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P3 CITY

INSTALLATION OF CCTV CAMERAS

TRADERS SEEK MONETARY ASSISTANCE FROM GOVT

Many business unit owners in Srinagar are up in arms against the government order which directs them to install CCTV surveillance cameras. Traders say they suffered financially during the coronavirus pandemic and they cannot afford expensive

THINK

IDEAS, INNOVATION, INNOCENCE—INSIDE KASHMIR'S ECO-ENTREPRENEURSHIP FEST

AFTER being fortunately misguided by a local inhabitant, I wandered through vibrant greens, hills, streams and a gorgeous cloud view of the village before I reached Sagg. Walking in to attend the first-of-its-kind festival on Ecological



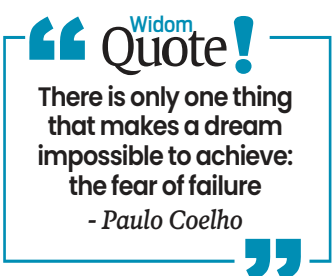
P7 STATE

PALLI VILLAGERS IN J&K UPBEAT OVER PM'S VISIT

The residents of Palli in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district are upbeat over the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to their village,



16 TH RAMZAN		
	Iftar TODAY	Sehri TOMMOROW
FIQAH HANAFIYA	7:07	4:30
FIQAH JAFARIYA	7:15	4:29



NEWS DIGEST

J&K Logs 12 New Corona Cases

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 12 fresh Covid cases in a day taking the infection tally to 4,53,941 while no death due to the disease was reported, officials said on Sunday. Of the fresh cases, three were from Jammu and nine from the Kashmir division of the Union territory, they said. **More on P7**

Electric Shock Kills PDD Lineman

SRINAGAR: A PDD lineman working with Power Development Department (PDD) died due to electric shock in Hafroo area of central Kashmir's Budgam district on Sunday, officials said. They said that the lineman identified as Mohammad **More on P7**

Abducted Minor Girl Rescued In Kathua

JAMMU: A 16-year-old girl was rescued and her abductor arrested in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, police said. A police party managed to recover the minor and succeeded in arresting the accused during a raid in Lakhampur area, a police spokesman said. **More on P7**

3 Drug Peddlers Held With Rs 1.52L Cash

JAMMU: Three people, alleged to be drug peddlers, were arrested with 14 kg of ganja and Rs 1.52 lakh cash from two places on Sunday, police said. Tirith Ram Sahu, a resident of Chhattisgarh, was nabbed with 12 kg of ganja from the Bahu fort area of the city, a police spokesperson said. He was roaming in the area in a suspicious manner **More on P7**

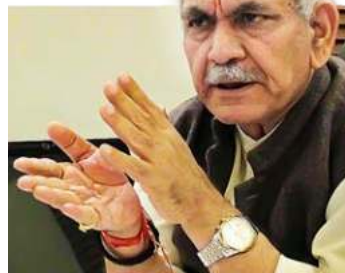
Promising Future Awaits J&K: LG

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday said various new initiatives taken by the Jammu and Kashmir administration have given wings to common man's dream and promising future awaits the Union Territory.

Sinha called upon the people to play their important role and complement government's efforts toward building a developed and prosperous new Jammu and Kashmir.

Various new initiatives have given wings to a common man's dreams. A promising future awaits Jammu & Kashmir, the Lt Governor said at this month's episode of the Awaam ki Awaaz radio programme. The programme was aired on



all local and primary channels of All India Radio (AIR) in the UT and broadcast on DD Kashmir. We are committed to the welfare of the poor, the marginalized and the vulnerable sections of the society, he said, sharing the motivational and inspiring stories of the UT's change-makers, who are rendering selfless service to the society. The Lt Governor also acknowledged and **More on P7**

THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH ITS POLICY reforms and intuitive handholding schemes will usher in notable changes in the socio-economic and educational status of women in Jammu and Kashmir at a fast pace."

KU Scholar Arrested For Writing 'Seditious' Article

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Sunday arrested a PhD scholar of the University of Kashmir for a "highly provocative and seditious" article in an online magazine, an official said.

Abdul Aala Fazili was arrested from his Humhama residence as the SIA conducted searches at several locations in the city as part of its crackdown on militants and anti-national

networks, the official said.

The SIA, assigned with the duty of investigation and prosecution of militancy-related cases, carried out the searches in connection with an FIR registered under various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the IPC against Fazili and the editor and other associates of monthly digital magazine 'The Kashmir Walla', the official said.

The official said the searches were conducted at the **More on P7**

New Pak PM Pitches For Dialogue with India

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has written a letter to his Indian counterpart, Narendra Modi, pitching for "meaningful" engagement between the two countries, people familiar with the development said on Sunday.

Sharif's communication on Saturday came in response to a letter sent by Modi to the Pakistani leader congratulating him on becoming the prime minister, they said.

In his letter a few days ago, Modi conveyed to Sharif that India desired constructive ties with Pakistan.

On April 11, the Pakistan parliament selected Sharif as the 23rd prime minister of the country, a day after Imran Khan was ousted from power in a no-confidence vote.

In a Twitter post, Modi congratulated Sharif on becoming the prime minister of Pakistan and said India desires peace and stability in a region "free of terrorism".

"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 **More on P7**

Militants In J&K Go 'Hi-Tech' To Escape Cordons

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Fifteen signatures of Iridium satellite phones, used by the US-led allied forces in Afghanistan, and Wi-Fi-enabled thermal imagery devices that help a militant to escape security cordons especially during night have been found in the militancy-hit Kashmir valley, officials here said on Sunday.

They said some of the signatures of Iridium satellite phones have been found in cyber space since February. It started from North Kashmir and now there have been some spots in parts of South Kashmir as well, they said.

These satellite phones could be part of the consignment dumped by the allied forces while leaving Afghanistan or may have been snatched by the Taliban or militants fighting there, the officials said.

They said there is no need to panic as the movement of these phones was being specially monitored and those using them would definitely be in custody soon or get neutralised, the officials said.

Bodies like the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) and the Defence Intelligence Agencies



(DIA) have been tasked with finding and giving out real-time information about the presence of these satellite phones in the Kashmir valley, they said.

In the aftermath of the 2008 Mumbai attacks, the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) first restricted the use of Iridium and Thuraya satellite phones and infrastructure, and in 2012 completely banned them under the provisions of the Indian Telegraph Act.

Passengers importing satellite telephone as baggage are required to declare them to the Customs on arrival at

immigration and customs checkpoints.

Also, the satellite phone declared by Customs can be allowed clearance subject to production of permission for use from the government's Department of Telecommunications.

The officials said that signatures of thermal imaging devices which can be connected to Wi-Fi have also been found from some of the encounter sites.

This device, which is not part of the Pakistani Army and may possibly have found its way into Kashmir **More on P7**

China Installs Mobile Towers On Ladakh Border

Agencies

Chushul (Ladakh): After China constructed a bridge over the Pangong lake in Ladakh, a senior official of the Chushul region has claimed that it has now installed mobile towers near its side of the border.

Chushul Councillor Konchok Stanzin in a tweet flagged the issue and claimed that three mobile towers have been installed near China's hot spring very close to the Indian territory. "After completing the bridge over Pangong lake, China has installed three mobile towers near China's hot spring very close to the Indian territory. Isn't it a concern? We don't even have 4G facilities in



human habitation villages. 11 villages in my constituency have no 4G facilities," Stanzin said.

Speaking to news agency ANI, the Councillor said pointed out that the towers could be used to observe

our territory and communicate details. He also claimed that China is "doing rapid infrastructure development" on its side of the border.

Urging the government to equally counterattack

China's move in terms of development, Stanzin alleged that in maximum border villages, India does not have 4G internet service. "In my constituency, out of 12, 11 villages do not have 4G internet facilities. We should take it seriously. We are lagging in the communication facility. We only have one mobile tower whereas on their side, they have nine towers," he said.

In February this year, Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan had informed the Lok Sabha a bridge was being constructed by China on Pangong lake in areas that have continued to be under the illegal occupation of China since 1962, adding that **More on P7**

“We are building a society that stands firmly on the foundation of equality and social justice”

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

14

CRORE

ESI BENEFICIARIES

GIVING THE COUNTRY THE POWER TO BECOME SELF-RELIANT

New Steps Taken for Insured Workers and Families during Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

- Health Check-up Programme for the Insured Workers in Industrial Clusters of 15 Cities – Patna, Alwar, Jaipur, Bengaluru, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Varanasi, Indore, Kollam, Pune, Delhi, Guwahati, Faridabad, Kolkata, and Hyderabad.
- Special drive for redressal of grievances and settlement of claims of Workers and Beneficiaries.

To avail the benefits of this special drive and Health Check-up Programme, please contact your nearest ESIC Office/ Hospital



Ministry of Labour & Employment
Government of India



Employees' State Insurance Corporation

For more information, please call Toll Free Number 1800-11-2526

Eye Problems, Dementia Common Post Covid Recovery

Some of them have also had dementia, memory loss, and hair loss. The texture of the skin has also deteriorated in some people. Weight loss of 15-20 kg has also been reported in some patients. Some have lost their appetite and are unable to regain it

Press Trust Of India

Breathlessness, eye problems, muscle weakness, dementia, weight loss, concentration issues and disturbed sleep cycle have been commonly observed among people months after recovery from coronavirus infection, healthcare specialists said.

They said that even though cases of COVID-19 were plateauing in India, many instances of long Covid were being observed with varied symptoms.

There is no definitive number of long-Covid patients officially. But according to World Health Organisation, current evidence suggests approximately 10-20 per cent of people experience a variety of mid and long-term effects after they recover from the initial infection.

It is usually seen three months from the onset of Covid infection and lasts for at least two months.

India has recorded the second-highest number of COVID-19 cases after the US. In India, as many as 4,30,40,947 people contracted the infection and 5,21,747 people lost their lives due to the disease.

Dr Rakesh Pandit, senior consultant and head of the department of internal medicine at Aakash Healthcare, Dwarka, said the age group of 25 to 50 years has been hit hardest by long Covid.

"The lungs of those who were on Non-Invasive Ventilation or ventilator assistance during the Covid waves are now showing permanent damage. Long Covid also has an impact on the neurological system, kidneys, gastrointestinal tract, and neuromuscular and musculoskeletal systems," he told PTI.

