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LG Moots Several Ideas To Boost Tourism Industry In Kashmir

• Tented Colonies, Ropeways To Come Up At Major Tourist Places • Tourism Dept Directed To Raise Capacities Of Home-Stays To 25,000 Beds By Dec 31

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Buoyed over record tourist influx in Jammu and Kashmir in the last six months, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday directed the tourism department to identify major tourist attractions for developing tented colonies in partnership with private en-trepreneurs, besides enhancing the capacities of home-stays to 25,000 beds by December 31.

These directions were passed by the LG while chairing a highlevel meeting at Raj Bhawan here to review the new initiatives of Tourism Department, an official spokesperson said.



Sinha, he said, sought a detailed report on home-stays, setting up of tented accommodation

at major tourist attractions, adventure activities, new trekking routes identified, Border

Tourism, Capacity Building Programme at various levels.

While reviewing the measures being taken to promote home-stays in the UT, the spokesperson said that the chair was informed that around 800 home-stays are registered with the Tourism Department.

The LG, he said, directed Secretary Tourism, Sarmad Hafeez to submit a report on the number of tourists staying at these home-stays, and set the target of enhancing the capacities of home-stays to 25,000 beds by 31st December.

He further said that the tourism department was instructed to identify major tourist

attractions where tented accommodation can be develthree months. oped through public-private

partnership. "Since home-stays and tented accommodations are becoming popular among the domestic and foreign tourists as well as backpackers, J&K UT government is making efforts ways can also be developed. to promote tent stay at scenic locations that will deliver rapid

try," Sinha said. According to the spokesperson, the meeting was informed that around 30 locations were already identified and the department was directed to make the tented colonies functional

growth to the tourism indus-

at these locations in the next

Emphasizing the need for making the tourist places more accessible, besides adding major attraction for the tourists, the LG, he said, directed the tourism department to identify such tourist destinations where rope-

As per the spokesperson, Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary to the Government, Tourism Department gave a detailed presentation on the activity plan for 75 offbeat destinations identified by the Tourism Department, which are being developed with proper infrastructure and More on P6

Wall Collapse Kills 3 Migrant Labourers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Three migrant labourers were killed on Thursday after a brick kiln caved in a village in South Kashmir's Pulwama district.

Lukman Khan, Raj Dev and Kalbi Khan, all residents of Uttar Pradesh were carrying out their routine work at a brick kiln at Ukhoo when a wall collapsed and trapped them under the debris on Thursday afternoon, officials said.

The other workers, they said, rescued the trio from the debris and shifted them to a nearby hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there declared them dead.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident and started investigations in this regard.

100's Of Vehicles Stranded On Banihal Highway

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu-Srinagar national highway was closed for traffic due to landslides triggered by heavy rains at several places in Ramban district on Thursday leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded, officials said.

Nearly 1000 vehicles, including a convoy carrying Amarnath pilgrims, are stranded at different points of the highway, they said.

The 270-km highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, was blocked by shooting stones, landslides at four places in Ramban

The highway is closed at

Cafeteria Moore Ramban since Wednesday night due to shooting of stones. More on P6

J&K HC Disposes Off Petition Seeking Protection Of Minorities

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: The High Court of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh on Friday disposed of a writ petition filed by Kashmiri Pandit Sangharsh Samiti (KPSS) seeking directions to the Union Territory administration to protect lives of the religious minorities, follow-

ing a series of targeted attacks. In the representation, Sanjay Tickoo, president of KPSS had prayed before the Chief Justice of the J&K High Court to pass an order directing the administration to protect the lives of the religious minorities, following a series of targeted attacks on minorities in the month of May 2022.

While disposing of the writ petition, the court left it on the Tickoo to submit a fresh representation highlighting its grievances before

the Secretary, Home, Union Territory of J&K "in a comprehensive manner".

"Once such a memorandum/ representation is submitted, the Secretary, Home, will sit with the President of the Samiti or any other nominee of the Samiti so authorized and consider the grievances of the petitioner and after receiving the suggestions, if necessary, may take appropriate remedial steps that may be considered necessary in the overall interest of the Union Territory and the members of the minority community as claimed," reads the court order, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer.

The court refused to intervene into the matter saying that the issue could be resolved at the government level.

"We do not want to enter into the merits More on P6

Murmu Becomes India's First Tribal President

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Droupadi Murmu scripted history on Thursday by becoming India's first tribal President in the one-sided contest, defeating Opposition candidate Yashwant Sinha.

Murmu, 64, won by an overwhelming margin against Sinha after receiving over 64 per cent valid votes in a day-long counting of ballots of MPs and MLAs, comprising the electoral college, to succeed Ram Nath Kovid to become the country's 15th president.

After the end of the counting process that continued for more than 10 hours, returning officer P C Mody declared Murmu as the winner and said that she got 6,76,803 votes against Sinha's 3.80.177 votes.

She will be the first President to be born after independence and is the youngest to occupy the top post. She is also the second woman to become the President.

Her victory was sealed after the third round itself when the Returning officer announced that Murmu had already received over 53 per cent of the total valid votes even as Ballots from 10



states and Union territories are still being counted

Conceding defeat after the third round of counting, Sinha congratulated Murmu and said every Indian hope that as the 15th President she functions as the "custodian of the Constitution" without fear or favour.

In a statement, Sinha thanked the leaders of the Opposition parties for choosing him as their consensus candidate in this election.

"I also thank all members of the Electoral College who voted Opposition parties solely guided by the philosophy of Karma Yoga preached by More on P6

Historic Day For Country: LG

ammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday congratulated Droupadi Murmu on being elected as the new President of India.

"Hearty congratulations to Smt. Droupadi Murmu Ji on being elected as the President of India. It is indeed a very proud moment and a historic day for our country. On behalf of the people of UT of J&K, I extend my best wishes to her," the LG posted on his official Twitter handle.



INDIA SCRIPTS HISTORY. At a time when 1.3 billion Indians are marking Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, a daughter of India hailing from a tribal community born in a remote part of eastern India has been elected our President!."

A group of women carrying firewood pass through soldiers outside a military camp in Sonmarg area of Ganderbal district. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

for me. I accepted the offer of

505 More Test Positive As Cases Shoot Up

Observer News Service

CORONA COMEBACK

Srinagar: The daily Coronavirus cases continue to shoot up in Jammu and Kashmir as 505 more people tested positive for the virus, the highest ever single-day spike in over five months, even as no fresh fatality was reported from the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

Of the new cases, officials said, 228 were registered in Kashmir Valley and 277 from Jammu division, thus taking the number of people infected since the onset of the pandemic in J&K to 458456.

In Valley, Srinagar, the capital city reported the highest 144 new cases of virus, followed by Baramulla with 38,



Kupwara 23, Budgam six, Bandipora five, Kulgam four, Anantnag three, Pulwama and Ganderbal two each and Shopian one, officials said.

In the winter capital, they said, Jammu detected a maximum of 200 new cases of Coronavirus, Udhampur 25, Kathua 14, Kishtwar 11, Poonch eight, Samba six, Raiouri and Doda five each and Reasi three.

Also, the officials said that the death toll remained unchanged at 4761in J&K-2336 in Jammu and 2425 in Kashmir, as no fresh fatality was reported during the last 24 hours in the **More on P6**

Ε

Opposition Unity Is A Bit Of Chimera: Omar

ational Conference vice president Omar Abdullah on Thursday compared the unity among the opposition parties to Greek mythological character Chimera' and said ultimately they will do what is in their own interest. His remarks came after the Trinamool Congress -- which had led from the front to unify the opposition for the election to the

country's More on P6

House Collapse Kills Man In Rajouri

ne person was killed and another injured after a Kacha house collapsed in Rajouri district on Thursday. Official sources said that a Kachha house belonging to Mir Mohammad of Ladhote Rajouri collapsed on Thursday evening resulting in on the spot death of Amiad Hussain. In the incident, another man identified as Mohammad Mahroof sustained injuries. He was shifted to hospital for treatment. More on P6

Two Drug Peddlers Booked Under PSA

S H O R

wo drug peddlers have been booked under stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) in Central Kashmir's Budgam district, police said on Thursday.

"Acting tough against drug abuse and to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Budgam Police booked two notorious drug peddlers under PIT NDPS Act after obtaining formal detention orders from the competent Authority", said a police More on P6

Cash Looted From Shrine's Donation Box

olice have registered a case after unknown burglars' looted cash from a donation box of a shrine in Banihal area of the Ramban district. Police Station Banihal received a complaint from a man identifying himself as Farooq Ahmed Wani about the theft incident. He said that miscreants looted money from the donation box of the Tahir Shah Bhagdadi (RA) shrine at Tethar village of Banihal. Taking cognizance More on P6

Seven Gamblers Held In Baramulla: Police

olice on Thursday claimed to have arrested seven alleged gamblers in a raid in Tangmarg area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district.

A team from Police Station Tangmarg raided a gambling site at Drung Park on the basis of specific inputs and apprehended 7 gamblers from the spot, a police spokesperson said Thursday. Besides playing cards, he said, Rs1,32,000 were also More on P6

New Rates For Hair Dressers Fixed

he Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday notified revised rates for different services offered by hair dressers across the Valley. Accordingly to an order issued here by the Directorate food, civil supplies and consumer affairs Kashmir, the rate for a simple hair cut of an adult or a baby has been fixed Rs 55. For the haircut of a child, Rs 50 has been fixed. Similarly, for simple shave Rs 55, for Khat shave More on P6



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Kashmir Observer Srinagar | Friday | 22-07-2022

Over 70% of Physicians Still Prescribe Unsafe Antibiotics - Which Can Be Deadly

Sci Tech Daily

A study of primary care doctors found that, on the basis of a single positive urine sample, an estimated 70% of them would still recommend antibiotics to treat asymptomatic infections. According to a study recently published in the journal JAMA Network Open, this is despite long-standing medical standards that advise against this practice. Researchers from the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) directed the

Medical associations have opposed the regular use of antibiotics for individuals with bacteria found in a urine culture but no signs of a urinary tract infection (UTI). such as burning or frequent urination, since 2005. Overwhelming evidence suggests that the drugs are ineffective for asymptomatic patients and can instead cause side effects such as diarrhea, vomiting, rashes, and yeast infections. In rare instances, antibiotics can even result in death due to an excess of the harmful bacteria C. difficile in the colon. The overuse of these medications has also led to an increase

in bacterial infections that are

difficult to treat and sometimes fatal due to their resistance to antibiotics. In the study, 723 primary care professionals from Texas, the Mid-Atlantic, and the Pacific Northwest were questioned about how they would treat a fictitious patient with asymptomatic bacteriuria, which is when bacteria are detected in the urine of a patient who has no signs of a urinary tract infection. They discovered that, despite doing so going against the recommended guidelines, 392 out of the 551 physicians who responded to the study (71%) would choose to treat such a patient with antibiotics.

"Our study suggests that primary care clinicians do not follow widely accepted recommendations against prescribing antibiotics for asymptomatic bacteriuria," said lead author Jonathan Baghdadi, MD, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Epidemiology & Public Health at UMSOM. "Some primary care clinicians may be unaware of these recommendations, but a culture of inappropriate prescribing is also likely a contributing factor.'

Compared to other specialties, family medicine doctors were more likely to give unnecessary antibiotic prescriptions. Physicians in residency or living in the Pacific Northwest were less likely to administer antibiotics.

