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10<sup>TH</sup> RAM7AN Iftar

TODA

7:10

**G** Quote

A good decision is based on knowledge

and not on numbers

- Plato

NEWS DIGEST

**3 Hybrid Militants** 

**Held In Sopore: Police** 

SRINAGAR: Police on Monday

hybrid militants of Lashkar-

e-Taiba (LeT) in Sopore town

of north Kashmir. Based on a

specific information regarding

individuals from Wadoora Bala to

movement of 3 suspected

ACB Arrests Patwari.

SRINAGAR: The anti-corruption

arrested a revenue official and

for issuing revenue extracts.

the anti-graft More on P6

a former Patwari for demanding

and accepting a bribe from a man

According to the spokesperson of

**Aide In Bribe Case** 

bureau (ACB) on Monday

Sonarwain More on P6

claimed to have arrested three

77-

FIQAH HANAFIYA 7:02

FIQAH

JAFARIYA

Sehri

4:38

4:37

# P3 CITY

# **3.11 LAKH VISITORS THRONGED TULIP GARDEN IN 19 DAYS**

Over three lakh visitors have visited the famous Tulip garden in Srinagar from March 23 to April 10 and the most of the quests were domestic tourists and locals

# **ARE OUR MADARIS DOING ENOUGH?**

The word 'Madrassa' is an Arabic word for any educational institution whether secular or religious and whether a school, college, university. This concept is inherited from the Seljuk Turks .The Ottomans constructed



# P7 STATE



The mercury maintained an upward trend across Jammu and Kashmir with winter capital Jammu

recording the season's hottest day on Monday at



PAGE 1 ANCHOR

# **Employment Rate In J&K Dips To Five Year Low**

# Zaid Bin Shabir

resh Figures reveal that the Jammu and Kashmir's unemployment rate for the month of April this year was the worst in the past five years. As per the data avail-

Sitaraman's repeated assurances of a falling unable, the unemployment employment rate in J&K. rate (UR) in J&K has hit a The CMIE, a private new record with 25 pereconomic think-tank in cent unemployment in India, in its latest monththe first quarter of 2022. ly report for the month of The latest UR has astro-April 2022 has estimated nomically risen since the unemployment rate last year and has touched for J&K at 25 percent,



which as per CMIE data, Amid the unrest of is the highest since 2016 2016, J&K's unemployment rate stood at 25.3 when the unemployment percent in September, rate was recorded at its worst–29.9 percent. 26.3 percent in October

and 29.9 percent in November.

As per CMIE, since the start of this year, there has been an increase of 11.8 percent in the Unemployment rate. In the month of January, the data notes, J&K's UR stood at 15 percent. Though in the month of February it dipped down to 13.2 percent but in March the rate took an ugly turn and jumped to a grueling 25 percent. However, the data has come at a time More on P6

# to the youth in the Union Territory in 2022. The dedicated portal of Mission Youth in

### he Jammu and **Kashmir Lieutenant** Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday launched a portal that aims to provide over 10,000 job opportunities

**10000 Youth With Jobs** 

**Observer News Service** 

collaboration with Vision

India, to connect the

LG Launches Portal To Help

industry, was launched on Monday here, an official spokesperson said. The dedicated portal - AVSAR-'Connect to **Opportunities Initiative'**has been provisioned to facilitate our youth with real-time information flow notifying students about pre-placement activities & job opportunities. All ITIs & other technical institutions in More on P6

youth of J&K with the

# ...KULGAM ENCOUNTER

# 2 Militants Killed, 2 Cops Injured In Firefight

## **Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: Two militants, including a Pakistani national on Monday were killed while two policemen injured in an encounter in south Kashmir's Kulgam district, police said Monday

The encounter, according to officials, broke out on Monday

The militants hiding in the fire upon the search team when they made advances towards the suspected spot. The joint team, they said, returned the fire setting off an encounter. In the exchange of fire, the officials The killing of two i said, a Pakistani national and a Kulgam comes More on P6

Hybrid militant were killed.

its worst value in 2022,

when compared to the

Pertinently, the unem-

ployment rate seems to

be going towards pov-

erty in J&K despite Union

Finance Minister Nirmala

past five years.

"#KulgamEncounterUpdate: One #Pakistani #terrorist (code name Chacha) & one #hy-brid terrorist killed. 02 Police Personnel also injured. They are being evacuated to hospital. #Encounter going on," police posted on its official Twitter handle while quoting IGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar.

quoted IGP as saying that the killed militant was the same group which had managed to escape last week following a brief gunfight in the ChakiSamad area. Three Pakistani militants

have been killed in last two days, IGP added.

# J&K Becomes **Corona Free**



An elderly man reads the holy Quran inside the shrine of 11th century Sufi saint, Sheikh Syed Abdul Qadir Jeelani (RA), known as Dastgeer Sahib, on the ninth day of Ramazan in Srinagar on Monday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

# **Amarnath Yatra**

# **New Pak PM Offers Olive Branch To Modi**

Come, Let's Resolve Kashmir Issue, End Poverty On Both Sides Of The Border: Shabaz Sharif

**Press Trust Of India** 

ISLAMABAD: Soon after he was elected as Pakistan's Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif in his inaugural speech on Monday raised the issue of abrogation of Article 370 in Kashmir and alleged that the people in the More on P6

# Narendra Modi 🥝 @narendramod

Congratulations to H. E. Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on his election as the Prime Minister of Pakistan. India desires peace and stability in a region free of terror, so that we can focus on our development challenges and ensure the well-being and prosperity of our people.

# **Centre, J&K Expects Record Pilgrims This Year**

evening when police, army and CRPF launched a joint cordon and search operation in Khurbatpora village of the district. village, officials said, opened

A local news agency GNS

## PDD Worker Dies **UI EIECTLIC SHOCK**

SRINAGAR: A Power Development Department (PDD) employee died on Monday after receiving an electric shock in Pattan area of Baramulla district. 35-year-old Ghulam Rasool Wani was repairing a live wire on an electric pole in Khenpeth village of Singhpora in More on P6

# Youth Killed In Stone **Quarry Accident**

SRINAGAR: A 25-year-old labourer was killed and another injured when a portion of a stone quarry caved in at Kohistan Colony Safapora in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Monday. Official sources said that a portion of the stone guarry collapsed this afternoon, leading to on the spot death of labourer Khurshed Ahmad Larwal (25) son of Ghulam More on P6

# ...PM's J&K Visit High Level Team In Jammu To Review Preparations

**IB's Counter-**Terror Ops Head In Srinagar To Take **Stock Of Situation** 

## **Observer News Service**

**SRINAGAR:** A high level team of ministers besides the Intelligence Bureau's counter-terror operations head reached Jammu and Kashmir on Monday to review

arrangements for the upcoming visit of Prime Minister to the Union Territory on April 24. According to reports, the IB's counter-terror operations head Tapan Deka reached Srinagar to personally take stock of the situation in the Valley. Besides it, the reports said that a high-level meeting of the top brass security has also been called in New Delhi to discuss counter-terror steps to More on P6

# After 2 Years

## **Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: For the first time in the last two years, Jammu and Kashmir registered no new cases or fatalities due to Coronavirus on Monday

According to officials, no fresh cases of Covid-19 were detected in any of the 20 districts spread across the Union Territory. While the Valley reported 30 new cases on Sunday, the Jammu division remained Covid-19 free for the sixth straight day on Monday. The Union Territory has only 79 active positive cases of Coronavirus— one in Jammu and 78 in the Kashmir Valley.

"Moreover, 13 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and More on P6

# **Radio Frequency** Identification Tags To Be **Used To Track Yatris**

## **Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: A senior Indian government official on Monday said that about eight lakh pilgrims are expected to attend annual Amarnath Yatra this year, and called for highlighting the achievements of the Centre and the Union Territory administration with respect to developmental work done in Jammu and Kashmir. "There is a need to highlight



the various achievements of the Centre and UT Administration with respect to developmental work done in J&K. We need to amplify such positive stories

about the region throughout the Secretary, Ministry country," of Information & Broadcasting, Apurva Chandra said here Monday. He made More on P6

Registration For Annual Yatra Begins

he registration for the annual pilgrimage to the cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir commenced across the country on Monday with enthusiastic pilgrims making a beeline for designated bank branches to secure a permit for undertaking the journey. The 43-day yatra is scheduled to start on June 30 after the coronavirus pandemic enforced break of two years. The journey will More on P6

# 'We're Paying 40% Extra': Inflation Hits Ramazan Fervour In Kashmir

## Zaid Bin Shabir

Azhar Malik would get busy preparing food kits for the needy families with the start of Ramazan in Kashmir, but the rising inflation this time around is giving him a hard time.

Along with his team members at Hyemath-the NGO he founded during Pandemic-this young Samaritan from Srinagar finds it hard to manage and distribute ration kits and iftar essentials among the underprivileged families.

"One can clearly see distress in Kashmir during this Ramazan,' Azhar says. "The soaring food prices are only making it worse. A food kit worth Rs. 2300 last year now costs us Rs 3200."

The prices of daily use commodities including fuel, fruits, milk, meat, vegetables, cooking oil and dairy products have been rising dramatically since the start of the 30-day-long fasting period in the Muslim-majority region.

"Cooking oil has been priced at Rs.1200 from last year's Rs.900. Dates which used to cost us Rs.300 last year, have been priced at Rs. 600-800 this year. With such soaring prices, it's beyond imagination that a middle class family can purchase these essentials.'

Azhar isn't alone feeling the heat of the inflation. Homemaker Shabnum is equally bearing the brunt of the blistering bazar.

"Inflation has dulled the usual Ramazan fervour in Kashmir this time around," Shabnum, a resident of Srinagar, said. "Government should have

at least stepped up in this holy month to check the market menace, but it seems hardly anyone cares about the public

welfare in Kashmir these days." In the backdrop of the ire over inflation, Kashmir Observer did a quick market survey and found out that one dozen bananas, one kilogram melon, one kilogram of grapes are being sold from Rs.100-Rs.220, which many say are beyond a com-

moner's pocket strength. Besides this, meat is being sold at Rs. 700 per kg at many places, while chicken has already touched Rs. 200 per kilogram.

"One kilogram of chili was Rs. 250 last year, but now the same costs us Rs. 320," says Saheem Ashraf Bhat, Co-founder Covid Resource, an NGO that has provided leads to distressed patients for oxygen cylinders in the second wave of Covid.

**SINCE THE PRICE HIKE,** many families in Kashmir are breaking fast with only a glass of water and eat salt-rice in Suhoor."



leged families in lurch.

There has been an approximate increase of Rs. 400 on essential items in this Ramazan." With the prices on essential items increasing unceasingly, many locals including Saheem

stepped up in this holy month to check the market menace, but it seems hardly anyone cares about the public welfare in Kashmir these days." salt-rice in Suhoor," claims Saheem with a distressed tone. violators.

**GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE** at least

With the same dejected tone, Sameer Ahmed, a resident of Rajbagh, says that the price spike has made his monthly budget difficult. "Why isn't the government curbing these exorbitant hikes in the price of daily essentials," Sameer wonders.

cent increase in the price of cooking oil. Oil is the basic necessity but the way its price is soaring, it looks as we've to stop consuming oil.' Abdul Majeed, a retired teacher from Sopore, says that

the administration has failed to curb prices and act against the

"We're paying 40% extra amount on essential items this year," he says. "And government is doing absolutely nothing about it." However, admitting that an unruly inflation has dampened the spirit of Ramazan in Kashmir this year, Dr. Abdul Salam Mir, Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, told Kashmir Observer that the department has already started its drive against violators.

"The items that come from outside Kashmir like chili have a fixed rate, but when it comes to items like fruits, vegetables, chicken, and meat, More on P6

"There has been a 50 perassert that the distressed situ-

ation has left many underprivi-'Since the price hike, many families in Kashmir are breaking fast with only a glass of water and eat



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Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm) No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir



# **Can Cancer Blood Tests Live Up To Promise Of Saving Lives?**

### **Associated Press**

Joyce Ares had just turned 74 and was feeling fine when she agreed to give a blood sample for research. So she was surprised when the screening test came back positive for signs of cancer.

After a repeat blood test, a PET scan and a needle biopsy, she was diagnosed with Hodgkin lympho-

I cried, the retired real estate broker said. Just a couple of tears and thought, OK, now what do we do?' Canby, Oregon, resident The had volunteered to take a blood test that is being billed as a new frontier in cancer screening for healthy people. It looks for cancer by checking for DNA fragments shed by tumor cells.

Such blood tests, called liquid biopsies, are already used in patients with cancer to tailor their treatment and check to see if tumors come back.

Now, one company is promoting its blood test to people with no signs of cancer as a way to detect tumors in the pancreas, ovaries and other sites that have no recommended screening method.