The doctor said progressive dyspnea, a condition characterised by breathlessness, is one of the most typical symptoms of long Covid.

"Acute respiratory distress syndrome is another serious symptom, and some people have been discovered to have lasting lung damage. Musculoskeletal weakness and proximal muscle weakness have also been reported.

"Some of them have also had dementia, memory loss, and hair loss. The texture of the skin has also deteriorated in some people. Weight loss of 15-20 kg has also been reported in some patients. Some have lost their appetite and are unable to regain it," Dr Pandit said.

Pandit said some of his patients have also experienced eye problems.

Dr Vikas Maurya, the head of the department and director of pulmonology at Fortis Hospital in Delhi's Shalimar Bagh said long-Covid symptoms seen in patients include increased heart rate, loss of smell and taste, depression and anxiety, fever, dizziness while standing, and worsening of these symptoms after physical or mental activity.

"These symptoms are severe in patients with comorbidities and the elderly. Patients who had mild Covid can exhibit these symptoms as well. It is important to rule out other causes and symptoms before diagnosing it as long-Covid," he said.

Long-Covid clinic

Given the recent spurt in Covid cases reported in some states, Dr Maurya stressed the importance of forming a post-Covid clinic/ long-Covid clinic, in hospitals because many patients may require multi-speciality treatment.

The clinic should include cardiologists, neurologists, pulmonologists and ENT specialists, among others, he said.

"Pulmonologists have a comparatively bigger role in treating these patients because most Covid cases have lung involvement. These specialities under one roof will help patients get better and more effective treatment," Dr Maurya said.

"We have also seen patients come in with stroke and other cardiac issues. These patients must consult doctors who have been treating them and are aware of their medical condition." These symptoms can affect patients both physically and mentally as well. So, it becomes important that they are treated in a systematic and better way, Dr Maurya added.

Dr Shuchin Bajaj, Founder Director, of Ujala Cygnus Group of Hospitals, said, "The main treatment for a lot of long-Covid symptoms that we have seen is supportive." "We don't have any specific treatment for long Covid. Supportive and symptomatic treatment in the form of painkillers or multi-vitamins, rehabilitation therapy, yoga, physical therapy are some of the things that we try and many have been successful," he added.

Dr Sushila Kataria, Senior Director, Internal Medicine at Medanta Hospital in Gurgaon said the only way to deal with long Covid is through paced and regular exercise, a nutritious diet, an activity that calms the mind.

"Also go back to your primary doctor and keep consulting him on what can be done. As of now, there are only a few patients coming in with tiredness and lethargy. One or two patients a day come in with these complaints which form 15 per cent of my patient load. Typically long Covid patients tend to start feeling better after six months. But this depends on the individual," the doctor said.

Apples Weren’t Always Big, Juicy And Sweet — Ancient Ones Were Small And Bitter

The Conversation

When biting into a large, sweet apple from the local grocery store, it's easy to take the characteristics of our modern fruits for granted.

We don't often consider the long history of migration and improvement, both random and intentional, that has led to the seemingly perfect apples we enjoy today.

Were the apples of our past always delicious? Where did our apples come from and how much have they changed?

The origins of the apple can be traced back to the Tian Shen mountains in modern-day Kazakhstan, where the wild ancestor of apples, *Malus sieversii*, still grows in forests today.

The largest city in Kazakhstan, Almaty, derives its name from the Kazakh word *Almatau* meaning "apple mountain."

Archeological evidence suggests that human cultivation of apples began at least 5,000 years ago.

During the last five millennia, our human ancestors transported apple seeds first across Asia via the Silk Road and eventually across the world.

But these ancient apples are quite different from the varieties we are accustomed to today. Wild apples are often small, acidic and bitter and generally not something you would pay USD 8.80/kg for.

Our research group compared today's cultivated apples (varieties grown on farms like Honeycrisp and McIntosh) to the fruits of their wild ancestors, *Malus sieversii*, to quantify how apple fruits have changed over thousands of years.

Our experiment made use of Canada's Apple Biodiversity Collection, an orchard in Nova Scotia containing over 1,000 different apple varieties from around the world, both wild and cultivated.

Growing trees from the mountains of Kazakhstan alongside cultivated varieties allowed our research team to make direct comparisons between today's apples and the wild apples of the ancient past.

Our study revealed that cultivated apples are 3.6 times heavier and 43 per cent less acidic than their wild counterparts.



The apples we see in supermarkets today are both larger and more palatable than those that fed our ancestors.

This dramatic change in acidity, which contributes to the sourness of apples, suggests that the apples we enjoy today are much tastier than those of the past.

In addition, cultivated apples contain 68 per cent less phenolic content than wild apples. Phenolic compounds are bioactive substances in fruits that are linked to improved human health outcomes.

However, phenolic compounds also contribute to bitter taste, meaning the apples of today taste much less bitter than their ancestral counterparts.

It's likely that, over many centuries, humans chose to grow apples with less bioactive molecules in favour of those with a less bitter taste, resulting in decreased phenolic content in cultivated apples over time.

These results give us some insight into the taste preferences of our ancestors. Humans of the past likely selected apples that were heavier, providing more food for more people, and less acidic and phenolic, making them more palatable.

A large proportion of these dramatic changes happened as a result of our ancestors choosing which apple varieties to bring along with them as they migrated around the world.

Over hundreds of generations, our ancestors selected apples that had traits that suited their needs, effectively conducting a long-term apple improvement experiment.

In the past 200 years, apple breeding programmes have been more deliberate and more sophisticated, using modern techniques and technologies to make apples better faster.

Our group combined historical records with fruit trait data from our orchard to investigate trends in fruit characteristics among commercial varieties generated from the last 200 years of breeding.

Our investigation found that more recently released commercial apple varieties have better storage capabilities, contain more soluble solids (sugars) and have less phenolic content.

Recent efforts to improve our apples have been focused on keeping fruits fresh for longer and making them taste sweeter.

Highly Creative People’s Brains Appear To Work Differently From Others: Study

ANI

A new study has found that highly creative people appear to work differently than others, with their creativity makes them enjoy the work and they can do it quickly.

The findings of the study were published in the journal, 'Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts'.

Exceptionally creative visual artists and scientists -- called "Big C" creative types -- volunteered to undergo functional MRI brain imaging, giving researchers in psychiatry, behavioural sciences and psychology a look at how regions of the brain connected and interacted when called upon to perform tasks that put creative thinking to the test.

"Our results showed that highly creative people had unique brain connectivity that tended to stay off the beaten path," said Ariana Anderson, a professor and statistician at the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA, the lead author of the study.

Although the concept of creativity has been studied for decades, little is known about its biological bases, and even less is understood about the brain mechanisms of exceptionally creative people, said senior author Robert Bilder, director of the Tennenbaum Center for the Biology of Creativity at the Semel Institute.

This uniquely designed study included highly creative people representing two different domains of creativity -- visual arts and the sciences -- and used an IQ-matched comparison group to identify markers of creativity, not just intelligence. The researchers analyzed how connections were made between brain regions globally and locally.

"Exceptional creativity was associated with more random connectivity at the global scale -- a pattern that is less 'efficient' but would appear helpful in linking distant brain nodes to each other," Bilder said.

"The patterns in more local brain regions

varied, depending on whether people were performing tasks. Surprisingly, Big C creatives had more efficient local processing at rest, but less efficient local connectivity when performing a task demanding 'thinking outside the box,' he added.

Using airline route maps for comparison, the researchers said the Big C creatives' brain activity is akin to skipping flights to connecting hubs to get to a small city.

"In terms of brain connectivity, while everyone else is stuck in a three-hour layover at a major airport, the high creatives take private planes directly to a distant destination," Anderson said.

"This more random connectivity may be less efficient much of the time, but the architecture enables brain activity to 'take a road less travelled' and make novel connections," she added.

Bilder, who has more than 30 years of experience researching brain-behaviour relations, said, "The fact that Big C people had more efficient local brain connectivity, but only under certain conditions, may relate to their expertise. Consistent with some of our prior findings, they may not need to work as hard as other smart people to perform certain creative tasks."



Installation Of CCTV Cameras Traders Seek Monetary Assistance From Govt

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Many business unit owners in Srinagar are up in arms against the government order which directs them to install CCTV surveillance cameras.

Traders say they suffered financially during the coronavirus pandemic and they cannot afford expensive surveillance cameras.

Although many in the business fraternity have welcomed the government directive, small business owners say buying cameras is beyond their monetary reach.

Firdous Malik owns a small furnishing store in the Hawal area of Srinagar. Despite being in the furnishing business

for decades, he says he will not install cameras by his own will.

"If the government is serious about the order, they should come forward and help traders with monetary assistance" Malik said.

A survey in the markets of Srinagar city suggests the minimal cost for installing a CCTV setup ranges from 15,000 to 20,000 Rupees.

Traders say the amount is high for the small business establishments they own.

Syed Sajad, who owns a grocery store welcomes the government decision but voiced monetary concerns.

"It is a welcome decision but the administration needs to understand that an ordinary shopkeeper cannot afford to in-



stall the camera setup", he said. "Government should provide financial assistance to

those who cannot afford it" he added.

Recently, Chamber of Com-

merce and Industry Kashmir CCIK President Tariq Rashid Ghani urged the government to provide financial assistance to the traders for the purchase of CCTV cameras.

The CCIK President said every trader can't afford to install CCTV cameras and thus should be limited to big business houses who can afford it.

He, however, said the government can encourage traders to install the surveillance cameras by offering it on subsidized rates and installments through financial implications.

After the request of the CCIK President, SSP Srinagar agreed to allow more time to traders till Eid for the installation of surveillance cameras.

