half of the sample admitted they exceeded the speed limit more than 10% of the time they drive on average, participants believed they came across social media content encouraging speeding behaviour 29

percent of the time while using social media. On average, they believed they came across mass media content encouraging speeding behaviour 40% of the time, on average, they believed their friends exceeded the speed limit 39% of the time,

self-reported exposure levels across all these sources (mass media, social media and friends) were significantly higher in speeders than non-speeders. Unpacking the link between what we see and how we act. Our findings suggest many people

believe they are regularly exposed to pro-speeding content online or via friends, and this might increase their risk of speeding in the real world. The findings are consistent with studies showing social media, mass media and one's peers can all influence subsequent risk-taking behaviour. Nevertheless, further research is needed. We are yet to clarify whether increasing exposure to this kind of content directly increases the propensity to speed. Conversely, it could be that people who engage in speeding seek out pro-speeding material because they like it, or notice it more than others because they're more attuned to it. We also need to determine if people's estimations of how often they're exposed to such images are accurate. For example, the respondents' estimation of pro-speeding messages was extremely high, which raises questions about whether some individuals are more sensitive to online content that reinforces pre-existing attitudes or behaviour. In other words, they might be more likely to notice, process and remember speeding messages, simply because they have favourable attitudes towards speeding or regularly engage in it. There is clearly a need for future research to examine the impact of online messaging on our attitudes and behaviour.

Without Russia, Science Going Solo On World's Woes, Dreams

Associated Press

Without Russian help, climate scientists worry how they'll keep up their important work of documenting warming in the Arctic. Europe's space agency is wrestling with how its planned Mars rover might survive freezing nights on the Red Planet without its Russian heating unit. And what of the world's quest for carbon-free energy if 35 nations cooperating on an experimental fusion-power reactor in France can't ship vital components from Russia? In scientific fields with profound implications for mankind's future and knowledge, Russian President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine is causing a swift and broad decaying of relationships and projects that bound together Moscow and the West. Post-Cold War bridge-building through science is unraveling as Western nations seek to punish and isolate the Kremlin by drying up support for scientific programs involving Russia. The costs of this decoupling, scientists say, could be high on both sides. Tackling climate change and other problems will be tougher without collaboration and time will be lost. Russian and Western scientists have become dependent on each other's expertise as they have worked together on conundrums from unlocking the power of atoms to firing probes into space. Picking apart the dense web of relationships will be complicated. The European Space Agency's planned Mars rover with Russia is an example. Arrays of Russian sensors to sniff, scour and study the planet's environment may have to be unbolted and replaced and a non-Russian launcher rocket found if the suspension of their collaboration becomes a lasting rupture. In that case, the launch, already scrubbed for this year, couldn't happen before 2026. "We need to untangle all this cooperation which we had, and this is a very complex process, a painful one I can also tell you," the ESA director, Josef Aschbacher, said in an Associated Press interview. "Dependency on each other, of course, creates also stability and, to a certain extent, trust. And this is something that we will lose, and we have lost now, through the invasion of Russia in Ukraine." International indignation and sanctions on Russia are making formal collaborations difficult or impossible. Scientists who became friends are staying in touch informally but plugs are being pulled on their projects big and small. The European Union is freezing Russian entities out of its main 95 billion euro (\$105 billion) fund for research, suspending payments and saying they'll get no new contracts. In Germany, Britain and elsewhere, funding and support is also being withdrawn for projects involving Russia. In the United States, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology severed ties with a research university it helped establish in Moscow. The oldest and largest university in Estonia won't accept new students from Russia and ally Belarus. The president of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, Tarmo Soomere, says the breaking of scientific connections is necessary but also will hurt. "We are in danger of losing much of the mo-

mentum that drives our world towards better solutions, (a) better future," he told the AP. "Globally, we are in danger of losing the core point of science—which is obtaining new and essential information and communicating it to others." Russian scientists are bracing for painful isolation. An online petition by Russian scientists and scientific workers opposed to the war says it now has more than 8,000 signatories. They warn that by invading Ukraine, Russia has turned itself into a pariah state, which "means that we can't normally do our work as scientists, because conducting research is impossible without full-fledged cooperation with foreign colleagues." The growing estrangement is being pushed by Russian authorities, too. An order from the Science Ministry suggested that scientists no longer need bother getting research published in scientific journals, saying they'll no longer be used as benchmarks for the quality for their work. Lev Zelenyi, a leading physicist at the Space Research Institute in Moscow who was involved in the now-suspended collaboration on the ExoMars rover, described the situation as "tragic" and said by email to the AP that he and other Russian scientists must now "learn how to live and work in this new non-enabling environment." On some major collaborations, the future isn't clear. Work continues on the 35-nation ITER fusion-energy project in southern France, with Russia still among seven founders sharing costs and results from the experiment. ITER spokesman Laban Coblentz said the project remains "a deliberate attempt by countries with different ideologies to physically build something together." Among the essential components being supplied by Russia is a massive superconducting magnet awaiting testing in St. Petersburg before shipment — due in several years. Researchers hunting for elusive dark matter hope they'll not lose the more than 1,000 Russian scientists contributing to experiments at the European nuclear research organization CERN. Joachim Mnich, the director for research and computing, said punishment should be reserved for the Russian government, not Russian colleagues. CERN has already suspended Russia's observer status at the organization, but "we are not sending anyone home," Mnich told the AP. In other fields as well, scientists say Russian expertise will be missed. Adrian Muxworthy, a professor at London's Imperial College, says that in his research of the Earth's magnetic field, Russian-made instruments "can do types of measurements that other commercial instruments made in the West can't do." Muxworthy is no longer expecting delivery from Russia of 250 million-year-old Siberian rocks that he had planned to study. In Germany, atmospheric scientist Markus Rex said the year-long international mission he led into the Arctic in 2019-2020 would have been impossible without powerful Russian ships that bust through the ice to keep their research vessel supplied with food, fuel and other essentials. The Ukraine invasion is stopping this "very close collaboration," as well as future joint efforts to study the impact of climate change, he told the AP.

Health Centre University of Kashmir

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NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

For and on behalf of Competent Authority of the University of Kashmir, e-tenders in two bid systems are invited from reputed manufacturers/authorized dealers/suppliers/retailers for supply of Life saving Medicine on monthly basis. The bid/tender document consisting of eligibility criteria, specifications, terms & conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded from website www.iktenders.gov.in as per the schedule given below:

S.NO.	Particulars	Date & Time
1	Date of Issuance of Tender Notice	28-03-2022
2	Date of downloading bid documents	29-03-2022 from 10:30 a.m
3	Bid submission Start Date	29-03-2022 from 10:30 a.m
4	Bid Submission End Date	18-04-2022 from 3:30 p.m
5	Last date for submission of Hard copies	18-04-2022 from 4:30 p.m

Note:- The centre may also explore the availability of medicine over GEM and the bidders shall be free to participate in both processes. However the University reserves the right to finalize the bidder from either of the portals as per merit in the interest of the organization. Detailed tender notice can be also be viewed from the official website of University of Kashmir www.kashmiruniversity.ac.in.

Incharge Procurement
University Health Centre

No. F-TENDER (UOK/UHC/2022)
Dated:- 28-03-2022

DIPK-NB-8055/21

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Directorate of Tourism Kashmir

TRC, Srinagar, Kashmir.190001

Tel/Fax 0194-250227, 0194-250228.E-mail-directortourismkmr@gmail.com

Subject:- Out-sourcing of operation and Management of adventure activities at Pahalgam on license basis for a period of 03 years.
Reference:- This office fresh Auction Open Notice No. DTK-RECS/3/2022/06/ 2695 dated 25.03.2022.

CORRIGENDUM

Please read date of Auction as 05.04.2022 at 2.00 P.M instead of 10.04.2022.
"Three activities i.e., Zorbing, Water Zorbing and Trampoline shall be exclusively reserved for local Adventure Tour Operators".
However, all other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

Malik Waseem (JKAS)
Dy.Director Tourism
Recreation.

No: DTK-RECS/3/2022/06/2698
Dated: 28.03.2022

DIPK-20144/21

IQRA PULIC SCHOOL KRANGSOO MATTAN ANANTNAG

The list of Proposed Panel of ManagingBody is as under:

S.No	Name & Parentage	Residence	Designation	Qualification	Occupation
1	Gh Nabi Shah S/o Gh Ahmad Shah	Krangsoo Anantnag	Chairman	MolviFazil	Rtd. Teacher
2	M. Amin Bhat S/o Ab Rahman Bhat	Krangsoo Anantnag	Secretary	BA. /B.ED	Business
3	Zahoor Ahmad Ittoo S/o Mohd Yousuf Ittoo	Krangsoo Anantnag	Member	BA./ B.ED	Principal of School
4	Mohd Saleem Bhat S/o Gh Hassan Bhat	Krangsoo Anantnag	Member/Parent	10+2	Business
5	Gh Mohammad Bhat S/o Ab Gaffar Bhat	Krangsoo Anantnag	Member/Parent	Matric	Rtd. Govt Employee

Note:- I am going to get the approval of Managing Body to be approved by the Directorate School Education Srinagar Kashmir . If anybody has any sort of objection regarding in this matter he/she may file the same within a week's time of the date of publication in Directorate of School Education Srinagar.

ma

از نیابت کتزر
مضمون درخواست : محمد رفیق ڈار ولد محمد صبحان ڈار ساکنہ نہر پورہ بالا ہمداد
عطا یگی DOB certificate تہن پیرا نوش رفیق ڈار
اشتہار ہمداد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں دفتر ہذا کو ایک درخواست بابت حصول
تاریخ پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ موصول ہوئی ہیں۔ پولیس سٹیشن کتزر وچو کیدار
علاقہ نے ساکن کے پسر کی پیدائش اندراج نہیں کی ہے ساکن محمد رفیق ڈار
ولد محمد صبحان ڈار بیان کرتا ہے کہ اسکا پسر اوش رفیق ڈار کی تاریخ
پیدائش 2019-06-03 کو ہوئی ہے۔ اس نسبت ہر خاص و عام کو مطلع کیا
جاتا ہے کہ اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض
ساتھ یوم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل
قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
نا تب تحصیلدار کتزر az k

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

NOTICE



Whereas, a joint application has been received from Shri Gulzar Ahmad Bhat S/o Abdul Rashid Bhat R/o H. No- 18 Sultan Arfeen Colony Lane No 3 Bemina Sgr (Transferor) and Shri Ashiq Hussain Bhat S/o

Mohd Ramzan Bhat R/o Ishbar Nishat Bren Sgr (Transferee) for transfer of Maxi Cab carriage route Permit No 30035/MC Covering Vehicle No JK01Q- 6303 .

Now, therefore, it is notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit / vehicle shall be filled in writing in the office of the Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir.