TABLETE VERY DAY

> "We found other factors also played a role in prescribing like whether a physician had a stronger preference in favor of over-treating a condition and fear of missing a diagnosis; that person was more likely to favor prescribing antibiotics compared to a physician who felt more comfortable with uncertainty in practicing medicine," said study leader Daniel Morgan, MD, MS, Professor of Epidemiology & Public Health at UMSÔM.

> One strategy to change practice could be an education program targeting physicians who place a high priority on treating just to make sure they do not miss a possible infection, the researchers said in the conclusion section of the article. For example,

reframing "unnecessary treatment" with antibiotics as "potentially harmful" treatment with antibiotics could help curb the tendency toward overprescribing.

UMSOM faculty and staff Lisa Pineles, MA, Alison Lydecker, MPH, Larry Magder, Ph.D., and Deborah Stevens. LCSW-C, MPH, were study co-authors. Researchers from the University of Colorado School of Medicine and the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center also contributed to this study

The research was funded by the New

Innovator Award from the National Institutes of Health and the University of Maryland, Baltimore Institute for Clinical & Translational Research/Clinical and Translational Science Award

"This is an important finding that points to the importance of continuing medical education to help change lingering attitudes towards antibiotics that are out of date with the current guidelines," said E. Albert Reece, MD, Ph.D., MBA, Executive

Vice President for Medical Affairs, UM Baltimore, and the John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor and Dean, University of Maryland School of Medicine. "Physicians are taught to first do no harm, and now we know that overtreatment with antibiotics could lead to real harm.'

Reference: "Exploration of Primary Care Clinician Attitudes and Cognitive Characteristics Associated With Prescribing Antibiotics for Asymptomatic Bacteriuria" by Jonathan D. Baghdadi, MD, Ph.D., Deborah Korenstein, MD, Lisa Pineles, MA, Laura D. Scherer, Ph.D., Alison D. Lydecker, MPH, Larry Magder, Ph.D., Deborah N. Stevens, LCSW-C, MPH and Daniel J. Morgan MD, MS, 27 May 2022, JAMA Network







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The last date for receiving Technical & Financial Proposals from interested parties is 22nd August, 2022 (1800 hrs IST).

cbc-43104/12/0006/2223

General Manager (P&A)

Here's How to Keep Your Liver Healthy

Lisa Mulcahy | Parade

hat looks like a halfdeflated football but performs more than 500 of the essential tasks that keep your body healthy? If you guessed the liver, you'd be right.

Your liver is a silent powerhouse," says Tamar Hamosh Taddei, MD, associate professor of medicine, digestive diseases, at Yale School of Medicine in New Haven, Connecticut.

Tucked under your right rib cage, this 3-pound organ cleans toxins from your blood; produces bile to help you digest what you eat and drink, turning that food and drink into nutrients; maintains your blood's clotting function so you don't bleed to death; and gives you physical energy. Because your liver is such a cru-

cial multitasker, you need to keep it healthy—yet unfortunately, 30 million Americans currently have some form of liver disease, according to the American Liver Foundation. Some of the most common liver conditions

- Fatty liver disease, characterized by a buildup of fat in your liver
- Bile duct disease, which stops bile from moving to your small intestines
- Hemochromatosis and Wilson disease, genetic conditions that cause a buildup of minerals (iron and copper, respectively) in the liver.
- Hepatitis C, caused by a virus that can be transmitted by blood or through sexual activity
- Cirrhosis, or scarring of the liver, typically as a result of years of untreated liver disease

One of the most important things you can do to prevent and manage chronic liver conditions is to be open and honest with your doctor when discussing your risk factors. "Talk about a family history of liver disease and your habits—such as drinking too much, drug use and sexual history," Taddei says.

Here are a few other ways to help your liver do its best work.

Get the right tests.

Your doctor will usually order liver function tests as part of a routine blood screen for your annual physical or follow-up visits after you're prescribed medication. If you have symptoms of liver disease, more specialized tests may be needed. Here's what common liver tests determine: Aliver function test is a blood screening that checks protein and liver en-

zyme levels and detects the possible presence of any liver disease. ALT (alanine transaminase), AST (aspartate transaminase), ALP (alkaline phosphatase) and GGT (gamma-glutamyl transpeptidase) tests look for these

Abilirubin test checks for the presence of this orange-yellow fluid, which your liver may leak if it is dam-

California at San Diego also found that proton-pump inhibitors (PPIs), often taken to reduce acid reflux, can increase the gut bacteria Enterococcus. This bacteria can cause inflammation that could lead to chronic liver disease, so if you're concerned, talk to your doctor about whether discontinuing PPIs or lowering your dose is right for you.



A liver biopsy can test for both cancer and infection.

Unexplained fatigue can indicate liver problems, as can dark urine. "Yellow-

Watch for signs and symptoms.

ing of your skin or the whites of your eyes indicates jaundice," says Taddei. "Abdominal swelling, where fluid is building up in your belly or legs, can be a sign of heart failure, or can occur as a result of liver disease. If you have this symptom, it's important to see a doctor. Changes in your mental state can occur if liver disease is undiagnosed, too."

Go easy on over-the-counter meds.

Too much acetaminophen, the active ingredient in Tylenol, can cause acute liver failure, so ask your doctor how much is safe for you to take. Acetaminophen is often contained in allergy and cold medications-sometimes listed as "APAP" or "acetam"so check labels to make sure you're not doubling up on the medication if you take several remedies. Researchers from the University of

Eat (and drink) smart.

Your food should ideally be fresh, meaning it doesn't come out of a package," Taddei says. Processed foods that are packed with sugar and saturated fat can up your risk of diabetes, which adversely affects your liver function.

You probably know to limit alcohol for optimal liver health. The good news is that coffee may actually have protective effects. A study from the Erasmus University Medical Center in Rotterdam, Netherlands, found that three cups per day can potentially prevent hardening of the liver and stop the progression of advanced liver disease, likely thanks to coffee's antioxidants.

Stay active.

Research shows that both aerobic and resistance exercises improve insulin resistance and help the fatty acids in your system oxidate, both powerful tools in fighting fatty liver disease. Walk, run, do Pilates-whatever activity you love best, and keep at it for 30 minutes five times a week.

GOVERNMENT DENTAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL SHIREEN BAGH, SRINAGAR

WEBSITE: www.gdcsrinagar.org EMAIL ADDRESS: gdcsrinagar@gmail.com

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The in-service doctors shall be allowed to participate in the selection process only with the prior permission of the Administrative Depart-

The online form of the in-service candidate shall be accepted provisionally.

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In-service candidate if selected shall be on deputation for three (3) years as per SRO-75 dated 15-04-1993. The non-service applicant shall be engaged on academic arrangement basis as per terms and conditions of S.O 364 dated: 27-11-2020.

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The Maximum age for non-service applicants at the time of submission of application should be 50 years. The applicant should be BDS or equivalent as recognized by the Dental Council of India.

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No TA/DA will be admissible for appearing in the interview. 13.

DIPK-6355/22

Sd/-[Prof. (Dr.) Riyaz Farooq] Principal/Dean

6.

DIAL-EMMA

4 Houses Damaged In Khanyar Blaze

Observer News Service

Srinagar: At least four residential houses were damaged in a fire incident in Lone Mohalla near Marriage Hall Khanyar in Srinagar on Thursday morning, reports said here.

Reports said that four residential houses belonging to Bilal Ahmad Haroon and Muneer Ahmad Haroon, Mohammad Yaqoob Mushtaq Ahmad

Dandroo and Mohammad Anwar Dandroo, Mushtaq Ahmad Lone were damaged in a fire incident, which broke out in Lone Mohalla this morning.

They said that fire tenders along with the help of police and locals controlled the flames to prevent any further damage

Meanwhile, have taken cognizance of the incident, however, cause of fire was not known immediately.

COVID-19 Infection Correlated To Population Density, Reveals Study

Agencies

Srinagar: The study aimed to investigate the district level variation of CO-VidD-19 infection in Kashmir during December 2021 and January 2022 has found that the infection was correlated to population density and urban residence.

the study aimed to compare percent positivity of two districts of Kashmir during the 3rd COVID Wave conducted by doctors Jalila Qayoom, Omar Rashid, Talat Masoodi, Umar R. Khan and Syed Arshia from SKIMS Medical College & Hospital Bemina and department of Microbiology, SKIMS Medical College & Hospital Bemina in order to help government for developing policies and taking necessary inter-

ventions for future. The study states that the total samples received in the month of December 2021 and January 2022 during 3d CO-VID-19 wave from 2 districts

in SKIMS MCH, Bemina, Srinagar was 56279 Out of these samples, 34141 was from district Kupwara and 22138 was from district Srinagar The percent positivity for both months of December and January was more in district Srinagar i.e 11.4% and 3.8% respectively as compared to district Kupwara which was 8.7% and 2.9% respectively. From district Srinagar, the samples were received from 4 different regions i e, Batmaloo, Tourist reception centre (TRC), SR gunj and Khanyar. The percent positivity in the month of December 2021 for various regions from district Srinagar i.e, Batmaloo, TRC, SR Gunj and Khanyar was 4.1%, 5.2%

2.9% and 2.8% respectively. "The percent positivity in the month of January 2022 for various regions from district Srinagar i.e. Batamaloo, TRC, SR Gunj and Khanyar were 12.6%, 21%, 7.9% and 8.0% respectively," the study reads.



51 Couples Tie Knot **In Mass Marriage**

Srinagar: In a mass marriage ceremony, at least 51 couples from different areas of Kashmir tied a nuptial knot in Srinagar on Thursday.

The mass marriage ceremony was once again organised by the NGO—"We the Helping Hand Foundation" which has already solemnized a series of such ceremonies in the last few years.

"We have already borne the marriage expenses of over 400 poor girls and expect to continue to organize more mass marriage ceremonies in future," said Umar Wani, the Chairman of the NGO said.

'This year, we have already borne the marriage expenses of over 60 poor and orphan girls dur-

ing two mass marriage functions and today we have borne the marriage expenses of 51 poor girls from different areas of Kashmir "he

Wani said that the main aim behind organizing mass marriage is to promote austerity and simplicity during Nikkah and to help poor, orphan girls to get married who are overage now but unmarried due to social customs like dowry and gold demands.

He further added that they neither disclose the names of the girls who are getting married in mass marriage function nor do they allow anybody to capture photos of the brides. "Besides that no male is allowed to enter the rooms where these brides stay," Wani said, adding that "many rituals

have become a headache for underprivileged people and in order to help them with the help of public donations, these poor girls register themselves with the organization, and after verifying their credentials and other details, the NGO starts arrangements for their mar-

Wani said that they are also trying to unite the community as they are inviting scholars and Muftis of all schools of faith who deliver nikkah ceremonies.

He further added rich people have to play an important role in promoting simple nikkah as they should first see whether their neighbors have been able to marry their wards and if all will perform nikkah simply, then everyone can get rid of this headache. (KNO)

Urs Of Khwaja Habeebullah Nowshehri Observed

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The three days Urs of Khwaja Habeebullah Nowshehri culminated today, at Nowshera Srinagar, in which a large number of devotees from different parts of the valley participated.

On the third and last day of 41 Urs of the renowned Sufi Saint various Sufi and cultural programmes were organized to bless the occasion and devotees who had thronged to the shrine.