DIAL-EMMA



- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-245092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS

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



**HIJRI
CALENDAR**
16 Ramazan
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 30
ZUHR	12:32
ASR	5:12
Magrib	7:07
ISHA	8: 33

This Day In History

- 310 - St Eusebius begins his reign as Catholic Pope
- 387 - Bishop Ambrosius of Milan baptizes Augustinus
- 1025 - Boleslaw Chrobry is crowned in Gniezno, becoming the first King of Poland
- 1506 - The cornerstone of the current St. Peter's Basilica is laid in the Vatican
- 1518 - Bona Sforza is crowned queen consort of Poland
- 1521 - Diet of Worms: Cardinal Alexander questions Martin Luther
- 1552 - Mauritius of Saksen occupies Linz
- 1663 - Osman declares war on Austria
- 1666 - Peace of Kleeef: Netherlands & bishop Von Galen of Munster
- 1676 - Sudbury, Massachusetts, attacked by Indians
- 1688 - "Germantown Quaker Petition Against Slavery": Francis Daniel Pastorius authors 1st formal written protest against African-American slavery in English colonies in Germantown, Pennsylvania
- 1738 - Real Academia de la Historia ("Royal Academy of History") founded in Madrid
- 1775 - Paul Revere and William Dawes ride from Charlestown to Lexington warning the "regulars are coming!"
- 1783 - Fighting ceases in the American Revolution, eight years to the day when it began
- 1797 - France & Austria sign ceasefire
- 1809 - First run of 2,000 guineas horse race at Newmarket, England
- 1848 - American victory at the battle of Cerro Gordo opens the way for invasion of Mexico.
- 1861 - Battle of Harpers Ferry, Virginia, part of the Maryland Campaign (US Civil War)
- 1869 - 1st international cricket match, held in SF,

From KO Archives

And A Golden Era Comes To An End

Admirers Bid Tearful Farewell To Nazki

Observer News service

Srinagar- Mir Ghulam Rasool Nazki, a legend of Persian, Urdu and Kashmiri, besides being well versed with Arabic and English, who bid adieu to this world yesterday evening, was laid to rest at his final abode in Malakha grounds, amidst recitation of verses from holy Quran.

Large number of people from different walks of life were present when the body of Nazki, draped in white shroud, was lowered inside the grave. Many of them, were seen sobbing, some with swollen red eyes, wiping their tears.

Almost all the sections of the society were present at the funeral. There were poets, scholars, writers, critics, religious leaders, activists of different political parties, journalists, media personnel and last but not the least the poor and ordinary people of Khatidarwaza locality, where Nazki spent most of his lifetime. "We have been orphaned" said Mohammad Ismail, around 60, adding that "Baday Nazki sahib hamari her tarah say madad kiya kartay thay" (The elder Nazki would always help us).

The funeral procession started this morning from Nazki's Shivpora house and jenaza was offered at Syed Sahib's shrine at Sonawar. From theme the funeral procession left for Malakah cemetery, but not before another jenaza being offered at Kathidarwaza, with Nazki's old neighbours insisting on that.

The burial took place well before Friday prayers and thus came an end to an era which in! Kashmir literature will be written in golden letters, not be forgotten ever.

Hardly few minutes before his end came, Nazki, who had written epitaph of thousands of men of letters, politicians and friends, penned his own epitaph down, in Kashmiri and handed it over to his poet son Farooq Nazki. The epitaph not only communicates his date of death but also of his infinite love for Prophet Mohammed (SAW) as he begged of His mercy. "The end is nearing, and this sweating on my body, this is the last time you will see it" Nazki is said to have told one of close friends Qazi Ghulam Rasool, who happened to be with him at the time of death. In his epitaph, Nazki is said to have written about all the details regarding his last rites, asking his son Farooq to abide by his directions strictly.

(Kashmir Observer, 18 April, 1998)











Cleanliness gives new identity to nation

People's participation earns global recognition

Cleanliness is national character of new India. Every citizen is now committed for a garbage and waste free nation

- Every village and city became open defecation free, assured dignified life by constructing toilets in over **11.5 crore** houses
- More than **58 thousand** villages and more than **33 hundred** cities became ODF Plus
- Assured availability of toilets at every place by constructing more than **8.2 lakh** Community Sanitation Complexes in villages and cities
- Four-fold increase in waste disposal in urban areas - from **26 thousand tonnes per day** in 2013-14 to **1 lakh tonnes per day** in 2021-22
- Door to door garbage collection in **87 thousand** urban wards through fleet of **2.5 lakh** garbage collection vehicles
- More than **350** biogas plants in **232 districts** under Gobardhan Yojana for disposal and optimum utilisation of cow dung, excellent example of waste to wealth
- Construction of **1 million** community and household soak-pits for grey water management under Sujalam Abhiyan; Better water management in **1.4 lakh** villages
- Nationwide mass campaign for disposal and reuse of **single use plastics**
- Special emphasis on conservation and cleanliness of historical and cultural heritage sites – Improvement in cleanliness and maintenance standards of **39 heritage sites**
- Swachh Sarvekshans promoted healthy competition among the organisations and generated mass awareness and public participation, Feedback received from **10 crore** people

“The journey of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to date is really going to make every countryman proud. It also has the mission, pride, aspirations of a country and love for the motherland. Behind its success is the contribution, hard work and sweat of every citizen.”

-Narendra Modi

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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Twitter Talks



“Residents in smart metre areas will soon plead with the power dept to take the gadgets back if power situation had to turn so bad. NO, they say, it's gone WORSE, Ridiculous with capital R”

@islahmufti

“ As the international mainstream media coverage of what is happening in Jerusalem is weak, uses biased terms, and deals with the colonizer & the colonized equally, I think activists can change this through a set of tactics included in this thread. Amplify Palestinian voices, through sharing their content & their documentation of human rights violations and invite your friends to follow Palestinian lead platforms/ organizations such as @IMEU @QastalNewsEn @EyeonPalestine @Mondoweiss. While sharing your content about Palestine keep in mind that the colonizer (Israel) and colonized (Palestinians) aren't equal. Therefore, you should use the terms that describe this difference in powers. Interact with Palestinian-related content & follow Palestinian activists who are sharing their stories & narratives on social media & help them challenge the biased algorithms. Keep in mind that SM companies already started to suppress Palestine-related content”

@Monashtayya

OTHER OPINION

Hope and Caution

Crops, like humans, need water and nutrients to survive and grow. There's room for optimism on the first, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicting a normal southwest monsoon: Rainfall is expected to be 99 per cent of the historical average for the country during June-September. The sanguine forecast is based on “La Niña” conditions prevailing and likely to continue through the four-month monsoon season. La Niña is the opposite of El Niño — an abnormal warming of the eastern Pacific waters usually causing heavy rains around South America, but also drought in the other western end whose effects percolate to India. Besides La Niña, which is generally favourable for the Indian monsoon, the IMD is counting on a “neutral” Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD). A “negative” IOD, wherein the eastern Indian Ocean waters off Indonesia and Australia turn unusually warm relative to the western part, is considered bad for the monsoon. The IMD believes that this time there will be La Niña and “neutral” IOD, at least till early in the season.

That hope — of a fourth consecutive normal monsoon — is somewhat negated when it comes to plant nutrients. India is today facing a tight supply position, especially in phosphatic and potassic fertilisers, ahead of the kharif sowings that will start with the monsoon. The country imports its entire muriate of potash (MOP) requirements. While it does manufacture phosphatic and complex fertilisers, their raw materials and intermediates — mainly rock phosphate, sulphur, phosphoric acid and ammonia — are largely imported. In the last one year, global prices of finished fertilisers and ingredients have doubled or trebled. The war in Ukraine — Russia was the world's largest and its

next-door ally Belarus the sixth largest fertiliser exporter in 2020 — has only worsened things. Hardly any new imports have been contracted in the past two months, with companies unsure whether the government will allow them to pass on the higher prices or absorb the burden through increased subsidy rates.

What can the government do apart from announcing higher subsidy — which it must, to ensure adequate availability of nutrients by May-end? It should immediately launch a campaign to promote single super phosphate and complex fertilisers like 20:20:0:13 and 10:26:26. These contain less phosphorus or potash than di-ammonium phosphate and MOP, but farmers can be shown ways to apply them in the right dosage (along with farmyard manure, compost and organic wastes) without sacrificing crop yields. Use of high-analysis fertilisers is a luxury for a country with hardly any natural gas, rock phosphate, potash or elemental sulphur reserves. The government should also actively engage with countries such as Canada, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Senegal, Togo, even Russia and Belarus, to contract more supplies, both for kharif and the next rabi season.

The Indian Express



Frankly Speaking

The scary transition of children from a life of innocence into the challenges of adolescence needs a lot of guidance — but our kids find themselves alone

Anam Mukhtar

“Youngsters, especially young girls, often face sexual harassment in public spaces. They have no space to share it with their parents and guardians as this would amount to them losing access to public life freely. Additionally, trivial teenage matters may escalate into sexual offences

PARENTHOOD is never easy, with most parents in Kashmir using the same plan of action as was passed on to them. Kashmir seems all the more rooted in the prude and retributive outlook on how parents should handle their children. This paves the way for children to establish unwanted barriers between their parents and themselves with the fear of punishment.

This creates a very dangerous no-talk zone between children and parents. The scary transition of children from a life of innocence into the challenges of adolescence needs a lot of guidance — but our kids find themselves alone.

We see that parents lay out certain rules that they want their children to abide by without any justification for doing so. This hinders a child from thoroughly understanding the impact of an action. As a result, they aim to hide things rather than not indulging in them. More than 600,000 youngsters in Jammu and Kashmir are drug addicts owing to the lack of preventive measures in the Union Territory. We do not know what drives youngsters to drug abuse. However, if conversation was open and friendly between parents and children, it would have saved a lot of children from resorting to this momentary high to evade a stress they can't navigate. The growing HIV cases in Kashmir are also increasing and doctors have already bugled the alarms calling it the next big crisis that our society is going to face.

Parents need to understand that children are stepping into this world of newness with many questions in mind. Not talking about some realities that children and adolescents are confronted with doesn't make them absent. Like it or not, your children know that people get into relationships, they may even be in one, they may have adolescent

attractions and worse still, they may have been lured into compromising content that is life altering.

It makes no sense having silence around this issues. Take your wise call for your children. However, help them navigate these. If there's fear, there will be no honesty. Chances are great that your children end up in a crisis they have no wisdom to address. Adolescent relationships can lead one into some adult crisis. If you don't let your children be open to you, how can you protect your children?

Doing something bad for the first time for the sake of knowing what it means is horrific. But children are not to blame because they'll keep seeking answers for what they were essentially to know from their parents. A young person is impressionable and can be lured to do things that they think give them a feeling of being an adult. Instead of letting all the hell loose on them when they do happen to be involved in relationships, we can walk them through with a reality check and allow them the space to reflect rather than forcing them to quit out of fear rather than understanding. Remember, force is never a suitable means to terminate an action because it isn't sought from the point of logic.