It's an open question whether such cancer blood tests if added to routine care could improve Americans' health or help meet the White House's goal of cutting the cancer death rate in half over the next 25 years.

With advances in DNA sequencing and data science making the blood tests possible, California-based Grail and other companies are rac-

We are deeply saddened to inform that Haji Firdous Ahmad

Khan S/O Late Haji Abdul Aziz Khan R/O Khanda Bhawan,

Nawakadal, Srinagar left for heavenly abode during the inter-

In this regard, the Rasm-e-Chahrum will be held on 14th April

2022 at 10 AM Insha allah at their ancestral graveyard at Mulla

Mohammad Hafiz Basri, Khanda Bhawan, Nawakadal, Srinagar.

vening night of 10th-11th April 2022 after a brief illness.



type of test.

For a drug, the FDA demands that

there is a substantial high likeli-

hood that the benefits not only

are proven, but they outweigh

the harms. That's not the case for

devices like blood tests, said Dr.

Barry Kramer of the Lisa Schwartz

Foundation for Truth in Medicine.

Grail plans to seek approval from

the FDA, but is marketing its test

The history of cancer screening

has taught caution. In 2004, Japan

halted mass screening of infants

for a childhood cancer after stud-

ies found it didn't save lives. Last

year, a 16-year study in 200,000

women in the United Kingdom

found regular screening for ovar-

ian cancer didn't make any differ-

Cases like these have uncovered

some surprises: Screening finds

some cancers that don't need to

be cured. The flip side? Many dan-

**BRANCH OFFICE DORU** 

as it submits data to the agency.

ing to commercialize them.

And U.S. government researchers are planning a large experiment possibly lasting seven years and with 200,000 participants to see if the blood tests can live up to the promise of catching more cancers earlier and saving lives. They sound wonderful, but we

don't have enough information, said Dr. Lori Minasian of the National Cancer Institute, who is involved in planning the research. We don't have definitive data that shows that they will reduce the risk of dying from cancer.

Grail is far ahead of other companies with 2,000 doctors willing to prescribe the \$949 test. Most insurance plans don't cover the cost. The tests are being marketed without endorsements from medical groups or a recommendation from U.S. health authorities. Review by the Food and Drug Administration isn't required for this

anyway. And screening can do more harm than good. Anxiety from false positives. Unnecessary costs. And serious side effects from cancer care: PSA tests for men can lead to

gerous cancers grow so fast they

elude screening and prove deadly

treatment complications such as incontinence or impotence, even when some slow-growing pros-tate cancers would never have caused trouble.

The evidence is strongest for screening tests for cancers of the breast, cervix and colon. For some smokers, lung cancer screening is recommended.

The recommended tests mammography, PAP tests, colonoscopy look for one cancer at a time. The new blood tests look for many cancers at once. That's an advantage, according to Grail executive Dr. Joshua Ofman.

We screen for four or five cancers in this country, but (many) cancer deaths are coming from cancers that we're not looking for at all, Ofman said.

Dr. Tomasz Beer of Oregon Health & Science University in Portland led the company-sponsored study that Joyce Ares joined in 2020. After a miserable winter of chemotherapy and radiation, doctors told her the treatment was a success.

Her case isn't an outlier, "but it is the sort of hoped-for ideal outcome, and not everyone is going to have that, Beer said. While there were other early can-

cers detected among study par-

ticipants, some had less clear-cut experiences. For some, blood tests led to scans that never located a cancer, which could mean the result was a false positive, or it could mean there's a mystery cancer that will show up later. For others, blood tests detected cancer that turned out to be advanced and aggressive, Beer said. One older participant with a bad case declined treatment.

Grail continues to update its test as it learns from these studies, and is sponsoring a trial with Britain's National Health Service in 140,000 people to see if the blood test can reduce the number of cancers caught in late stages.

Although Ares feels lucky, it's impossible to know whether her test added healthy years to her life or made no real difference, said Kramer, former director of the National Cancer Institute's Division of Cancer Prevention.

sincerely hope that Joyce benefited from having this test, Kramer said when told of her experience. But unfortunately, we can't know, at the individual Joyce level, whether that's the case. Cancer treatments can have longterm side effects, he said, "and we don't know how fast the tumor would have grown. Treatment for Hodgkin lymphoma is so effective that delaying therapy until she felt symptoms might have achieved the same happy outcome. For now, health experts stress the Grail blood test is not a cancer diagnosis; a positive result triggers further scans and biopsies.

# PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my driving license bearing DL No: JK0320110021463 As Manzoor Ahamd Bhat S/o Ghulam Rasool Bhat While my correct name is Manzoor Ahamd Bhat Son in Law of Ghulam Rasool Sheikh which need to be rectified. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Anantnag within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

Manzoor Ahamd Bhat Son in Law of Ghulam Rasool Sheikh R/o Badasgam Boru Anantnag rna

بجلى كنكشن كى تبديلى بجلى كنكشن زىر كنز يومر آئى ڈى نمبر202001505 اورزىر انسٹالیشن نمبر1 R1-1493 جو کہ میرے بیٹے فیاض احمد ڈارولد غلام محمد ڈ ارسا کنہ مومن آباد بٹہ مالوسرینگر کے نام پر درج ہےکواپنے نام پر درج كرانا جابهتا ہوں ۔اس سلسلے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذریا اعتراض ہوتو وہ سات یوم کے اندراندراپنے اعتراضات محکمہ پی ڈی ڈی کے سب ڈویژن حضوری باغ کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔معیاد گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی عذرقابل غورنہ ہوگا۔ غلام محمد ڈارولد مرحوم غلام قادر ڈار ساكنةمومنآ بإدبيه مالوسرينكر inf

# **Public Notice**

My name has been wrongly written in school records as Faizan Hameed instead of Faizan Hamid which needs to be rectified. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may fiel his/her objection in the office of the Islamia Model School Ganastan within a perod of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Faizan Hamid S/O Abdul Hamid Magray bmg R/O Ganastan Sumbal Sonawari Bandipora

# The Jammu And Kashmir State **Board Of School Education**

**BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM** 

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

Name: Javid Ahmad Malla S/o Gh Mohammad Malla R/o Hardu Malapora



**Details of Marks Certificate lost** Secondary School Examination (class 10th) Roll No : 2421484 Session /Year 2020

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



ence in deaths.

SESSION BI ANNUAL YEAR 2019-2020 Now the candidate has applied for its duplicate Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before the office of the undersigned within seven days (07) from the date of publica-

Officer Incharge

# THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR **BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION BRANCH OFFICE DORU**

PUBLIC NOTICE The candidate whose photograph is published in the daily newspaper is claiming to have lost his original marks card of class 10th issued by board of school education with the following particu-

NAME:- MANZOOR AHMAD KHATANA PARANTAGE:- ABDUL GANI KHATANA MOTHERS NAME :- SAYIRA BEGUM R/O:- PACHGAM KUND ROLL NO :- 11146449

SESSION BI ANNUAL YEAR 2020-2021 Now the candidate has applied for its duplicate Anybody (if) hav-

ing any objection may file the same before the office of the undersigned within seven days (07) from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card of the candidates is treated as cancelled. Sd/=

Officer Incharge Branch Office Doru bmg

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR Sad Demise **BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION** 

> NAME:- SHABIR AHMAD KHATANA MOTHERS NAME :- SAYIRA BEGUM R/O:- PACHGAM KUND ROLL NO :- 1174477

rna

tion of this notice. Besides, the original marks card of the candidates is treated as cancelled Sd/=

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**DIAL-EMMA** 

# **Union MoS** Social Justice Visits CRC, **Distributes Aid**

### **Observer News Service**

rinagar: Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Abbaiah Narayanaswamy, on Monday visited Composite Regional Centre (CRC), Bemina, Srinagar to take stock of services being provided to persons with disabilities.

On the occasion, MoS distributed hearing aids, crutches, wheel chairs, smart canes and other equipment among the beneficiaries.

During the visit, he inspected various departments and blocks including physiotherapy, psychology, prosthetics, orthotics, speech and hearing blocks. He interacted with the patients and beneficiaries to enquire about services being provided to them at the Centre.

MoS also reviewed overall functioning of the Centre and emphasized successful implementation of ADIP scheme and other rehabilitation schemes in the Valley. He directed the officers to ensure job oriented courses for the students.

Stressing on rehabilitation and empowerment of persons with disabilities, MoS said that the objective of the government is to build an inclusive society in which equal opportunities are provided for growth and development of Persons with Disabilities so that they can lead productive and dignified lives.

Abbaiah Narayanaswamy further said that the government has taken many initiatives to empower Persons with Disabilities to create an enabling environment that provides such persons with equal opportunities.

MoS assured that the Union Government shall provide all possible support and facilities to ensure bet ter services are made available to the beneficiaries at CRC Bemina.

DG Social Welfare Kashmir, Shabnam Kamili, Director Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities, New Delhi, Dr Himangshu Das, Director CRC Bemina, Dr Zafar Iqbal and others were present on the occasion.

# Mass Covid Testing Held At NIT, No Positive Case Detected

## Agencies

Srinagar: The National Institute of Technology Srinagar in collaboration with the Directorate of Health Servi Kashmir (DHSK) Monday organized a mass testing drive for all employees and students to contain further spread of infection on the campus.



# 3.11 Lakh Visitors Thronged **Tulip Garden In 19 Days**

### Agencies

Srinagar: Over three lakh visitors have visited the famous Tulip garden in Srinagar from March 23 to April 10 and the most of the guests were domestic tourists and locals.

The number of foreign visitors was miniscule as only 92 foreign tourists showed up in the famed garden where 1.5 million Tulips and Daffodils were on a display to mesmerize the visitors.

Tulip garden in-charge Sofi Inam-ur-Rehman said that from March 23 to April 10, 3.11 lakh tourists and locals visited the garden. "Among the guests were 92 foreigners also," he said.

He said that this time around, 1.5 million flowers including Tulips and Daffodils besides other varieties were in full bloom in the garden giving a breathtaking view to every visitor. Asked how long the garden would remain open, Rehman said that it depends on the temperature. "Let see how temperature behaves and accordingly the call will be taken," Rehman said. The sprawling garden spread over 30 acres of land is Asia's largest Tulip garden in the world.

The garden was inaugurated in 2004 after which it gradually became a major tourist attraction for the tourists, both domestic as well as foreigners. However,

garden saw less arrivals of guests in 2020 and 2021. As per the officials, this year, 80,000 more people, especially tourists have visited Tulip garden compared to previous year.

This year, the tourism department had put on display the famous Kashmiri cuisine including Wazwan and Kehwa along with various varieties of Kashmiri bread. Various cultural shows were also organized

# in the garden. (KNO) due to the pandemic, the

# DAY 3 **Cleanliness Drive To De-Weed Dal Lake In Full Swing**

## **Observer News Service**

Srinagar: The cleanliness drive Dal Lake continued for the third day on Monday under the name 'Athwaas'



ing of LCMA. He said that 60 students from their university on a daily basis will participate in the drive. He also said that students from all the universities of Kash mir should come forward for the said purpose so that we all can make it possible to restore the glory of Dal Lake. Meanwhile, a special demolition drive was launched by the Lake Conservation Management Author-& ity through its Enforcement Wing today under the supervision of Enforcement Officers in the areas of Rakh-i-Arth Bemina.

## TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686 PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883 PDD: 0194-2450213 FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155 CAPD: 18001807011 SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081 Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +919484100200 AIRPORTS SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ⋌ RAILWAYS SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259 ANANTNAG: 01932-228243 BARAMULLA: 0194-102029 BIJBHERA: 01932-228243 PAMPORE: 01933-294132 PATTAN: 01954-293507 QAZIGUND: 01951-296153 **HIGHWAY STATUS** Sgr-Jammu highway - ( Open ) Mughal Road - (Closed) Srinagar-Leh-(Open) **PRAYERS** FAJR 4:38 HIJRI **ZUHR** 12:32 CALENDAR ASR 5:09 10 Ramazan Magrib 7:02

# **This Day In History**

1443

- 1648 University of Harderwijk Neth solemn opens
- 1654 Ordinance of Union between England and Scotland
- passed by the Council of State 1713 - Dutch State-Gen signs peace with France: Netherlands

**ISHA** 

8:27

- loses Orange Princedom 1770 - British parliament repeals the Townshend Revenue Acts,
- which had fueled op ®position to British rule in colonial America
- 1776 Halifax resolution for independence adopted by North
- Carolina1787 Philadel 
  phia's Free African Society forms 1783 - Tippu Sahib drives out British from Bednore, India
- 1869 Hudson Bay Company cedes its territory to Canada
- 1811 1st US colonists on Pacific coast arrive at Cape Disappointment, Washington
- 1820 Alexander Ypsilantis is declared leader of Filiki Eteria, a secret organization to overthrow Ottoman rule over Greece.
- 1826 Weber's opera "Oberon" premieres in London
- 1844 Texan envoys sign Treaty of Annexation with the United States
- 1857 Gustave Flaubert's "Madame Boyary" published
- 1858 1st US billiards championship, Michael J Phelan wins in Detroit
- 1859 -Hibernia Savings & Loan Society of San Francisco incorporates
- 1861 -Fort Sumter in South Carolina is attacked by the Confederacy, beginning the American Civil War
- 1862 James Andrews steals Confederate train (General) at Kennesaw, Georgia
- 1862 Union troops occupy Fort Pulaski, Georgia
- 1863 -14] Gunboat battle at Bayou Teche, Louisiana
- 1928 Turkey passes separation of church & state

In-charge- Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. MF Wani, and Registrar Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari inspected the testing site.