Within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily News Paper Kashmir Observer. Seller and purchaser identified by the authorized representatives of M/S --- Namely --

NOJK-RTOK 3153
Dated: 29/03/2022
fko

Sd/-
Regional Transport Office,
Kashmir

Office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Shopian

NOTICE



Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr./ Mrs Syed Tahseen Ahmad S/o Syed Mohammad Syed R/o Kaprin Shopian (Party No 1st) as Transferor, (seller) owner of the vehicle -- Regd. No.

JK22A-2332 (Commercial/ Non Commercial) covering under R/P NO: ----- And Mr./ Mrs Manzoor Ahamd Sheikh S/o Ab Rasheed Sheih R/o Feripora Shopian (Parti No 2nd) as Transferee (purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted vehicle from party No. 1st to 2nd and cancellation of hire purchase agreement with Gh Mohd Mir S/o Abdul Ahad Mir R/o Mastpora Keller Shopian.

Before the case is disposed off on its merits, any body having objection regarding the proposed transfer may file his objection within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned .

No any representation/ objection shall be enteretained after stipulated period.

No : /Arto/Spn
Dated 29-03-2022

S/D Asst Regional
Transport Officer Shopian

ast

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

NOTICE



Whereas, a joint application has been received from Shri Mir Shariq Hussain S/o Ajaz Ahamd Mr R/o Drugjan Dalgate Sgr (Transferor) and Shri Nisar Ahamd Bhat S/o Abdul Gani Bhat R/o Wangan-do Talbal Hazratbal Sgr (Transferee)

for transfer of Indigo carriage route Permit No 189/AR/ 2013 Covering Vehicle No JK01T- 8820 .

Now, therefore, it is notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit / vehicle shall be filled in writing in the office of the Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir.

Within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily News Paper Kashmir Observer. Seller and purchaser identified by the authorized representatives of M/S STW Co Namely Bagh Hussain

NOJK-RTOK 3157
Dated: 29/03/2022
fko

Sd/-
Regional Transport Office,
Kashmir

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NC Top Brass Meets Journalists To Bridge Communication ‘Gap’

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The top brass of National Conference (NC) including the party President Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Omar Abdullah on Tuesday held an informal interaction with journalists in this capital city.

Dr. Farooq and his son interacted with local Kashmiri journalists, working for local, national and international media houses at Srinagar's Hotel Sheraton on Tuesday afternoon.

Notably, the session was called by the NC's newly appointed Chief Spokesperson, in-charge of communications and senior party leader Tanvir Sadiq. While interacting with the journalists, Sadiq said that the media has

perative to keep the fighting spirit of the Kashmiri people up, Sadiq emphasized that it was important to tackle the gap created between the party and media fraternity.

"This session has been called to understand the reasons that have enforced a gap between our party and the media fraternity. The idea is to take suggestions from Journalists to bridge the gap between them and our party. We're not here to take suggestions on the running of our party but just to understand the grievances of Journalists," Sadiq said while interacting with Journalists.

While expressing his thoughts on the interactive session called by the party Chief Spokesperson, Vice president Omar Abdul-



played a praise-worthy role in disseminating correct information to every nook and corner of the valley.

He said that Kashmir's media, in contemporary times, is all more significant in fighting the challenge of misinformation and spreading correct information of the ground situation of the valley amid the grim on-ground situation in J&K.

Underlining that it is im-

lah said that it shouldn't be misunderstood among the journalists that they've been called for any other reason.

"This session hasn't been called to teach journalists about how they should report stories nor has it been called to take suggestions on the running of our party. However, we all know under what circumstances does the media work in Kashmir and it is for the same reason we want



Progress For Proposed Model Villages In Dal lake Reviewed

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Additional Commissioner Kashmir Qazi Sarwaron Tuesday visited various hamlets in the interior of Dal Lake to review the progress of proposed model villages.

He was accompanied by the officers of various departments including LCMA, SMC, Forest, Handloom & Handicraft, Tourism, Floriculture, Animal Husbandry, Agriculture, PHE, PDD and UBED.

During the visit, Additional Commissioner was briefed about the proposed plans to create various amenities like parks, footpaths, lighting, sight catching for tourists, bathrooms for mosque and tourists, plantation of fruit plants. It was informed that model village will be developed at Kachri Mohalla as a pilot project to attract tour-

ists.

He also visited Tinda Mohallah where Vegetable market is held on daily basis.



Locals apprised him about issues regarding electricity, power transformers, parks and dredging of channels, wood for renovation of shikaras and beautification of vegetable mar-

ket and other issues.

He also issued on spot directions to concerned officers for taking the cognizance of the de-

ACB Arrests Asst Sadar Treasury For Accepting Bribe

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday said that it trapped and arrested an Auditor (Accounts Assistant), Sadar Treasury, Srinagar for demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 2500 and said that Rs 1,16,125 cash and cheque of Rs 7000 were also recovered on his personal search.

As per a statement, ACB received a written complaint wherein the complainant alleged that an Auditor (Accounts Assistant) of Sadar Treasury Srinagar namely Syed Mujeeb Indrabi was demanding Rs 2500 as bribe for release of

pending payment of a bill amounting Rs 2, 50,000 due to the complainant in respect of completion of a work of Ziyarat Shareef at Lapatpora, Pulwama, allotted by Tourism Department Kashmir.

On this, the complainant approached ACB Srinagar for further necessary legal action.

"On receipt of the complaint, a case under FIR number 12/2022 under section 7 PC Act 1988 IPC was registered in this Bureau and investigation was taken up. During the course of investigation a trap team was constituted. The team laid a successful trap and caught red-handed Syed Mujeeb In-

drabi, Auditor (Accounts Assistant) while demanding and accepting a bribe amount of Rs 2500 from the complainant. He was arrested on the spot by the ACB team. The bribe money was also recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses. During search of the pocket of the accused Rs 1,16,125 (in cash) and cheque of Rs 7000 were also recovered from the accused."

"Immediately after the trap, search was also conducted in the residential house of the accused. Further investigation into the case is on," the statement added. (KNO)

Police Detain Alleged “NGO Staff” In City

Agencies

Srinagar: Police on Tuesday seized equipment and other devices of an alleged NGO 'Vision Spring' that was seen conducting eye-care tests on people after collecting their identity cards.

The alleged NGO is from outside Kashmir and had erected a tent at Taxi Stand-2 in the heart of Srinagar city. The people part of the alleged NGO 'Vision Spring' claimed that they offer eye screening, pri-

mary eye-care services to people free of cost.

The alleged NGO was demanding identity cards, particularly Adhar Cards from the people willing to go for eye screening.

Eyewitnesses said that some people questioned their practice of demanding identity cards from the people. They said when some people confronted them, employees of the NGO failed to produce the authentic documents pertaining to the said NGO.

Conference On NEP-2020 Held At KU

Agencies

Srinagar: Kashmir University's Department of Management Studies on Tuesday organized a national-level conference on New Education Policy-2020.

The day-long conference titled "NEP: bridging the skill gap and employing youth for promising future under Kashmir-Punjab education initiative KASPUN 2.0" was organized in collaboration with CT University Punjab to highlight the impact of New Education Policy on the institutions of higher learning.

In his presidential address, Dean Academic Affairs KU Prof Farooq Ahmad Masoodi, stressed on the need for collaboration among different institutions to impart meaningful and quality education.


"The University will initiate proactive measures to strengthen such collaborations and tie-ups," he said.

In his address, KU Registrar Dr Nisar Mir called for aligning the education system as per the demands of the emerging socio-economic and technological environment.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL SHEMROCK VALLEY BRAKPORA ANANTNAG			
FEE STRUCTURE AND ROLLS STATEMENT OF THE SCHOOL YEAR 2022			
S.No	CLASS	ROLL	FEE
1	5th	NIL	850
2	4TH	NIL	850
3	3rd	NIL	850
4	2nd	10	850
5	1st	10	850
6	U.K.G	12	800
7	L.K.G	15	800
8	Nursery	16	750
	Total Roll	62	
ma		Sd/Principal	

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL IQRA PUBLIC SCHOOL KRANGSOO MATTAN ANANTNAG		
FEE STRUCTURE FOR THE ACADMIC YEAR 2021-2022.		
S.No	CLASS	FEE
1	8TH	600
2	7TH	600
3	6TH	600
4	5TH	550
5	4TH	550
6	3RD	550
7	2nd	550
8	1st	550
9	U.K.G	450
10	L.K.G	450
11	NURSERY	450
ma		Sd/Principal

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL
TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR
NOTICE**




Where a application for transfer of ownership has been received from one. Shri : Sheak Mohammad Ashraf S/o: Sheak Abdul Aziz
R/o: H.No 30 Chinar Colony (Transferor) of LMV Santo. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04A - 6024. Chasis number 83042 Engine no. 974951 Model 2006. In favour of Shri.. Sahil Shafiq S/o. Shafiq Ahmad Sheikh R/o Hamdaniya Colony Sector 12 Bemina Srinagar (Transferee) as well as HPA cancellation with M/S J & K Bank B/U Kalaroos Kupwara.

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership 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.8035 Dated 29-03-2022
Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL
TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR
NOTICE**



Where as a joint application has been received from owner. Shri : Pradeep Singh S/o: Pritpal Singh R/o: Nassarpura Khag Budgam as Transferor) & Shri. Inderaz Ahmad Bhat S/o Ghulam Mohammad Bhat R/o Shamas Abad Later Chadoora Budgam.as Transferee) for transfer of Tavera Maxi Cab Carriage route permit No.1296/CC/ Budgam vehicle No. JK04C -5502. as well as HPA Cancellation with E.D. Bank B/U Khag.

Now it is therefore notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit/vehicle 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. 8051 Dated 29/03/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS


SHEIK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

**HIJRI
CALENDAR**

26 Shaban
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 57
ZUHR	12:36
ASR	5:03
Magrib	6:53
ISHA	8: 13

This Day In History

240 BC- 1st recorded perihelion passage of Halley's Comet.
1603 - Battle at Mellifont: English army under Lord Mountjoy beats Irish
1796 - Carl Friedrich Gauss, German mathematician, discovers the construction of the heptadecagon
1814 - Napoleonic Wars: Sixth Coalition forces march into Paris after defeating Napoleon.
1842 - Ether used as an anaesthetic for 1st time by Dr Crawford Long (Ga)
1856 - Russia signs Peace of Paris, ending the Crimean War
1885 - The Battle for Kushka triggers the Pandjeh Incident which nearly gives rise to war between the British Empire and Russian Empire.
1919 - Gandhi announces resistance against Rowlatt Act
1925 - Stalin supports rights of non-Serbian Yugoslavians
1941 - German counter offensive in North-Africa
1945 - USSR invades Austria
1945 - World War II: a defecting German pilot delivers a Messerschmitt Me 262A-1 to Americans.
1950 - Phototransistor invention announced, Murray Hill, NJ
1953 - Albert Einstein announces revised unified field theory
1959 - Dalai Lama flees China and is granted political asylum in India
1961 - NASA civilian pilot Joseph A Walker takes X-15 169,600' (51,690 m).
1965 - Vietnam War: A car bomb explodes in front of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon, killing 22 and wounding 183 others.
1968 - General Ludvik Svoboda elected president of Czechoslovakia
1970 - USSR wins its 8th straight world hockey championship
1972 - North Vietnamese troops enter South Vietnam
1976 - Israel kills 6 Palestinians protesting land confiscation
1982 - 3rd space shuttle mission-Columbia 3 lands at White Sands, NM
1984 - US ends participation in multinational Lebanon peace force
2006 - Marcos Pontes is the first Brazilian astronaut in space.
2006 - UK Terrorism Act 2006 becomes law.
2011 - Global credit information group Experian report that economic recovery in Wales slower than the rest of the UK, forecasting growth of 1.6% vs 2.2% for the rest of the UK
2012 - Mastercard and Visa announce a massive breach in security with over ten million compromised credit card numbers.