Youngsters, especially young girls, often face sexual harassment in public spaces. They have no space to share it with their parents and guardians as this would amount to them losing access to public life freely. Additionally, trivial teenage matters may escalate into sexual offences. Often young adult children hide these instances even when they're devastating. They fear that they will be reprimanded for getting into trouble and end up landing in more trouble. You can expect your children to have certain values and boundaries. But they will not always have the capacity to uphold

these, when so young. It is best to always keep open the lines of communication and help them uphold these values more wisely.

You can't handle a situation without first being taken into confidence by your children. The biggest milestone is reached when kids confide in you, telling you how their day was and what all wasn't that rosy. However, Kashmiri parents take children clearing the air with them as a sign of boldness which signifies them wavering off their track. It is okay for parents to want their children not to do bad things but for them to know that it's bad out of the blue is pure ignorance. Nowadays, children have a higher scope of landing into undesirable situations than before because of the increased access. Thus, more responsibility for parents to keep everything in balance.

You can't give your children the phone and not expect them to tour the parts of the internet which are not children friendly. What you are kept away from is what you get attracted to know more about. Instead of avoiding giving them undeniable access, you can make them understand the ills of practice with reason. They won't look at you differently, nor will they think any less of you. In fact, they are more likely to look up to you for moral guidance. The problem with parents in Kashmir is that they want distance from their children's minds and yet want everything to do with their lives. We need to come to an agreement with what we want, which is a child's benefit and then see if our actions are moving closer or retracting from it.

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

Recently, India achieved a milestone in exports with \$418Billion in the 2021-22 fiscal, crossing \$400 Billion first time in history. It is conceived that it'll further increase in years to come especially by Free trade agreements (CEPA) between India and UAE and ECTA between India and Australia where 96% of Indian products will have zero-duty access to Australian market. Besides these two historic agreements, the country is looking forward to signing FTA with Israel, Canada, UK and the European Union which will indeed further boost trade.

But what is more important and

can't be ruled out is the trade deficit or import bill especially in the sphere of edible oil. The country's edible oil import bill rose from about 65,000 crore in 2018-19 to 1.5 lakh crore in 2020-21 even though there has been a slight decrease in the volume of imports. Now, what has added to the miseries is the war in eastern Europe which has triggered a sharp rise in the all food items especially in edible oils as India accounts 15% of sunflower oil import from Ukraine.

The clouds of miseries casted by the skyrocketing prices of essential commodities especially vegetable oils have been hardly hitting the poor and unorganized workers. Nevertheless,

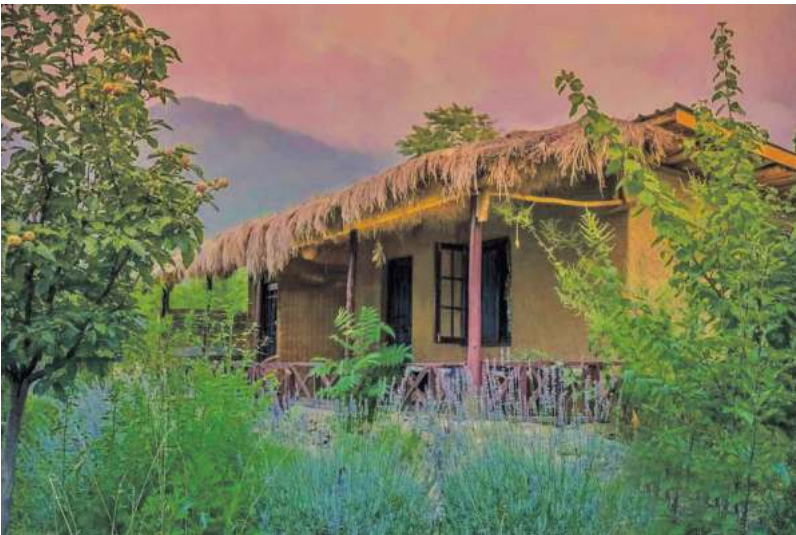
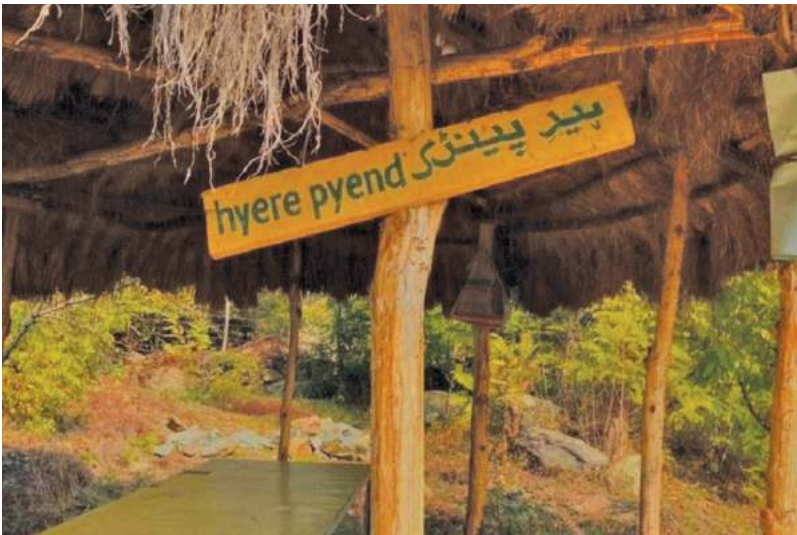
they are running out of one or another essential item and it is said that if nothing would be done to contain inflation, the lower strata wouldn't be further able to sustain the surge in prices.

It has been argued that MSP regime which guarantees procurement of produce has made the farmers stick to wheat-paddy cultivation for decades and the policymaker's unwillingness to grant the MSP and incentivise the farmers of Punjab and Haryana who could have played major role in the domestic production of edible oils have further made them ignore crop diversification. With around 100 edible oil refineries

or solvent extractors dominated by MSMEs in Punjab and Haryana have a bigger role to play in order to boost India's oil seed productions but this can only be achieved if the production linked incentive scheme is applied there and the more better way to motivate the farmers to opt for the oil seed production is to assure them of remunerative prices. And along with setting new records in exports, the policymakers must ensure to reduce the edible oil dependency by taking every possible.

Khan Bilal
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Ideas, Innovation, Innocence— Inside Kashmir’s Eco-Entrepreneurship Fest



Ayat Tramboo

AFTER being fortunately misguided by a local inhabitant, I wandered through vibrant greens, hills, streams and a gorgeous cloud view of the village before I reached Sagg.

Walking in to attend the first-of-its-kind festival on Ecological Entrepreneurship—the event highlighting the growing need of incorporating eco-friendly ways in building businesses, I found positive affirmations hanging by the walls all around.

“Wound is where light enters you” inscribed on a plank of wood, welcomes visitors into a fresh perspective towards life.

As the event began with a tour around the campus, I walked by farms, swings, tree house, recycling and waste

segregation systems, compost toilets, classrooms and cozy stay rooms decorated with the wisest sayings.

Stepping in one stay room, I breathed in natural air that felt clearly better and different from the city remix.

Nestled nearly 9 kilometers from the main hustle of Ganderbal village, Sagg Eco village is an entire world in itself.

Driven by the core value of ‘faith over fear’, Sagg aims at bringing positive behavioral changes in individuals through its various educational and counseling services and works towards normalizing eco-friendly lifestyle choices and businesses.

Over the years many successful businesses have been established and run at the cost of ecological stability, reducing the quality of nature to increase valuations and prof-

its leading up to this moment where making every business eco-friendly is no longer a choice but an essential step towards reviving the stability in nature and preserving it from further disruption.

One of the most beautiful areas around Sagg was the classroom and library where learning spaces and services are provided to kids in their absolute basic learning stage.

But this learning isn’t about what’s written in the books, it’s about what no one cared to put in a book for them.

At Sagg, kids are given basic life lessons about accountability, responsibility, savings, expenditure, creativity, might, imagination and innovation.

The classrooms are covered with charts and art-pieces created by the kids themselves giving a view into how at Sagg, the young ones are made to



In its establishing years, very few people stood by the idea of its foundation, many were unable to see a future it in, many questioned its possibility but Sagg was destined to thrive and here it is providing a home away from home to campers, bikers, trekkers, wanderers and explorers

focus on things that will bring them closer to themselves later in life when they’ll find themselves drifting away with the speed of the world.

The event was spoken at by various entrepreneurs with one common motive of bringing ecological stability into every business.

An attempt was made to resolve the commonly appearing doubts about the profitability of eco-friendly businesses. The panelists spoke about how crucial it has now become to start assessing and repairing the damage done to the eco-system.

The panelists invited eco-friendly business ideas and offered mentoring to the young students who had come to attend the festival. They also spoke about the importance of a vast imagination in the success of any business.

During the break, a curious toddler was attracted towards the microphone and speakers set up on the stage area for the panel discussion to be held right after.

The kid reached to the mic, took it closer to his mouth and started experimenting different pitches of his voice, amused by how the mic amplified his tone. With a sparkling smile on his face, he spoke into the mic for as long as it took him to extinguish his curiosity.

It caught my attention how the organizers and the maintaining staff was standing nearby but no one thought of taking the mic away from the kid, no one thought of punishing the kid for being a kid and no one dared to expect the kid to act like an adult.

While some visitors held on to a facial expression that

implied repulsion to the silly noise the kid made, I could see the organizers standing and smiling at the kid as he went through a natural process of learning.

The journey of Sagg in itself is an example of drive and dedication and resembles thousands of people who fight towards a goal no matter what.

In its establishing years, very few people stood by the idea of its foundation, many were unable to see a future it in, many questioned its possibility but Sagg was destined to thrive and here it is providing a home away from home to campers, bikers, trekkers, wanderers and explorers.

A peaceful shelter for thinkers, believers and writers, if Sagg were to be explained in two words, it can rightly be called a dreamer’s paradise.

For The Rozaydar: The More You Eat, The Hungrier You'll Get

Alina Islam

TIME TO BRING OUT THE PAKORAS!

Sometimes, I think that should be the unofficial title for Ramadan in Pakistan. Pakoras, samosas, kebabs, chaat masala (on everything), jalebis, bottles of Rooh Afza – just like any other Pakistani, these foods evoke a wave of pleasant nostalgia at the very mention, and are deeply embedded in my memories of Ramadan, of eating till I’m stuffed at an elaborate iftaar meal, staying up late till sehri, napping until maghrib, and attending iftaar parties over the weekend.