Prof. Wani said in view of Covid19 cases reported, a special testing drive was held for students and employees in the Institute.

We ensure that all COVID19 precautionary measures should be adhered to, so that there will be no risk of spreading infection at the campus," he said.

Institute's Registrar Prof. Bukhari appreciated the joint efforts put by DHSK. District administration, local Police, and volunteers for their timely support and coordination.

During the testing drive, no positive case was reported by the joint health teams on the campus, while students who were recently infected have been isolated till their RT-PCR test results would arrive," he said.

Prof. Bukhari said as they will ensure that all COVID19 SoPs would be adhered to, so that there will be no risk of further spread of infection.

As a precautionary measure, wearing disposable masks is mandatory for all persons entering the NIT campus, he added.

drive was kicked-off by Lt. Governor on 9th April, 2022.

The drive was started Vice Chancellor (V.C) SKUAST, Nazir Ahmad Ganai by removing the weed from the Dal Lake.

Students from SP College and ex-servicemen from Defence forces also took part in the drive.

The VC on the occasion appreciated the students and also appraised the work-

I have lost my passport bearing No; S1168840. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may fiie his/her objection in the Passport office Srinagar within a period of seven

days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained

Ali Mohammad kaboo

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# **ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY** AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.

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For and on behalf of Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, J&K State, E-Tenders (in Two cover system) are invited on percentage basis, from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. / CPWD / Railways or other State / Central Govt. Departments for the following work.

TENDER DETAILS

н										
	Name of the work	ENI	T No & Date	Advertised Cost of Construction	Class of Contract					
I	Construction of Aluminium	E-NIT No:	-		Class "B"					
I	Partition work in various	IUST/EW/	22/TEND/AP/06A	Rs. 30,15,849.00/=						
I	buildings at IUST Campus.	Dated: - 0	8-04-2022							
I	Providing of RAIN-WATER	E-NIT No:								
I	HARVESTING Facilities in various		22/TEND/RWH/05	Rs. 19,57,521.00/=	Class "B"					
I	buildings at IUST Campus.	A Dated: -	08-04-2022							
I	Construction of Toe Wall, Earth	E-NIT No:	-							
I	Filling, Drainage, Security Hut and	IUST/EW/22/TEND/WHC/07 A Dated: - 08-04-2022		Rs. 35,73,981.00/=	Class "B"					
I	Gate at Hostel Block Chrar-i-									
I	Sherief.									
I	Shifting of 630KVA Substation		-	Rs. 12,56,000.00/=	Class "A"					
I	along with Control Room and all	IUST/EW/ELE/22/TEND/SS/0								
I	allied material to the Receiving Station IUST.		d:08-04-2022							
I	IMPORTANT DATES:									
I	Document Download Start Date		09-04-2022							
I	Bid submission Start Date	09-04-2022								
I	Bid submission End Date	16-04-2022 Up to 6:00 Pm								
I	Date of Submission of DD (Hard Cop	18-04-2022 From 10:00 Am Up to 4:00 Pm								
I	Detailed Tender Notices are available on university website <u>www.iust.ac.in</u>									
I	DIPK-NB-166/22				-/Sd					
1				Executive Engineer IU	SI Awantipora					

- 1940 Germany invades Norway & Denmark during WW II (Denmark surrenders).
- 1942 Battle of Bataan: US-Filipino forces overwhelmed by Japanese at Bataan.

1945 - World War II: The Battle of Königsberg, East Prussia, ends.

- 1949 UN Intl Court of Justice held Albania responsible for incidents in Corfu Channel & awards Britain damages
- 1957 Suez Canal cleared for all shipping
- 1959 NASA names 1st 7 astronauts for Project Mercury.
- 1963 Winston Churchill becomes 1st honorary US citizen
- 1967 The first Boeing 737 (a 100 series) makes its maiden flight.
- 1972 USSR & Iraq sign friendship treaty
- 1973 Netherlands recognizes North Vietnam
- 1975 24 OECD members sign an agreement to establish a \$25 billion lending facility to provide assistance to industrial nations hurt by high oil prices
- 1976 US & Russia agreed on size of nuclear tests for peaceful



'I lived Like Fish Without Water For 57 Years'

Kashmiri's Wait To Visit Father's Grave Ends

AWASI (MUZAFFARABAD) - Raja Naseeruddin was just three when his father died in a traffic accident. On Friday, 59 years later, he saw his father's grave for the first time.

Naseeruddin was one of 19 Indian Kashmiris who travelled to Pakistan-controlled Kashmir by bus on Thursday, the first to run across the heavily fortified military line dividing Kashmir in nearly 60 years.

"How can I express myself? I simply don't know how," said a tearful Naseer after offering prayers at his father's simple grave in the mountain village of Lawasi.

" I don't remember my father, I was too young when he died." he said.' "Now, at least I feel relief to have visited his grave. I want to come here again."

Naseer's family, like so many others, was split apart by the Line of Control drawn across the scenic valleys of Kashmir.

After his father was killed in 1946 near Muzaffarabad his mother took him to live with relatives near Srinagar.

A year later, with the armies of newly independent Pakistan and India were battling over Kashmir, Naseer was unable to return to his home Village — and so it was until this week.

"Returning to my land, I feel like a fish being thrown back into water." he said.

(Kashmir Observer, 12 April, 2005)

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# OBSERVER

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# Wait for polls

That is if the delimitation commission completes its exercise within the next few weeks as it is expected to do. The Delimitation Commission will be submitting its report on May 6 after which summary revision of Electoral Rolls will be taken up by the Election Commission while all aspects of the situation including security will be reviewed before taking a call on the conduct of Assembly elections in the union territory.

Headed by Retired Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai and comprising Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sushil Chandra and State Election Commissioner (SEC) KK Sharma, the Commission was established on March 6, 2020 with a one-year term which was extended by another year. While the term was due to expire on March 6, 2022, it was granted two months extension. The Commission is unlikely to get another extension.

And if the elections are held later this year or early next year and a UT government is formed, the focus will shift to the restoration of statehood. One takeaway from the recent victory of the BJP in four out of five state elections in the country is that there will be a policy continuity in Kashmir. More so, the victory for the BJP in Uttar Pradesh which has almost ensured that the party is here to stay and is set to win in the 2024 general elections. So people in Kashmir don't see any material change in the centre's policy towards the union territory.

Kashmir has been without an elected government since June 2018. And after the revocation of Article 370 in August 2019, the state turned union territory came under the rule of the Lieutenant Governor. Two and a half years on, there is little indication that an elected government would be in place anytime soon.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah had recently stated that Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir will be held within six to eight months after the completion of the delimitation exercise. However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi led government is prioritizing the achievement of its broader objectives in Kashmir before restoring the statehood. And to this objective, it will ideally want a government that doesn't differ starkly from the BJP's policy on the troubled state.

An ideal arrangement from the centre's point of view would be a government dominated by the BJP, whose chances following the delimitation of seats look brighter. Or, at least, a government of the party or parties which have reconciled to the loss of the autonomy as a fait accompli. And such a scenario looks very much possible. But Jammu and Kashmir has always been very unpredictable place. As of now, people would want elections to be held soon so that a local government is in place and they have access to their representatives.

# **The Queen on Deathbed**

Hokersar wetland is constantly encroached. District Adm Budgam hasn't acted on NGT's advise to utilize funds under Rural Waste Management programme

# Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

nce known as the Queen of Wetlands, due to its great ecological value, Hokersar is on the deathbed. This wetland, spread around large parts of Srinagar and Budgam districts, continues to be encroached and choked with solid and liquid waste. Hokersar, also called Hokera under Ramsar Convention has been an important refuge for many kinds of shorebirds, waterfowls and trans-Himalayan species during winters. It has been one of the major flood basins of Kashmir. However, due to constant human intervention and urbanisation, Hokersar is being pushed towards destruction.

Some years back, a study carried out by the Department of Earth Sciences, Kashmir University revealed that Hokersar was being destroyed by people for their own benefits and Govt's apathy was also responsible for its continuous degradation.

The wetland, according to various authentic reports, was spread over an area of 18.75 Square Kilometres in 1969. This has shrunk to12 square kilometres as on date. In addition to illegal encroachment, Hokersar continues to be used as a garbage dump site by the local population from Hajibagh to Soibugh and areas around HMT Zainakot. Mounds of waste can be seen scattered around this wetland and other wetlands especially the Wular lake. Infact, Wular lake has been used as a garbage dumping site by several municipal institutions for many years and even now this practice continues in many areas of Bandipora and Hajin.

## NGT's April 2019 Order

NGT, in its April 2019 order, had directed for the constitution of a joint committee of J&K Pollution Control Board (PCB), Wildlife Department and Deputy Commissioners of Budgam, Bandipora and Pulwama to look into illegal encroachments and dumping of municipal solid waste in Wullar, Hokersar and Kreentchu Chandhara wetlands in Pampore.

The NGT's three member Principal bench headed by Justice A K Goel issued the notice after this author moved a petition through my counsel Advocate Rahul Chowdhary who prayed before the NGT that authorities be commanded to stop illegal encroachment and unscientific waste dumping in Hokersar, Wullar and Kreentchu Chandhara wetlands.

Advocate Rahul Chowdhary argued before the three member NGT bench that some municipal authorities, local residents and Govt institutions were dumping municipal solid waste in Wullar and Hokersar wetlands respectively. In addition, a full bench of NGT was apprised that Kreenchu Chandhara wetland in Pampore was being earth filled at many places on National Highway at Gallander (NH 44) where an irrigation canal was converted into a road.

The Municipal Committee Bandipora had been dumping municipal solid waste in Wullar lake at Nussu Zalwan area for many years. The Wullar Conservation and Management Authority (WUCMA) was a mute spectator to this illegal activity in-spite of providing 1.30 crore rupees to the municipality for scientific waste disposal several years back.



• NGT, in its April 2019 order, had directed for the constitution of a joint committee of J&K Pollution Control Board (PCB), Wildlife Department and Deputy Commissioners of Budgam, Bandipora and Pulwama to look into illegal encroachments and dumping of municipal solid waste in Wullar, Hokersar and Kreentchu Chandhara wetlands in Pampore.

not a single penny was utilised in Budgam district on Rural Waste management while the Govt of India had provided more than 100 Crores to Directorate of Rural Sanitation which is the nodal agency under SBM Gramin in J&K.

## NGT's August 27th 2020 order reads:

"Let further action be taken by the joint Committee headed by the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir. The above suggestions be duly considered and acted upon, to the extent found viable. We also direct that the National Wetlands Committee may compile data of status of compliance of environmental norms in respect of all significant wetlands in the country to ensure remedial action. The State PCBs/ PCCs and State/UT Wetland Authorities in India may give the status of management of wetlands in their respective States to the Secretary, MoEF&CC within three months. On that basis a joint Committee of the Secretary and Chairman CPCB may give a consolidated report to this Tribunal before the next date by e-mail at judicialngt@gov.in preferably in the form of searchable PDF/ OCR Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF"

J&K and Director ULB (Urban Local Bodies). It was also suggested that Chairpersons of District Development Councils (DDCs) Budgam, Bandipora & Pulwama and Principal Secretary Rural Development J&K Govt be taken on board while executing Solid and Liquid Waste Management Programmes in Wetland villages/areas.

"As regards the suggestions of the applicant, the same may be duly considered by the Chief Secretary, J&K, to the extent not already considered," the bench said.

## Conclusion

Inspite of the personal appearance of the Chief Secretary and multiple assurances given to NGT by J&K Government that encroachments would be stopped and waste management programmes will be undertaken by local District Administration, the deliverables from the end of the District Administration Budgam, have been disappointing to say the least.