Ansari Faces Expulsion From Congress

Observer News Service

New Delhi- Influential Shia leader and lone Congress minister in Farooq Abdullah government Moulvi Iftikhar Ansari, appears certain to face expulsion from the party in case he refuses to quit as a minister.

Taking exception to Farooq Abdullah's overtures with the BJP, the Congress leadership feels that "it is right time" to ask Iftikhar to resign and work for "revitalising the party" in the state, highly placed sources said here tonight. In case Ansari refuses, the party will be left with no other alternative but to expel him, the sources added.

Incidentally, senior Congress leader Mufti Mohammad Syed had a long meeting with the newly appointed party president Sonia Gandhi, late last night. Mufti's meeting with Sonia assumes significance in the background of wavering approach of former Congress chief Sita Ram Kesri with regard to party affairs in Kashmir, making it virtually defunct.

The party leaders are sore that no action was taken against Ansari even as he openly campaigned against the Congress candidates in just -concluded Lok Sabha elections in Kashmir. "Time has come now to show the Moulvi his right place" a senior AICC leader told this reporter.

(Kashmir Observer, 30 March, 1998)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

China, Russia woo
New Delhi

D ays after the visit by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Russia’s Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov is expected to come to India this week. These are very significant visits. The effort by the two great powers seems to be to somehow persuade India to not support the west against Russia. India has so far maintained a nuanced stance on the ongoing war in Ukraine. It has earlier abstained on Western-led resolutions that criticized the Russian military action in Ukraine. Then it also abstained on a resolution pushed by Russia in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. The abstentions reflect an attempt by New Delhi to seek a neutral position as it continues to walk a diplomatic tightrope on the war which threatens to expand into Europe.

The west, which counts India as an ally, has noticed New Delhi’s painstaking attempt to not choose sides. US President Joe Biden said last week that India was “somewhat shaky” in showing its opposition to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. This has piled pressure on India to make a distinct choice between the warring parties. India has so far maintained its neutrality but the country is finding it increasingly difficult to maintain this stance. More so, with China and Russia jointly trying to wean it away from the west.

The visit of Wang Yi was a significant development in its own right. The Chinese foreign minister wanted India to throw its lot with China-Russia over the war in Ukraine. But New Delhi has made it clear that it was in the mood to improve its relations with Beijing until it didn’t pull back its troops from the territory it has captured in Ladakh. China claims the captured area as its territory and wants New Delhi to move on and accept the new status quo in Ladakh as a fait accompli. New Delhi, however, will not do so as was made clear by foreign minister S Jaishankar. In fact, the Ladakh situation is only complicating the matters between the two giant nations. A lingering stand-off on the Line of Actual Control could make things more difficult between them.

Going forward, it is difficult to predict how the rest of 2022 would go. As earlier underlined by Army chief General MM Naravane, the northern border remains a challenge. China and India have failed to arrive at a breakthrough even in their over a dozen rounds of Corps Commander-level talks. The two sides have been looking at a possible agreement for disengagement from Hot Springs as part of the comprehensive disengagement and de-escalation efforts in eastern Ladakh. The stand-off is now around two years long and the successive efforts to end it has met with modest success.

As things stand, it doesn’t look like things will change much on this score this year as for as China. And Pakistan too. Going by the statements of Pakistan’s leadership, the country has given up on any engagement with New Delhi as the latter wouldn’t reverse the withdrawal of Article 370. And China wants to cement the new status quo along the LAC. Here’s hoping that the situation turns out contrary to what seems like an eminently predictable course of events. As for as war in Ukraine, India would be expected to calibrate its approach depending on how the war shapes up in the coming months.

O T H E R O P I N O N

The power of the man: On
toxic masculinity at Oscars

E verything from The Power of The Dog winning only one of its 12 nominations to the silent applause and standing ovation for Troy Kotsur’s Best Supporting Actor win in CODA was swept off the table in the face of Will Smith’s altercation with Chris Rock. Smith, who went on to win the Best Actor Award for his role as Richard Williams in King Richard, slapped Rock when the actor and comedian made a ‘joke’ about Smith’s wife, Jada Pinkett Smith’s hair loss. The neo-western, The Power of the Dog, based on Thomas Savage’s eponymous novel, apart from other things, deals with toxic masculinity, which is what the Smith-Rock confrontation was at one level. In other Oscar news, the heart-warming coming-of-age story, CODA directed by Siân Heder won all three awards it was nominated for. Denis Villeneuve’s exquisite adaptation of Frank Herbert’s science fiction classic, Dune, won the maximum awards. Of the 10 nominations, Dune: Part One (as it is titled onscreen), won six. The golden man went to Hans Zimmer’s score, sound, editing, visual effects, cinematography and production design.

Drive My Car from Japan, co-written and directed by Ryusuke Hamaguchi, had four nominations, which it won ahead of Paolo Sorrentino’s intensely personal The Hand of God from Italy and Bhutan’s Lunana: A Yak in the Classroom. Smith’s fellow nominees for the best actor included Benedict Cumberbatch as the closeted, conflicted rancher in The Power of the Dog, Javier Bardem’s eye-popping turn as Desi Arnaz in Aaron Sorkin’s Being the Ricardos, Andrew Garfield as Jonathan Larson in Lin-Manuel Miranda’s biographical musical Tick, Tick... Boom! and Denzel Washington as Macbeth in Joel Coen’s black-and-white take on The Tragedy of Macbeth. Jessica Chastain’s win in the best actress category for The Eyes of Tammy Faye faced some stiff competition from Olivia Colman in Maggie Gyllenhaal’s The Lost Daughter and Kristen Stewart as Lady Diana in Spencer. The supporting actress category was also closely fought with Ariana DeBose from West Side Story winning against Jessie Buckley (The Lost Daughter), Judi Dench (Belfast), Kirsten Dunst (The Power of the Dog) and Anjanue Ellis (King Richard). Paul Thomas Anderson’s delightfully comforting Licorice Pizza was yet another coming-of-age film with a strong presence at the nomination stage, but did not win. While Jane Campion’s best director win for The Power of the Dog follows Chloé Zhao’s win last year for Nomadland, making her the second woman to win in as many years, the Smith-Rock spat proves that there are miles to go before show business could come of age. Bad jokes, like bad cinema, are best ignored and not put down with violence.

The Hindu

War and Ascent
of Digital Currency?



Amitendu Palit

It is still too
early to reflect
on whether
sovereign digital
currencies will be
one of the major
distinguishing
characteristics of a
global order that is
acquiring a
fractured shape.
More conflicts like
Ukraine will hasten
the process by
accelerating
recourse to digital

T he IMF apprehends ‘fundamental’ changes in the global economic and political order arising from the ongoing Ukraine conflict. These changes would include reorganisation of existing global payment networks. The reorganisation is likely to be accompanied by sharp increase in use of digital currencies and the growth of global geopolitical identities around their use.

Exclusion of several Russian banks from the largest global payment network of SWIFT, and suspension of operations by Visa and Mastercard in Russia, has made Russia hunt for alternative real time settlement options for doing business with the rest of the world. These options in the foreseeable future, would mean integrating with non-Western, more specifically, non-US dominated financial systems.

The cross-border interbank payment systems (CIPS) run and managed by the People’s Bank of China is one such alternative. The CIPS uses same standards as the SWIFT and the two have an operational agreement. However, the volume of transactions handled by CIPS is hardly comparable to that of the SWIFT. This is because the CIPS moves yuan-denominated transactions across borders. It is only those financial institutions that have large dealings with mainland China and Hong Kong that are actively engaged with CIPS. CIPS cannot offer Russia—or its trade partners—a whole-some alternative to the SWIFT.

There are hardly options in the current global financial space dominated by the US dollar and other West-backed currencies like the euro, Japanese yen and the British pound that Russia can latch on to for avoiding the hit from Western sanctions. However, its options and prospects are better in digital currencies.

Private digital currencies, or cryptocurrencies, are already in extensive use following the Ukraine conflict. Ukraine has resorted to crowdfunding through cryptocurrencies for raising resources to battle the conflict. Such options might even be explored by Russian businesses crippled by

sanctions. The volatility of most cryptocurrencies, however, might make many businesses wary of trading in them. In this regard, trading in stable sovereign digital currencies would clearly be a much-preferred option.

The current global landscape on progress in sovereign digital currencies puts Asia, Africa and the Caribbean far ahead of Europe and America. Seven countries from the Eastern Caribbean, the Bahamas and Nigeria, have already launched sovereign digital currencies. Fifteen countries are in the pilot stage. These include prominent economies like China, Russia, Hong Kong, South Korea, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, South Africa, Singapore and Malaysia. Many of these economies are members of the G20 group of countries such as China, South Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia and South Africa. From a Russian perspective, it is noteworthy that apart from China and Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and South Africa are yet to join the West in financially sanctioning Russia.

It doesn’t mean that countries that haven’t joined the West in sanctioning Russia, including India, would necessarily subscribe to alternative payment frameworks for staying engaged in business with Russia. For most of these countries, such an option entails further complications in their international strategic relations. China, though, is a distinct exception. Indeed, the Ukraine conflict might mark the beginning of greater Sino-Russian cooperation on sovereign digital currencies.

Operationally, both Russia and China have made significant progress on sovereign digital currencies. Earlier this year, the Central Bank of Russia launched the digital ruble pilot programme involving twelve Russian banks. Some banks have begun testing customer-to-customer (C2C) retail transactions with the digital ruble. These are to be extended to business-to-customer (B2C) and business-to-business (B2B) transactions. China too has experimentally launched the e-CNY (Chinese yuan) for retail use. The e-CNY wallets have become available for being downloaded by

the public through smartphones running on both Android and iOS systems. In what is perhaps the most comprehensive indication so far of China’s plans to introduce the e-CNY in cross-border transactions, it made the digital currency available for use by overseas visitors during the recently held winter Olympics at Beijing.

For Russia and China, closer integration on digital currencies and cross-border payment networks, is a ‘win-win’ outcome. The integration will help Russia in mitigating some of the long-term adverse impacts of exclusion from Western global payment networks. Interoperability with the e-CNY will enable bypassing potential third-party roles (e.g. SWIFT, credit cards) in international cross-border transactions. These, at present, are dominated by Western financial intermediaries.