However, in recent years, I’ve taken some time out to think why we take part in Ramadan in the first place. The words that come to mind are self-discipline, self-improvement, mental purity, and spiritual rejuvenation. When I was honest with myself, I knew that my typical eating and sleeping habits during Ramadan made me feel tired, sluggish, and sometimes, I felt like I was taking part in a big pre-Eid party rather than a month of self-improvement.

That said, as both a Muslim aiming for self-improvement and as an ever-evolving Holistic Nutritionist, I’d like to share some tips that have improved my experience of Ramadan. While I still indulge in the occasional treat at iftaar, I practice the habits listed below on a daily basis during Ramadan to make me feel less hungry, more energised, and more in control than I ever have in the past.



“Try not to have these present at the iftaar table, but if that seems too drastic for now, simply make less of these items so that you only eat a few bites. Keep in mind that if you’re only eating for a few hours in the day, you want to make sure you are eating the most nutrient-dense foods possible

HAVE IFTAAR AND DINNER AS TWO SEPARATE MEALS:

The human brain takes about 20 minutes to register the feeling of fullness in the stomach. I typically break my fast with dates, water and a fruit salad, followed

by prayer. It’s good practice to eat fruit salad first so that you’re filling up on fruit instead of fried food.

AVOID DROWNING YOUR MEAL IN WATER:

Having large amounts of wa-

ter with food dilutes stomach acid, making digestion more difficult. Aim to have lots of water upon breaking your fast, but then, only take small sips throughout alongside food during dinner.

TAKE A MULTIVITAMIN:

Realistically, you won’t be getting all the nutrients you need for the day during Ramadan, so either take a good quality multivitamin, nutritional shake

or nutrient-dense greens powder (e.g. wheatgrass) to supplement your food intake.

HAVE SOMETHING GREEN AT EACH MEAL:

Seems simple, but between the parathas, omelettes, choley, dahi baray and curries, are you really getting enough or any vegetables in?

Aim to have a salad, sautéed or steamed vegetables, or a green juice or smoothie at each meal to ensure an adequate intake of micronutrients (vitamins and minerals) for the day ahead.

MINIMISE FRIED FOOD AND SUGAR:

Try not to have these present at the iftaar table, but if that seems too drastic for now, simply make less of these items so that you only eat a few bites. Keep in mind that if you’re only eating for a few hours in the day, you want to make sure you are eating the most nutrient-dense foods possible.

Fried foods are damaging to overall health, and sweet treats will send your blood sugar skyrocketing, leading to a sugar crash later on and fueling unnecessary cravings.

MAKE A SMOOTHIE:

Wanting to eat something in the morning can be difficult, so I often make a smoothie as a way to get in fresh fruits and vegetables. Adding in some creamy avocado, coconut milk, oats or a scoop of protein powder also helps to make it more filling.

EAT REAL FOOD:

By real food, I mean anything that doesn’t come in a packaged box e.g. crackers, cookies, chips, frozen food, fruit yogurt etc. This will ensure that you’re avoiding preservatives, artificial colours and fillers, and instead opt for whole foods such as vegetables, fruits, nuts and seeds, lentils, beans, whole grains, eggs, fish, chicken and lean meat.

PARTICIPATE IN LIGHT ACTIVITY:

If you regularly work out and then sit around for a month during Ramadan, your body will start feeling new aches and pains. While I still struggle with doing a workout while fasting, I make sure to stay active with long walks, stretching or yoga at home to stay limber.

SLEEP ON TIME:

You get the most regenerative sleep between the hours of 10pm and 2am. If you consistently skip over these hours of sleep, you will feel more fatigued the following day.

Secondly, staying up late interferes with the natural cycle of repair and restoration, which creates a more disease-prone environment inside the body.

DON’T OVEREAT:

Did you know that the more you eat, the hungrier you’ll get? If you overload your gut with food, it will learn to expect that more food is coming. Try eating a lighter meal at sehri and iftaar, and you’ll notice that you feel less hungry throughout the day.

– Dawn

Govt School Found Shut During Working Hours, Teachers Suspended

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Teachers of a government middle school here were placed under suspension after the institution was found shut during working hours, an official spokesman said on Sunday.

The Chief Education Officer of Jammu ordered the suspension of the staff members -- a master and four teachers -- of the Government Middle School

Pounthal in Gandhi Nagar Zone after it was found closed during working hours on Saturday.

"As soon as it was reported that the school was locked during office hours, a team...was asked to visit the school and enquire into the matter, the spokesman said.

On the basis of the report submitted by the visiting team, all the five teachers have been suspended till further orders, the spokesman said.

Bus Driven Dangerously Seized By Authorities In Udhampur

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district have seized a bus after a video showing the vehicle being driven dangerously was widely circulated on social media, an official spokesperson said on Sunday.

In the video, the driver of the bus, plying on the Udhampur-Lander village route, was seen driving dangerously, the official said.

"The motor vehicle department in Udhampur took swift action and seized the vehicle for dangerous driving and for put-

ting human lives at risk, one of contravention of the Motor Vehicle Act," the official said.

Proceedings have been initiated for suspension of driver's driving license and the route permit, spokesperson said.

The official added that another vehicle on the same route has also been seized for plying without documents.

CPI(M) demands restoration of the legitimate rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and immediate halt to the hard-line security and law and order approach

FCIK Delegation Calls On MD JK Bank

Business Community Is Our Strength: Baldev Prakash

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A delegation of Federation Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) led by its president, Shahid Kamili called on MD & CEO J&K Bank, Baldev Prakash here at Corporate Headquarters of the Bank.

President Syed Rais Maqbool, Vice Presidents Syed Shujaat Andrabi and Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat, Zonal Head Srinagar Syed Shafat Hussain and other senior officials of the Bank were also present in the meeting wherein the delegation put forth a charter of their concerns while highlighting the problems faced by industrial sector in the valley.

After giving a patient hearing to the delegation's concerns and requests, MD & CEO, Baldev Prakash acknowledged that the relationship between Bank and the businesses was mutually beneficial.

MD & CEO said, "Business community is our strength. If you earn, we earn. If you make profit, we make profit. While benefitting mutually, together we have to progress and work towards the larger developmental goals of this place in terms of industry as well as commerce."

Regarding the charter, MD said that the Bank will look into each one of their concerns and suggestions.

"However, the Bank has to comply strictly with the regulatory guidelines which limits its scope of action despite under-

standing the situation of its borrowers. We have to make sure that public money is recovered", he said.

Expressing complete sympathy for small borrowers of J&K, he asserted that the Bank will certainly try to bring such borrowers under the ambit of OTS scheme in line with the regulatory provisions in vogue.

Earlier, FCIK delegation led by Shahid Kamili likened the relationship between the Bank and Industry with a mother-son bond.

He said, "JK Bank has a huge importance in shaping up the socio-economic landscape in the region. And the Bank has played a major role in taking industrial sector forward in UT of J&K and we highly value our relationship with it."

"Over the last three years or so, we have suffered big time and there is dearth of capital in the sector, which can be filled by the Bank by formulating the requisite plans to bring about much needed economic revival", he added.

Hailing the Bank's OTS scheme as good step towards addressing the financial woes of businesses here, the delegation requested the Bank authorities to make few modifications in the scheme. "We can assure you that majority of borrowers want to repay their loans, therefore, small borrowers also need to be included in the ambit of the OTS scheme", the members added.

Palli Villagers In J&K Upbeat Over PM's Visit

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The residents of Palli in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district are upbeat over the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to their village, which is set to become the first carbon-free solar panchayat in the union territory.

From the macadamised roads to the recently launched electric bus service, the village located just 17 kms from the winter capital Jammu is witnessing a major transformation with an upgraded Panchayat Ghar, renovated government high school building, a new pond and improved playfields.

The work is going on at war-footing especially on the 500 KV solar plant which is being installed in a record time of nearly three weeks on a total area of 6,408 square metres to provide clean electricity to 340 houses in the model panchayat under the central government's Gram Urja Swaraj' programme.

A twenty-five member team is working round the clock to complete the Rs 2.75 crore project in the next couple of days before its formal inauguration by the prime minister during his visit to the village on April 24, chairman and managing director, Central Electronics Limited, Chetan Prakash Jain said.

He said the electricity generated will be distributed to the village, having a daily requirement of 2,000 units, through the local power grid station.

Deputy Commissioner, Samba, Anuradha Gupta has already distributed solar Chulhas' (stoves) among the beneficiaries in the village which has over 450 houses. The rest of the houses will be covered in the next phase after the prime minister's visit.

On the National Panchayati Raj



Day, the prime minister is scheduled to fly to Pali village from Jammu airport to address a gathering including over 30,000 Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members of Jammu and Kashmir besides around 700 panchayats across the country virtually.

This will be Modi's first visit to Jammu and Kashmir other than borders post the abrogation of the special status of J and K and bifurcation of the erstwhile state in August 2019.

He had celebrated Diwali with the Army jawans on October 27, 2019, at Rajouri and November 3, 2021, at Nowshera sector in Jammu division. His last visit to Jammu and Kashmir as a state was on February 3, 2019, when he had visited all three regions including Jammu, Srinagar and Ladakh and launched projects worth thousands of crores.

Modi is also expected to launch industrial investments worth Rs 70,000 crore and inaugurate and lay foundation for some developmental projects including two power projects.

Ravinder Sharma, local sarpanch affiliated with the BJP, said the village started witnessing the transformation after the central government successfully conducted the panchayati elections in November-December 2020 and empowered the grassroots level institutions by facilitating the three-tier panchayat raj system.

Our village set on the path of development amid free flow of funds and the prime minister's visit only speeded up some of the pending works, Sharma, who last year received the best sarpanch award on Republic Day, told PTL.

The launch of the electric bus service by the State Road Transport Corporation (SRTC) from the village to Jammu and the installation of the first ATM was a long pending demand of the panchayat, he said, adding the work on providing every household with tap water was going on for the past one year.

We are feeling proud that the prime minister has chosen our village to address the nation on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day. The village witnessed a lot of work over the past one month as officers of almost all departments are either camping in the village or regularly visiting to oversee the progress of developmental works, Bunty Kumar, a local, said.

He said almost all the households were connected with the tap water and are also being provided solar panels to ensure an uninterrupted power supply.

Meena, a teacher, is also ecstatic over the renovation of the government high school building and said both the students and teachers are working together to paint the walls and classrooms with various messages.