QAZIGUND: 01951-296153 **HIGHWAY STATUS**

AIRPORTS

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Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)

TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686

Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883 PDD: 0194-2450213

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259

ANANTNAG: 01932-228243

BARAMULLA: 0194-102029

BIJBHERA: 01932-228243

PAMPORE: 01933-294132

PATTAN: 01954-293507

CAPD: 18001807011

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488,2452222,2452155

SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

HIJRI **CALENDAR** 22-Zil-Hajj 1443

FAJR 3:54 **ZUHR** 12:37 5:34

PRAYERS

ASR 7:43 Magrib 9:19 **ISHA**

This Day In History

- 1456 Battle at Nandorfehervar (Belgrade): Hungarian army under Janos Hunyadi beats Sultan Murad II
- 1691 Battle at Aghrim: English/Dutch army beats
- 1731 Spain signs Treaty of Vienna
- 1739 Ottoman Empire defeats Austria at Crocyka (Krotzka) in Serbia & subsequently successfully laid seige to Belgrade
- 1793 Alexander Mackenzie reaches the Pacific Ocean, becoming the first Euro-American to complete a transcontinental crossing of Canada.
- 1864 Battle of Atlanta-Hood attacks Sherman, 8,449 Confederate and 3,641 US soldiers die
- 1942 4th Soviet army forms with 80 tanks
- 1946 Militant Zionist organisation Irgun bombs the British administrative headquarters for Palestine in the southern wing of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, killing 91 people of various nationalities and injuring 46.
- 1955 Richard Nixon becomes the first US Vice President to preside over a cabinet meeting
- 1963 Sarawak achieves independence from British colonial rule
- 1969 USSR launches Sputnik 50 & Molniya 1-12 communications satellite
- 1971 Sudanese military counter-coup under premier
- 1987 Soyuz TM-3 launched with 3 cosmonauts (1 Syrian) 1987 - US began escorting re-flagged Kuwaiti tankers
- in Persian Gulf 1988 - 500 US scientists pledge to boycott Pentagon
- germ-warfare research 1992 - Sovuz TM-15 launches
 - 1993 Soyuz TM-17 lands
- 1994 23rd & last part of Comet Shoemaker-Levy hit Jupiter (since July 16th)
- 1995 Space shuttle STS-70 (Discovery 20), lands
- 1997 The second Blue Water Bridge opens between Port Huron, Michigan and Sarnia, Ontario.
- 2002 Israel assassinates Salah Shahade, the Commander-in-Chief of Hamas's military arm, the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, along with 14 civilians.

From KO Archives

Turned Down VP's Post For NC's Sake: Faroog

Observer News Service

RINAGAR- The chief patron of the National Conference, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, today disclosed that to ensure the victory of his party in the coming elections he had turned down the offer of becoming the vice-president of

Addressing a public function in Hazratbal, Dr. Abdullah said that cross border efforts were on resolve the issue "though the peace process was temporarily stalled because of the recent events in Pakistan."

He said that everyone would have to extend co-operation to strengthen the peace process to restore peace in the state.

"I was offered the post of the vice-president of the country, but I turned it down because I want to strengthen my party and see it victorious in the coming elections," he said. He said that the offer had been made by the central govern-

ment when he was in Delhi, but during consultation with his party colleagues on his return he was advised that the party needed him in the forthcoming elections

"My colleagues told me that in the 2002 election I had stayed away from the party and the state because of presidential aspirations, and that had contributed to the NC's defeat," he

He said that the NC had not taken any decision so far in joining the emerging Third Front at the Centre. "The final decision will be taken by the executive committee which is meeting on July 17," he said. Criticising the coalition government on the law and order situation, Dr. Abdullah said that all sorts of slogans were being used to fool the public while no attention was being paid to development and the multitude of issues fac-

(Kashmir Observer, 22 July, 2007)

DC Reviews Preparations For Har Ghar Tiranga Programme

Observer News Service

yard in Srinagar.

Srinagar: In order to finalise the preparations and plan of activities for celebrations of Har Ghar Tiranga to mark the 75th Independence day under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Ajjaz Asad on Thursday chaired a meeting of Zonal & District Officers of all the De-

The meeting held a detailed delibera-

ARTO Srinagar Arif Shah bereaved

Hadiqa Arif 15 year old, Daughter of ARTO Srinagar Arif

Shah, passed away on Thursday morning at her residence

at Soura Sgr. She was laid to rest at their ancestral grave-

People from different walks of life participated in her Nimaz-e-Jinaza. Her congregational Fatiha Khawani will be

offered on July 24 Sunday at 10 am at their ancestral grave-

yard at Kawdara, Narwara near Ahad Zargar Mosuleum.

tion on effective and expeditious implementation of set out modalities for Har Ghar Tiranga initiative in the District.

At the outset, the DC said the programme, which is being held from August 11 to August 17, 2022, is aimed at invoking a feeling of patriotism among the citizens and promoting a sense of respect for the symbols of Independence.

The DC stressed upon the Officers to ensure all necessary arrangements to reach out the last person to make the programme a success.

He also took a Department wise review of the list of activities to be undertaken during the programme including events to be conducted by Education, Youth Services & Sports and other Departments.

The DC asked for conducting a workshop on Flag code to sensitize officials about the Flag Code and follow Standard protocol to honour the National Flag.

The meeting also discussed the col-

REMEMBRANCE



Late Ghulam Jeelani Baihaki

As we look back over the time, we find ourselves wondering and are compelled to rethink as to whether we have remembered you and thank you enough for all you have done for us. You have always remained behind us during all the times to guide, help and support during the hours

Today 8 years have passed since where your noble soul left for heaven leaving your fond memories and your teachings with examples about the value of hard work, better judgment, obedience, sincerity, honesty, dedication, courage, simplicity, calmness and integrity in life. We are thankful to all your deeds and are of the fervent hope that you know all along how much you mean to us and no one can replace that space in our hearts and mind and the same will remain alive till we are alive in this world. May Almighty bestow his blessings and rest your noble soul in peace in the Jannah.

Aameen-Suma-Aameen.

Deeply Remembered by:

Your Loving Son, Grand Daughter's and All family members.



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KO VIEW

Killings in Kashmir

s many as 128 security personnel and 118 civilians, including 21 Hindus, among them five Kashmiri Pandits, have been killed in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, the Union government told Parliament on Wednesday. Union Minister of State for Home Nitvanand Rai, however, informed the House that there has been a substantial decline in terrorist attacks in the last three years. On a positive note, the union minister said that around 5,502 Kashmiri Pandits have been provided jobs in different departments of the J&K government in the valley and no Kashmiri Pandit has migrated from the valley since August 2019. This is contrary to reports that many Kashmiri Pandits, including the employees, fled the Valley in the wake of the recent killings.

In the recent past, the killings of civilians and Kashmiri Pandits in the Valley generated an outcry across the country. Many Pandits who had returned to Kashmir to take up jobs under the Prime Minister's Package temporarily left the Valley, putting the central government's project to resettle them in their homeland in jeopardy. However, Kashmiri Pandits have not been the only ones who have been attacked: Kashmiri Muslim civilians, Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel, migrant labourers, and also Hindus from Jammu and other parts of India have also lost lives

And the efforts of the security forces have proved unsuccessful in stopping the killing spree. And understandably so. It will not be easy for them to secure each and every member of the minority community in the Valley. Or for that matter, even the civilians from the majority community, although they are trying their best to create a sense of confidence

Making things further difficult for the J&K government is that there are around 5000 Pandit employees recruited under a special package and all of them are on the brink of a fresh exodus. Similarly, nearly 8,000 employees from different districts of the Jammu division are working in Kashmir under an inter-district transfer policy and a predominant majority of them are non-Muslims. Though the government has given them assurances, they find little reason to trust it. Many Pandit employees now want the government to revoke the bond that obliges them to stay permanently in the Valley during their employment. They want the post to be made transferable.

The rise in minority killings has galvanized the union government to take steps to reassure Kashmiri Pandits and Hindu employees in the Valley. The union home minister, Amit Shah held a high-level meeting on May 17 which was attended by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla and the heads of intelligence and security agencies to take stock of the preparedness for the ongoing situation in the Valley and the ongoing Amarnath vatra. The situation over the last two months has improved a lot. Here's hoping it stays that way.

OTHER OPINON

Chiding the Young

here is no justification for the alleged actions of officials under the National Testing Agency (NTA) at an examination centre in Kollam, Kerala. On Thursday, according to an FIR filed by a parent, several young women were forced to remove their innerwear by officials as they sought to appear for the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for admissions to MBBS and BDS programmes. The current episode is not the first such instance: In 2017, "overzealous" teachers at a Kerala school were suspended for asking a girl to remove her innerwear before entering a NEET exam centre.

To humiliate students for an article of clothing — or, as the "rules" would have it, "any ornaments/ metallic items" is unconscionable and symptomatic of a deep suspicion of aspirants on the part of the NTA. How can an earring, or a hook on an item of clothing lead to cheating? And exactly how many candidates smugged cheat sheets in these wires? Yet, the NTA's list of prohibited items — which includes shoes, jewellery and all metallic objects — only empowers the person on the ground to police the bodies of aspirants. Bureaucratic "rules" too must aspire to common sense. As a governance reform in the healthcare and education sector, the NEET has much to recommend it. Like the Joint Entrance Exam for engineering, the NEET has the potential to ensure uniformity in admission standards across states and objectivity and transparency in candidate selection. What is common here is an assumption of guilt — of "cheating" — and the impunity arising from the vaguely-worded rules used to humiliate students.

The local police has filed an FIR in the matter and the NTA has sent a team to Kerala to conduct its own investigation. The offending officials must be brought to book. But a wider conversation on reforming the guidelines and powers of the NTA is also needed. The guiding principle of such reform must place the dignity of students and aspirants front and centre; it must ease their burdens while ensuring that exams are conducted fairly. Mechanisms must be put in place to ensure that those conducting tests — whether NEET, JEE or any other such examination — are sensitised to their role as enablers for the youth, who are already under tremendous pressure. To strip-search a candidate to protect a test means there's something terribly wrong with the test - not the candidate.

The Indian Express



Anti-government protester in Sri Lanka participating in protests demanding the resignation of the government over its handling of the economy. AFP via Getty Images

Why Sri Lanka Imploded

KAUSHIK BASU

Even if the Rajapaksas do not regain control by proxy, there are other risks. The IMF cannot offer a rescue program until there is a viable government with which to negotiate. But both the Fund and the Paris Club of sovereign creditors also will need to be proactive. suspending some of their bureaucratic rules to help Sri Lanka through this acute phase of the crisis

ka's economy unravels before our eyes, one must ask how this could happen in a country that is historically known for its high standard of living and stable economy. Sri Lanka's achievements go back decades, giving it a per capita GDP that is 70% higher than India's, and a life expectancy at birth of 77 years, compared to 73, 70, and 67, in Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan, respectively.

When Sri Lanka's Rajapaksa family returned to power in 2019, it was riding a wave of support that it sought to sustain with popular but ill-advised economic handouts. By definition, unsustainable policies eventually run into a wall.

ut now, Sri Lanka's economy is in free fall. The proximate causes of the crisis are clear enough. Problems stemming from international factors such as COVID-19 and Russia's war in Ukraine were exacerbated by Sri Lanka's own policy mistakes. In 2019, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa (who has now fled the country) announced a round of mindless tax cuts, depriving the state of sorely needed revenue. Then, in 2021, his government abruptly banned imports of chemical fertilizer and pesticides. While the aim of the policy was to stall foreignexchange outflows, the main result was a dramatic reduction in domestic food production, leading to acute food shortages this year.

The coup de grâce was the government's ongoing effort to keep the Sri Lankan rupee artificially strong. Technically, Sri Lanka uses a "soft peg": Rather than being fixed by government diktat, the rupee-to-dollar exchange rate is allowed to float, albeit with occasional interventions by the central bank (buying and selling dollars) to prevent excessive fluctuations.