China, on the other hand, will be able to greatly expand the use of its digital currency by working with Russia. It will be able to position the e-CNY as the dominant global digital currency and internationalise the Chinese yuan. The eventual objective of such positioning will be to challenge the current prominence of the US dollar—a challenge that it has not yet been able to mount effectively in the traditional global currency space. A less prominent US dollar will lead to marginalisation of Western-dominated payment systems like SWIFT in the long-run.

It is still too early to reflect on whether sovereign digital currencies will be one of the major distinguishing characteristics of a global order that is acquiring a fractured shape. More conflicts like Ukraine will hasten the process by accelerating recourse to digital currencies.

Views expressed in the article are the author’s own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Financial Express

The writer is Senior research fellow and research lead (trade and economics), Institute of South Asian Studies, NUS



OBSERVER
MAIL

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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

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Letters of News

L etters to the Editor’ are among the most widely read features in a newspaper, and they allow you to reach a large audience. Letters shape and influence public opinion, and they are a great way to increase awareness on the topic that one writes. In addition to stirring debates on several issues, the letters section demonstrates that the newspaper is open to different perspectives. Therefore, the LTE section fits perfectly in the democratic image of the Press as the ‘Fourth Estate.’

The Op-Ed (opposite to editorial page) in a newspaper, which the New York Times has recently renamed as

“guest essays page”, and which carries opinion articles from experts, offers plenty of scope for readers to express their views in the form of letters. The advantage of the Op-Ed section is that it informs and educates a large audience about an issue that is vitally important. Living in the digital era, the name “Op-Ed” may seem antiquated to readers. Yet, the section still holds its ace in many erstwhile newspapers across the world.

Newspapers which do not have a section for letters, must provide space for the same, as readers’ feedback act as a vital bridge between them and the newspaper.

Despite contributing letters to

a handful of newspapers for over three decades, my passion and love for writing letters daily haven’t diminished a bit. Having worked with a leading publication group in Chennai for years, once I had the opportunity to meet the late Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu M. Karunanidhi at his residence along with my boss and a few other colleagues in connection with the release of an offline issue published by the group on him.

After the simple launch, much to our surprise Mr Karunanidhi started asking questions of each one of us. When my turn came last, I told him of my passion for writing and that I had been writing letters in newspa-

pers and periodicals for over three decades. Being a veteran writer himself, he was delighted and engaged me in conversation for a little more time. He then advised me to have the zeal and unflinching desire for writing, and not to give it up until I breathed my last. When I sit and write every day, those inspiring words from the amazing man keep ringing in my ears.

The art of writing letters to ‘Letters to the Editor’ will certainly live on through the ages and will never end or fade away.

Ranganathan Sivakumar
siva19kumar@gmail.com

Inspirations for Creations

“

It's a fortress.
It's a ship.
That kind
of thinking,
thinking
outside of the
box, is exactly
what it takes
to create and
be creative. So,
let's sum it up.
What inspires
people to be
creative? Is
this insane?
Perhaps for
some, but
for others,
there are
three critical
elements

Muzamil Farooq

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

Let's take a look at what inspires people to be creative. Teresa Amabile, a Harvard scientist, developed a model that specifies the factors that are important for people to become creative as early as the 1980s. She specified three variables. The first is expertise, which includes technical, procedural, and intellectual knowledge of the domain in which one works. The second factor is motivation, or the willingness to complete a task. Finally, the third factor is creative thinking abilities, which refer to how effectively and

imaginatively people can approach problems. According to the Amabile arc, all three of these factors are required for creativity to emerge. So, rather than having just one of them, you need to have all three to some extent in order to be creative.

Let's take a closer look at these three components. When people consider expertise, they frequently believe that there is such a thing as too much knowledge. And perhaps this is true in the sense that some people have been working in a job for too long and have learned so much that they can no longer think outside the box. But, in all honesty, what is far more of a problem is a lack of knowledge. Why is a lack of knowledge such a problem? For example, if you don't know enough about a subject, you won't know what has been done before, so you might be working on something that isn't novel. You also have no idea where the boundaries in this area are because you have insufficient expertise. So you could be working on something spectacular and not even realise it, and then abandon it because you don't see

the value of your idea. Or you're unsure what's feasible. Maybe you're working on a solution that simply doesn't work, and because you don't realise it, you keep working on it for far too long. Finally, you might not know what's useful and come up with ideas that are completely unrelated. It is therefore difficult to be creative unless you have sufficient knowledge and expertise to speak for these four elements.

Let's take a look at the second aspect of motivation. People frequently distinguish between two types of motivation when discussing motivation: extrinsic motivation and intrinsic motivation. Extrinsic motivation refers to doing a task not because you enjoy it, but because of something you gain from it. Consider the carrot and the stick. Maybe you work because you want money or a promotion, or maybe you work to keep your house from being foreclosed on because you owe money on it. All of this is an example of extrinsic motivation. You engage in an activity, but you do so in exchange for a reward.

There is also intrinsic motivation, which is when you do something simply because you enjoy it and would do it anyway if you didn't get anything out of it other than joy and satisfaction. And we know that intrinsic motivation has some advantages. For instance, if you are more intrinsically motivated, you are more likely to overcome obstacles that arise. You are more willing to overcome them and go the extra mile. You are more willing to continue after a failure, and this is an important aspect of creativity, failing, failing before you can succeed. Intrinsic motivation increases your willingness to work hard and think about the problem continuously, and all of these factors combine to make intrinsic motivation such an important component of creativity. So, if you want to be creative, it helps to be intrinsically motivated.

Let's take a look at the final aspect of creativity. The final component is called creative thinking skills, and it is all about how adaptable and imaginative you can be when approaching problems. This

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

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





KASHMIR OBSERVER™

#KO DEBATES

What Russia-Ukraine War Means for South Asia

Guest
B Z Khasru

With
KO's Tooba Towfiq

Nationwide Strike Partially Hits Banking, Transport Services In Some States

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Banking and transport services were partially affected in a few states on Tuesday as various central trade unions went on a nationwide strike for the second consecutive day to protest against policies of the central government.

The two-day strike was called by a central trade unions' joint forum, which on Tuesday claimed that the strike elicited good response by way of mobilisation of workers.

Various unions of bank employees also participated in the strike.

Bank unions protested against the government's move to privatise two public sector banks as announced in Budget 2021-22. They also demanded an increase in interest rate on deposits and reduction in service charges.

According to reports, normal life was partially affected in Kerala, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu.

"Workers in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh joined the strike on the second day... workers in almost all sectors joined the strike," Amarjeet Kaur, General Secretary of All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC), told PTI.

In a statement, the joint forum lauded the workers of organised and unorganised

sectors, government departments, public sector and private establishments, medium, small and micro enterprises as well as rural and urban working people, for making a "grand success of this two-day general strike".

"The participation crossed 20 crore (people) facing all odds, ESMA, intimidation, and obstructions of all kinds, including the high handedness of police in some cases and High Court order in Kerala prohibiting strike for BPCL and government employees," the statement said.

Road transport workers in Haryana began their strike by picketing at depots from Monday onwards.

The issue of strike also echoed in both the Houses of Parliament on Tuesday. In Rajya Sabha, opposition members raised issues related to the nationwide strike and urged the government to look into their demands and take steps.

During Zero Hour, Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkalah Naidu did not accept the notices by some opposition members to discuss the 12-point charter of trade unions, who called for the two-day nationwide strike.

However, Naidu permitted three members to briefly mention the matter related to the nationwide strike.

Ensure Pre-Flight Alcohol Test Of 50 Pc Crew Members, DGCA Tells Airlines



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Airlines must ensure that 50 per cent of cockpit and cabin crew members are subjected to pre-flight alcohol test daily, aviation regulator DGCA said on Tuesday.

Before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, all crew members were required to undergo pre-flight alcohol tests. When the pandemic began, these tests were suspended for a couple of months. Later, the tests were resumed but for only a small percentage of crew members.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Tuesday issued a notice

mentioning that 50 per cent crew members will undergo these tests "in view of reducing trend of COVID-19 cases and increase in volume of air traffic as a result of resumption of normal operation".

"In case of flying training institutes, 50 per cent of instructors and 40 per cent of student pilots shall be subjected to pre-flight breath-analyser on daily basis," the notice issued by the DGCA said.

Operators or owners of charter planes must ensure that 50 per cent of their crew members undergo these tests, it said.

Every aviation employee who is reporting for duty is required

to submit an undertaking that he or she is not under the influence of alcohol and that he or she has not consumed alcohol in the last 12 hours from the time of reporting for the duty, the DGCA said.

"The cockpit crew, cabin crew shall submit the undertaking in the presence of medical staff and the same shall be captured on camera," it mentioned.

The DGCA said the notice issued on Tuesday will remain in force for a three-month period only.

India resumed full scheduled international flights on March 27 this year. The country resumed full scheduled domestic flights on October 18, 2021.

HC Refuses To Direct Centre To Probe Diversion Of Alleged COVID Funds For Anti-India Purposes

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court Tuesday refused to pass directions to the Centre on a public interest litigation seeking a probe into the allegations of siphoning of funds, which were collected by certain overseas organisations from the public in the name of COVID-19 relief, towards terrorist activities.

A bench headed by Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi noted that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has already sought from the petitioner -- Mohammad Ashfaq Hussain, the relevant documents which form the basis of his claims and opined that there was no reason to assume that the central government was not alive to the problem.

There is no reason for the court to assume that the central government and its agencies are not alive to the problem... We are of the view that no direction is called for on the petition, said the bench which also comprised Justice Navin Chawla.

The lawyer for the petitioner submitted before the court that there were reports which showed that certain organisations collected crores of rupees through crowd sourcing in the name of providing aid and help to India during the second wave of the pandemic but ultimately diverted the money to organisations having terror links.

It was alleged that the funds were collected by misleading the public and were then siphoned off to anti-India organisations.

The petitioner submitted that a huge amount of donation was collected by certain organisation having deep rooted links with terrorist, anti-nationalists and radical Islamic groups in the absence of any accountability.

Apart from seeking an investigation, the petitioner also prayed for a direction to the centre to formulate a policy to regulate fund raising by organisations to provide aid during and thus protect the goodwill of the country and prevent anti-India activities. The counsel for the petitioner informed the court that ED has sought relevant information from him in relation to the allegations for investigation into the financial aspect for his allegations.

This is not something the government is not alive to. Why should the court interfere? They (ED) will take it forward if they find something worthwhile, the court remarked.

We don't want to issue any directions. They will take action, added the court which also said that while it is for the donors to exercise due diligence, if funds are collected in the manner alleged by the petitioner, it amounts to breach of public trust and there are sufficient laws to deal with it.

Parliament Passes Budget: FM Says Will Ensure Predictable Recovery

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said the Budget for the next fiscal will attract private investment, and ensure a predictable economic recovery in the years to come.

Replying to a debate on appropriation and finance bills in the Rajya Sabha, she also defended the handling of inflation but acknowledged the ongoing war in Russia and Ukraine has posed fresh challenges, including higher oil prices, and disruptions in supply chains.