Vikram, another resident, said the village pond was restored along with the Panchayat Ghar with upgraded facilities including computers and internet connection, while the playfields are also being developed at a fast pace.

We are looking forward for the visit of the prime minister and want every part of the union territory is developed like our village, he said.

6 Policemen Injured In Clashes Over Land Dispute

Agencies

SRINAGAR: At least six policemen on Sunday were injured in clashes triggered by a land dispute between two parties in Beerwah area of central Kashmir's Budgam district.

A police official said that all but six policemen were in-

jured in Beerwah village after a scuffle over land dispute turned ugly with some people hurling stones on the police personnel, who had arrived on the spot to contain the melee.

"All the policemen have minor injuries and are being treated", he said.

Following the clashes, a cow-

shed belonging to a local, Mohammad Maqbool Dar, was also burnt by another party over the land dispute, which is sub-judice, as per police.

A case is being registered in this regard under relevant sections of law and further investigation is underway, the officer added. (KDC)

Apni Party Wants To Make J&K A Model State: Bukhari

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Condemning the divisive elements in society creating differences among the people, Apni Party President Altaf Bukhari on Sunday said his party wants to make Jammu and Kashmir a model state with respect to its culture, development and communal harmony.

He claimed that the traditional parties like the BJP, Congress, National Conference and PDP have always played divisive politics to garner votes from the people.

Asserting that playing politics on communal and regional approach is dangerous for Jammu and Kashmir, Bukhari said his party stands against such

elements.

The regional and communal politics have no place in the Apni Party as we believe in unity and equitable development of all regions. We are committed to develop backward areas equally with other areas of J&K, the former minister said, addressing a public meeting at Domana in the outskirts of Jammu.

He alleged that it was due to the divisive agenda pursued by the BJP, Congress, NC and PDP that the peace remained disturbed for long.

However, we will not allow anti-peace elements to flourish again, he said, adding the unnecessary division was created among the people by these tra-

ditional political parties to gain votes in elections.

He said they will not be able to create further divide among the people as both the regions have the same demands - restoration of Statehood, holding of assembly elections and protection of land and jobs for locals.

33,795 People Have So Far Registered For Amarnath Yatra

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Over 33,000 people have so far registered themselves for the annual pilgrimage to the cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir, officials said on Sunday.

The devotees are making a beeline for designated bank branches to secure a permit for undertaking the journey to the cave shrine in Liddar valley of south Kashmir Himalayas and paid obeisance to the naturally-formed ice-Shivlingam.

The 43-day yatra is scheduled to start on June 30 after the coronavirus pandemic enforced break of two years.

"As many as 33,795 pilgrims have registered for the yatra till Saturday," Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB), Nitishwar Kumar told PTL.

Kumar, who is personally monitoring the arrangements, said 22,229 pilgrims have been registered through online mode and 11,566 through offline mode (banks).

During the 43-day yatra, the journey to the cave shrine will 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 the pilgrims to track their movement en-route to ensure their well-being.

Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB), 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 yatra.

The registration has been going on at Punjab National Bank (PNB) branches in Rehari, Katra, Reasi, Akhnoor and Samba in Jammu and Kashmir besides 316 other branches across the country, officials said.

They 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.

Besides PNB, the registration is also being 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 is being done on a first come-first-serve basis for the yatra, which will culminate on the day of Raksha Bandhan (August 11).

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.

Militant Associate Held In Handwara: Police

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Sunday claimed to have arrested a militant associate in north Kashmir's Handwara.

Police along with 15RR at a checkpoint established at Sonmullah Crossing intercepted a suspicious person who on seeing joint naka party tried to flee from the spot but the alert party apprehended him tactfully, a police spokesperson said Sunday.

He identified the youth as Bashir Ahmad Kumar son of Ab Raheem Kumar resident of Li-

lum Vilgam.

The spokesman further said that during his personal search, incriminating materials, arms and ammunition including 01 Chinese Pistol, 02 Pistol Magazines, 13 live rounds of 9mm and a mobile phone were recovered from his possession.

Affiliation and involvement of the arrested militant associate is being ascertained, he said.

Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Vilgam and investigation has been initiated, reads the statement. (GNS)

COVID-19 FALLOUT

Health Dept Adds 87 Oxygen Plants In 2 Years To Meet Challenges

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir government's prompt response and multi pronged strategies towards tackling the global pandemic, COVID-19, has not been only able to flatten the epidemic curve swiftly but strengthened emergency health services manifold to meet impending health challenges more proficiently.

Although, a stupendous task, but the UT administration with the dint of its professional manpower and strategic planning achieved this success by developing clear guidelines for the public, conducting comprehensive testing, contact tracing and supporting people in quarantine to make compliance easier.

With intervention of Lieutenant Governor's administration and a good support from Government of India, the JK dispensation had been able to enhance its oxygen production capacity from 14916 lpm in Au-

gust, 2020 to 90300 lpm capacity at present. The UT had 24 oxygen plants in August, 2020 and 87 plants more plants had been added since then.

As Covid cases started surging, J&K like other states found itself struggling to contain the pandemic in all its forms. As the second wave struck, the demand for medical oxygen soared and tragic scenes unfolded with people struggling to access the life saving commodity. The sudden spurt in demand was compounded by the concentration of oxygen production in far eastern areas of the country. The number of cryogenic tankers needed to transport Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) was too few to cope with the sudden spike in demand from other places to J&K.

The government responded in several ways: additional tankers were brought from outside, supply of oxygen was geo-mapped and an online system was established to

track the real time movement of the commodity. Besides, establishment of Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) plants expedited and the procurement and distribution of oxygen concentrators was also stepped up.

Speaking on India's tryst with COVID-19 crisis, Prime Minister acknowledged it as the crisis of the century. Applauding the vigour and enthusiasm with which India faced the crisis, he said, "Through the efforts of all, from just one lab at the beginning of the pandemic we have now have 3000 testing labs in the country. The Government worked round the clock to boost production and supply of essentials such as N95 masks, PPE kits, ventilators. The movement to become Aatmanirbhar ensured self-sufficiency in all our capacities." He also mentioned the critical role played by Made-in-India ventilators and the Largest Vaccine Drive undertaken worldwide to combat COVID-19.

Notice to General Public

This is with regard the High Security Number plates of the following Vehicles bearing the following Registration Number:

JK01UA183 Bilal Ahmad Bhat
JK05P6551 Inshad Ahmad Bhat
JK05P9871 Sajad Ahmad Mir

That the supra mentioned vehicle owners have applied for fresh Number plates as they have lost the already issued High Security Number Plates

If anyone is having any objection with regards the same he/she can approach the ARTO Baramulla or ARTO Srinagar within 7 days hereafter after which no objection shall be entertained.

Vehicle owner
Inshad Ahmad Bhat
7051736969

B.K.D

Public Notice

I have lost my Discharge certificate issued by HAHIFA HIGH SCHOOL, DIALGAM. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if any body having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the above mentioned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

RAJA JUNAID ISHAQ
S/O MOHAMMAD ISHAQ BHAT
R/O KAMAD

ma

MANAGING COMMITTEE OF SABIR ABDULLAH SCHOOLANANTNAG (WANIHAMA DIALGAM)

S. No	Name	Parentage	Residence	Designation
1	Bilal Ahmad Mir	Habibullah Mir	Anchidoora	Chairman
2	Farha Farooq	Farooq Ahmad Kirmari	Anchidoora	Principal
3	Rasika Mush-taq	Mushtaq Ahmad Shah	Hakura	Teacher
4	Asmeera Jan	Gh Mohd Sirwal	Nai Basti Ang.	Teacher
5	Nusrat Faiz	Faiz Ullah Khan	Pingwan Achabal	Teacher
6	Manzoor Ahmad Dar	Mohd Yousuf Dar	Brakpora	Teacher
7	Sajad Akbar Sheikh	Mohd Akbar Sheikh	Watrigam	Parent
8	Reyaz Ahmad Shah	Shamus U Din	Bilal Colony Krang-soo	Parent

Note: If anybody has any objection in this regard he can file his objection in the office of director of school education Srinagar within a period of seven days.

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امداد کے لئے موصول ہونے والی ناکوں کو ہارین کے ذریعے جانچنے کے بعد برسرِ پور رہنمائی کی جائے گی۔
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مریض کو طبی عہدہ دہت کے لئے نزدیکی ہسپتال منتقل کیا جائے گا۔
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KASHMER in Collaboration with HELP Foundation

Ukraine-Returned Students Seek Govt Help For Admission In Indian Medical Colleges

AGENCEIS

NEW DELHI: The students who were evacuated from war-torn Ukraine and their parents gathered at Jantar Mantar here on Sunday and sought the government's intervention to ensure they are accommodated in Indian colleges.

The students held placards that read: "Help all Indian MBBS students of Ukraine" and "Save the career of Indian students".

Thousands of students from India studying in various medical colleges in Ukraine had to abandon their courses and return home after Russian forces launched an offensive against the country.

Last month, a PIL was filed in the Supreme Court seeking directions on the issue of admission and continuation

of studies in the country of Indian medical students who were evacuated from Ukraine.

The plea also sought directions to the Centre to provide a medical subject equivalency orientation programme for admitting them in the Indian curriculum.

The Indian Medical Association has also recommended to Prime Minister Narendra Modi that such students should be accommodated in Indian medical colleges as a one-time measure.

In a letter to PM Modi on March 4, the IMA had said that such students should be permitted to go to Indian medical colleges for the remainder of their MBBS courses through an "appropriate disbursed distribution", but it should not be seen as an increase in the annual intake capacity.

Muslims Shower Petals, Offer Sharbat During Hanuman Jayanti Procession In Kota



Kota (Raj): Amid incidents of communal clashes in parts of the country, Muslims in a locality here welcomed a Hanuman Jayanti procession by offering sharbat and showering petals.

Giving the message of communal harmony, several Muslim youths exhibited their traditional martial art skills when the procession halted in front of a mosque while passing through the Kherabad area of Ramganj Mandi town.

The procession started from the Hanuman temple in Kherabad village on Saturday evening and covered around two kilometers, passing through a Muslim-dominated area, with two mosques on its way.

A majority of those who took part in the procession wore saffron clothes.

Muslims led by Tahir

Ahmad welcomed the procession, showering petals and offering garlands to those taking part in it.

They also set up stalls outside the two mosques in the area and offered cold water and sharbat to the devotees.