But charting the rupee-todollar exchange rate shows that the country's soft peg is a misnomer. For years, the exchange rate remained flat, roughly between 175 to 200 rupees to the dollar because, as economist Noah Smith explains, the Sri Lankan central bank was regularly selling dollars to prop up the rupee's value. Eventually, this longstanding intervention ended the only way that it could: starting around April of this year, the rupee began depreciating sharply. Within months, the exchange rate had fallen to 350 rupees to the dollar, and the central bank's dollar reserves had all but vanished.

Sri Lanka defaulted on its for-

eign debt in May. We now know that, rather than turning to the International Monetary Fund, whose rescue programs are conditional on tough policy reforms, it approached China for a fresh loan when its coffers were approaching empty. But this merely increased its debt by another \$3 billion and ensured that its inevitable crisis would be even bigger when it eventually arrived.

China's strategy vis-à-vis Sri Lanka (and other developing countries, like Ethiopia) echoes the approach taken both by earlier colonial powers and by rural moneylenders in developing countries. As Amit Bhaduri showed in a classic 1977 paper in the Cambridge Journal of Economics, rural informal moneylenders typically do not worry about the borrower defaulting; rather, they worry about the borrower not defaulting, because then they cannot turn a bigger profit by confiscating his collateral (usually his

Consider Hambantota Port, the pet project of Mahinda Rajapaksa, Sri Lanka's president between 2005 and 2015 (and Gotabaya Rajapaksa's brother). Funded largely with Chinese money, the port opened in 2010 on Mahinda's birthday. But when Sri Lanka later failed to repay the debt, this "gift" became collateral to be confiscated. China now has a 99-year lease on the port.

How did a country with a longstanding reputation for maturity make so many mistakes? The short answer is that Sri Lanka's politics sowed the seeds for today's economic crisis. The Rajapaksa-led government became increasingly authoritarian after defeating the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and ending Sri Lanka's decades-long civil war in 2009. It eroded the country's democratic institutions, persecuted minorities, and waved away accusations of war crimes

Although authoritarianism

typically ends up destroying an economy, some authoritarian governments have managed to deliver economic growth and stability. For a short while, it seemed possible that the Rajapaksa government could fall into this category. But as it embraced populism, it soon became clear that crony capitalism would be Sri Lanka's fate.

When the Rajapaksa government returned to power in 2019, it was riding a wave of support that it sought to sustain with ill-advised economic handouts. But the public's patience can be bought for only so long. Eventually, unsustainable policies run into a wall.

If not for its hubris, the latest Rajapaksa government could have corrected course. When it came to power and immediately announced big tax cuts, it met with strong, sensible criticism. On October 30, 2019, for example, former Finance Minister Mangala Samaraweera warned, on Twitter, that, "Gota's tax plan wants to set Sri Lanka on an express train to bankruptcy." But Rajapaksa doubled down. When the government suddenly banned chemical-fertilizer imports, the implications of the policy were all too predictable.

Where it will end is unclear. Even if the Rajapaksas do not regain control by proxy, there are other risks. The IMF cannot offer a rescue program until there is a viable government with which to negotiate. But both the Fund and the Paris Club of sovereign creditors also will need to be proactive, suspending some of their bureaucratic rules to help Sri Lanka through this acute phase of the crisis. Failing that, a spiraling humanitarian disaster is the likeliest outcome.

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

The author is a former chief economist of the World Bank and chief economic adviser to the Government of India, is Professor of Economics at Cornell University and a non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution



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Employment Despair

'nemployment is a very serious problem for the young people in kashmir. There are thousands of people who do not have any work to do and are not even able to find work for themselves. Unemployment refers to the situation where a person wants to work but cannot find employment in the labour market, and that is a phenomenon which is widely common in Kashmir. There are so many young dynamic and talented people who deserve to hold good positions but are not being provided with the right opportunities. It is ironic how jobs and

opportunities are still achievable only through sifarish even in the 21st century and it might sound surprising or people

might argue that it is not the case anymore, but truly it is. Besides the lack of jobs, lockdowns to contain the coronavirus for two consecutive years forced many industries to shut down thus increasing unemployment, making the scenario even worse. Also, an unemployed person is more likely to do socially unacceptable work to earn bread. Thus, very often in a society where there are a huge number of unemployed people,

there will be a great proliferation of thieves, snatchers, bank-robbers and much more serious anti-social ele-

ments. Unemployment has aided to the deteriorating mental health condition of the youth, many young people nowadays are committing suicide owing to a spectrum of social deprivations including unemployment. The government needs to pay heed to the plea of qualified young people and find more ways to create jobs. Moreover, people should focus on becoming job creators and not job seekers and they should not lose hope on not finding a job but rather work towards building their own ways of income so that they overcome unemployment for themselves and for people who would eventually work for them and their venture. The deserving students of Kashmir have been

deprived of the right opportunities for long enough, now it is time for the authorities to stand up and create a productive platform for the talented youth of the valley

Fazil Mir

MINDFUL FRIDAYS

Sexual OCD: Taboo, Obsession and Beyond

Sexual Obsessions Aren't Sexual Fantasies, They're a Treatable Disorder

Wasim Kakroo

person who refrains from touching others out of concern that it might be sexually inappropri-ate is less generally known but Obessesive Compulsive Disorder can also manifest itself in this way.

Consider this. A teenage boy might be worried about engaging in unwanted sexual activity. This can be as simple as being worried that since he has accidentally touched a girl in a crowded hallway at school, he has upset her. Or he might constantly be fearful of committing rape. Even though he has no desire to rape somebody, the thought of doing so makes him feel anxious. In order to reduce the possibility of saying and doing something wrong, he might keep his hands in his pockets while walking and maintain a greater distance from people than is cus-

Additionally, those who have sexual obsessions may worry that they harbor forbidden sexual desires like paedophilia or incest. In actuality, they don't have these urges but they are troubled by the fear that they might act on these thoughts. These kids might make every effort to avoid being alone with their families or

In actuality, these so-called "sexual obsessions" are fairly common component of OCD in teenagers and even young children. Since they feel ashamed of having sexual thoughts that they find difficult to handle, they are especially isolating for the children and adolescents who experi-

Although a person may have a wide variety of sexual obsessions, there are those that can be viewed as taboo that frequently arise, including bestiality, incest, infidelity, sexual abuse, blasphemy in relation to sexuality and religion-the person may have sexual thoughts about religious figures, sexual servitude, sexual sadism or sexual thoughts about friends.

According to estimates, between 6 and 24 percent of OCD sufferers will have some sort of sexual obsession. Given that most people are unwilling to disclose such thoughts, the number may even be larger. While studies indicate that both sexes with OCD would likely experience sexual obsession at roughly the same rate, people sometimes mistakenly attribute this trait to males only.

Sexual fantasies and obsessions are two different things and should be confused with each other. Sexual obsessions are undesired and upsetting thoughts that are generally linked to fear, guilt, or self-



t's common for someone to worry that they might act on these unsettling thoughts if they continue to have them or if they become more from continue to have them or if they become more frequent. Even if a person may be conscious that they won't act on their obsessions, the mere act of thinking about them could be viewed as immoral

loathing, in contrast to sexual fantasies, which are typically tied to pleasure or desire, whether or not it is attainable.

Whether it be an obsession about paedophilia, rape, or sexual violence, people with OCD frequently worry that it will one day cause them to act on their fantasies. A person with OCD will find the preoccupation immoral and feel repulsed at the prospect of acting upon it, in contrast to someone who could be at risk for acting

on similar urges.

A person with OCD may become disproportionately preoccupied with pornography and/or masturbation as a sexual compulsion as "outlets" for their unwelcome sexual thoughts.

Because these thoughts are not representative of the person's own beliefs and morality, those who suffer from sexual obsession find it difficult or terrifying to ignore them. Thoughts in some people

may be so strong that they seem to be true but usually the person is aware that they aren't. It's common for someone to worry that they might act on these unsettling thoughts if they continue to have them or if they become more frequent. Even if a person may be conscious that they won't act on their obsessions, the mere act of thinking about them could be viewed as immoral.

While this problem can make it chal-

Those who have sexual obsessions may worry that they harbor forbidden sexual desires like paedophilia or incest. In actuality, they don't have these urges but they are troubled by the fear that they might act on these thoughts

lenging to talk about, competent mental health professionals reassure people that the condition is treatable and that either not treating the disorder or self-treatment can worsen their disorder. People who believe they may have a sexual obsession or who know someone who does require assistance should get it.

Finding a therapist who is skillful in employing cognition-behavioral therapy (CBT) in treatment of OCD using exposure and response prevention, can help such patients with sexual OCD to navigate their obsessional feelings of stress so that they may develop an acceptance of their feelings and reduce their compulsive actions. A skilled mental health professional will collaborate with a patient to create coping mechanisms for them to handle the physical and emotional upheaval caused by their obsessive thoughts.

Other evidence based therapies that have been found to help patients with sexual OCD include Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Metacognitive therapy, Psychodynamic psychotherapy

In moderate to severe cases of sexual OCD, the patient may get benefitted by taking medications prescribed by a psychiatrist alongside the various tools and strategies taught by a trained therapist in psychotherapy. The chances of relapse in those cases where both psychotherapy and medications are used is lesser than those cases where only medication is used to deal with the severity of sexual OCD.

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Humble or Not?

TYRONE SGAMBATI

sychologists have recently linked intellectual humility to a host of benefits: showing more persistence in the face of failure, holding less polarized beliefs and attitudes, and being received as warm and friendly by others. But what does it take to be intellectually humble-and how do you know if you already are?

The old joke about humility—that "it's my greatest quality"—speaks to the difficulty in knowing how humble you actually are. It's a paradox: If you're walking around thinking you're humbler than most people, then chances are good that you're

For precisely that reason, a trait like humility presents special problems in measurement for scientists and lay people alike. Even so, there are ways for you to try to understand how intellectually humble you are and to cultivate this quality within

The trouble with measuring humility

Despite intellectual humility being the subject of intense scientific study in recent years, there remains debate among scientists on how best to measure it. That debate begins with a basic question: What is intellectual humility? Most scientists agree that being aware of your intellectual limitations and the fallibility of your beliefs is an important part of intellectual humility, but beyond that there isn't a clear consensus. Some argue that intellectual humility ends there, while others suggest that things like how we view others' ideas and how we express our beliefs are components of intellectual humility.

Most recently, a study published in the Journal of Personality Assessment reviewed the existing theories and measures of intellectual humility and proposed that there are two key dimensions: the self-directed vs.

other-directed dimension and the internal vs. expressed dimension.

Both internal and expressed intellectual humility can concern either one's own intellect and beliefs (selfdirected) or those of others (otherdirected), but internal intellectual humility is limited to an individual's thoughts and opinions, whereas expressed intellectual humility captures how they act.

The differences between internal and external intellectual humility have important implications for how we detect humility in ourselves. While expressed intellectual humility, which consists of actions, can be detected by any observer, say a friend or a partner, your own internal humility is only accessible to one person: you!

Which means if you're reading this article because you want to know if you are intellectually humble, you're in a bit of a pickle. You could start by asking yourself one of the questions that researchers ask study participants: Do you "question your own opinions, positions, and viewpoints because they could be wrong?" But now you (and scientists who ask these questions) are faced with a problem: Are individuals really wellequipped to accurately assess their own intellectual humility?