It was only after the Chief Secretary visited

# OTHER OPINON

Look north: US-Nepal pact

ver since India imposed the blockade on Nepal in 2015 to support the Madhesi groups' claim to ratify the then Constitution to give them equal representation in Parliament, successive governments in Nepal have been miffed at India. This grievance prompted Nepal to enter China's Belt and Road Initiative and increase economic and political ties with Beijing. That the Chinese ambassador in Nepal had to try and intervene to resolve the intra-party feud among the communists in 2020 bears proof of Beijing's deepening influence in Nepal. Nepal's ties with India have simultaneously deteriorated to the point that Kathmandu is contesting India's sovereignty by arguing that three districts in Uttarakhand are Nepalese territory. The political protests spearheaded by Nepal's communist-Leninist parties have covert Chinese support. Nepal's government had signed the treaty despite opposition from Beijing. Therefore, the China factor in these 'popular sentiments' cannot be underestimated.

The protests need to be examined through the prism of Indo-Nepal ties as well. India has high stakes in Nepal not only from the strategic point of view but also the civilizational perspective. Despite the present friction, New Delhi has a relationship with Kathmandu along a porous border.

India must not underestimate China's influence in Nepal. Beijing's robust geopolitical position is facilitating a diplomatic and ideological indoctrination of Nepal's political and financial elites. Notwithstanding its deep cultural and ethnic ties with the Nepalese people, the scale of India's economic involvement cannot be compared to that of China's. If India is to bolster its influence in the Himalayan country, then it must emphasize on increasing its economic footprint in Nepal, especially in infrastructure, renewable energy and information technology.

The age of empires is long over. New Delhi must not take its neighbours for granted — the reason why India has seen its influence wane in the South Asian neighbourhood. New Delhi must remember that its economic and military hegemony in South Asia does not mean it is the primus inter pares of the region. India must therefore treat its neighbours as equal and sovereign partners.

The course of events in Nepal points to the Great Game between Washington and Beijing but it has deeper implications for New Delhi. India must follow the events carefully while maintaining a calculated diplomatic posture.

Telegraph India

In Hokersar, solid waste is being lifted from HMT and Parimpora fruit mandi and dumped in Hokersar around Haji Bagh area on Soibugh road in Budgam. NGTs principal bench sought a report from PCB, Wildlife department and Deputy Commissioners of Budgam.

## NGTs August 2020 order

After more than a year, yet another order was passed by NGT to utilize the money available under Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-G) to undertake waste management in rural areas of Budgam which are located around Hokersar. I had suggested this to NGT as the Wildlife Conservation Department had no funds available for waste management.

The NGT directed Divisional Commissioner Kashmir to consider my suggestions regarding utilisation of funds available under Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-Gramin) so that solid waste management could be taken up in Kashmir's wetlands on a regular basis. NGT's principal bench's order dated 27th August 2020 further said that suggestions be duly considered and acted upon to the extent found viable.

Even as there are enough funds available under Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM G) for waste management under ODF-Plus programme, the money is not being utilized. The information provided under RTI Act 2005 by District Panchayat Officer Budgam last year revealed that Again, the Government, especially District Administration Budgam failed to utilize these funds in Soibug block where several villages dump their waste near Hokersar wetland area.

## Personal Appearance of CS

Taking non-compliance of NGTs order seriously, the tribunal in July 2021 directed the Chief Secretary to appear personally before the Tribunal during the next date of hearing. On Nov 28th 2021, the Chief Secretary J&K, Dr A K Mehta appeared before the NGT Panel. The tribunal directed the Chief Secretary to consider my suggestion that local preachers, NGOs, theatre groups and religious leaders be involved in creating awareness on the conservation of wetlands.

Advocate Saurabh Sharma who had appeared on my behalf told the NGT that Govt of J&K had not acted upon the previous orders and advisories of the tribunal as only paperwork was being done and wetlands like Wullar, Hokersar, in particular, were being encroached and polluted by solid/liquid waste dumping.

During the hearing, several suggestions were put forward before the NGT principal bench by my counsel Saurabh Sharma which included the holding of monthly meetings on Waste Management in Wetland areas by Regional Wildlife Warden Kashmir Wildlife Department, Mission Director SBM Gramin (Rural Sanitation Deptt) Budgam a few months back and expressed his displeasure over unscientific waste disposal in the town and surrounding area that Deputy Commissioner Budgam ordered the cleaning of all villages.

Ironically, the Rural Development Department, instead of collecting the waste in rural areas is burying the same under soil and muck. The District Development Council members of Chairpersons have not been taken onboard by Govt to manage waste in rural areas. The District Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin committees are vet to be constituted. On this Sunday, I along with noted NGT Lawyers Ritwick Dutta and Rahul Chowdhary who are the recipients of Right Livelihood Award 2021 visited Hokersar. The wetland continues to be polluted and encroached and no action is being taken to remove the illegal encroachments by administration. The local bird watchers Reyan Sofi and group whom we met are feeling suffocated. The Wildlife Department is trying its bit but they need more Govt support. Illegal encroachment and earth filling around Abanshah, Haji Bagh and Soibugh continues which needs immediate action.

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

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is a Srinagar based activist and columnist. He is an Anant Fellow for Climate Action



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# A Reader's Editor

or years, media organizations in India have come under increasing criticism for not being transparent and accountable even though they demand these qualities from the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary – the Separation of Powers that govern the Union government.

Such a criticism directed towards print media outlets, especially the

newspapers, is justified, given the fact that most of the Indian dailies function without the role of a Readers' Editor, who is potentially important and an effective element in a larger framework of self-regulation. As an ombudsman, the role of a Reader's Editor adds a new layer of transparency to the editorial functioning of a newspaper, since he/she plays a subtle link between the readers and

the editorial team. When a news organization commits to an independent public editor, it makes a strong statement about its commitment to trustworthy journalism. Print media is the main vehicle through which citizens can exercise their constitutional rights to receive truthful information. And this is where the role of a Readers' Editor assumes greater significance, which helps to improve the quality of news and information. A thriving democracy requires an informed public. And the need of a Readers' Editor for a newspaper was born out of this sense of social responsibility. Hence, news organizations should not only restore the position of Ombudsman, but also broaden it.

RANGANATHAN SIVAKUMAR siva19kumar@gmail.com



# **Quality Over Quantity: Re-Learning the Meaning of My Ramadan**

66 **Even** after doing all this, I still didn't understand the meaning of the words of Allah nor did I feel the spiritual uplifting or mental peace which comes with Ramadan. In the midst of this race, I had lost the true meaning of Ramadan



### **MARIUM ABID**

was twelve years old when I apparently committed a sin during Ramadan; I prayed eight raakats of Taraweeh instead of twenty. Young and eager to resume eating and relaxing after fasting, I prayed the shorter version followed by the witr prayer. Proud of my cheeky shortcut, I quietly folded being scolded in front of everyone inmy prayer mat and tried to sneak out stead of being ashamed for not praying of the room. My aunt who had seen the all the twenty rakaats of Taraweeh. whole spectacle called from behind, "What do you think you are doing and eight rakaats. Even when I pray eight of the Quran and the Ibadah I was do-

how did you finish your Taraweeh so quickly?

As you can already imagine, what followed was a bout of scolding about how I won't be getting any rewards for the prayers because I cut them short to enjoy food and how I'm disrespecting the gift of Ramadan. At this point, I was of course crying from embarrassment of

To this day, I'm still scared to pray only

have cheated somehow and would make up for it by doing other forms of ibadaah. That one episode of not praying enough rakaats has stayed with me for a long time and for years, I would be in this race; pray all the nafls, do all the dhikr, pray all the taraweeh, finish two Qurans and so on. Although, I would be able to successfully tick most of these off at the end of every Ramadan, I would never, however, come out of Ramadan feeling content. The meaning

rakaats in a congregation, I feel like I ing would still be a stranger to me even after spending a month engrossed in the ibadah.

What I learnt then was to invest my time on the quality of my ibadah rather than the quantity.

It is a very common behaviour embedded in us since early childhood to focus on the quantity of the worship as opposed to its quality. We are always in a race, in all aspects of life.

Who posts the most on social media, who has the most likes, who has the biggest house etc and in Ramadan, this

race intensifies. Who finishes the highest number of Quran, who does the most charity, who sends out the most Iftars, how many dishes are you making for an Iftar and oh boy, if you have made only one dish then you're already out of the race.

I was in this race as well; making sure I was doing everything according to the list curated by my society.

Preparing samosas beforehand, preparing a feast everyday, hastily reciting the 20 rakaats of Taraweeh, praying all nafls, listening to Quranic lectures and doing all the dhikhr. Everything was going well until I burnt out last year as I was juggling all this with my 3-months old.

This is when I decided to pause and rethink. I thought about what was I getting out of this month besides exhaustion and social pressure of being a jackof-all-trades.

Even after doing all this, I still didn't understand the meaning of the words of Allah nor did I feel the spiritual uplifting or mental peace which comes with Ramadan. In the midst of this race, I had lost the true meaning of Ramadan.

On the surface. I was doing everything. However, what was lost was my connection to Allah which is supposed to strengthen in this month.

This year, therefore, I have decided to take things slow. This month is my time to increase my taqwa and restore my relation with Allah which becomes secondary sometimes in the hustle bustle of our lives.

This Ramadan, I aim to focus and understand the book of Allah and learn from the teachings of Prophet SAW and to improve my akhirah. This Ramadan, I don't want to be in a race instead I want to take a breather from this world which has soaked us in its glamour so much that sometimes, even in Ramadan, we feel difficult to come out of it.

As we have successfully finished some fasts by now, we should all be getting in the routine of Ramadan. If something is not working for you, don't feel pressured to do it. Alternatively, if something is working for you then make a mindset to continue doing it after Ramadan. Make the actions of this Ramadan a permanent part of your everyday life.

Don't do so much that by the end of it, you're so exhausted that you don't have energy to continue. And whatever you do, do it for the love of Allah because your actions during this month are between you and Allah alone.

Amaliah

# **Elon's Twitter**

66

### Hamza Mudassir

he world's richest man, Elon Musk. is now Twitter's largest shareholder after acquiring a 9.2% stake in the social media platform for just under US\$3 billion (£2.3 billion). The announcement drove Twitter's share price up 27%, and it continued to grow in after-hours trading.

This investor enthusiasm is not surprising. Social media platforms have been suffering lately thanks to newly developed pressures in their ecosystems. For example, Twitter, and also Meta, have been on the receiving end of Apple's anti usertracking system. This is costing them billions of dollars in lost revenues, causing both companies' stock to languish for the past few months.

Musk's arrival as Twitter's largest shareholder will probably not make a difference to that issue, but it does address two other recent investor concerns. Firstly, Musk had been threatening to create a competing social media network where "freedom of speech" ideals would be adhered to. The threat of a new popular entrant being created by a visionary tech leader now goes away. It also shows that Musk is coming in with a vision to drive change in the ecosystem, which is something not to be taken lightly.

Secondly, Musk's presence has the potential to accelerate innovation and competitiveness at Twitter, which the company has not been able to do well enough in the past. With Jack Dorsey, the ex-CEO and co-founder of Twitter announcing his resignation a few months ago, there is enough breathing room at the top to make bold moves that could help the platform to grow beyond the foundation it resides on today. So, we know that Twitter investors are happy – but over the long run, will users be?

## THE ALGO PROBLEM

Twitter is the equivalent of a digital town square, where endless numbers of people with a myriad of



his inherent conflict between social and financial goals distorts who is heard and how frequently. This is exacerbated by the financial pressures for this town square to grow every financial quarter, which creates a pressure to constantly optimise the algorithms to attract as many clicks as possible

opinions can air their thoughts. Yet unlike a traditional town square, the voices that we hear are determined by underlying, machine-learning algorithms. These are geared towards maximising exposure and clicks, which drives advertising revenues.

They are not geared towards enriching our lives with the most thoughtful, interesting points of view.

This inherent conflict between social and financial goals distorts who is heard and how frequently. This is exacerbated by the financial

pressures for this town square to grow every financial quarter, which creates a pressure to constantly optimise the algorithms to attract as many clicks as possible. It also makes these algorithms a proprietary secret sauce, which creates an air of distrust and even mysticism around how such services operate.

Musk, who is famously a heavy Twitter user himself, has been vocal about making social media algorithms more open source. We'll have to see what he does in practice, but it's a promising starting point that could become a boon for Twitter.

Open-source algorithms would eventually enable users to choose not just what they see and don't see on the platform, but how that happens. In such a future, one user might choose a right-leaning algorithm while the other chooses a left-leaning one. The platform would not make the choice on these users' behalf. Such an approach could boost Twitter's traction, which has been flat for some time. Time would tell how this might affect the company's revenues, but such a bold move might put pressure on Facebook and others to follow suit, potentially making social media better for everyone.

### **DEFENDING TESLA**

Tesla spends next to nothing on advertising. While the brand's popularity is more than just Musk, the tech billionaire's real-life antics, including his tweets, are an organic marketing machine worth billions of dollars for the automotive company.