Ramganj Mandi SDM Rajesh Daga said the Muslims came out of the mosques to welcome the procession after offering evening namaz.

When asked to join, Muslim youths displayed their martial art skills along with those from the Hindu community, he said.

The SDM said the administration had held a meeting with representatives of the Muslim and Hindu communities ahead of the procession.

The Muslims enthusiastically welcomed the procession, he said.

Delhi Police Arrests 20 And Apprehends Two Juveniles Over Jahangirpuri Clashes



Agenceis

New Delhi: The Delhi Police has arrested 20 people over the violence during a Hanuman Jayanti procession in the city's Jahangirpuri area, including the "main conspirators" behind the clashes and another person who allegedly fired a bullet that hit a sub-inspector, officials said on Sunday.

Two juveniles have also been apprehended in connection with the incident, they said.

Police said they have also recovered a pistol from one of the accused— Md Aslam (21), a resident of a slum cluster in Jahangirpuri's CD Park, which he allegedly used during the commission of crime on Saturday evening.

They said there was stone-pelting and arson during the clashes between two communities that left eight police personnel and a local injured. Some vehicles were also torched.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Northwest) Usha Rangnani said an FIR was registered on Saturday under Indian Penal Code sections, including 307 (attempt to murder), 120 B (criminal conspiracy) and 147 (rioting), and provisions of the Arms Act.

"In total, 20 persons have been arrested and two juveniles have been apprehended. Three firearms and five swords have been seized from the possession of accused persons," she said.

The officials said the case has been transferred to the Crime Branch which with the help of the district police will carry out further investigation in the case.

"One of the accused persons, identified as Md. Aslam, fired a bullet that hit a sub-inspector

of the Delhi Police. The pistol used by the accused during the commission of crime has been seized from his possession," Rangnani said.

Aslam has also been found to be involved in a case registered at the Jahangirpuri police station in 2020 under sections 324 (voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons or means), 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code, she added.

She said that of the 20 arrested is also Ansar (35), a resident of Jahangirpuri, who is alleged to be among the "main conspirators" behind the violence.

The officer said he was also found to be previously involved in two cases of assault, and was also arrested repeatedly under preventive sections and booked five times under the Gambling Act and the Arms Act.

Ansar's wife told reporters that her husband is innocent and was not part of any violence.

"My husband is innocent. He is not part of any violence. He had only gone there to intervene and stop the fight but the police picked him up and later arrested him," she alleged.

The 18 others who have been arrested have been identified as Zahid (20), Shahjad (33), Mukhtyar Ali (28), Mohd. Ali (18), Amir (19), Aksar (26), Noor Alam (28), Zakir (22), Akram (22), Imtyaz (29), Mohd. Ali (27), Ahir (35), Sheikh Saurabh (42), Suraj (21), Neeraj (19), Suken (45), Suresh (43), Sujeet Sarkar (38), all residents of Jahangirpuri.

Earlier, Special Commissioner (Law and Order-Zone 1)

Deependra Pathak said, "Fourteen persons have been arrested so far and investigation is on. Further process of identification is being done based on CCTV and other video footage."

"Right now the situation is totally under control. We have our additional force deployed. We have done peace committee meetings and are also in touch with the prominent residents of the areas. They gave assurances that they would maintain peace in their respective areas," he added.

Rangnani also said nine people, including eight police personnel and one civilian, were injured during the clashes, and are being treated at the Babu Jagjivan Ram Memorial Hospital.

The sub-inspector who suffered the bullet injury is in a hospital and his condition is stated to be stable, the senior police officer said, adding further investigation is underway.

The Special Branch had alerted police deputy commissioners of districts to stay vigilant, and they were asked to make adequate arrangements during such processions.

As on Sunday morning, there was heavy police deployment in the Jahangirpuri area where the clashes took place. Flag marches were also being carried out along with foot and motorcycle patrolling. Drones were also used in the process to oversee the activities and ensure no untoward incidents takes place.

According to police, more than 50 personnel were deployed during the procession.

A team of Rapid Action Force has also been deployed to keep a tight vigil on the situation which is now under control, Rangnani said.

At 5-day Conclave, Army Commanders To Assess National Security Challenges, Ukraine War Implications



Agenceis

New Delhi: Top commanders of the Army will carry out an extensive review of India's national security challenges along the borders with China and Pakistan as well as assess any possible geopolitical implication of the Russia-Ukraine war for the region at a five-day conclave beginning Monday.

To be chaired by Army Chief Gen MM Naravane, the commanders' conference to be held in the national capital from April 18-22 will also focus on specific plans for capability development and boosting operational preparedness of the 1.3 million-strong force, officials said on Sunday.

The Army Commanders' Conference is an apex level biannual event that is held in April and October every year. The conference is an institutional platform for conceptual level deliberations, culminating in making important policy decisions for the Indian Army.

The officials said detailed deliberations have been planned to assess the possible implications of the war in Ukraine for regional security as well as various military aspects of the conflict.

The commanders will also carry out a comprehensive review of India's military preparedness along the 3,400-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC) in view of the lingering military standoff with China in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh, they said.

The anti-terror operation in Jammu and Kashmir as well as the overall situation in the Union Territory will also be deliberated upon extensively at the conference, the officials said. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is expected to interact with the senior Army commanders and address the conference on April 21.

"During the conference, the senior leadership of the Indian Army will review the operational situation along the active borders, assess threats in the entire spectrum of conflict and undertake analysis of capability voids to further focus on capability development and operational preparedness

plans," the Army said.

"Discussions on aspects pertaining to infrastructure development in border areas, modernisation through indigenisation, induction of niche tech and assessment on any impact of the Russia-Ukraine war are also scheduled," it said in a statement.

It said various agenda points recommended by regional commands will be deliberated upon by the senior commanders apart from proposals concerning improving works, financial management, introducing e-vehicles, and digitisation in the Indian Army.

As part of the conference, Boards of Governors meetings of the Army Welfare Education Society (AWES) and Army Group Insurance Fund (AGIF) will be organised, the Army said.

The conference is also a formal forum for senior leadership of the Indian Army to interact with the senior functionaries of the Department of Military Affairs and Department of Defence.

The officials said the commanders are also set to delve into infrastructure development along the LAC.

India has been ramping up infrastructure development in the border regions in view of China's building new bridges, roads and related structures in key sectors along the frontier.

India and China have been holding high-level military talks to resolve the face-off in the remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh.

On March 11, India and China held the 15th round of high-level military dialogue to resolve the pending issues in the region.

As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process last year on the north and south banks of the Pangong lake and in the Gogra area.

Each side currently has around 50,000 to 60,000 troops along the LAC in the sensitive sector. It is set to be the last Army Commanders' Conference to be chaired by Gen Naravane as his tenure as Army Chief is scheduled to conclude by the end of this month.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Promising Future

appreciated the invaluable suggestions and ideas received from the citizens and assured objective actions on the same.

Noting that the government is according the highest priority to senior citizens' care and wellbeing, the Lt Governor said that the UT administration has ensured dedicated Geriatric and Palliative Care facilities in all the districts.

"Also specific instructions have been issued to the Social Welfare Department to achieve saturation of benefits under old-age pension schemes and other welfare programs for our elderly, he said.

The Lt Governor underlined the need to make continuous efforts towards women empowerment.

"The government through its policy reforms and intuitive handholding schemes will usher in notable changes in the socio-economic and educational status of women in Jammu and Kashmir at a fast pace, he said.

He said his administration is determined to establish an egalitarian society where every citizen gets the benefits of the prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Lt Governor observed that the youths have been the focal point of UT's developmental agenda and Mission Youth and many new platforms of self-employment, empowerment are already helping youth to realize their true potential.

Sinha also mentioned about taking Centre for District Youth Training & Empowerment (C-DYTE) to the block level to extend facilities for exam preparation, availability of necessary books, mentors, sports and physical training at these centres to the students so that

more and more youths can prepare for competitive examinations.

Similarly, Youth Clubs have been established in all 4,290 Panchayats, acting as nerve centres of information flow among the youth, he added.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor also observed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is coming to Jammu Kashmir this month on the occasion of Panchayati Raj Day to share the resolve of Government of India to establish Gram Swaraj across the country.

I hope that on this historic occasion, the peoples' representatives of all 4,290 Panchayats of Jammu and Kashmir and every citizen will reiterate their commitment to walk on the path of self-reliance, development and peace, he added.

Security Reviewed

Grid and city Grid. Besides they were also advised to enhance patrolling and strengthen inter-state checking points, the spokesman said.

He said the officers were also directed to enhance patrolling and area domination and intensify vehicle checking to rule out any subversive activities.

The Kathua police chief also reviewed the crime position and urged for early disposal of pending cases, the spokesman said.

Militants In J&K

from Afghanistan, is used by militants to find their way out during cordon and search operations especially during night.

The device senses the image of approaching security personnel from the heat generated from his body besides giving an overview of the general area outside their hideouts, the officials said.

As a precautionary measure, the

security forces now carry jammers along with other tools to block all signals so that the militants do not find a way to escape from the area, the officials said.

KU Scholar Arrested

office of 'The Kashmir Walla' in Rajbagh and at the residences of Fazili in Humhama and arrested editor Fahad Shah in Saura.

"The search teams have seized incriminating evidence, including material in computers, laptops and other digital equipment," the official said.

The official said Fazili's article, titled 'The shackles of slavery will break', is highly provocative, seditious and intended to create unrest in Jammu and Kashmir, and written with the purpose of abetting the youth to take the path of violence by glorifying terrorism". It also "promoted and propagated the false narrative, which is essential to sustain secessionist-cum-terrorist campaign aimed at breaking the territorial integrity of India."

"The article has used prescriptive language with instructional intent, encouraging secessionist elements to carry out terror activities, the official said.

The official said the repeated reference to freedom and militant outfits' rhetoric make it amply clear that the article is not merely propaganda. Rather, it is articulation of Pakistan ISI and the vision of its sponsored terrorist secessionist networks.

The official said the central government paid Fazili Rs 30,000 per month for five years till March 2021 through the Maulana Azad National Fellowship so that he can sustain himself and complete his PhD in the department of Pharmaceutical Sciences of the university.

New Pak PM

challenges and ensure the well-being and prosperity of our people," he tweeted on April 11.

In his response, Sharif said Pakistan desires peaceful and cooperative ties with India.