The trouble is that humans are prone to many biases and blind spots that can make accurate selfassessment difficult. In fact, because we show a preference for positive emotions over negative ones, we are motivated to "self-enhance," or view ourselves more favorably than we really are.

For example, decades of research on these kinds of biases demonstrate that individuals robustly and systematically rate themselves as higher than average on desirable traits like "intelligent" and "friendly" and lower than average on undesirable

traits like "vain" and "dishonest." Unfortunately, there is no magic solution to this problem, and scientists themselves primarily use self-report questionnaires to assess intellectual humility. However, there is good news! Several measurement validation studies have shown that in spite of these biases, self-reports of intellectual humility are linked to patterns of behaviors and other attitudes that are consistent with the concept of intellectual humility. That doesn't mean that individuals can perfectly assess their own intellectual humility, but it does suggest that self-reflection is informative.

Just be sure to remain mindful of the human tendency to self-en-

Discovering your own intellectual humility

Here are four different types of intellectual humility to look for in yourself—and some tips on how you might cultivate each one.

Remember the paper, discussed above, that proposed two dimensions of intellectual humility: internal vs. external and self-directed vs. other-directed? Together, the authors suggest that these dimensions create four types of intellectual humility. You can use them as a framework for assessing your capacity to be intellectually humble.

1. Internal and self-directed intel**lectual humility.** This one requires you to inquire, honestly, about yourself. For example, when you have an opinion, are you open to changing it? Do you ever think about whether the reasons you have for a certain belief might be wrong? Do you calibrate the strength of your beliefs to the strength of your evidence? As answers begin to come to mind, make sure to take a moment and examine them for any biased thinking. Did they stand up to the scrutiny or was there some self-enhancement baked into your intuitions?

For readers who want to improve this kind of intellectual humility, making a habit of awareness is a great first step. Try checking in on your beliefs and opinions periodically, especially those that are important to you. Pay attention to the strength of the evidence supporting those beliefs, whether you ever question them, and how open you are to changing your mind. Just the very act of checking in constitutes intellectual humility, but doing it will also help you recognize where you might be falling short.

2. Internal and other-directed intellectual humility. This type of internal intellectual humility concerns thoughts and awareness regarding others. Once again, you'll have to do some self-reflection, and one common place to start is asking yourself whether you recognize the intellectual merit in opinions and beliefs that are different from your own.

Before answering, it's important to acknowledge the breadth of this question. It might be easy to recognize the merit in a friend's opinion about a new movie, but very difficult to see merit in why someone voted for a political candidate you dislike. In fact, research has shown that when we perceive a discussion as a disagreement or when we perceive our discussion partner as immoral, we are less likely to be intellectually humble.

Often, we jump to conclusions about other people and their beliefs, even with incomplete information. We tend to judge books by their proverbial covers. This is exactly where an intellectually humble individual will withhold strong judgments, precisely because evidence is limited as long as you haven't "read" the book. For instance, hearing that someone voted for your least favorite political candidate might elicit a negative kneejerk reaction. However, you may not know how they arrived at their decision or the quality of evidence that led them there. If you find yourself in this situation, be curious! Understand the entirety of the picture-both your side and theirsbefore making a judgment.

At the end of the day, it's possible that you still disagree with their voting choice-and that's OK. This type of intellectually humility is not about changing your opinion to accommodate others; it's about fairly evaluating others and their beliefs.

3. Expressed and self-directed intellectual humility. Expressed and self-directed intellectual humility captures whether you behave in a way that is consistent with internal intellectual humility about your own beliefs and attitudes. Some common examples of this kind of intellectual humility are actively searching for both confirmatory and disconfirmatory evidence and being willing to outwardly admit when you are wrong.

Now, you can of course begin by asking yourself how much you do these things, but for the expressed form of intellectual humility, you can also look to those around you to help determine how humble you are. Doing both, asking yourself and others, will likely give you a more accurate picture of how intellectually humble your actions really are.

Most people have at one point or another realized that they were wrong about something-but then couldn't bring themselves to admit it. Boiled down, this is a disconnect between internal and external intellectual humility. Even armed with the knowledge that you were wrong. you put up a fight to "save face." Although that response might feel instinctual, the research suggests that it's those who are perceived as intellectually humble and admit being wrong who are viewed more favorably by their peers. So, when you are wrong, just admit it!

4. Expressed and other-directed intellectual humility. This kind of intellectual humility arises perhaps

most frequently in the midst of conflict, and involves expressions of intellectual humility toward others' beliefs and attitudes. When you and your spouse (or maybe a close friend) disagree, how do you approach their perspective? Are you willing to hear it out in good faith, or do you insist they must have it all wrong?

Even the best of us can get sucked into the latter, but it's a textbook example of intellectual arrogance. This type of intellectual humility can also arise in the context of feedback. It's easy to discount critical feedback on the grounds that you "know better." However, in doing so not only are you suggesting that your ideas are superior to your critic's, but you may also be missing out on valuable insights that lie in your blind spots.

This is the perfect type of intellectual humility to check in with those closest to you about. Ask them if they feel heard in conflict, if you convey yourself in a way that suggests you think your opinions are superior to theirs, and how you receive feedback. If the answer surprises you, that's just one more reason to work on being intellectually humble.

Knowing how intellectually humble you are isn't an easy task, and being intellectually humble itself isn't any easier! At the heart of these difficulties lie human characteristics and biases that we all share: We self-enhance, we're prone to defensiveness in disagreements, we judge books by their covers, and the list goes on. Yet, the science tells us that fostering these four aspects of intellectual humility can help you learn new things, improve your relationships, and create a less divided world.

The author is a research associate at the Greater Good Science Center and a Ph.D. student in the Department of Psychology at UC Berkeley. The article was originally published by Greater Good

Migrants Play Very Important Role In Nation-Building, Their **Rights Cannot Be Ignored: SC**

Agenceis

New Delhi: Migrants play a very vital role in building the nation and their rights cannot be ignored at all, the Supreme Court said Thursday while asking the Centre to devise a mechanism so that they receive food grains without ration cards.

The top court said the welfare schemes devised by the Centre should reach a maximum number of workers and the state governments will have to cooperate and assist the Union of India.

"As far as our country is concerned, two people are very important. First is the farmer i.e the agriculturist and the second is migrant workers. Migrants also play a very important role in building the nation. Their rights cannot be ignored at all.

Therefore you have to reach them. They may be illiterate and may not know how to avail benefits of government schemes. Concerned states will have to ensure benefits of the scheme reaches them," a bench of Justices M R Shah and B V Nagarathna said.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Central Government, informed the bench that approximately 27.95 crore unorganised labourers or migrant workers have been registered as on July 11 on a portal developed in consultation with the National Informatics Centre (NIC) based on the information given by states.

Elaborating on the steps taken by the Centre, Bhati told the apex court that an e-Shram portal has been launched aimed to help people like migrant workers, construction workers, etc.

She said that a National Career Service portal has been created which is a one-stop solution that provides a wide array of employment and career-related services to the citizens of India.

The ASG also apprised the court that the Government of India has introduced a pension scheme for unorganised workers namely Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PM-SYM) to ensure old age protection for unorganised workers.

Bhati submitted that additional allocation of foodgrains as demanded by states is being looked into and Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana has been extended till September.

She said additional grains can be procured by states at the Food Corporation of India.

point. Prashant Bhushan, appearing for three activists, Anjali Bharadwaj, Harsh Mander, and Jagdeep Chhokar, alleged that the Centre is asking states to buy ration at market rates. Bhushan said the majority of the workers are deprived of rations despite being registered on the portal as they don't have ration cards.

"NFSA covers up to 75 per cent of the rural population and 50 per cent of the urban population under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and priority households. However, this number is based on the census of 2011. There has been a 15 per cent increase in the population eligible for ration cards and they are deprived," Bhushan said.

The top court took note of the submission and asked if poor people can be deprived of rations just because the census has not been carried out.

"You (Centre) are going by 2011 data and that may be an injustice to the needy people and you should look into it. You should consider them as your own brothers and sisters. You will give the ration to those who have ration cards, what about those who are registered but don't have ration cards?

"You have to think it over and come up with a solution so that maximum workers are benefitted. You have to fix the criteria and introspect on this. All efforts should be made by the state governments so that migrants have ration cards, we cannot shut our eyes," the bench said.

The top court said it will pass some orders on the matter and hear the case after two weeks.

The apex court in April had sought compliance reports within four weeks from the Centre and state governments on what actions have been taken to comply with its June 2021 order to provide food and social security to migrant workers.

The top court had issued a slew of directions to authorities on a plea of three activists seeking welfare measures for migrant workers and ordered states and Union Territories (UTs) to frame schemes for providing free dry rations to them till the pandemic lasts, while the Centre will have to allocate additional foodgrains.

It also directed states and UTs to register all establishments and license all contractors under the law and ensure that the statutory duty imposed on the contractors to give particulars of migrant workers is fully complied with.

The activists had filed the plea seeking directions to the Centre and states to ensure food security, cash transfers, and other welfare measures for migrant workers who faced distress due to curfews and lockdowns in various parts of the country during the second wave of COVID-19.

Airlines Can't Charge Extra Fee For Issuing Boarding Pass At Check-In Counters: Aviation Ministry

Agenceis

New Delhi: Airlines can't charge any additional fee for issuing boarding pass at check-in counters in airports, the aviation ministry said on Thursday.

Airlines such as IndiGo, SpiceJet and Go First currently charge a fee of Rs 200 if a passenger wants the boarding pass to be issued at the check-in counter.

"It has come to the notice of MoCA (Ministry of Civil Aviation) that airlines are charging additional amount for issuing boarding passes from the passengers,' the ministry said on Twitter.

This additional amount is not in accordance with the instructions according to the provisions of Aircraft Rules, 1937, it said.

In view of the above, the airlines are advised not to charge any additional amount for issuing boarding passes at the airport check-in counters, as the same cannot be considered within the



'tariff' as provided under Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, it mentioned.

On May 21, 2020, the ministry made it mandatory for passengers to do web check-in and get the boarding pass then itself.

However, on May 9, 2022, the ministry issued an order stating that airlines should encourage, facilitate and guide the passengers for doing "timely web check-in and bag tag printing" and "minimise or avoid" imposing penal charges on passengers who have not done web check-in.

The ministry on Thursday said the practice of airlines charging an additional fee for issuing boarding passes at airport check-in counters is not in accordance with the May 9 order.

SC To Hear In Oct First Week Pleas On Gyanvapi Mosque, Says Will Await Decision Of Varanasi Judge

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday said that it will await the Varanasi district judge's decision on the Gyanvapi mosque committee's application raising objections to the maintainability of the civil suit filed by Hindu devotees.

The top court also refused to entertain two writ petitions that sought its permission to worship the Shivling', which is claimed to be found in the Gyanvapi mosque premises during a court-ordered survey and carbon dating of the Shivling' to ascertain its age.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud, Surya Kant, and PS Narasimha said that it is posting for October first week hearing on the appeal of Gyanvapi mosque committee's plea against the Allahabad High Court order upholding the appointment of court commissioner to survey the site.

The bench said that it has been apprised of the fact that proceedings before the District Judge are still underway and it would be appropriate if the appeal of the mosque committee is kept pending till the outcome e application filed under Order 7 Rule 11 questioning the

maintainability of the suit. During the hearing, the bench told senior advocate Huzefa

Ahmadi appearing for the Committee of Management of Anujman Intezamia Masajid, Varanasi, that it will keep the proceedings on the appeal filed by it pending till the District Judge adjudicate upon the objections filed by the mosque committee on the maintainability of the suit under Order 7 Rule 11 of CPC.