The Upper House later returned the two bills without any changes, other than those proposed by the government, completing the nearly two months long parliamentary process for approval of the Union Budget for the fiscal beginning April 1.

"...newer challenges are before us, (in the) Budget presentation I had not taken into account the Omicron and now we are also facing the situation of a full-blown war in Ukraine which is not some war in some corner of the world. But it is seemed to be having an impact on all countries like the way the pandemic had," the minister said.

She said the war has affected the value chains, and the world markets are caught up in a situation where nothing is normal. The minister said that while 32 countries (as per an OECD report) resorted to taxation to revive their economies, the Modi-led government did not increase taxes.

"So you are in a situation where like during the pandemic we came up with a Budget and then came the second wave. This time we came up with budget

continuity aimed at recovery... and then Omicron and now we also have war whose impact has been felt by all of us," she said.

Sitharaman said the government did not resort to taxation for resource mobilisation to deal with the impact of the Covid pandemic.

"Last year we did not fall back on any increase in taxation rates in the name of Covid tax or in the name of any other element of tax to have the resources mobilized for the sake of meeting the challenges of recovery, so we did in this budget as well," she stressed.

She further said the Prime Minister had directed that the Budget should not draw on resources by taxing people at this time when recovery is the most important element and that "we should find resources and fully continue with the predictable recovery that we were aiming at".

Referring to issues concerning private investment, Sitharaman said following the pandemic, the government had stepped up the investment with a view to creating an environment to revive and sustain the economy.

"...we believe that the government and the private sector are partners in assuring development in this economy. There is no 'us versus them' when it comes to government and the private sector," the minister said and highlighted measures like the PLI scheme, and PM Gatishakti, to attract private investment.

The government is conscious of the need to balance the growth and also make sure India's recovery post-Covid is sustainable, she said and added the budget reflects this commitment and outlays the way forward.

During the discussion, several

members had raised concerns over the price situation in the country. To this, the minister said the government was conscious of inflation.

She expressed hope that the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) will shrink going forward.

The finance minister further said that in spite of all the uncertainty and all the self-doubting eminent persons, who have been commenting saying the Indian economy has a problem, the FDI inflow into India in 2020-21 was USD 81.72 billion and USD 74.39 billion in 2019-20. She said India has continued to remain in the top five foreign direct investment (FDI) recipient countries as per a UNCTAD report.

The minister said that in the seven years and nine months of Prime Minister Modi's government till December 2021, FDI

inflows have been USD 500.5 billion and that is about 65 per cent higher than FDI inflows during the entire 10-year regime of the UPA.

"I think that reflects how honestly both the Indian investors and investors from abroad have trusted the economic management of this government under Prime Minister Modi and that is why you find 10 years of more than 65 per cent FDI in the seven years and nine months has come into this country," Sitharaman said.

Referring to the states' share for devolution in central taxes, Sitharaman said it was projected at Rs 6.66 lakh crore as per Budget Estimates of 2021-22, and Rs 7.45 lakh crore as per Revised Estimates.

"What I have actually devolved is Rs 8.35 lakh crore, Rs 1.69 lakh crore more than the BE and Rs 90,000 crore over the

RE has been given," the finance minister said.

Giving more financial details, she said from 2013-14 to 2022-23, the actual utilisation of health and education cess is expected to be Rs 3.94 lakh crore as against an estimated collection of Rs 3.77 lakh crore. This cess, she said, is primarily funding centrally sponsored schemes that happen in the states, where in the funds are being transferred to the state governments.

She also spoke about steps that are aimed at making ease of living for the middle class, related to the Pradhanmantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, statutory PF contribution, and construction of housing units, among others.

Sitharaman had presented the Union Budget on February 1. The Lok Sabha approved the two bills on Friday.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Army Chief To Review

India has been maintaining a strict vigil along the 3,400-km-long LAC for nearly two years after the military standoff in eastern Ladakh.

During Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to Delhi last week, India pressed China to complete the disengagement process in the remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh as soon as possible.

In the talks, India asserted that bilateral ties cannot return to normal if the situation in the border areas is "abnormal"

After talks with Wang, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that the frictions and tensions triggered by China's military deployments in the region since April 2020 cannot be reconciled with a normal relationship between the two neighbours.

India and China have been holding high-level military talks to resolve the face-off in the remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh. Both sides have already withdrawn troops from some areas following the talks.

On March 11, India and China held the 15th round of the dialogue to resolve the pending issues in the eastern Ladakh region. However, there was no forward movement.

Each side currently has around 50,000 to 60,000 troops along the LAC in the sensitive sector.

Petition Moved

next delimitation in the country will be taken up after 2026 then why has the UT of Jammu and Kashmir been singled out?

The plea said that the last Delimitation Commission was set up on July 12, 2002, in exercise of powers conferred by Section 3 of the Delimitation Act, 2002, after the 2001 Census to carry out the exercise throughout the country and the commission had issued guidelines and methodology for the Delimitation of Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies vide letter dated July 5, 2004, along with the Constitutional and Legal Provisions.

It clearly stated that the

total number of existing seats in the Legislative Assemblies of all states, including UTs of the National Capital Region and Pondicherry, as fixed based on the 1971 census shall remain unaltered till the first census to be taken after the year 2026, the plea settled by senior advocate Ravi Shankar Jhandhyala said.

It sought declaring of the notification dated March 6, 2020, constituting the delimitation commission to take up delimitation in the UT of J&K and states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland by the Centre and consequential omission of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland from the process of delimitation vide., notification dated March 3, 2021 and conducting delimitation only for Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir is unconstitutional as it amounts to classification and violates Article 14.

On March 6, 2020, the Union Government, Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department) had issued a notification in exercise of power under Section 3 of the Delimitation Act, 2002, constituting a Delimitation Commission, with former Supreme Court judge (Retd) Ranjana Prakash Desai as Chairperson, for the purpose of delimitation of Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the state of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland, for a period of one year.

The plea said the notification has been speaking of two different population ratios as the delimitation in "UT of J&K" is to be done on the basis of the 2011 population while the delimitation in the four states of the North East is to be done on the basis of the 2001 population which is unconstitutional, violates Article 14 and attracts classification.

In fact, in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, the census operation was completed in 2001, but the delimitation was done in 1995. Even on this count, the entire process adopted is unconstitutional as there is no population census operation during 2011 at all for Jammu and Kashmir, it said.

The petitioners further sought

declaration that the action of the Centre in issuing the notifications dated March 6, 2020, March 3, 2021 and February 21, 2022 for the delimitation of assembly constituencies for the UT of Jammu & Kashmir are without jurisdiction and nothing but usurpation of the jurisdiction of Election Commission of India.

The plea sought stay of the three notifications saying they are in utter violation of statutory provisions particularly Section 63 of Jammu and Kashmir Re-organisation Act-2019 pending disposal of the present writ petition.

It said the constitution of the delimitation commission under section 3 of the Delimitation Act, 2002, which has become inappropriate by the year 2007

"when the Commission was wound up" and after which the delimitation order was issued in 2008 by duly following procedure, the issuance of these three notifications concerning Jammu and Kashmir are without power, jurisdictions and authority of the Centre, Union law ministry and the Election Commission of India.

According to Election Laws, it is only the Election Commission that must carry out the process of delimitation (necessary updation) after the Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Delimitation Order, 2008 is notified. Nobody is competent to carry out the delimitation process since the delimitation has been completed and the Delimitation Commission itself has become inappropriate, it said.

The plea added that the issuance of notification by the Law and Legislative Department appointing the Delimitation Commission is without jurisdiction, unconstitutional and ultra vires to the election laws apart from J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019.

34 Outsiders Bought

the properties are located in Jammu, Reasi, Udhampur and Ganderbal districts.

'J&K Received

an investment of Rs 47,441 crore have been received through online mode for allotment of land for setting up

units in the Union Territory (UT), a senior government official said.

These proposals are estimated to generate 1.97 lakh employment, the official said, adding that the clearance process of these proposals has already been fast tracked.

A total of Rs 150 crore have been provisioned for the development of new industrial estates in 2022-23, and the government aims at generating employment for around 4.5 lakh people under the new policy, the official said.

He also said that Rs 1,003 crore allocated to the industries and commerce department will complement the ongoing efforts being made to take industrial development in the UT to new heights.

"Substantial amount will be spent on establishing new industrial estates in Jammu and Kashmir. The industries department will also assist 2,000 self-help groups for promoting handicrafts," he said.

In this year's budget, Rs 200 crore has been allocated to provide financial assistance to young aspiring entrepreneurs of J&K.

13 Test Corona

recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 14 from Jammu Division and 3 from Kashmir Division," they said.

Also, the officials said that the death toll due to pandemic remained unchanged in J&K at 4750, as no fresh fatality was reported during the last 24 hours.

"Our Effort Is To

representatives reflects the untiring efforts of the government to make Panchayati Raj Institutions more empowered, participatory and vibrant.

The LG, he said, also observed that the effective devolution of three Fs- funds, functions and functionaries has established the centrality of Panchayats in governance and implementation of public welfare schemes.

"It will bring effective social and economic empowerment, besides ensuring that the benefits of rapid economic growth actually reach the last person in the queue," Sinha said.

"A historical decision was taken to involve PRIs to formulate District Capex Budget to effectively plan and carry out development works. Funds are also being provided to the PRIs to evolve their development schemes as per the needs of local population," he added.

The spokesperson said that the LG also maintained that special efforts are being made to ensure smooth functioning of offices of PRIs. He said that recently, 1889 Panchayat Accounts Assistants have also been recruited.

"On average, about Rs 1.47 crore has been given to each panchayat for developmental works, besides in this year's record budget of Rs 1.13 lakh crores for J&K, an amount of Rs 1000 crore has been allocated to all panchayats, Rs 200 crore for Development Fund for 20 District Development Councils (Rs 10 crore for each DDC) and Rs 71.25 crore for Block Development Councils (Rs 25 lakh each). Apart from this, Rs 313 crore has also been given to local bodies and about Rs 1727 crore has been given to all panchayats under MGNREGA, 14th Finance Commission, Mid Day Meal and Integrated Child Development Scheme," the LG said.

The LG, according to the spokesperson also called for invoking a renewed sense of Jan Bhagidari in the socio-economic development process to make villages of J&K AatmaNirbhar.

"A vibrant and productive agrarian economy is the foundation of high and sustained economic growth. As a watchdog of developmental activities, PRIs can help in making the governance more transparent and accountable to the citizens," the LG said.

According to the spokesperson, the LG laid stress on continuous capacity building of the elected members and termed it a key aspect of better service delivery at the grass root level.

"Capacity building of elected PRIs will yield productive capacities of agriculture, rural employment, access to basic services like education, health, nutrition, safe drinking water supply, swachhata, social security & transforming rural J&K a business hub," Sinha said.

The LG, according to the spokesperson further advised the District

Administrations, DDCs, and Panchayats to replicate the best practices of others and make concerted efforts to meet the aspirations of people.