But Musk still has to follow the rules on Twitter like everyone else and this includes being kicked out if he goes far enough. In the past few years, he has had the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) step in over numerous tweets, issuing penalties on occasions. Over one particularly ugly episode in 2018, where Musk threatened via Twitter to take Tesla private at a price much higher than the share price at the time, he ended up stepping down as Tesla chairman and agreeing that the company's lawyers would oversee what he said on the platform.

Being Twitter's largest owner won't protect him from the SEC - and indeed there have been reports that he was late to notify the SEC about his latest move and submitted the wrong form (before later submitting the right one). There are also questions about whether his threats to launch an alternative platform ahead of buying the Twitter stake amount to market manipulation. With the SEC currently investigating him over tweets in November asking his followers whether he should sell his

**TWITTER'S MONTHLY ACTIVE USERS (MILLIONS)** 



Tesla stake, he may now attract further ire from the regulator.

But whatever happens on that front, Musk will certainly be able to weigh if his removal from Twitter is ever on the cards. That is a huge defensive advantage for Tesla from losing such a significant source of marketing. So while Musk can say he is focused on freedom of speech by buying this stake in Twitter, let's not forget that he has the most to gain from the deal.

### DECENTRALISING THE INTERNET Most of the internet and its users

His infamous penchant for having a long-term view and unconventional strategic choices is likely to mean that he will shake things up, even if it is not clear today how he will do so. Certainly it can be said, with a sense of surety, that Twitter is now a far more interesting company than what it was a few days ago.

The author is Lecturer in Strategy, Cambridge Judge Business School. The article is being reproduced by arrangements with The Conversation

are now controlled by a handful of companies including Alibaba, Microsoft, Meta, Amazon, Google and to a lesser extent Twitter. This has created a power hierarchy where many startups and investors actively avoid areas where these ever-growing ecosystems have extended their reach.

Musk and Tesla have so far been sheltered from this phenomena by focusing on disrupting the largely unconnected automotive industry, to much success. By buying into Twitter, Musk now has a small, but well established, beachhead from where he can take on these entrenched players.

# NEWS

# **Qutab Minar Not 'Vishnu Stambh', Demand For Rebuilding Temples Meaningless: EX-ASI Official**

## **Press Trust of India**

**NEW DELHI:** Former additional director general of the ASI B R Mani on Monday dubbed as "mere imagination" the VHP's claim that the Qutab Minar was originally a 'Vishnu Stambh', and cautioned that any tampering with structures on the complex would result in the revocation of the Unesco world heritage status accorded to it in 1993.

Mani, however, said that it was a fact that 27 Hindu temples were demolished at the site and their remains were used in building Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque and the Qutab Minar as well but the demand for rebuilding these temples was "meaningless" as there was no trace of the location of these temples at the site.

Mani, who had been with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for over three decades, is currently the vice chairman of Indian Archaeological Society which promotes and spreads knowledge about archaeology in its all aspects.



The Vishva Hindu Parisad (VHP) on Saturday demanded that the government rebuild all the 27 Hindu temples at the Qutab Minar complex and allow Hindu rituals to resume at the site.

The outfit's national spokesperson Vinod Bansal also claimed that the 73-meter-high Qutab Minar was originally a 'Vishnu Stambh' on a temple of Lord Vishnu constructed during

the times of a Hindu ruler. Asked about the VHP claim, Mani told PTI, "I also believe that there were 27 temples. There are evidence to support it. Nobody has any doubt about it. But nobody knows where were those 27 temples located,

what was their form, (structure) plan. He said it's written on Qutbu'd-Din Aibak's inscription that

Quwwat ul Islam mosque was built using the debris of the 27 temples demolished at the site.

"Remains of the temples are spread all over the site, but no elevation, plinth, or any other thing was found there that could have helped trace the location of those temples. Something should have been be found like Adhisthana (base platform)," he said.

"They (Muslim rulers) destroyed everything when they invaded and built the Quwwatul-Islam mosque and erected the Minar on it, using the debris of the Hindu temples that they destroyed," he said.

Hence there is "no meaning" of reconstructing them, he said. "And, if we do any temper-

ing with the structures at Qutab Complex, Unesco world heritage site tag given to it will be withdrawn, and the site will be placed in the endangered list," he said, "Be it the VHP or any other party, no one would want this to happen." Mani had directed 20 ar-

chaeological excavations in India, including at the Ram

Janmabhoomi-Babri mosque site in Ayodhya, during his 31-year-long service at the ASI.

Rejecting the VHP's claim that the Outab Minar was originally a 'Vishnu Stambh' built on a Vishnu Temple, Mani said that a 20-25-foot-deep excavation had been carried out at the spot to strengthen the monument's foundation in 1967 but no trace of any temple was found.

"It's mere imagination. There was nothing there, no temple was found there," he said.

The 'Vishnu Stambh' is already there standing at the site in the form of an iron pillar, he said.

"The Minar cannot be a stambh like Ashokan pillars, which are monolithic, made of stone or iron. Minar is completely different structure," he said.

Several such kinds of minaret of the same period are there in Central Asia for any body to see, he said.

"So its is not fair to have any doubt over the Minar. People have studied it very well. And if any attempt is made to give it a different spin, then it is not right," Mani added.

# HDFC Bank's "Mooh Band Rakho" **Campaign Spreads Awareness On** Safe Banking Practices

KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

Tuesday | 12.04.2022

**MUMBAI:** HDFC Bank concluded the second edition of its "Mooh Band Rakho" campaign, which created history by spreading awareness on safe banking practices among more than 100 million Indians, through print and digital media.

In November 2021, the second edition of the campaign was launched which involved a 360-degree consumer education program on cyber frauds and how to combat them by simply practicing a few safe banking habits. The program highlighted the importance of not sharing confidential personal information with anyone. The closing ceremony was graced by Sameer Shukla Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Lt. General Rajesh Pant, National Cyber Security Coordinator in the presence of senior HDFC Bank officials including the bank's Head of Retail Credit Strategy and Control Prashant Mehra, Chief Information Security Officer Sameer Ratolikar, Head of Credit Intelligence and Control (CIC) Manish Agrawal, and Head - CIC, Payment Business and Digital Loans Vivek Goyal.

As part of this campaign, the bank has conducted more than

2.800 secured banking workshops in just four months across the country. More than 60,000 students participated in 620 workshops that were aimed at inculcating safe banking habits from an early age.

Prashant Mehra, Head – Retail Credit Strategy and Control, HDFC Bank, said: "The "Mooh Band Rakho" campaign is an effort in this direction. We are delighted with the impact that the campaign has created in its first two years and we will continue to engage with different stakeholders of our society to spread awareness on safe banking practices."

Lt. General Rajesh Pant, National Cyber Security Coordinator, said: "The "Mooh Band Rakho" campaign shows the importance of collaboration between public and private sectors in spreading consumer awareness.

Sameer Shukla (IAS), Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, added: "Basic awareness about digital frauds can help consumers avoid financial tragedy. Hence, it is heartening to see that HDFC Bank has taken a lead in spreading awareness on cyber frauds among millions of consumers."

# CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

## **Employment Rate**

when the passionate J&K administration had gone ahead to say that the employment in the erstwhile state will gradually increase. "Private investments in J&K would increase to Rs 70,000 crore to give fillip to employment and a peaceful environment in the region." J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had said.

According to the CMIE's "30 day moving average" survey, J&K's 25.0 percent unemployment rate is the second-worst recorded unemployment rate among other states & union territories in India. The erstwhile state was succeeded by the state of Haryana where the unemployment rate stood at 26.7 percent.

Besides these official figures, the other data sources accessed by Kashmir Observer had also indicated the severity of unemployment in J&K. On March 18, Kashmir Öbserver had reported that J&K's urban unemployment rate for the 15-29 age group was recorded at 46.3 percent which was the second highest in India.

A report titled "Periodic Labour Force Survey April-June 2021" released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation shows that urban unemployment rate jumped to 12.6 percent in April-June 2021 from 9.3 percent in the previous guarter.

Using the Consumer Pyramids Household Survey machinery, CMIE has negged India's unemployment rate

corporate, national and multi-national companies, with youth of J&K having skill and employability.

Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Principal Secretary School Education B K Singh and CEO, Vision India Vivek Kumar besides officers of Mission Youth were present on the occasion, in person and through video conferencing.

## 2 Militants Killed,

a day after police claimed to have killed two Pakistani militants in a gunfight in this capital city on Sunday.

Muhammad Bhai, alias Abu Qasim, and Abu Arsalan alias Khalid, both affiliated with LeT were killed in a firefight in Bhishember Nagar locality of the city.

According to police, the duo were involved in a number of militancy cases, including the recent attack on CRPF personnel in Maisuma, in which a head constable was killed and another injured. **High Level Team** 

ensure no untoward incident ahead of the Prime Minister's visit.

While the PM's visit is said to be restricted to the winter capital only, the reports said that the security establishment wants to ensure that no major militant incident occurs in the Valley too.

Meanwhile, a high level central team led by Union Minister of State PMO, Dr litendra Singh, on Monday visited Palli Panchayat in Samba district to review preparations ahead of PM's rally there on April 24 on the eve of Panchayati Raj Divas. Singh was accompanied by the Union Minister Chetan Prakash Jain, CMD, Central Electronics Limited and Industrial Research, Union Ministry of Science and Technology, which is in the process of setting up a solar plant in Palli Panchayat in a record time of 20 days, an official spokesperson said Monday.

tussle, said he wanted good relations with India, but it cannot be achieved without the resolution of the Kashmir issue.

He said that neighbours are not a matter of choice, it is something we have to live with and unfortunately Pakistan's ties with India were never good since its inception.

He attacked Khan for not making "serious and diplomatic efforts" when India abrogated the Article 370 in August 2019.

"When the forceful encroachment was done in August 2019 and Article 370 was abrogated, what serious efforts did we make ... what serious diplomacy did we try...Kashmiris' blood is flowing on roads of Kashmir and the Kashmir Valley is red with their blood," said Shehbaz, the younger brother of former three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

He expressed a desire for better ties but with India linked it with the Kashmir issue.

"We want good ties with India but durable peace is not possible until the Kashmir dispute is resolved," he said, adding that Pakistan would continue to provide political, diplomatic and moral support to the people of Kashmir.

We will raise voice for Kashmiris brothers and sisters at every forum. We will give them diplomatic and moral support," he added.

Shehbaz also asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to come forward to address the Kashmir issue so that the two

pilgrimage.

Chandra, he said, also added that Amarnath Ji Yatra activities will be projected throughout the country and there will be focus on the coverage about the tourism activities in the region as well.

In the meeting, the spokesperson said that J&K Chief Secretary Arun Kumar said that this year's Yatra will be the record highest owing to better facilities and seamless journey experience for the pilgrims.

"Amarnathji Yatra is a prime example of composite culture and fraternity which has been preserved since ages by the cordial working out of locals with yatris," he said.

Kumar added that the administration has taken every measure to provide better facilities and roadside amenities to make the journey convenient and every effort will be made to make this year's pilgrimage a successful one. According to the spokesperson, the Joint Secretary Ministry of I&B, Vikram Sahay instructed the media units to carry out wide publicity about the detailed procedures involved from registration to commencement and conclusion about the Yatra.

"He added that there is an absolute need to highlight the positive environment of J&K which will clear all doubts about the pilgrimage. This he said will invite more and more people from all across the country to become a part of this journey." he said.

The spokesperson said that delibrations were carried out to amplify spective pilgrims by Principal Director General (News), All India Radio N.V.

which manages the annual pilgrimage, has designated 566 branches across the country for the registration of the pilgrims, in addition to the facility on its website.

According to SASB, no one below the age of 13 years or above the age of 75 years, and no woman with more than six week's pregnancy, shall be registered for the vatra.

The registration has started at our branches in Rehari, Katra, Reasi, Akhnoor and Samba in Jammu and Kashmir besides 316 other branches across the country, Deputy General Manager, Punjab National Bank (PNB). Jammu Circle, Yatinder Kumar told reporters at Rehari branch here where several pilgrims registered for the yatra on the first day.

He said the pilgrims have to submit an application, compulsory health certificate from SASB-designated hospitals, four photographs and a fee of Rs 120.

However, those who have registered for the yatra last year, but could not undertake the pilgrimage have to deposit only Rs 20 as fees, the official said, adding that those pilgrims who have crossed 75 years of age would be refunded Rs 100 which have been deposited as registration fee with the application last year after depositing the permit slip.

Kumar said each branch of PNB will register 30 intending pilgrims on a daily basis 15 each for the twin routes of Pahalgam and Baltal

jurisdiction of Police Station, Bomai, a police spokesperson said.

The trio, he said, were likely to carry out an attack on government forces.

According to the spokesperson, during the naka checking it was observed that three persons were moving towards naka in suspicious conditions. The naka party, he said, observed their suspicious body language and subsequently asked them to stop.