It said, "You see everything depends on the application un-der Order 7 Rule 11 of CPC which has been filed before the district judge, Varanasi. If the district judge upholds the objections then nothing remains but if it rejects the objections then parties can avail the remedies provided under the law. As regard to the commission's report, you can very well raise it before the court that it should not be read in evidence".

Ahmadi accepted that there is a remedy under law but said that the High Court order upholding the appointment of a court commissioner cannot be passed.

"It is like a fruit from a poisonous tree. The order of commission survey was ex-facie beyond jurisdiction", he said, adding, "If I can make out a case that the order appointing commission is illegal, hen the report has to be struck off In my case, there was no situation for ordering a commission report".

The senior counsel said that the court must see what the commission report has led to and the entire area of worship has been sealed.

"The high court said that the order appointing commissioner is innocuous. A status quo existing for several years has been altered. It has effectively changed the character of the place of worship. This is not one of the cases but it is happening everywhere. Post this order there is a domino effect across the country where similar applications are filed", he said.

Senior advocate Vaidyanathan objected to the submission of Ahmadi and said that he is arguing on a civil suit and not a PIL and he should focus his arguments on the subject matter of the suit. Justice Surya Kant said that the court can direct the trial court to not rely on the commission report while deciding their objections.

Ahmadi said that the order of the High Court upholding the appointment of a court commissioner should be set aside. The bench then posted the

matter for further hearing in the first week of October and said that it would await the outcome of the proceedings before the district judge on the application filed by the mosque committee challenging the maintainability of the civil suit filed by Hindu devotees.

ED Questions Sonia For Two Hours, Cong Uses Occasion To Stage Show Of Strength

Agenceis

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday questioned Congress chief Sonia Gandhi in a money laundering case related to the National Herald newspaper. The day was a show of strength for the party with street protests and leaders courting arrest across the country.

The questioning of the 75-year-old, who is recovering from Covid, lasted for about two hours and the session ended on her request, officials said. However, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said the ED told Sonia Gandhi that they had no further questions and she could leave.

Sonia Gandhi in turn said she would be willing to respond to any other questions they might have and was ready to stay on till 8 pm or 9 pm if necessary, Ramesh posted on Twitter. She also said she was a Covid patient and needed to take her medicines so she should be informed about what time she should appear next. According to Ramesh, the ED said it had nothing to ask of her either Thursday or Friday. After which Sonia Gandhi said she was willing to appear on Monday, Ramesh added.

She is likely to be called again for another round of questioning, ED sources said.

The session was conducted keeping in mind Covid protocol with everyone participating equipped with a Covid negative certificate.

Sonia Gandhi was questioned by the same assistant director-level investigation officer who interrogated her son Rahul Gandhi in the case -- related to alleged financial irregularities in the Congresspromoted Young Indian Private Limited, which owns National Herald. A woman officer was part of the questioning team

The summons to the Congress president took political centrestage in Parliament, where opposition leaders raised the issue, and on the streets with party workers staging massive protests.

As parts of central Delhi went into gridlock, Sonia Gandhi reached the federal probe agency's headquarters in Lutyens Delhi's A P J Abdul Kalam Road a little after noon escorted by her Z+ category CRPF security cover.

The Congress president, seen wearing a mask, was accompanied by her children Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. Priyanka Gandhi was al-

lowed to stay in the Pravartan Bhawan headquarters of the agency, away from the

questioning room, so she could be with her mother in case of a health issue and give her medicines. However, Rahul Gandhi left soon after.

Ahead of Sonia Gandhi's appearance, Delhi Police deployed a huge force, including CRPF and RAF personnel, and barricaded the entire over one kilometre stretch between her residence and the ED office.

The Congress slammed the agency's action against its top leadership and termed it "political vendetta".

"All Congress MPs and CWC members have courted mass arrest outside our party headquarters in a show of collective solidarity with Congress president Sonia Gandhi, a target of 'Vishguru's' political vendetta, said Congress general secretary Ramesh.

His party colleague P Chidambaram said the ED is not higher than the Supreme Court.

What is that the ED wants to 'investigate' that will not be examined by the SC," he asked.

Other Opposition leaders voiced their protest too. Leaders of 13 political parties, including the DMK, Shiv Sena, RJD and the Left, met at Parliament House and issued a statement accusing the government of unleashing a relentless campaign of vendetta against its political opponents and critics through the mischievous misuse of investigative agencies.

Prominent leaders of a number of political parties have been deliberately targeted and subjected to harassment in an unprecedented manner," the

The opposition's presidential candidate Yashwant Sinha said he strongly condemned the ED's attitude to humiliate political leaders. The officers of ED shd have gone to her residence even if they had questions to ask of Sonia Gandhi, he said on Twitter.

"Yet again the Extended Department (ED) of BJP is insulating the party from people's anger towards price rise, joblessness and inflation. By repeatedly calling opposition leaders with zero evidence against them is deliberate political vendetta carried out on behalf of the BIP," said Shiv Sena leader Priyanka Chaturvedi.

The issue echoed in Parliament as well where the Congress and other Opposition parties sought to

With tempers running high, Union minister Pralhad Joshi asked whether the Opposition party believes everyone is equal before the law or not.

CONTD. FROM **FRONT PAGE**

LG Moots Several

requisite facilities for the tourists.

The LG, he said, directed the officials to ensure public conveniences, utilities, parking facilities, sanitation facilities, cleanliness, signage, toilet units, besides activities for the tourists at all tourist places.

"The department was further advised to explore the possibility of setting up pre-paid taxi counters at various tourist locations to address the issue of over-charging," he added.

Reviewing the ongoing works under the Capex budget of the Tourism directorate, the spokesperson said that the LG asked the department to adopt result-oriented and outcome-based approach at the planning stage for the effective execution of the projects.

"On Swadesh Darshan 2.0, it was informed that five Tourist Destinations, three in Jammu & two in Kashmir Division viz:- Wular Lake and adjoining areas, Tosamaidan-Doodhpathri, Surinsar-Mansar, Basohli-Sarthal Bhaderwah have been sent to the Government

of India," he added. 100's Of Vehicles

Officials said the convoy carrying Amarnath pilgrims to Kashmir has been stopped at Chanderkoot and Nashri for now, they said.

Restoration work is in progress. Meanwhile, a traffic department official said that no traffic will be allowed on the highway on Friday due to road blockade and intermit-

tent shooting stones. "Tomorrow (July 22) no vehicular movement shall be allowed from either side on Jammu-Srinagar highway in view of road blockage at Mehad. Ramban due to intermittent shooting

stones," a traffic department official said. However, he said the public will be informed through "social media" in case the road opens." (With PTI inputs)

Murmu Becomes

Lord Krishna in the Bhagavad Gita -- 'Do your duty without expectation of the fruits thereof'," Sinha said.

"I have performed my duty conscientiously

out of my love for my country. The issues I had raised during my campaign remain pertinent," he said.

Immediately after the announcement of the NDA presidential nominee crossing the halfway mark, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president J P Nadda visited Murmu at her residence here to congratulate her.

"India scripts history. At a time when 1.3 billion Indians are marking Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, a daughter of India hailing from a tribal community born in a remote part of eastern India has been elected our President!." Modi tweeted

He congratulated Murmu on being elected to the top Constitutional post

"Droupadi Murmu Ji's life, her early struggles, her rich service and her exemplary success motivates each and every Indian. She has emerged as a ray of hope for our citizens, especially the poor, marginalised and the downtrodden," he said in a series of tweets.

The Prime Minister also thanked all MPs and MLAs across party lines who supported her candidature and said her "record victory" augurs well for our democracy.

'Droupadi Murmu Ji has been an outstanding MLA and Minister. She had an excellent tenure as Jharkhand governor. I am certain she will be an outstanding President who will lead from the front and strengthen India's development journey," he said.

Soon after counting began and she inched towards the halfway mark, celebrations began in her native town of Rairangpur congratulating "Odisha's daughter", with folk artists and tribal dancers performing on the streets. Murmu belongs to one of the largest tribal groups in the country, the Santhals.

Murmu's tribal background not only helped catapult her to the top post, but the BJP by fielding her is also eyeing crucial votes of the ST community in upcoming assembly elections in Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, which have a significant tribal population, besides the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

This also helped her get the support of a number of independent parties including BJD, YSRCP, AIADMK, TDP, BSP, JDS and SAD, besides opposition's JMM, Shiv Sena and Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party in her victory run.

By nominating her, the BJP is also seeking to get its foothold in Odisha's tribal-dominated belt, which it has been eyeing ever since it snapped ties with BJD in 2009. Odisha goes to the polls along with the 2024 general elections and so does Andhra Pradesh, where there is a significant tribal population.

Murmu had contested the 2014 assembly election from Rairangpur, but lost to the BJD

Born on June 20, 1958, in Odisha's Mayurbhani district, she catapulted into the national spotlight after being picked as the ruling NDA's presidential nominee in the July 18 polls.

It is from Rairangpur that she took her first step up the BJP ladder. She was a councillor in the local Notified Area Council in 1997 and rose to be a minister in Odisha's BJD-BJP coalition government from 2000 to 2004. In 2015, she was appointed governor of Jharkhand and stayed in the post till 2021.

She is an excellent orator in Santhali and Odia languages and has worked extensively to improve infrastructure such as roads and ports

The low-profile Murmu, believed to be deeply spiritual, is a keen practitioner of the meditation techniques of the Brahma Kumaris, a movement she embraced after she lost her husband, two sons, mother and brother in just six years between 2009-2015.

An image soon after her announcement as NDA nominee for the top post was perhaps in sync with this facet -- her sweeping the floor of the Purandeswari Shiv temple in Rairangpur in her home state Odisha's Mayurbhanj district.

505 More Test

Union Territory.

"Moreover, 152 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 97 from Jammu division and 55 from Kashmir division," they added.

J&K HC Disposes

of the issues which have been raised by the petitioner Samiti in the representation to this Court and rather considers it appropriate to leave those issues to be considered, negotiated and resolved at the level of the Government in consultation with the representatives of the petitioner Samiti," the order adds.

Tickoo, who heads KPSS, had prayed before the Chief Justice of the J&K High Court to protect the lives of the religious minorities in the J&K as their lives are at "stake" due to "callous approach of the Union Territory administration.

The body had prayed to summon the concerned officials to explain the policy and mechanism they have devised since 08 June 2020 when Kashmiri Pandit Ajay Pandita (Bharti) was killed in Anantnag District.

It had also appealed to the court to investigate all targeted killings that took place since 08 June 2020 and to examine the role of all officers involved in it and to suspend them without any delay in negligence on

The body had also sought probe in all transfers prior to May12, 2022, which, according to KPSS had been made at the behest of the "blueeyed persons"

The court however noted that the administration is making all efforts to provide security and protection to the religious minorities in J&K and a robust mechanism is being deployed to avoid targeted killings and to investigate the incidents of all targeted killings.

It said that the Advocate General has placed a note of Special DG, CID, J&K in a sealed cover to contend that all possible care is taken to address all the above issues.

Opposition Unity

president -- announced that it will abstain from voting for the vice presidential poll.

Opposition unity is a bit of a chimera. Ultimately political parties will do what's in their own interest & that's as it should be. J&K saw this when we were left high & dry by friends in 2019. It's time for @JKNC_ to do suits the party rather than waste time chasing ghosts, Abdullah wrote on Twitter.

The Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress earlier in the day said it will abstain

from voting in the vice presidential election, in which the ruling BJP's candidate is Jagdeep Dhankhar, the Governor of West Bengal.

Dhankhar's opposition rival is Congress veteran Margaret Alva. (PTI)

House Collapse

Soon after getting the information, a police team headed by SHO Fareed Ahmad rushed to the spot which is a far off place, they added.

Two Drug Peddlers

spokesperson in a statement.

Identifying the accused duo; Shabir Ahmed Sofi @ JK son of Abdul Khaliq Sofi resident of Mazhama Magam and Asif Nazir Rather son of Nazir Ahmed Rather resident of Archanderhama Budgam, the police said both of them have been lodged in District Jail Reasi.

'The duo accused persons were involved in NDPS cases and were promoting drug abuse by supplying drugs to local youth of district Budgam", reads the statement. (ONS)

Cash Looted From

of the complaint a police team rushed to the shrine and after taking stock of the situation, registered an FIR vide number 169/2022 under section 458, 380 in this regard and set the investigation into motion. (KNT)

Seven Gamblers Held

seized from the spot.

They have been shifted to the police station where they remain in custody. Besides, 02 vehicles (Alto and Santro) bearing registration No.'s JK01AH-1415 & JK01S-2079 were also seized from gambling spot," the spokesperson said.

Accordingly, he said, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Tangmarg and further investigation has been initiated. (ONS)

New Rates For

Rs 45 and for French cut Rs 50 has been fixed. For full face threading Rs 45 and for half face threading Rs 35 has been fixed by the department. (ONS)

Sikh Organisation In J&K Criticises Delimitation Commission

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A Sikh organisation in Kashmir on Thursday criticised the Delimitation Commission for not providing any political representation to the community by way of reservation of assembly seats.

The All Parties Sikh Coordination Committee (APSCC) also appealed to the Members of Parliament to listen to their conscience and oppose the reservation for the members of Kashmiri Pandit community which is based on pure religious lines.

has two important jobs -- to give representation based on geography and population. It is mandatory and they cannot ignore that," APSCC chairman Jagmohan Singh Raina told re-

"But, we have not been given any representation. The forthcoming (assembly) elections living in the different parts of will be meaningless if the Sikh community is not given any political representation, he said.

Raina said the delimitation presented in Parliament where reservation for Kashmiri Pandits only as a minority, even as Sikhs also constitute a good population in Jammu and Kashmir.

How can they ignore that? The Members of Parliament need to see to it clearly as Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab are two border states which are sensitive and no population can be ignored from political representation, otherwise the consequences will be not be good for the nation, he said, demanding Act has not been extended as yet

to all the MPs to listen to their chairman said.

conscience and oppose the reservation for the members of Kashmiri Pandit community that is based on pure religious lines.

We met the Delimitation Commission headed by Justice (Retired) Ranjana Desai twice and projected the demands but the plea fell on deaf ears.

"We at APSCC had demanded reservation of some seats in Jammu as well as Kashmir divisions, but to our dismay and disappointment, no seat has been reserved for the Sikhs of Jammu and Kashmir, thus leaving the community members disen-The delimitation commission franchised, he said.

Raina said there are about 10 constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir where the Sikhs form a major chunk of votes that can be a deciding factor for any candidate.

If the BJP government does not support us, how will Sikhs support it, he added. He also appealed to the Sikhs

world to raise their voice against this injustice and maltreatment. Raina said it is highly unfortu-

nate that the voices of the comcommission bill, which has been munity have not been heard by successive governments at the it needs to be passed, proposes Centre as well as in the erstwhile state.

Political representation is of utmost importance and it needs to be given due consideration. Due to the misrepresentation of community in the political dispensation of Jammu and Kashmir, burning issues like minority status to Sikhs of J&K and lack of promotion of Punjabi language

are as it is. Even though J&K is a union territory, the National Minority reservation for the community.

The APSCC chairman appealed as religious minority, the APSCC

Amarnath Yatra

Over 90% Pilgrims Satisfied With Arrangements: Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The arrangements in place for annual Amarnath yatra In addition to the Rapid Asplace for annual Amarnath yatra have been given a satisfactory rating by pilgrims, on the Rapid Assessment System (RAS) which provides for a feedback of the scale of 1-5, an official spokesperson said Thursday.

with their feedbacks.

provide quality food to the vis- provided to the vatris. iting pilgrims throughout the yatra-route across all langars and eateries have been given yatris. With most respondents rating it at 4 and above.

accommodation Similarly, and sanitation has received a Board are analyzing areas of satisfactory feedback from 89% concern mentioned by Yatris to

tively, the overall experience of 90% responders has remained

sessment System (RAS) feedback, a system of responses/ physical feedback has also been instituted and yatris are services provided to yatris, on a requested to rate services, infrastructure and facilities in respect of 20 parameters. An anal-He said that the system has ysis of 20 days of these feedback captured segment-wise respons- forms indicated that more than A total of 1,23,971 communi- their satisfaction on these sercations were sent to yatris, of vices which are consistent with which 9,389 responded back the feedback analysis of RAS. This indicates high level of sat-On RAS, the arrangements to isfaction in the facilities being

The Chief Secretary appealed to such yatris, who faced problems during the yatra, to highlight satisfactory rating by 93% of the their grievances to the Camp Directors who would address any inconvenience to yatris.

The Government and Shrine

and 85%, respectively. Cumula- further improve the experience. **I&B Ministry Promotes 17**

Senior IIS Group A Officers

Ghulam Abbas Posted As Joint Director CBC, J&K



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has promoted 17 senior IIS Group A officers from Senior Time Scale to Junior Administrative Grade including Ghulam Abbas Head of office (HoO) PIB J&K, Ladakh and sixteen others posted in different media units of the ministry.

According to ministry's order No. A-32013/2/2022-IIS/522, dated July 20, 2022, the officers have been promoted in the Pay level 12 of Pay Matrix of the 7th CPC on regular basis for charge of the new post.

They will be designated as Joint Director in their re- Mr Ghulam Abbas has served spective media units. Earlier in PIB Srinagar and Delhi for 14 through another Order No. A- long years.

22013/1/2020-IIS/501 dated July 7, 2022, the ministry had transferred 50 IIS officers throughout the country including Ms Neha Jalali JD CBC (Central Bureau of Communication) Jammu, Mr Ghulam Abbas and Mr Tariq Ahmad Rather Deputy Director (M&C) PIB Shimla from J&K.

Consequent upon the promotion of Mr Ghulam Abbas as Joint Director and his posting as Head of Regional Office, J&K and Ladakh, Central Bureau of Communication Jammu, he has been relieved from Srinagar to join at the new place of posting while the panel year 2022 with effect as Mr Tariq Ahmad Rather has from the date of assumption of taken over as HoO PIB J&K and

Ladakh. It is worth mentioning that RING ROAD PROJECT

500 Land Owners In Budgam **Await Compensation**

from Central Kashmir's Budgam district await compensation for the land acquired by the government recently for the construction of the ambitious Semi Ring Road project.

According to officials, over 590 acres of agricultural land has been acquired for 62-kilometre road project which would connect Pulwama and Ganderbal districts via Budgam through Pampore, Wathoora, Budgam, Dharmuna and Narbal in western outskirts of summer capital Srinagar.

Major portion of the land measuring-400 acres of farmland was acquired in the Budgam district alone for the high-

Commissioner Divisional Kashmir, Pandurang K. Pole, for further course of action," earlier told Kashmir Observer reads the bill. as far as land acquisition and handing over is concerned, the government has handed over more than 97 % land coming under alignment.

However, the aggrieved farm-Wathoora village told Kashmir Observer that they are yet to receive the compensation from the Union Territory government.

Lateef Dar, an aggrieved farmer told Kashmir Observer that the collector semi-ring road, Budgam has deposited the compensation amount for the farmers in the District Court Budgam. "However, the farmers were

told by the court that the money treasury department," he said. Dar said the farmers await

hasn't been deposited yet by the

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The protest by Kash-

miri Pandit employees after the target killing of their colleague

Rahul Bhat completed 70 days

on Thursday, even as they con-

tinue to hold sit-ins at various

places in the valley to press for

The protest by the employees

started on May 12 when Bhat

-- who had got the job of a clerk

under the special employment

package for displaced Kashmir

central Kashmir on May 12.

ing protests since then.

cation outside the valley.

Pandits -- was killed by terrorists inside the Tehsil office in Chadoo-

Demanding justice, Kashmiri

Pandits employed under the

PM's package have been hold-

The employees have been hold-

The employees along with

their families have been sitting

on the roadside in Vessu area

of south Kashmir's Anantnag

district and at other places de-

wake of spurt in target killings.

The fear-stricken employees

ing sit-ins at various places in the

valley and demanding their relo-

their demand of relocation.

Over three kanals of agricul-

SRINAGAR: Over 500 families tural land of Dar has been acguired by the government but he is yet to receive compensation.

According to a bill, from the District Collector Semi Ring road Budgam, to District court Budgam, a rate of Rs. 38.00 lac per Kanal plus 15% Jabrana was approved for the proprietary land. "Out of total awarded amount

for land, approximately Rs. 41.00 cr has been disbursed in favour of land owners of the said village, however, the land owners whose details are enclosed as annexure A refused to receive the compensation. Therefore, in terms of Section 32 (2) of the J&K Land Acquisition Act. Sv. 1990, the amount of compensation is deposited in the official account of Hon'ble Principal District Judge Budgam

The farmers however said that they want fair compensation and the government has kept them away from the Central Land Acquisition Act.

Ghulam Nabi, another villagers from Budgam especially, er from Wathoora told Kashmir Observer that it was the year 2017, when the government issued a notification for the land acquisition.

"Our nine kanal land was taken in March 2022, but the government is offering us the old rate of Rs 38 lakh/kanal. Today, the existing market price of one kanal land is around Rs 2 crore," he said.

He further added that government notification was issued much before abrogation of Article 370 under the erstwhile compensation even as the Jammu and Kashmir Land Acfunds have already been trans-quisition Act of 1934.

Relocation Continues For 70th Day

KP Employees' Protest For

ra town in Budgam district of relocate them outside the valley,

manding their relocation in the the government's decision to

have appealed to the J-K admin- and have been sticking to their

istration as well as the Centre to demand for relocation.

"Now since the central Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 is applicable in J&K, the government should provide us the compensation according to this Act," Ghulam Nabi added.

He further said that despite over a four month gap, the compensation has not been provided to the affected villagers.

The villagers from Wathoora also filed petitions against the notification dated 18.3.2017 for land acquisition issued by Collector Land Acquisition (ACR) earlier. The High Court of J&K and Ladakh, however, asked the government in March 2022 to proceed with construction of a ring road around Srinagar.

Meanwhile, Collector Land Acquisition Budgam Muzamil Maqbool told Kashmir Observer that they have compensated the farmers of almost all the villages but those from Wathoora refused to accept the compensation because of the rates.

"They aren't coming forward to receive the compensation due to the reason best known to them," Maqbool said.

He further added that over Rs 100 crore was sanctioned for the farmers and half of the funds have been disbursed among the farmers.

When asked that the farmers are saying that the Court maintained that the treasury hasn't provided any funds yet, he said, 'That is the issue of treasure but we have cleared it from our end," he added.

When asked whether the government is thinking of providing the compensation under the new land laws, he said "The matter is subjudice, the court will decide,"

Terming the situation of the

employees as worrisome, Na-

tional Conference (NC) pandit

leader Umesh Talashi said, Unfor-

tunately the plight of #Kashmiri-

Pandits under current regime has

worsened more.The KP employee

families are living on roads in

#Kashmir Valley.Received many

distress calls from Vessue Migrant

Camp.Urge HLG @manojsinha_

Sb to address this issue at earliest.