On the occasion, he said, a 100 point programme was also finalized for Gram Swaraj Month which will mainly focus on Rural Infrastructure, Good Governance, Livelihood generation, Financial Inclusion, Youth Empowerment, Environment Protection and Women Empowerment.

The spokesperson said that Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary said that the Sarpanches, Panches are the foremost priority of the administration. He hoped that the UT of J&K will lead by example for other UTs/ States in the Panchayati Raj system in the coming months.

Man Held Over

its religion) of the Indian Penal Code against him. Wani has been arrested, he added.

Petrol Bomb

Sopore town on Tuesday evening. However, no security personnel one was hurt in the attack.

Soon after the incident, reports said, reinforcements of police and CRPF reached the spot and launched a search operation to nab the attackers.

4.3-Magnitude

earthquake struck at 7.29 am and lasted for a few seconds, the NCS said.

The depth of the earthquake was 148 kilometres below the surface of the earth at latitude 35.87 degrees north and longitude 77.47 degrees east.

Its epicentre was 186 kilometres north of Alchi in Leh, officials said.

Misfire Injures

when it accidentally went off. The soldier sustained injuries due to misfire and was simultaneously shifted to army's 92 base hospital for treatment.

It was not immediately known if the soldier suffered serious or minor injuries in the incident, reports said.

Train Mows Down

He said the body has been shifted to the Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu for post-mortem and

Govt Changes Nomenclature Of Class-IV Posts

Sets Minimum Of 8th and Maximum Of 12th Pass Qualification For Sanitation Worker

Agencies

SRINAGAR- Government on Tuesday changed the nomenclature of class-IV to "Multitasking Staff (MTS)" and sweeper as "sanitation" worker.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by Article 309 of the Constitution of India, the Lieutenant Governor of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir is pleased to direct that: "The nomenclature of all Class-IV posts is re-designated as "Multitasking Staff (MTS)" with the nature of job/duties (except the post of "Sanitation Workers" and the posts which requires technical qualification), in all the Departments/Autonomous Bodies/PSUs etc," reads a notification. "These rules shall come into force from the date of the publication in the official Gazette. All the departments shall accordingly

amend their Subordinate Service Recruitment Rules."

As per a separate notification, the Lieutenant Governor also directed that in all Subordinate Service Recruitment Rules governing different services or any other rules governing the subject, the nomenclature/designation of posts of Sweepers, Safaiwalas and Safai-Karamcharis or any other designation related to the job profile, shall be re-designated as "Sanitation Worker" across all the Departments/Autonomous Bodies/PSUs etc.

"The minimum and maximum qualification for the post of Sanitation Worker across all the departments shall be 8th pass and 10+2 respectively.," the notification reads, adding, "All the departments shall accordingly amend their subordinate service recruitment rules." (GNS)

New Zealand Team In J&K To Sign MoC On Overhauling Sheep Husbandry Sector



JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Animal & Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries Department, Navin Kumar Choudhary on Tuesday had a meeting with Trade Commissioner and Counsel General New Zealand, Ralph Hays and Senior Business Development Manager, Sudha Palit. The Trade Commissioner is on a visit to the UT in connection with recent Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) signed between governments of Jammu & Kashmir and New Zealand regarding transformation of sheep farming sector in the UT.

The MoC is aimed at overhauling sheep husbandry sector in the region through transfer of technology, research and development besides value addition and marketing areas.

The visiting team expressed the desire of having better understanding of existing trends in sheep husbandry in the region. They also emphasized for exploring possibilities of collaboration of agriculture universities of J&K with those in New Zealand besides student exchange.

Interacting with the team, Principal Secretary laid emphasis on phase wise development of the sector in J&K with breed improvement and wool processing ventures initially. During the initial couple of years, the government would focus on rapid breed development, setting up of required infrastructure and introducing technology to give boost to the nascent sector. He assured them of sufficient funding saying that the aim of the partnership is to give expertise handholding to the local sheep industry.

It was agreed that designated government officers from J&K would be made to take first-hand exposure of sheep industry in New Zealand.

Principal Secretary hailed the partnership with New Zealand and said that the sheep husbandry sector is being given massive financial infusion which would eventually boost the local economy. With it, the social and financial condition of tribal population of J&K would be greatly improved, he added.

Brig Kumar Takes Over As DDG Of NCC Directorate J-K, Ladakh

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Brigadier Sanjeev Kumar has taken over as deputy director general (DDG) of National Cadet Corps (NCC) Directorate Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, a defence spokesperson said here on Tuesday.

One of the senior most Army officers hailing from Katra in Reasi district, Brig Kumar is an alumnus of Sainik School, Nagrota and Indian Military Academy, he said. "Commissioned into the Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME) in December 1988, the officer has had an exceptionally brilliant career having qualified on all mandatory and selection-based courses," the spokesperson said.

Brig Kumar has rich professional experience having served in varied regimental, command and staff ap-

pointments, he said.

He holds triple Masters degrees Master of Science in Defence and Strategic Studies (Defence Services Staff College), Master of Management Studies (Higher Defence Management Course) and Master of Philosophy (National Defence College).

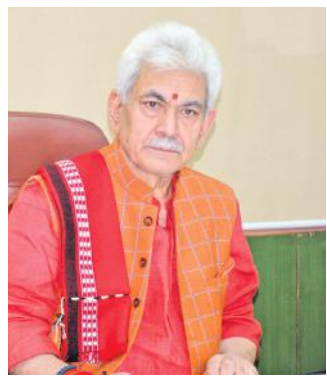
For his distinguished service, the spokesperson said, Brig Kumar has been awarded the Chief of Army Staff Commendation Card twice.

The NCC as an organisation is seeing a paradigm shift with focus on more enrolment, especially from border areas, he said.

Having been an active member of the NCC fraternity during his school days, Brig Kumar is well suited to motivate the youth and contribute meaningfully to the cause of the NCC in J&K and Ladakh, he said.

LG Announces ₹10L Ex Gratia For Parents Of Slain SPO

Press Trust Of India



JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday announced ex-gratia of Rs 10 lakh for the parents of Special Police Officer (SPO) Ishfaq Ahmad and his brother Umar who were shot dead by militants in Budgam district.

One of Ahmad's brothers, who is also an SPO, will be promoted to the post of constable in the Jammu Kashmir Police, Sinha said at an event organised to mark 150 years of the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

Reviews Arrangements At Vaishno Devi Shrine

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha visited the Vaishno Devi shrine atop the Trikuta hills in Reasi district on Tuesday and reviewed the arrangements for the upcoming "Chaitra Navratri", officials said.

Sinha paid obeisance at the shrine and also prayed for Jammu and Kashmir's development and the well-being of its citizens, they added.

The hill shrine witnesses a huge rush of devotees during

the Chaitra Navratri, a nine-day festival to mark the first month of the Hindu calendar which is likely to commence on April 2.

"Took the blessings of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji by paying obeisance at the Holy cave shrine. Prayed for J&K's development and well-being of citizens. Reviewed the arrangements made by the Shrine Board for upcoming Chaitra Navratri," the LG said in a tweet.

Militants shot dead Ahmad near his residence at Chaddbug near his residence at Chaddbug in Budgam on Saturday night. Umar sustained bullet injuries in the firing. He died at SKIMS Hospital in Srinagar on Sunday, according to officials.

Sinha said concrete measures have been taken by the administration to discharge its re-

sponsibility toward the families of the policemen who lost their lives in the line of duty.

"I want to tell their families that the entire nation stands united in the fight against terrorism," he said.

A two-minute silence was also observed at the event in honour of the slain policemen.

NC Accuses BJP Of Indulging In Misinformation Campaign

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Reiterating its demand for a truth and reconciliation commission to look into the circumstances leading to the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits, the National Conference on Tuesday alleged the ruling BJP, instead of ensuring their safe and dignified return to Kashmir Valley, was indulging in a misinformation campaign to malign its president Farooq Abdullah.

Senior National Conference leader and former minister Ajay Kumar Sadhotra said the party leadership stood like a rock by all segments of society,

including the Kashmiri Pandit community which has been let down by the BJP during the past seven-and-half years of its rule.

"Instead of ensuring their safe and dignified return back to their homes, the saffron party is indulging in a misinformation campaign to malign Abdullah," he said.

He said the National Conference governments in Jammu and Kashmir under Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah have taken path-breaking initiatives to minimise the miseries of the displaced community apart from ensuring holistic development and progress across Jammu and Kashmir.

Sadhotra reiterated the demand for the constitution of a truth and reconciliation commission to look into the circumstances leading to the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits.

He said the National Conference will continue to demand their safe return to the valley.

He asked the BJP to shun the propaganda against the National Conference and Farooq Abdullah and have some sort of introspection.

"The falsehood being furthered by the BJP reflects its frustration ahead of the ensuing assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

Div Com Kashmir Reviews Ramadhan, Navratri Arrangements



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Tuesday convened a meeting of officers to review the arrangements for the month of holy Ramadhan to facilitate general public during fasting days.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners, Directors of FCS&CA, Health, Sheep Husbandry & UEED; CEO, Wafk Board; Chief Engineers of PHE, KPDCI, PWD; Officers of SMC, traffic, police, transport and others.

On the occasion, Div Com directed Dir FCS&CA to ensure the sufficient quantity of essentials available including ration, kerosene and LPG for the consumption.

He also directed CE, KPDCI

to ensure uninterrupted power supply at the peak hours to the people particularly at Sehri and Iftar hours.

Div Com also directed CE, PHE to prepare a roster for officials to ensure water supply to consumers at Sehri.

He also exhorted on concerned ULB & SMC officers to ensure sanitation at religious places where large gathering are witnessed and people assemble to offer prayers.

He emphasized on continuous market checking and conduct of special drives to ensure quality products in the market and directed registration of FIR against profiteers and hoarders.

He also directed for compliance to fixed rates of products by retailers and wholesalers.

Meanwhile, Div Com asked

CEO Wafk Board to direct Imams to use the opportunity of holy month to discourage youth in indulging in drug addiction and other illegal activities.

He further directed concerned SMC officers to install streetlights at all darkspots and critical places so the people will not face inconvenience during Sehri and Traawi time.

Besides, he directed them maintain and repair the roads falling under its jurisdiction.

In view of celebration of Navratri, Div Com also directed all the concerned officers to conduct sanitation at various temples including Shan-karacharya, Hariparbat, Kheer Bhawani and other temples in valley besides directed for ensuring power and water supply at these temples for devotees.

Kashmir Files Controversy

Raina Seeks Kejriwal's Apology For 'Rubbing Salt Into Wounds' Of KPs

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Tuesday demanded an apology from Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for "rubbing salt into the wounds" of terror victims including Kashmiri Pandits. The demand comes amid a war of words between the AAP national convenor and and BJP over 'The Kashmir Files' film which is based on the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the valley in the 1990s.

In a sharp attack on BJP for promoting the film, Kejriwal, while speaking in the Delhi assembly last Thursday, had accused the saffron party of doing politics over the issue.