"However suspected individuals tried to flee from the spot, taking cover of darkness but were nabbed by alert and vigilant troops," he said.

"The troops assessed the situation and displayed extreme restraint and fire control in not opening fire, keeping in mind the darkness and civilians in proximity of the area to avoid any civilian casualty," he added.

Upon their search, the spokesperson said 3 Pistols, 3 Magazines, 22 rounds of Pistols, 1 Grenade and Rs 79,800 cash were recovered from their possession.

The police identified them as Tufail Ahmad Mir and Owais Ahmad Mir of Barat Kalan and Shabir Ahmad Wagay of Masjid Mohalla, Pethabug.

The spokesperson said that the preliminary investigation revealed that the arrested militants are affiliated to LeT.

"Accordingly in this regard a case has been registered at the Police Station.Bomai under relevant sections of Law and further investigation is gong on. The alertness and proactive of Security Forces averted a big tragedy planned by militants to hamper the prevailing peace in valley," he added.

the information around the Yatra this year which will be useful for the pro-Reddy, Director General, Doordarshan,

at 7.87 percent which itself ascertains the fact that the erstwhile state of J&K has much higher unemployment rate than the national average. In India, with 8.67 percent UR Urban part of the country had recorded higher joblessness than Rural India where the rate stood at 7.50 percent.

The national unemployment rate is defined as the percentage of unemployed workers in the total labor force and is widely recognized as a key indicator of the performance of a country's labor market.

## LG Launches Portal

the UT will be on-boarded in the program for achieving the best outcomes for our enterprising youths.

Speaking on the occasion, the official spokesperson said that the LG stated that J&K Administration has taken many steps to create infrastructure, schemes and policies to speed up economic development, and to meet the aspirations of youth so they can contribute to society and achieve self-growth.

"The easily accessible online platform would act as an interface between trained & skilled workforce and Industry requirement in J&K," Sinha said.

"Jammu and Kashmir administration is determined to provide quality education, skill training and better employment to the youth", he added.

According to the spokesperson, the LG asked CEO, Mission Youth Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary to organize Job fairs in Jammu and Srinagar to facilitate Youth.

Sinha also said that keeping in view the industries to be set up in J&K under the New Industrial Scheme, special focus should be given on training of local youth to fulfill the needs of skilled workforce.

The LG, as per the spokesperson also directed for conducting a survey and preparing a database of all the people who are to be connected with job opportunities.

Pertinently, acting as a bridge to connect youngsters with industry, Mission Youth under its AVSAR (Connect to Opportunities Initiative) has signed an MOU with Vision India for providing job opportunities to the youth of J&K. The program aims to connect various

A team of senior J&K officers led by Additional Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, also interacted with the central team at Palli Panchayat.

Speaking to media after the visit, the spokesperson said that Singh maintained the selection of Palli Panchavat as the venue for national level Panchayati Raj Diwas celebration indicates the high priority being given by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, to Jammu and Kashmir.

"It also reflects Modi government's focus towards strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the Union Territory," he said, while reiterating PM's commitment towards making JK's grassroots democracy vibrant and thriving," he said.

The Union Minister, he said, also informed that the PM will be undertaking this visit for the first time after the first-ever election to the District Development Councils held in the UT after 70 years of independence.

"Prime Minister has been over the past 8 years working earnestly towards establishing a strong grassroots democracy in Jammu & Kashmir with focus on development and equitable distribution of resources among all sections of society", Singh added.

Pertinently, this year's 'Panchayti Raj Diwas' is being organized at Palli by the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

# **New Pak PM**

Valley were bleeding and Pakistan will provide them with "diplomatic and moral support" besides raising the matter at every international fora.

The 70-year-old leader, who replaced Imran Khan after a high voltage political countries could concentrate on tackling poverty, unemployment, shortage of medicines and other issues.

"Why do we want our coming generations to suffer. Come, let's resolve the Kashmir issue in line with UN resolutions and Kashmiris' expectations, so that we are able to end poverty on both sides of the border," he added.

Ties between India and Pakistan nose-dived after an attack on the Pathankot Air Force base in 2016. Subsequent attacks, including one on an Indian Army camp in Uri, further deteriorated the relationship.

The relationship deteriorated after India announced withdrawing the special powers of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcation of the state into two union territories in August 2019.

India's move to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir in 2019 outraged Pakistan, which downgraded diplomatic ties and expelled the Indian High Commissioner in Islamabad.

It also snapped all air and land links with India and suspended trade and railway services.

India has said that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan in an environment free of terror, hostility, and violence.

## **J&K Becomes Corona**

been discharged from various hospitals including 01 from Jammu division and 12 from Kashmir division," the officials said.

As many as 4750 people have lost their lives in J&K since the outbreak of pandemic in the year 2020.

# **Centre, J&K Expects**

these remarks while convening a meeting in Srinagar today regarding wide publicity to be carried for the upcoming 43 day Amarnathji Yatra, scheduled to start from for 30th June, 2022, an official spokesperson said.

Chandra added that an expected six to eight lakh pilgrims are expected to cover the Yatra this year.

During the meeting, the spokesperson said that the Secretary stated that publicity activities will be planned by different media units of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in conjecture with the J&K Administration throughout the period of the

Mayank Agrawal. "The heads of both the units assured that wide publicity will be carried out about the yatra. They emphasized that the media units will take initiatives to highlight the developmental work done in I&K at national level and also in regional languages," he said.

He said that CEO, Shri Amarnathji Shrine board, Nitishwar Kumar shared an overview about the preparedness for the yatra.

"We are expecting a two fold increase in yatra this year and similarly we have also done two fold preparations to make it successful," the CEO said.

The CEO, as per the spokesperson urged the media units to highlight the advisories for the yatris from time to time and added that Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags will be used this year to keep a track of the location of the pilgrims.

"He also emphasized that misconceptions about the journey being a difficult one also need to be thwarted," he added.

The senior I&B officials assured the UT administration that appropriate steps will be taken to plan the publicity activities and there will be a buzz about the Yatra this year.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, and the Deputy Commissioners of Ganderbal and Anantnag besides senior officials of security and administration also participated in the meeting

## **Registration For Annual**

begin from the twin routes -- the traditional 48-km from Nunwan to the cave shrine from Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag, and 14-km shorter but steep Baltal route in Ganderbal district of central Kashmir.

The government, this year, is also introducing a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system for pilgrims to track their movement enroute to ensure their well-being. Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB),

We are very happy over the restart of the yatra after a gap of two years we are thankful to the government, Ranjeet Singh, a local resident, said.

He said he had already performed the yatra 14 times in the past from both the routes and had never faced any problem.

This time, the shrine board has made additional arrangements and we are eagerly waiting for the day to have darshan' (glimpse) of the naturally formed ice shivling," Singh added.

Besides the Punjab National Bank, the registration can also be done at designated branches of Jammu and Kashmir Bank, YES bank and State Bank of India.

Officials further said the registration and issue of yatra permit will be done on a first come-first-serve basis for the yatra, which will commence on June 30 with all Covid protocols in place and will culminate, as per the tradition, on the day of Raksha Bandhan (August

The Amarnath Yatra was cancelled midway in 2019 ahead of abrogation of Article 370 in August that year, while only a symbolic yatra was observed during the past two years due to the outbreak of the pandemic.

During this year's yatra, SASB has decided to put in place a daily route-wise pilgrims ceiling to 10,000, excluding those travelling by helicopters.

The board has also decided to extend the free-of-cost battery car service for the pilgrims at the 2.75 km-long Baltal to Domel stretch. (PTI)

## 'We're Paying 40%

there is a fixed rate provided by the Department to the seller," Mir said.

Since the start of Ramazan, Mir said, the Department has been receiving several complaints from people about a sudden price hike.

"This is a violation and the department won't tolerate it," he said.

"Several violators have already been dealt with under certain provisions of law. And in the coming days, all the violations will be dealt with accordingly."

# **3 Hybrid Militants**

bridge, a joint naka was established by army's 22 RR, Police, and 179 Bn CRPF at Sonarwain bridge under the

# ACB Arrests Patwari,

body, a written complaint was received by the ACB alleging that Jameel Hussain Khan, Patwari, Halqa Baghati-E-Shoor, Eidgah here was demanding Rs 9,000 as bribe for issuance of revenue extracts of land in favour of the complainant.

Upon receiving the instant complaint, the spokesperson said, prima facie offence U/S 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 was found made out. Consequently, case FIR No. 15/2022 was registered at P/S ACB Srinagar and investigation was taken up.

The ACB spokesperson said that during the course of investigation, a team was constituted that laid a successful trap and caught red-handed Jameel Hussain Khan while demanding and accepting a bribe amount of Rs 9000 through his accomplice Shafat-Ur-Rehman from the complainant.

Rehman, he said, was working as Patwari in the Revenue department and was trapped by ACB while accepting a bribe. A case FIR No. 15/2009 PS VOK was registered against him. He was convicted by a lower court in that case.

"Both the accused were arrested and taken into custody by ACB Team. The bribe money was also recovered from their possession in presence of independent witnesses. Further investigation into the case is on," the bureau spokesperson added.

## **PDD Worker Dies**

Pattan when he received an electric shock, reports said. Wani died on the spot due to the impact of the electric shock.

Notably, hundreds of power department linemen have already lost their lives in the line of their duty in the recent past in Kashmir-(KNO)

## Youth Killed In Stone

Hassan, a local resident.

Another labourer Ghulam Nabi Larwal (50) of Kondbal Safapora got injured and was shifted to Public Health Centre Safapora. More details are awaited, they said. (GNS)

# STATE

# **Govt Empowers More Officers To Evict Occupants From Migrant Land**

ADCs/ACRs, SDMs, Tehsildars Designated As Competent Authority

**BJP Betrayed Maharaja's** 

**Safeguard Of People: NC** 

Legacy Of Land, Job

## Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** In a significant move, the administration of J&K Union District Magistrate of the area Territory has empowered more and includes such other officers officers to undertake the process of the area as the Government of eviction of unauthorized occupants from migrant land.

In a notification, the Department of Revenue has designated Additional Deputy Commissioners/ Assistant Commissioners of DCs/ ACRs in the areas where SDMs are not posted/designat- able property of migrants and ed, Sub-Divisional Magistrates and Tehsildars as the competent authority to issue requisite orders/notices for eviction of migrant land, within their respective jurisdictions.

The powers have been delegated to them under clause (b) of section 2 of The Jammu and Kashmir Migrant Immoveable Property (Pres- immovable property under this ervation, Protection and Restraint

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Senior National Con-

ference leader Ajay Kumar Sad-

hotra on Monday assailed the BJP for trampling and betray-

ing the visionary legacy of last

Dogra ruler Maharaja Hari Singh

by revoking the exclusive rights

of the people of Jammu and

Kashmir on their land and jobs.

ment revoked special status

under Article 370 to Jammu and

Kashmir and bifurcated it into

union territories of J-K and La-

Instead of indulging in rheto-

damage caused to the rights

of the people by scrapping the

constitutional provision based

on the 1927 enactment of the

permanent resident law by the

great Maharaja , Sadhotra said

people at Raipur in Balwal on

and betraying the visionary leg-

The former minister said the

the outskirts of Jammu.

acy Maharaja Hari Singh.

dakh in August 2019.

The BJP-led central govern-

on Distress Sales) Act, 1997. Under the provision, the competent Authority" means the may appoint for an area.

So far, the powers to carry out the eviction process were only vested with DMs only.

The law enacted in 1997 empowers the competent authority to prepare the details of immovtake appropriate action to evict unauthorised occupant of such migrant property.

"The competent authority may take or cause to be taken such steps and use or cause to be used such force as may be, in its opinion necessary for eviction from or delivery of possession of Act," reads the law—(KNO)

# **Jammu Records Hottest Day Of Season** At 39.6 Deg Celsius



hottest night at 22.9 degrees

# **Press Trust Of India**

Celsius which was also 3.7 JAMMU: The mercury maintained an upward trend across this part of the season, an of-Jammu and Kashmir with winter capital Jammu recording the partment said. season's hottest day on Monday at 39.6 degrees Celsius -- 7.5 notches above normal. Jammu city also recorded the 35.6 degrees Celsius and a min-

degrees above average during recorded a high of 28.9 degrees Celsius and a low of 9.9 degrees Celsius. The day temficial of the meteorological deperature in the city was 8.8 Katra, the base camp for the notches above average, while pilgrims visiting Vishno Devi the night temperature was also shrine, recorded a maximum of 2.3 degrees above normal, the

LG Asks J&K Universities To **Complement Govt Efforts** 

## **Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday that the Universities across Jammu and Kashmir must complement the efforts of government in transforming the economic landscape of the Union Territory by producing resultoriented research.