"Thank you Premier Narendra Modi for felicitations. Pakistan desires peaceful & cooperative ties with India. Peaceful settlement of outstanding disputes including Jammu & Kashmir is indispensable. Pakistan's sacrifices in fighting terrorism are well-known. Let's secure peace and focus on socio-economic development of our people," the Pakistan prime minister tweeted.

It is learnt that Sharif, in his reply to Modi's letter, also sought resolution of the outstanding issues, including that of Kashmir, while maintaining that Pakistan favours peaceful and cooperative ties with India.

India has been maintaining that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan while insisting that the onus is on Islamabad to create an environment "free of terror and hostility" for such an engagement.

The ties between India and Pakistan came under severe strain after India's warplanes pounded a Jaish-e-Mohammed training camp in Balakot in Pakistan in February 2019 in response to the Pulwama attack.

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

"The government's consistent position has been that India desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan and is committed to addressing issues, if any, bilaterally and peacefully in an atmosphere free of terror, hostility and

violence," Minister of State for External Affairs V Muralidharan said in Parliament on April 7 while replying to a question.

"The onus is on Pakistan to create such a conducive atmosphere," he added.

China Installs Mobile

the Government of India has never accepted this "illegal" occupation.

In the summer of 2020, the Ladakh border standoff between India and China erupted following a clash of the Armies in the Pangong area. The situation escalated after the Galwan Valley clashes in June the same year.

Both the countries have held 15 rounds of talks for disengagement to defuse the tensions in the area. As a result, India and China have disengaged their troops in the Gogra Heights area of eastern Ladakh. The troops of the two sides also disengaged in Pangong Lake area in February last year.

Meanwhile, the Centre scrapped provisions of Article 370 that had given Jammu and Kashmir special status and split it into two Union territories (UTs) under the J&K Reorganisation Act of 2019. For Ladakh, it may be a welcome move as the region has suffered for the last seven decades due to neglect. Its new status as a Union territory might not only boost development but also create jobs in the region.

J&K Logs 12

Eighteen of the total 20 districts in the Union territory did not report any fresh cases. Srinagar district recorded the highest of nine cases.

The Union territory currently has 75 active Covid cases while 4,49,115 people have so far recovered from the disease, the officials said.

The death toll in the union territory due to Covid stood at 4,751 with no new death reported in a day.

Meanwhile, the officials said there were 51 confirmed cases of Mucormycosis (black fungus) in the union territory as no fresh case was reported since Saturday evening.

Electric Shock

Ashraf Mir, a resident of Badapora Nagam Charshrief received electric shock while repairing a transformer in the Haprou area.

Soon after receiving electric shock, Mir was immediately shifted to a local hospital, however, doctors declared him brought dead on arrival.

A police officer confirmed the incident saying that cognizance of the incident has been taken and further investigation taken up. (GNS)

Abducted Minor

He identified the arrested accused as Makhan Din and said the girl was handed over to her legal heirs after completion of all legal formalities.

The girl's father had reported her abduction at local police station last week, the spokesman said, adding further investigation is on.

3 Drug Peddlers

which led a patrolling party to check him that led to the seizure of the contraband, the spokesperson said.

Two more persons, Vicky of Rajasthan and Deepak Kumar of Delhi, were rounded up near Rajeev Nagar and two kg of Ganja and Rs 1.52 lakh were seized from them, he said.

All three of them have been booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and further investigation was underway, the spokesperson said.

‘Sports Schemes Aimed To Usher J&K Into A New Era’
“My Youth My Pride” event concludes in Rajouri



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As part of the ongoing “My Youth My Pride” initiative of the Sports Council taking sports to every nook and cranny of J&K, two-day-long sports competitions organised at Sports Stadium Rajouri concluded on Sunday.

Events in the disciplines of Badminton, Boxing, Taekwondo, and Volleyball were held in the border town over 2 days which drew crowds from the entire district. A massive gathering thronged the stadium to be part of the sports initiative in which more than 250 athletes comprising both boys and girls participated.

The Chief Guest on the occasion was Dinesh Sharma Municipal Councillor Rajouri while Ashwani Sharma was the guest of honour and Nisar Choudhary graced the event as a special guest.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest applauded the efforts of the government and Sports Council for providing the best facilities and opportunities to the youth of J&K to realise their potential and secure their future through the recently launched sports policy.

He also appreciated the organizing committee of the event including Bashir Ahmed Manager, Sports Council, and Coaches for playing a pivotal role in conducting the event in the border town. Besides a large gathering, others present on the occasion included officials from Youth Services and Sports and other departments, as well as some former players and coaches.

“We are in the process to change the sports landscape of J&K, be it by putting up new infrastructure or upgrading existing ones, coaching, and learning

Umran Malik Shines As SRH Defeat PBKS
Malik reached 152 kph during his four-over spell

Press Trust of India

NAVI MUMBAI: Young pace sensation Umran Malik produced a stunning 20th over as Sunrisers Hyderabad bundled out Punjab Kings for 151 in the Indian Premier League here on Sunday.

The 22-year-old uncapped pacer was on fire in the last over when he picked three wickets while the fourth came via run out. The over ended up being a rare wicket maiden.

Malik had Odean Smith caught off his own bowling with another brilliant short-pitched delivery off his second ball before hitting the stumps of Rahul Chahar and Vaibhav Arora off the fourth and fifth deliveries of the final over.

Malik’s sensational spell came after Liam Livingstone’s counter-attacking 60 off 30 balls (5x4, 4x6). Malik, whose deliveries was the most expensive overseas player in this season’s IPL auction with a price tag of Rs 11.50-crore, resurrected the PBKS innings after an early collapse.

Malik, however, spoiled the PBKS show as he first had Odean Smith with a slower one before castling Rahul Chahar and Vaibhav Arora in successive deliveries.

In reply, SRH batters Nicholas Pooran and Aiden Markram played knocks of 35 and 41 to steer their team in 18.5 overs.

BRIEF SCORES:
Punjab Kings 151 all out in 20 overs (Livingstone 60; Bhuvneshwar 3/22, Malik 4/28).
SRH 152/3 in 18.5 overs (Pooran 35 not out, Markram 41 not out).



KKR Seek To Bounce Back Against RR After Back-To-Back Losses

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Their confidence severely dented after two comprehensive defeats on the trot, last edition’s runner-up side Kolkata Knight Riders would seek to get their inconsistent campaign back on track when they face Rajasthan Royals in an IPL match here on Monday.

KKR were beaten by Delhi Capitals and Sunrisers Hyderabad by 44 runs and seven wickets, respectively in their last two matches. They had earlier lost to Royal Challengers Bangalore.

With three wins and three losses, KKR are at the mid-table while the Royals have won three matches and lost two games till now.

KKR had an impressive start to the league with three wins from four matches but the back-to-back losses had taken them down below the top-4 and they would look to regain that slot.

But to do that they will have to pull themselves up in both batting and bowling. None of the batters, except for Andre Russell, has been consistent so far while the likes of spinner Varun Chakravarthy and pacer Pat Cummins have dished out average performances.

Russell is the current top-scorer for KKR with 179 runs from six matches and has also contributed with five wickets with the ball.

In the bowling department, none, except pacer Umesh Yadav (10 wickets from 6 matches) has been up to expectations.

The Royals, on the other hand, will start as favourites in Monday’s match with the tournament’s highest run-getter and wicket-taker in their ranks in Jos Buttler and Yuzvendra Chahal.

Chahal has been in top form with 12 wickets from five matches, also with a fine economy of 6.80 and he would fancy to add more scalps to his name, especially against a struggling KKR batting unit.

Veteran New Zealand pacer Trent Boult (7 wickets from 4 matches) is the other Royals bowler who has been doing well.

But senior India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin is terribly out of form. He picked up just one wicket from five matches while conceding 143 runs and it remains to be seen how long the team management will persist with him.



Karthik Has Presented Strong Case For India Comeback: Kohli

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Calling him the man of the IPL so far, Virat Kohli feels his Royal Challengers Bangalore teammate Dinesh Karthik has made a strong case for another India comeback with his stellar run in the T20 tournament so far.

Karthik, who has been playing the role of a finisher for RCB, has had the highest strike rate among the leading run-getters in the tournament scoring 197 runs in six innings at 209.57. He has only been dismissed once in the tournament.

On Saturday night, he smashed an unbeaten 66 off 34 balls as RCB beat Delhi Capitals by 16 runs.

In a conversation with Karthik on iplt20.com, Kohli said it has been a joy and honour to watch the wicket-keeper batter go about his business in the competition.

“I am here with the man of the IPL for me so far...It’s been wonderful. I won’t even say ‘long may it continue’ because it will and you’re in that space and I can see that. It was an honour to watch you bat again. Thanks for getting us across the line,” said Kohli.

The former India captain said his long-time RCB teammate AB de Villiers will also be proud of Karthik for finishing games for the franchise like the South African used to do.

“I am very happy that DK is so clear in his goals. I can surely tell you that you have presented a very strong case for yourself moving forward playing T20 cricket not just for RCB but also I am sure lot of people are taking notice at the highest level as well.

“You mentioned. I think AB will be very proud watching from Pretoria, sitting at home and watching you finish games for us and take the team across the line,” he added.



Broad 'Not Keen' To Take Over England Test Captaincy

Reuters

LONDON: England bowler Stuart Broad said he was not thinking about replacing Joe Root as the test captain, while adding that he felt no “bitterness” towards Root after being dropped from the squad for their recent tour of the Caribbean.

Root ended his five-year tenure on Friday, saying the job had taken a heavy toll on him recently.

The 35-year-old Broad has been touted as a short-term option to replace him, while former England captains have backed all-rounder Ben Stokes for the role.

Broad, England’s second-highest wicket-taker in tests behind James Anderson, said he was focused on returning to the England squad after being dropped for the West Indies tour, which they lost 1-0.

“I am aware that my name has been touted as a potential successor to Joe as England captain and I guess that is because I am an experienced centrally



contracted player who has been around the international game a long time,” Broad wrote in his Mail On Sunday column.

“However, it is not something I have given any thought to because firstly I am not currently in possession of a shirt within the England test team and my focus is very much on changing that by taking wickets for Nottinghamshire over the next few weeks.”

“I would argue we are in a fairly unique position as far as selection for the test team goes right now in that there are only two players whose names you could write in pen on the scorecard. One of them is Joe Root, the other is Ben Stokes.” Broad said he was frustrated by his recent omission, but that it did not affect his relationship with Root.

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