He had also demanded that the film be uploaded on YouTube so that the country can understand the plight of Kashmiri Pandits and the money earned from it be spent on the welfare of the displaced community.

"It is unfortunate that an elected chief minister and his legislators mocked the victims of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism (in Jammu and Kashmir), Kejriwal and other AAP MLAs rubbed salt into the wounds of Kashmiri Pandits by laughing at their plight and committed a grave sin, Raina told reporters at the party headquarters here.

Referring to Kejriwal and other AAP MLAs laughing during his speech in the Assembly, he said, "The nation and the community will never forgive him. He should immediately seek an apology with folded hands from the nation and the community for his remarks and the body language." Raina said Kashmiri Pandits are ambassadors of nationalism and were forced to leave their homes due to Pakistan-sponsored militancy.

"The whole country and the world understands the pain of Kashmiri Pandits and crores of Indians came

forward in their support," he said.

The BJP leader said Pakistan-sponsored militancy killed innocent civilians, including nationalist Kashmiri Muslims, Sikhs, Dogras, Gujars and other communities, over the last 30 years.

"They have murdered humanity everyday but leaders like Kejriwal never condemned Pakistan or its ISI backed terror groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad and Hizbul Mujahideen," he said.

Accusing Kejriwal of speaking the language of Pakistan and its stooges, including militant groups, and Hurriyat Conference who are conspiring against the country, Raina said the majority of people in Jammu and Kashmir are Indian by heart and have always supported the security agencies in their efforts to wipe out militancy from the valley.

Our police, paramilitary forces and army personnel have sacrificed their lives to wipe out terrorism. The people of the valley are extending their full support to the security forces, he said.

Asked about the action being taken against JKLF activist Farooq Ahmad Dar alias Bitta Karate, who is accused of killing over 20 Kashmiri Pandits in early 1990s, Raina said he was acquitted by court due to lack of evidence.

"Many terrorists were arrested for their crimes against innocent civilians and the trial against them lasted for a long period but some terrorists got released due to lack of evidence. The then government, advocate general and public prosecutors did not present their cases properly, he said.

He said barring a handful of people affiliated with the Hurriyat Conference and Jamaat, majority of Kashmiri Muslims are nationalists and they love their country like any other Indian citizen.

4 Policemen Injured In Attack By Bovine Smugglers In Samba

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Four police personnel, including a sub-inspector, were injured in an attack by bovine smugglers in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district on Tuesday night, officials said.

Based on specific inputs, a police party intercepted bovine smugglers on the highway at Ghagwal, but they attacked the team, they said.

In the attack, four police per-

sonnel, including Sub-Inspector Balbir Singh, were injured while the smugglers escaped from the spot, the officials said.

Taking a serious view of the attack by the smugglers, who were illegally ferrying cattle to Kashmir, police launched raids in different parts and arrested one of the accused, they said.

A case has been registered, police said, adding that the operation to track down other smugglers is going on.

CID Unveils Portal To Report Unlawful, Suspicious Activities

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of Jammu & Kashmir Police has launched a portal to enable citizens to report instances and information about criminal, unlawful or suspicious activities in their neighborhood, a police spokesperson said.

He said that the portal, managed end-to-end by the CID, is a key initiative towards prevention of crime and strengthening the peace and security in Jammu & Kashmir. The portal is available for access at the URL: <https://cid.jk.gov.in>

"Through this portal, citizens can now report information about criminal, unlawful or suspicious activities in their neighborhood. The portal also allows the citizens to share information anonymously," he added.

CID, the police spokesperson said, is re-

cording every single instance of threat or intimidation to any person directly or indirectly (through Telephone call, WhatsApp message, Email or Social media or poster or web-portal or any other mode).

"Citizens are invited to report any intimidation preferably with details such as date and time of telephone call vide which threat was conveyed, telephone number including virtual number used by criminal, application used etc.it is also helpful if the voice or conversation of the criminal is recorded which CID will obtain separately to compare it with the voice library to identify the criminal," he said.

According to the spokesperson, the portal is expected to play an active role in policing their neighborhood and contribute to building a safer society. He said that the portal also has a facility to seek information about progress in Passport and Service verifications.

TRANSFORMING J&K

Srinagar-Sharjah Flight A Runaway Success For J&K Economy

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Srinagar-Sharjah direct flight has been a runaway success for the economy of Jammu and Kashmir as the initiative is boosting both tourism as well as trade here.

The flight has gained popularity among travellers of J&K who are residing in middle east besides a large number of international tourists have started visiting J&K directly from UAE, an official spokesperson said Tuesday.

The flight was flagged-off by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on October 23, reviving the direct air link between the valley and the UAE after 11 years. "We declare it open from today. This will help in boosting tourism and bring more

investment in the Union Territory," the Home Minister said at the inauguration event.

He said that despite witnessing initial hiccups, the flight operating from a longer route now has gained popularity among Kashmiri travellers.

The first flight, operated by Go First, took off for Sharjah at 6.30 pm IST and landed in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) around 9 pm IST.

As per the officials, thousands of passengers including people of Kashmir and tourists have travelled on the route since the inauguration of the flight by the Home Minister. The Srinagar-Sharjah flight is taking an extra 40 minutes after Pakistan refused to allow the use of its airspace. However, flights have

good occupancy despite the hurdle created by Pakistan.

The flight has also gained popularity among the trade fraternity also. A senior Trade union leader said that trade fraternity is happy about the initiative from Lieutenant Governor and supported by central Government. He hoped that more flights are started from Srinagar airport to international destinations.

Direct international flights as well as international cargo operations of Go First between Srinagar and Sharjah, resumed operations after a break owing to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"GoFirst flight G8 1595, after a hiatus due to the Covid pandemic, departed from Sheikh ul-Alam International Airport in

Srinagar at 19:45 hours and arrived in Sharjah at 22:30 hours. On the return, GoFirst flight G8 4095 will operate from Sharjah International Airport at 00:05 hrs and arrive at Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi at 05:10 hrs. Go First will operate two flights a week between Srinagar and Sharjah," said the airline spokesman.

He added that the resumption of operations in this sector will boost trade and tourism between Jammu and Kashmir and the UAE as both are popular holiday destinations.

Meanwhile the designation of Srinagar International Airport as the custodian for import and export of goods directly from Srinagar to international desti-

nations would also boost trade in Kashmir.

The commissioner of customs, has notified the Srinagar airport as custodian for the import and export of goods from abroad at the airport's cargo terminal.

"With this authorisation and notification by the government of India, we can now offer our services to the business community for the import and export of goods directly from Srinagar," Srinagar airport director Kuldeep Singh said.

The officer invited all the airlines to make full use of this facility and commence their cargo operations from Srinagar airport.

"We also call upon the business community of Srinagar and surrounding areas to expand their

horizons, dream big, and turn the world into their market by making full use of this great opportunity," the airport director said.

He is hopeful that this facility will be a huge step in the direction of economic development and create many jobs by multiplier effect in the catchment area of the airport.

Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industries (KCCI) expressed gratitude to Lieutenant Governor J&K, Manoj Sinha for resuming direct flights from Srinagar to Sharjah, and hoped the Srinagar – Jeddah flights be also started soon. The KCCI thanked LG Manoj Sinha for resuming the air connectivity.

An owner of a reputed travel agency in Srinagar said that

with the help of Srinagar-Sharjah flight, the business has started picking up. "We are now receiving a lot of enquiries from middle east for different destinations of Kashmir. We welcome and express gratitude to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for taking concrete steps that will help us to regain lost glory of trade," he said.

Pertinently, a 31-member group of investors from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) participated in the first ever overseas investment summit in Srinagar. They highlighted that J&K has potential for investments in different sectors and such investments will be mutually beneficial to India and the UAE, especially Kashmir.

Department Of Physical Education, GCoE Hold Annual College Cycle Race



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of Physical Education, Govt College of Education (GCoE) today organised an annual college Cycle Race for men, here.

The race started at 6:30 am from the main gate of Govt College of Education and culminated at Nishat Gate. As many as 45 Students participated in the said race.

The race was flagged-off by

the Principal of the college, Dr Ruhi Jan Kant along with Prof Rubina Khateeb, Mohammad Ayoub and Daljeet Kaur.

Naveed Ahmad, a student of 3rd sem Bed got first position and Shahrukh Basheer from 5th sem of integrated B.ed M.ed obtained 2nd position while Yehya Bakhtiar secured 3rd and Manzoor Ahmad Secured 4th position.

All the cyclists enthusiastically completed the race.

Imtiyaz Memorial GDC, Shopian Organise Annual Road Race



Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: Imtiyaz Memorial Government Degree College, Shopian on Tuesday organised separate Annual Road Race events for Men and Women, here.

Both the races were flagged-off by Dr. Nisar Ahmad Wani at 6:45 a.m and 8:45 am respectively in presence of teaching and non teaching staff of the college.

The Race for male participants was started from College Campus and culminated at District Forest Office Padpawan Shopian and the race for female participants was conducted inside the college campus.

In the said event a good number of male and female students participated. Adequate and elaborate arrangements were made by the Sports Committee and Protocol Committee of the college to make the event a memorable and a successful one with the help of local police and health administration.

In the Men's event Qammer Rubani from B.G 2nd semester

achieved 1st position by covering a distance of 6.5 kms in 29 minutes and 07 seconds. Muneez Riyaz from B.G 2nd semester and Javaid Ahmad Bajran from 3rd semester secured second and third positions respectively.

In the Women's event, Ulfat Jan from B.G 4th semester secured 1st position. Bazeela Bilal from B.G 2nd semester and Insha Ayoub from B.G 3rd semester secured 2nd and 3rd positions respectively.

Later, the prize distribution ceremony was held at the college campus where the first, second and third positions from both the events were awarded trophies and medals by the senior faculty members along with the Convener Sports Committee of the college.

Principal of the College applauded the efforts of Convener Sports, Dr. Umar Farooq and Syed Latief Physical Director for making the event a successful one. He also praised the efforts of District Administration, Police and Health Departments in smooth conduction of the programme.

T-10 Cricket Tourney Concludes At Kulgam

Higher secondary school Yaripora lifts title; DC felicitated players/ teams



Observer News Service

KULGAM: The Kulgam T-10 Knock-out Cricket tournament organised by District Administration Kulgam in collaboration with District Information Centre Kulgam and District Youth Services and Sports Department Kulgam concluded on Tuesday at Sports Stadium, Kulgam.

The final match of the tournament was played between Higher Secondary School Yaripora and Higher Secondary School Bugam.

Higher Secondary School Yaripora lifted title trophy of T-10 by defeating Higher Secondary School Bugam.

DC Kulgam Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din-Bhat was chief guest on the oc-

casation. He later felicitated the players and also presented trophies to winner and runner up teams.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that District Administration has always been at the forefront in providing a platform to youth and guiding them in following their goals by organizing different events across the district.

He added that district Administration is committed to provide platform and ample facilities to youth so that they can exhibit their talent and potential in multifarious sports activities.

He also stated that the district is going to witness a busy sports schedule this year.