He made these remarks while chairing the 2nd University Council meeting of Cluster University of Jammu, here at Raj Bhavan, an official spokesperson said.

role that education has to play modern knowledge society.

Chancellor of the University, ducing result-oriented research. sought a detailed report on the He also called for promoting excellence in teaching and exacademic and allied activities. besides various measures taken tension activities, strengthen- sity of Jammu, gave a detailed for strengthening the academic ing technical education, optiand research environment in mum utilization of University's undertaken by the constituthe University. Laying special emphasis on NEP-2020 and provisions of the digital initiatives, extracurricucapacity building, job oriented UGC Act and the Cluster Univer-and skill development courses sities Act in the letter and spirit. faculty besides, informing the for the students, the Lt Governor directed for concerted ef- Lt Governor said that the Nation- under Azadi ka Amrit Mahostav forts to foster skilling of youth al Education Policy-2020 would and achievements of students as per job market requirements enable our children to become in academic, co-curriculum and and greater interaction be- proficient in modern education sports activities.



official said

as well as the values of our an-

imum of 21.9 degrees Celsius.

The summer capital Srinagar

The Lt Governor also laid stress on the need to regularly identify new courses and carrying impact assessment of the The Lt Governor said that Uni-

Among other decisions, the versities across Jammu Kashmir council approved the proposal must complement the efforts of government in transforming the for construction of Controller of Examinations Building (G+5)

> Earlier, Prof. Bechan Lal, Vice Chancellor, Cluster Univer-

# **Man Gets 10 Years Imprisonment For Raping Minor**

## **Press Trust Of India**

IAMMU: A court here on Monday awarded 10 years rigorous imprisonment to a man for raping a 15-year-old girl in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district about five years ago.

Udhampur, Y P Bourney, also remorse for whatever happened. slapped a fine of Rs 25,000 on Mangal Kumar, a resident of Chattrari-Majalta village.

the girl during the intervening night of May 7 and 8, 2017, a police official said.

Kumar had abducted the girl while she was sleeping at the veyounger sister, the official said. After hearing public prosecu-

prosecution has successfully accused beyond any doubt.

"Rape is not just a physical having discontinuing his studies vict," the judge said.

to the poor strata of society, who is in his early 20s and he had just passed the age of majority at the time of occurrence," Judge Bourney observed. He said the convict is also a

at the 7th standard and belongs

first offender having no past Principal Sessions Judge, criminal record and has shown " the convict shall undergo 10 years rigorous imprisonment and pay a fine of Rs 25,000 for He was found guilty of raping the commission of offence under section 376 (rape) Ranbir Penal Code. He shall further undergo rigorous imprisonment for three years and pay a fine of Rs 10,000 for the commission of randa of her house along with her offence under section 363 (ab-

duction) RPC," he said. "Both the sentences shall run tor Koshal Kotwal and Kumar's concurrently. Out of the fine counsel, the judge said that the amount, if realised 25,000 shall be paid to the victim as comproved the charges against the pensation. In default of payment of fine, the convict shall further

undergo rigorous imprisonment condition but a crime which for one year. The period of decompletely demolishes or de- tention already undergone durstroys the victim and her family ing trial shall be set off from the the convict is a school dropout sentences awarded to the con-

# CAG Pulls Up J&K Govt For **Blocking Utilisation Of Rs 21 Crore In Education Sector**

## Agencies

21.48 crore in the School Educa- utilization. tion department, saying this hap-pened due to lack of planning, monitoring and coordination.

According to CAG report, which was tabled in the Parliament on April 06, the Project Approval Board (PAB) of Sarva Shikmeeting held in February 2016, approved the Annual Works Plan and Budget (AWP&B) 2016-17 for the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Subsequently, on March 31, 2017, the State Project Director (SPD), SSA J&K released Rs 21.48 crore in favour of Director School Education Jammu (Rs 9.76 crore) and DSE Kashmir (Rs 11.72 crore) with the direction not to utilise these funds till further detailed instructions were issued.

According to the auditor, Rs 11.72 crore released to Director

On being pointed out in the audit, DSE Jammu and DSE Kashmir stated the funds remained unutilised as they had not raised any demand under the civil works SSA Plan 2016-17 for release of these funds, besides the instruc-

The Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, according to the report, stated that as the works under different components were being finalised, the DSEs Jammu and Kashmir were instructed not to utilise the funds till further orders.

According to the report, the School Education Department in March 2017 issued directions Audit scrutiny of records of Di- to the SPD, SSA/ RMSA that the rector School Education Jammu funds available under these in July 2020 revealed that no schemes are released to the further instructions for utilisa- implementing agencies so as to ensure nil balance at the end of from SPD, SSA J&K. "The amount year in order to avoid any future of Rs 9.76 crore was held in the cuts on account of unspent balofficial saving bank account and ance by the Government of India. "Thus lack of planning, moni-Deposit Receipts (FDRs) for a pe- toring and coordination between riod of six months. Interest of Rs the offices of SPD, Samagra Shik-3.13 crore accrued in the saving sha, DSE Jammu and DSE Kashand fixed deposits was trans- mir resulted in blocking of Rs ferred to the Project Director, Sa- 21.48 crore for the nearly four magra Shiksha," reads the report. years," the report states—(KNO)

state subjects at the cost of the bonafide permanent residents

Jammu is going to suffer the most because of its proximity to other parts of the country and conduciveness in terms of security scenario, culture, topography and terrain.

to open up jobs to the non-

here, he said.

Sadhotra hoped that the people, irrespective of region or religion, will rise above myopic political considerations to seek documented guarantee in respect of safeguard to lands and jobs.

He took on the BJP for its alleged failures in every sector ric, the BJP must realise the and causing unrest among the people over administrative and developmental inertia.

The unprecedented inflation has subjected the people to miseries with housewives braving the brunt in particular interacting with prominent as the prices of essentials have touched skies, primarily due to hike in the fuel prices. The peo-He said the BJP was trampling ple have been forced to take to the streets during the scorching summers, the NC leader said.

The administrative credibility insult to the injury of the J-K is all-time low, given the delivpeople is that while Ladakh has erance and performance in various sectors of development. The

are pock marked by ditches. The

tween academia and industry. be carried out to create atmo-The Council led by the Lt Govsphere of intellectual inquiry, innovation and inventiveness.

ernor discussed the important in the development process and transformation towards being a

The Lt Governor, who is the economic landscape of UT by pro-

He further said that assesscient traditions and culture. ment of existing courses must

on-going courses.

worth Rs 39 crore.

SRINAGAR: The Comptroller School Education Kashmir also and Auditor General of India has remained unutilized in the savpulled up the J&K Government ings bank account due to nonfor blocking utilisation of Rs receipt of any directions for their

sha Abhiyan (SSA), in its 231st tions for utilisation of the funds released were also not received from the SPD.

succeeded in securing safeguard to jobs and land, a double yard- power and water supply continstick is being applied to the peo- ues to be erratic while the roads ple of Jammu and Kashmir.

This has already resulted in accountability seems to be the terms of land allotted to outsid- last priority which is disgusting, ers and attempts being made headded.

# **IUST hosts Eco-**Entrepreneurship **Sensitisation Program**



### **Observer News Service**

AWANTIPORA: Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) hosted One Day sensitization program on Eco- Entrepreneurship organised by the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIED) IUST.

During the program, students were sensitized about entrepreneurship, sustainable develop-ment and it's potential in coming years.

While delivering the keynote address on the occasion, Founder of Sagg Ecological Entrepreneurship NGO, Fayaz Ahmed highlighted the importance of Eco- Entrepreneurship which not only provides new opportunities for the first movers who identify and exploit such people's heads and hearts on a opportunities, but also has the large scale", he added.

potential to be a major force in the overall transition to a more sustainable business paradigm. Speaking on the occasion, Director CIED, Dr Parvez Ahmed Mir conducted an interesting session on entrepreneurship as career option. He highlighted the importance of entrepreneurship as it not only promotes innovation to find new solutions to existing and emerging demands, but also provides greater opportunities for wealth creation for self and society than anything else.

"Entrepreneurship creates an opportunity to make a definite contribution to society by rais-ing people in and around the enterprise. The constant enthusiasm to innovate helps to touch resources, and implementing ent colleges, programs offered, Speaking on the NEP-2020, the chair about events organised

# **Elements Misusing Festivals To Create Unnecessary Dispute Are Anti-National: Jitendra Singh**

## Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Elements misusing festivals to create an unnecessary dispute are anti-national . Union minister Jitendra Singh said on Monday, asserting all festivals should be observed like festivals only.

He also expressed satisfaction over the arrangements being made for the upcoming annual Amarnath Yatra in south Kashmir Himalayas and said J-K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is personally supervising the steps for its success.

Interacting with media persons at Palli Panchayat in Samba district, the minister, while responding to a question about attempts by certain elements to disturb peace on the occasion of Ram Navami festival on Sunday, said the home ministry is taking care of the law and order situation and will deal with it.

nary citizen, we should observe any festival like a festival only instead of making it an issue of dispute some elements misusing a festival to create a dispute are anti-national.

Yatra which is scheduled to commence on June 30, the minister expressed hope that it will be a success.

glimpse of various activities

Singh said.

However, he said, As an ordipleted in a record time of 20

days by April 18 and will pro-On the 43-day Amarnath

The Lt Governor is making panchayats across the country source.

tion of these funds were received invested (March 2018) in Fixed

# PAK REGIME CHANGE **Stability In Neighbourhood** Is Good For Us: Mehbooba

## Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Democracy is gaining roots in Pakistan and political stability in the neighbourhood "is good for us", PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti said here on Monday.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said Pakistan should decide whether it wants a new government or to hold fresh elections so that democracy flourishes there.

(Former Pakistan prime minsay that India is alive because of the hustle-bustle of its democracy. Today, we are also seeing the hustle-bustle of democracy in Pakistan and the democracy in that country is gaining roots,

she told reporters outside her party office here. It is our neighbour and we They should take a decision soon whether have a new government

or fresh elections, whatever they want -- so that the democracy our neighbourhood is good for us, she said.

Asked about the seizing of with harbouring militants, Me- ated,' the PDP chief said.



hbooba Mufti said that it was wrong

She also called for dialogue ister Zulfikar Ali) Bhutto used to and reconciliation with the people of Kashmir.

They (police) are punishing the whole population. If your fight is against a militant, you arrest him, fight him, but what have common people done? A Kashmiri Pandit brother was attacked (in Shopian) and they have arrested 100-150 youths. want it to be a stable country. They also arrested several for the Jamia Masjid (sloganeering)

incident," she said. Democracy is a battle of ideas. You can jail a person, but not his flourishes there in the same way thoughts. Till there is no reconas it is in our country. Stability in ciliation and dialogue with the people and the youths here, nothing will be achieved by this policy

of arresting people. Rather, the properties of those charged people of J-K will be further alien-



all arrangements seriously and on April 24, he said. Singh, the minister of state in under his leadership, the yatra will be completed successfully, the Prime Minister's Office, said the village would become a role Earlier, the minister, accommodel for others.

panied by a high-level central It is a big step in Jammu and team, inspected the ongoing Kashmir towards carbon-free work on the 500-KV solar plant energy. The people will adopt being installed on a total area it in a big way in coming times of 6,408 square meters at Palli as there is lack of awareness Panchayat to turn it into the among the people, he said, addfirst carbon-free solar village. ing the money spent on the We are hopeful that the Rs project will be recovered fully 2.75 crore project will be comwithin four or five years.

The minister said there are people in many places who vide clean electricity to all the have installed solar panels on 340 households. The Prime their own and we want this Minister is also scheduled to new trend to gain momentum visit the village and will deliver as it provides clean, cost-effecvirtual address to nearly 700 tive energy and is a long-term

# SPORTS

# **Battered CSK Look To Get Their Confidence Back Against RCB**



## **Press Trust of India**

MUMBAI: Defending NAVI champions Chennai Super Kings would need to lift themselves after a nightmarish start to the season and play a "complete" game when they take on a highflying Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL here on Tuesday.

In words of head coach Stephen Fleming, the team's self-belief is shaken after four losses in a row.

The four-time champions haven't played the cricket they are known for under skipper Ravindra Jadeja, who has not been able to lead from the front.

The seniors in the team including Thala' Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Robin Uthappa, Ambati Rayudu and Dwayne Bravo need to step up in this crisis situation.

CSK have only posted one 200 plus score so far while scoring subpar totals in the other three games. The CSK batters will have to

face a potent RCB bowling attack including the likes of spinner Wanindu Hasaranga, David Willey and Mohammed Siraj.

Young Ruturaj Gaikwad, who

will need to step up and deliver and also all-rounders Moeen Ali and Shivam Dube will have to

take more responsibility. Fleming admitted that the side is facing two-fold problems -- unavailability of Deepak Chahar due to injury and a below-par show in all departments.