Pertinent to mention that 8 teams participated in this Knock-out T-10 Cricket tournament.

Real Kashmir FC Draw 2-2 Against Sudeva Delhi In I-League

2nd half changes by Sudeva coach Mehrajuddin Wadoo bear fruit

Press Trust of India

NAIHATI (West Bengal): Sudeva Delhi FC produced an inspired second-half display to overcome a two-goal deficit and eke out a fighting 2-2 draw against fancied Real Kashmir FC in their I-League match here on Tuesday.

A first-half brace from Tiago Adan gave Real Kashmir a two-goal lead at the break, but a fine second half comeback saw Sudeva Delhi take away a point from the contest, thanks to goals from Sreyas V G and Seithenlang Lotjem.

Real Kashmir FC got off to a fantastic start by taking the lead through Brazilian frontman Tiago Adan as early as the second minute.

With the ball in his possession on the edge of the Sudeva Delhi box, Pratesh Shiroadkar shaped to shoot at first, but ended up playing a delightfully weighted clipped pass for Tiago Adan.

Adan made a clever run in space behind the Sudeva Delhi defence and calmly slotted the ball into the far corner with his first touch.

Sudeva made a steady recovery despite the early setback and saw plenty of the ball in the opposition half.

Sudeva Delhi had another scare in the 23rd minute when



Tiago Adan's cross from the left came off the woodwork, bamboozling Sachin Jha at goal.

If his previous effort left room for interpretation, in his next attempt in the 39th minute, Brazilian Tiago Adan got his second goal of the match.

After his initial through pass was blocked, the ball ricocheted back into the path of Adan, who produced an instinctive snapshot from 20 yards that beat Sachin Jha all ends up and curled beautifully inside the far post.

Sudeva Delhi coach Mehrajuddin Wadoo made a number of changes in the second half and the renewed vigour paid dividends in the 51st minute when substitute Sreyas pulled one goal back.

Sreyas was played through inside the box, but defender Lalchhawmkima was first to reach the loose ball. The ball could have been easily cleared away from the danger area, but Sreyas stuck to his task and out-muscled the defender to bear down on goal and send a low and hard finish past Niraj Kumar in the Real Kashmir goal.

The game continued along the same pattern in the second half, with Sudeva Delhi holding plenty of ball possession, and the Snow Leopards defending resolutely to keep their lead intact.

As the contest boiled down to the final minutes, Sudeva Delhi's perseverance earned them an equaliser in the 91st minute.

16th J&K UT Wushu Championship Begins In Jammu

Principal Secretary YSS says Wushu to receive major boost

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Principal Secretary to Government, Youth Services and Sports Department, Alok Kumar on Tuesday declared 16th J&K Wushu Championship open in an impressive, colourful and well attended function at Sports Council's Indoor Stadium at Bhagwati Nagar, here.

Alok Kumar was the chief guest on the occasion, while Chief Accounts Officer J&K Sports Council, Dr. Zaffar Iqbal; Ace Sports Administrator and Vice President J&K Wushu Association, Ranjeet Kalra; President J&K Wushu Association, Vijay Saraf and Divisional Sports Officer J&K Sports Council, Ashok Singh and Manager Indoor hall Bhagwati Nagar Vikas Dogra were the guests of honour.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Secretary said that Wushu is a medal winning



sports discipline and time and again, athletes associated with this game have brought laurels to the J&K.

"Wushu will receive a major boost and to facilitate J&K Wushu Association and the players, the Government is all set to establish Wushu Academies in both the regions and money to the tune of Rs 1.5 crores will be spent for developing infrastructure and purchase of equipments," said Alok Kumar.

Earlier demonstration of wushu skills by athletes was followed by welcome address by Ranjeet Kalra who gave a gist

of the event.

During the inaugural ceremony, achievers of the game were honoured by the chief guest for their brilliant performance across the country and in J&K.

Those who were felicitated include; Rajinder Singh (World C'ship medallist), Sadiya Tariq (Golden Girl), Saleem Kumar (Jr World medallist), Kamal Kishore (International medallist), Ajaz Hassan (International medallist), Jabeena Akhter (International medallist), Rohit Thakyal (International player) and Ankit Sharma (International player).

Virat Kohli Retains His Position As 'Most-Valued Celebrity'

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Former India cricket captain Virat Kohli retained his position as the most valued celebrity in 2021 even though his brand value has plunged by around 22 per cent to USD 185.7 million (close to Rs 1,400 crore), according to Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2021 released by Duff & Phelps.

This is the fifth consecutive year when the ace cricketer, who recently stepped down from captaincy in all formats of the game, has topped the chart, said the latest edition of the Celebrity Brand Valuation Report.

Team India captain Rohit Sharma is at number 13 with a brand value of USD 32.2 million while Indian batting legend Sachin Tendulkar has been ranked at 11th with a valuation of USD 47.4 million.

In 2020, Kohli's brand value was at USD 237.7 million.

Another former India skipper MS Dhoni ranked fifth in 2021 with an increase of 69 per cent in his brand value to USD 61.2 million.

In 2020, Dhoni was ranked 11th with a brand value of USD 36.3 million.

Actor Ranveer Singh has pipped older peer Akshay Kumar to become the second most valuable celebrity in India with USD 158.3 million worth. Kumar is now ranked third with the brand value of USD 139.6 million.

Actor Alia Bhatt was at the fourth position, moving up two slots from 2020, with a brand value of USD 68.1 million. The Gan-



gubai Kathiawadi actor entered the top five chart of the Celebrity Brand Valuation Report for the first time.

According to the report, the overall brand value of the top 20 celebrities in 2021 is estimated at USD 1.2 billion, up 12.9 per cent from last year.

Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan has been ranked at number six with a valuation of USD 54.2 million, followed by Deepika Padukone at seventh position with a brand value of USD 51.6 million.

Ace shuttler PV Sindhu has also entered the top 20 list. Sindhu, who has won the Swiss Open title, has been ranked 20th with a brand value of USD 22 million.

Among those on the list of top 20 celebrities, five are from the sports fraternity and the rest are from Bollywood and other entertainment industries.

Aviral Jain, Managing Director, Duff & Phelps A Kroll Business, said: "While prominent Bollywood celebrities continue to feature on our list of top 20 celebrity brands, this year we saw some notable changes.

"Ranveer Singh, Alia Bhatt, and

MS Dhoni witnessed a stellar jump in their brand values, and they seem to have hit the right chords with the audience in 2021. We also saw more sportspersons rising in the top celebrity rankings, including the likes of Sachin Tendulkar, Rohit Sharma and P V Sindhu," he said.

This significant jump in number of sportspersons was due to the lesser competition from Bollywood celebrities since there were fewer theatrical releases in 2021, Jain said.

Now emerging digital business segments like fintech and direct-to-consumer (D2C) have witnessed tremendous growth in terms of the number of start-ups, and also in terms of the funds raised during 2021, said Varun Gupta, Managing Director & Asia Pacific Leader, Valuation Advisory Services, Duff & Phelps A Kroll Business.

"These well-funded new-age companies have led to significant growth in the number of endorsements of the top 20 celebrities, increasing by more than 50% from 2020, and constituting about 12% in the overall brand portfolio," he said.

With a splendid performance at Tokyo Olympics and yet another successful IPL season, Indian sportspersons are emerging as the leading brand endorsers. "Not only have sportspersons witnessed a significant jump in the number of endorsement deals, but also they enjoy a massive social media fan following and engagement benefiting as a result of lower competition from movie stars with limited theatrical releases," he said.

ICC Open 'To Bridge Gap Between Women & Men's Prize Money': CEO



Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Discussions are on to "bridge the gap between women and men's prize money" in cricket's global competitions, the ICC's chief executive Geoff Allardice has said.

The game's apex body plans to bring in parity in prize money for finishing positions in its men's and women's tournaments in the next eight-year cycle starting from 2024 to 2031.

Allardice made the statement after being pointed out that the winners of the ongoing Women's ODI World Cup in New Zealand will be richer by just one-third of the prize money won by the 2019 men's World Cup winners.

"One of the things that we did at the start of the cycle was we projected through this event cycle – most of the ICC's finances are done with an eight-year view – and what we've been trying to do over this cycle is bridge the gap between the women's prize money and the men's prize money," Allardice was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.com.

"We are about to start discussions around the next cycle and one of the starting points for that discussion is going to be trying to get parity for the finishing positions of teams in women's events and comparable men's events. So we're not there yet, but we're on the journey to getting towards prize money parity."

Australia's Ashton Agar Tests COVID Positive In Pakistan



Press Trust of India

LAHORE: Australia's cricket team was weakened by another case of COVID-19 on Tuesday after left-arm spinner Ashton Agar tested positive for the virus just hours before the start of a limited-overs international series in Pakistan.

Australian team management said physiotherapist Brendan Wilson also tested positive during regular testing of the squad.

Wicketkeeper-batter Josh Inglis was ruled out on Monday because of a COVID-19 infection, leaving an under-strength Australian squad with 13 fit players

available for the series opener at the Gaddafi Stadium.

All-rounder Mitchell Marsh was unavailable for at least the start of the three-match series because of a hip injury, and veteran batter Steve Smith was ruled out with an injured elbow.

Fast bowlers Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc and veteran opener David Warner are being rested for the limited-overs portion of the tour after helping Australia to a 1-0 victory in the three-match test series.

Laure will host the three ODIs and a one-off Twenty20 international to round off Australia's tour to Pakistan.

Thousands To Commemorate Warne, Cricket's 'Box Office' Star



Agencies

BRISBANE: In the wake of his death from a suspected heart attack at the age of 52 in Thailand on March 4, "larger than life" was a typical description of the Australian leg-spin bowler from his fellow cricket stars, actors, comedians, musicians, politicians, personalities and everyday fans.

On Wednesday, it will be one of the tributes, along with others from Elton John, Robbie Williams and Sheeran, played at a public memorial service at Warne's beloved Melbourne Cricket Ground.

More than 50,000 people will gather for the memorial at the stadium where Warne produced some of his milestone moments – including taking his 700th wicket in test cricket in 2006, something he was the first to achieve.

A section at the vast MCG venue will be renamed in Warne's honor. A statue of Warne in a full delivery stride already stands outside the stadium and has become an unofficial place for people to reflect and lay tributes

for the last three weeks.

Much of Warne's fame can be attributed to his instant success in the Ashes, the storied and intense cricket rivalry between England and Australia, a former colony, that dates back to the 1800s and has produced some of the iconic moments in the sport.

A leg-spinner – a kind of wrist-spin bowling that wasn't common at the highest levels of the game in the early 1990s – Warne was developing a reputation as a mystery bowler when he arrived in England for the 1993 Ashes series a little over a year into his international career.

"I felt we had a weapon that no one else in world cricket had," Mark Taylor, a teammate on that tour and a future Australia captain, said in the Amazon Prime documentary "Shane" which was released weeks before Warne died.

With his very first delivery in Ashes cricket, Warne mesmerized Gatting by landing the ball on the pitch outside the batter's legs and spinning back hard across to hit the stumps.