A buoyant RCB, however, are ticking all the boxes.

Opener Anuj Rawat, who hit his maiden IPL fifty, came to the party against Mumbai Indians, while Virat Kohli also got much needed runs. Skipper Faf Du Plessis can take any attack to cleaners and the topthree too are in good form.

Dinesh Karthik is the firing finisher for RCB and engineer-turned cricketer Shahbaz Ahmed has also impressed with his batting so far. Apart from veteran Dwayne

Bravo, CSK bowlers have been way off the mark. They need to get the bowling combination right having tried

many options. Another key weak-link is Mukesh Choudhary, who has been leaking runs. Unless CSK find the right combination, RCB would be exhas had a miserable season so far, pected to run away with the game.

# S. Africa Makes 'COVID Substitutions', First Time **In International Cricket**

Replaces 2 COVID-19 infected players in 2nd test against Bangla

**Press Trust of India** 

**GQEBERHA:** In a first instance of COVID-19 substitution in international cricket, South Africa's Sarel Erwee and Wiaan Mulder were replaced by Khaya Zondo and Glenton Stuurman in the playing eleven of the second Test against Bangladesh af-ter testing positive for the virus on Monday.

Erwee and Mulder were tested on Monday morning, the fourth day of the Test, and returned positive results. "Khaya Zondo will make

his Test debut on Day 4 of the 2nd #BetwayTest against Bangladesh after Sarel Erwee and Wiaan Mulder tested positive for Covid-19," a Cricket South Africa tweet said. "The pair replaced with Zon-

do and Glenton Stuurman." South Africa won the second Test by 332 runs on the fourth day itself to clinch the twomatch series 2-0.

'This is an unfortunate situation, but not unexpected after the decision was made to have this tour under the Managed Event Environment (MEE) protocol, rather than the strict Bio-safe Environment (BSE) Protocol as was previously the case," CSA chief medical officer Dr Shuaib Manjra said.

"This is in line with the country's policy in revoking the Disaster Management Act with well the huge mental strain that a bubble environment induces."

The series is being played in a managed environment, not in a bio-bubble. Players are not limited to their hotel rooms and are allowed to go out -- with the advice that they should stick to open air restaurants and the outdoors and mingle with other people. This is the first instance of the COVID substitution protocol being used in international cricket. COVID replacement inci-

dents had happened earlier in the Plunket Shield and County Championship but not in international cricket.

# J&K Abuzz With Sports Activities **Under 'MYMP' Initiative: Govt**

SRINAGAR: Various sporting activities were held in playfields and indoor halls across J&K under the J&K Admin's initiative of 'My Youth My Pride' on Monday.

ground of Anantnag district, large number of crowd was attracted towards the sports events being held as part of this initiative. In the ongoing Spring Shield Cricket Tournament, Mattan Bluez and Shaksaz Sports regis-tered wins against ACC Bluez and Seer Royals respectively.

teur Soft Tennis and Table Tennis were held at Sports Stadium Pulwama in which 120 partici pants, both boys and girls took part enthusiastically. In the meantime football in the ongoing Youth Football League was played at Gani Memorial Football Stadium, Srinagar between FC Ganderbal and Chanapora Football Academy. Meanwhile in the Jammu division, a friendly tug of war match was played between a joint team composed of DDC members and Sarpanchs and Team Palli, which was won by the former after a very tough



It is also just the second instance of two substitutes for a team in the same match in reference to the pandemic, as international cricket -- Bangladesh had two concussion subs against India in 2019.

According to ESPNcricinfo, Bangladesh's coach Russell Domingo has not been able to attend the Test after contracting COVID-19 last week while South Africa's bowling coach Charl Langeveldt and security officer Zunaid Wadee were also not at the match venue after testing positive on Friday. All COVID-related restric-

tions, apart from mask-wearing in indoor spaces and limitations on the number of people at gatherings, have been lifted in South Africa.



# **Azam, Haynes Named ICC POTM For March 2022**





DUBAI: Pakistan skipper Babar Azam was on Monday voted as the ICC 'Men's Player of the Month' for March, while Australian opener Rachael Haynes bagged the honour among women.

Azam scooped the honour following a number of thrilling batting displays in Pakistan's multiformat series against Australia. Amassing 390 runs in the pul-

sating Test series, his supreme contribution was highlighted by his record-breaking innings of 196 in the second Test, salvaging a draw for his side against the odds on the final day in Karachi.

At the forefront of his side's batting unit, his exploits during the subsequent ODI battles that took place in March also cemented Azam's claim as the standout player in international cricket during the month.

Azam received the award ahead of fellow nominees Kraigg Brathwaite (West Indies) and Pat

Cummins (Australia), and in do-ing so, became the first player to cap a thrilling tournament.



Speaking about Azam's phenomenal performances in March, member of the voting panel and former West Indies international Daren Ganga said, "Babar wins this award not only because of the significant glut of runs scored during the Pakistan vs Australia tour, but also because his success with the bat across formats."

"Being able to fulfil the burden of expectation as a captain and batter for Pakistan as host to an Australian team visiting after 24 years is a monumental achievement."

Haynes bagged the honour on the back of a formidable set of displays on the road to Australia's seventh ICC Women's Cricket World Cup title.

Scoring 429 priceless runs in eight matches at an average of 61.28, her extraordinary feats at the top of the order proved crucial to her side's unbeaten run to the final, where they sub-

# **Durham To Speak To Coach Franklin Over Chahal Allegations**





Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: County side Durham has said they will speak to head coach James Franklin "privately" over the physical harassment allegations made by Indian leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal against the former New Zealand pacer.

Earlier this year, in a podcast published by Royal Challengers thinking, but he and James angalore Chahal had recalled an incident from 2011 when his my hands and legs and said, 'no, then Mumbai Indians teammates Franklin and Australian all-rounder Andrew Symonds had allegedly tied him up while celebrating their win in the Champions League final that year. "We are aware of recent news the games of Hockey, Judo and Yoga. More than 110 players reports surrounding an incident in 2011 which name a member of our staff," Durham said in a statement to 'ESPNcricinfo'. "As with any matters involving employees, the club will speak privately with all parties involved to determine the facts." Chahal also alleged that the duo had taped his mouth, left him in a room and forgot about him for a whole night.

Franklin, who was part of Mumbai Indians squad from 2011 to 2013, was appointed Durham coach in early 2019.

"It happened in 2011, when Mumbai Indians won the Champions League. We were in Chennai. He [Symonds] had had a lot of 'fruit juice'.

"I don't know what he was Franklin got together and tied

**Press Trust of India** 

MUMBAI: Rajasthan Royals skipper Sanju Samson said the decision to withdraw Ravichandran Ashwin 'retired out' in the slog overs was a call made by the team management, taking into consideration the match situation.

RR became the first team in IPL history to employ the 'retired out' tactic as Ashwin went back to the ability as he had seen him practise dug out despite being 28 not out the wide yorkers. during their match against Luc-



"I had no idea about it (Ashwin retiring out). He was also a bit tired.

It was a good decision as the kid (Parag) hit a six for us," Hetmyer told official broadcaster, Star Sports after the match. Young Kuldeep Sen impressed

on his IPL debut as he took one for 31 and defended 15 runs in the last over to help RR notch up a win. Samson said he had faith in Sen's

"Depends on how

# **Observer News Service**

At the picturesque Nanil

At Pulwama, events in Amacompetition. Tug of War was Council in taking sports to the

know Super Giants here on Sunday.

Ashwin (28 off 23 balls) played a crucial role in rebuilding the RR innings along with Shimron Hetmyer (59 not out off 36 balls) as the duo shared a 68-run stand for the fifth wicket before the off-spinner retiring out with just two overs to go for the innings.

"It's about being Rajasthan Royals (Ashwin's retired-out). We keep trying different things. Have been talking about it before the season," Samson said during the postmatch presentation after RR beat LSG by three runs in an IPL thriller.

"We thought that if some situation occurs, we can use it. It was a team decision.'

Ashwin retired out in 18.2 overs, allowing Riyan Parag to come to the crease.

his first three overs. Got the feel that he has done well and he is confident (talking about Kuldeep Sen) to go and execute his wide vorker which he has been working in the off season. "Saw him in Syed Mushtaq and he was nailing his wide yorkers," he said.

Defending 166, Trent Boult (2/30) struck twice in a sensational opening over, while Yuzvendra Chahal (4/41) picked up four wickets to achieve the feat of claiming 150 IPL victims.

Lavishing praise on the duo, Samson said: "Boult came to me before first ball, told me 'Sanju change of plan, I'm going to go around the wicket, and going straight in his

legs and hit that bowled'. 'Funny to be around and his skills are commendable."

# Charleston Open 2022: Sania Mirza-Lucie Hradecka Pair Loses In Final



### Agencies

SOUTH CAROLINA: Veteran Indian tennis player Sania Mirza and her Czech partner Lucie Hradecka's splendid run at the Charleston Open ended after they lost the title clash to Andreja Klepac and Magda Linette.

The unseeded Mirza and Hradecka went down 2-6, 6-4, 7-10 in one hour 24 minutes to the fourth seed Polish-Slovenian duo on Sunday.

Mirza and Hradecka had a stunning run at the WTA 500 lier announced that 2022 would event, reaching the women's be her last season. (AP)

doubles final after pulling off a major upset by stunning top seeds Zhang Shuai and Caroline Dolehide in the semifinals.

In the quarterfinals, they got the better of third seeds Alexa Guarachi and Jessica Pegula. Mirza and Hradecka had also reached the semifinal of the Dubai Tennis Championships in February.

The 35-year-old Mirza, who is India's most accomplished woman tennis player having won six Grand Slam titles, including three mixed doubles trophies, had ear-

Union Minister of State for Personal, Public Grievances, and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh also graced the occasion and interacted with the participants at the venue.

Speaking on the occasion, ticipated in the event. Randhir Sharma Sarpanch of the village Pali who was also the chief guest on the occasion applauded the role of Sports

followed by competitions in doorsteps of players hailing Wushu for different categories. from remote areas of J&K.

Madrid Authorities 'On Alert' Ahead **Of Champions League Games** 



Agencies

MADRID: Madrid authorities have reinforced security measures in the Spanish capital ahead of the arrival of thousands of English fans for Champions League matches this week. The quarterfinal games be-

tween Real Madrid and Chelsea on Tuesday and Atlético Madrid and Manchester City on Wednesday

last month in the southern city of Seville when fans came from Germany and England for Europa League matches a day apart. Madrid successfully hosted the 2019 Champions League final between English clubs Liverpool and Tottenham.

Madrid defeated Chelsea 3-1 in the first leg in London, while incide while in the Spanish city. Man City beat Atlético 1-0 in

you've to open'. They were so lost that they taped my mouth and forgot about me completely during the party.

'Then they all left and, in the morning, someone came to clean [the room] and saw me, and called a few others and untied me," Chahal claimed.

According to Chahal, neither player has ever apologised.

The allegations against Franklin and Symonds have come to the fore after the leg-spinner revealed another shocking incident when a drunk player dangled him from the 15th-floor balconv of a Bengaluru hotel during a post-match IPL party in 2013.

Wriddhiman Saha," read item no.4 on the meeting agenda

# **BCCI Apex Council To Review Report On Saha Allegations**

Press Trust of India

DELHI: The Apex Council will review the probe committee's report concerning India wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha, who had accused iournalist Boria Majumdar of intimidating him, at its meeting on April 23.

The BCCI had formed a three- which is in PTI's possession. member panel comprising vicepresident Rajeev Shukla, treasurer Arun Dhumal and Apex Council member Prabhtej Bhatia to probe Saha's allegation.

The 37-year-old India discard appeared before the Committee last month and so did the accused journalist Majumdar and presented their respective versions. Saha had alleged that Majumdar intimidated him for not giving him an interview.

BCCI is expected to close the matter at the Apex Council meeting.

report on issue concerning Mr cricketer himself.



Majumdar on his part had claimed that Saha had "doctored" the whatsapp screenshots of the chats he had with him before putting it on social media, triggering a massive controversy.

A centrally-contracted player, Saha had posted a series of tweets on February 23 against the then unnamed journalist, who happened to be Majumdar. Saha was told by head coach

Rahul Dravid in South Africa that he was no longer in the scheme of things and this classified in-"Review of the Committee formation was revealed by the



Extra attention will also be given to subway stations and

the Madrid airport, where Chelsea and Man City fans may co-There was some fan violence Manchester.

NEW BCCI

was Chief Guest on the occasion while Vikram Singh Slathia Municipal Councilor was guest of honour. Several events in different games are also scheduled for today.

Meanwhile, in Udhampur

competitions were held at Sub-

hash Stadium, Udhampur in

from adjoining panchayats par-

Priti Khajuria, Corporator