Worrisome situation (sic), Talashi

videos of protesting employees.

addressed on priority.

said in a tweet and also posted

He said the issue needs to be

"They can't be left to live like

this on roads where they are

vulnerable to attacks, he added.

Online Registration For PMSSS Open For Academic Year 2022-23

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The online registration of Prime Ministers Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS) is open for the academic year 2022-23 for students of J&K. The eligible students can register themselves on the official website, aicte-jk-scholarship-gov.in

A special J&K Cell in AICTE deals with implementation of PMSSS in J&K for students to pursue undergraduate studies meritorious students each year outside the Jammu and Kashmir. The J&K cell is responsible for proper implementation of the scheme to fulfil the objectives of PMSSS.

AICTE has issued official notification in this regard highlighting details of eligibility criteria, courses, and others have been provided. According to the official notification, only those students who have passed class 12th from Jammu and Kashmir Board or Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) board not earlier than 2020-21 or appeared in 2021-22, can apply for the scholarship.

The scholarship will be provided for courses such as general degree, professional (engineering, nursing, pharmacy, hotel management, architecture etc.), and medical, Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) or equivalent.

Under the scholarship scheme, had tweeted. students will get different amounts of scholarship on the academic fee as well as hostel fee. In case of academic fee, for the will get financial aid of Rs 30,000

num. For medical programmes, students will be provided upto Rs 3 lakh per annum.

Students studying in any mentioned course will also get financial assistance upto Rs 1 lakh per annum on the hostel fee.

In a significant decision, the Central Government extended Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS) for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh for five years under which 5000 are funded to study in private and Government educational institutions across the country.

Government decided to continue the scholarship scheme along with a simultaneous focus on opening new educational institutions in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has thanked Prime Minister, Narendra Modi for extension of PMSSS.

"Grateful to PM, Narendra Modi and Minister of Education, Dharmendra Pradhan for extending PMSSS for I&K students for another 5 years. With thousands of scholarships available every year, scheme will provide opportunities to our youth to dream big & means to realize their dreams," Office of LG J&K

Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) recently also thanked Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and Union Minister for general degree courses, students Education Dharmendra Pradhan for extending the Prime Minisper annum whereas for the pro- ter's Scholarship Scheme (PMSfessional courses, they will receive upto Rs 1.25 lakh per and dents for another 5 years.

10 Vehicles Seized For **Illegal Mining In Anantnag** pers, 02 Dumpers, 1 truck and

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Acting tough against illegal miners in the territorial jurisdiction of district Anantnag, Geology and Mining evening raids during the intervening night of 19 and 20 July.

10 vehicles including 06 Tip- sources only.

01 tractor found involved in illegal carriage of sand and nallah Boulders.

DMO Anantnag, said that Geology and Mining team An-Department through its team of officials, headed by District the raids against illegal mining Mineral Officer Anantnag Dr. and on the occasion has also ap-Showkat Ah. Bhat conducted late pealed to those people involved to stop this illegal practice and urged people & stakeholders The raids were conducted at in requirement of construcvarious spots of Sangam and Bi-tion material & minor miners jbehara areas. The team seized to procure the same from legal

SEC Discusses Modalities Of ULB Bye- Elections

Observer News Service

ment (H&DD), Dheeraj Gupta. Threadbare discussions were tion Commission.

held on constitution of Municipal Bodies and modalities were **SRINAGAR:** State Election Comalso discussed with regard to missioner (SEC), KK Sharma on arrangements by H&UDD for Thursday held a meeting with making transition for conduct Principal Secretary Housing & of elections/bye elections to Urban Development Depart- the Urban Local Bodies as and when due through State Elec-

CS Calls For Roll Out Of BUDS Act

Asks For Putting In Place Robust Measures To Save People's Interests

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday called for roll out of Banning of (BUDS) Act in Jammu and Kashmir within a month, which provides for a comprehensive mechanism to prevent malpractices relating to deposit-taking activities by unscrupulous elements.

He passed on these directions while chairing the 32nd Union Territory Level Coordination Committee (UTLCC) meeting on the working of Non-Banking Financial Companies and Unincorporated Bodies at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary Home, Additional Chief Secretary Finance, Special DG CID, Special DG Crime, Law Secretary, General Manager RBI, Director Information and Public Relations and other officers. Regional Director RBI, Jammu and other officers attended the meeting

through video conferencing. While chairing the meeting, fall prey to the scammers.

CS directed for framing of rules for implementation of BUDS Act in J&K and framing an ecosystem for prevention of online duping so that peoples interests are saved. He also passed on directives to the officers to put in place robust corrective measures to stop the financial frauds happening in the digital world. He directed the officers to cover the existing gaps, if Unregulated Deposit Schemes any, that are being exploited by various parties to siphon large amounts of money from common people.

Emphasising that ultimate aim is to save the money of people, he stressed on multipronged strategy to brace for such situations where people become victims of online scams and taking corrective measures. Dr Mehta said that a com-

plete system should be in place by which we will able to collect the data where common people are duped of money and strict action needs to be taken. He also called for provision of a dedicated helpline where people will be informed about the fraudulent companies. He said that information should be percolated to the last man standing to enlighten the citizens so that they don't

Amid Heavy Rains, 4,700 Pilgrims Leave For Amarnath Shrine From Jammu

saying their protests will contin-

We should either be relocat-

ed or the administration should

give them a breathing time till

zero militancy is achieved in

Until the target killings do not

stop, we will not go to our offic-

es. The administration should

take steps for our safety and se-

curity, the Kashmir Pandit em-

shift them to district and tehsil

headquarters within the valley

The employees have rejected

ue till the government acts.

the valley, they said.

ployees said.



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Braving heavy rains, a fresh batch of over 4,703 Amarnath Yatra pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here for the twin base camps of Baltal and Pahalgam in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Thursday, officials said.

The pilgrims left in a convoy of 156 vehicles escorted by the Central Reserve Security Force (CRPF), they said.

The officials said 2,001 pil-

the first to leave the Bhagwati Nagar camp in 54 vehicles, followed by the second convoy of 102 vehicles carrying 2,702 pilgrims to Pahalgam.

With this, a total of 1,24,714 pilgrims have left the Jammu base camp for the Valley since June 29, according to the officials.

Heavy rains have lashed the Jammu region since last night, triggering apprehension about landslides, mudslides and flash

The 43-day Amarnath Yatra grims headed for Baltal were to the 3,880-metre-high cave on July 8, the officials said.

shrine in south Kashmir Himaayas commenced on June 30. So far, over 2.20 lakh pilgrims

have offered prayers at the cave shrine, housing the naturally formed ice Shiv lingam, the officials said. The pilgrimage is scheduled

to end on August 11 on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

So far, 35 people, mostly pilgrims, have died during the ongoing Amarnath Yatra. This excludes 15 pilgrims who died in a flash flood near the cave shrine

Srinagar A-Division League: 2 Matches Played



SRINAGAR: In the ongoing Annual League Football Tournament, two matches of the DFA Srinagar A-Division were played on Thursday at Synthetic Turf

In the first match of the day Baghi Hamdan FC took on Valley FC. The Baghi Hamdan FC boys dominated in the beginning and made good moves. However, Valley FC regained their rhythm and started counter attacking. In the 30th minute, Valley FC made a spectacular move and scored a nice goal. The goal was scored by Aijaz Ali. In the second half, Baghi Hamdan FC looked threatening and in the 48th minute, Imtiyaz Ahmad equalised for his team. The match was evenly balanced and both the teams

match ended in a 1-1 draw.

The second match was played between Al-Rasheed FC and Makhdoomi FC. Al-Rasheed FC crushed Makhdoomi FC by 7 goals to nil. In the first half Al-Rasheed FC scored back to back three goals in 9th minute, 14th minute & 21st minute through Ibrahim, Shabir and Abid Fayaz, respectively. In the 2nd half Muzamil of Al-Rasheed FC scored the fourth goal in 46th minute. Abid Fayaz increased the lead by scoring his second and team's fifth goal in 47th minute. Shahid scored two goals back back in 49th and 50th minute of the game. Thus, the game ended with 7:0 in favour of Al-Rasheed FC.

The tournament is organised by DFA Srinagar (JKFA) in col-

Para Shooting WC: India **Record Best-Ever Finish**



Press Trust of India

MUNICH: Paralympic medallist Singhraj Adhana won two gold medals on the final day as gold. India produced their best-ever performance at the Para Shoot-

Singhraj's twin medals propelled India to the top of the medal table, their best performance since taking part in the competition for the first time in 2017. In total, India won six golds, three silvers and one

France (11) and Ukraine (15), took the second and third place, having won four and three gold medals respectively.

On the final day of the event, Tokyo Paralympic silver medallist Singhraj, who initially qualified in the fourth place, rode on team will next be in action at his steady rounds of shooting to score 224.1 points and eventually clinched the gold.

Before the individual event. Singhraj teamed up with compatriots Deepender Singh and Manish Narwal to take the team

The individual gold was also Singhrai's first ever in the P4 ing World Cup, finishing with 10 event after several silver and bronze medals.

Earlier, India started off its Para Shooting World Cup campaign on a brilliant note with Rahul Jakhar clinching gold in P3-Mixed 25m Pistol SH1 event.

Jakhar also combined with Singhraj and Nihal to take the team gold with a total of 1695-36x ahead of Korea and the Czech Republic.

Shooters Manish Narwal and Rubina Francis followed it up with another gold in P6 - Mixed Team 10m Air SH1 Pistol event. The Indian Para Shooting

the World Championships in November, to be held in Al Ain, **United Arab Emirates**

India's Fringe Players To Battle Against West Indies



Press Trust of India

PORT OF SPAIN: India's fringe players will get valuable game time in a format fighting for context when Shikhar Dhawan leads the team in the threematch ODI series against the West Indies, beginning here on Friday.

meet again for a total of eight limited overs games (five T20s).

Mohammad Shami, Jasprit Bumrah, Rishabh Pant, Hardik Pandya and Virat Kohli have also been rested.

Sharma rested from the series.

Shubman Gill has been brought back into the team. He and Dhawan make a left-hand West Indies came to India for right-hand combination but the three ODIs and as many T20s others in the squad who could in February and the two teams open include Ishan Kishan and Ruturaj Gaikwad.

Dhawan, who plays only the Shardul Thakur is the pace cern for the side. ODI format, will lead India for bowling all-rounder option for

the second time in his career with regular captain Rohit

Prasidh Krishna and Mohammad Siraj are expected to start as the two frontline pacers.

West Indies are smarting from their 0-3 loss at home in the ODIs against Bangladesh. All-rounder Jason Holder has made a comeback and will give much needed balance to the side, led by Nicholas Pooran.

Since the 2019 World Cup, they have managed to bat full 50 overs just six times in 39 in-In the absence of Hardik, nings and that should be a con-

WI vs IND 1st ODI: Rain Forces **Indian Team To Hit Indoor Nets**



Agencies

PORT OF SPAIN: With rain playing spoilsport, the Indian cricket team was forced to train indoors ahead of the first ODI of three-match series against the door) practice session. But it am feeling great and we all are West Indies here on Friday.

Led by the veteran Sh Dhawan, the Indian bowlers door facilities rather than hav- that it would be a good series."

and batters sweated it out at ing no session," opener Shubthe indoor training facility here as rain lashed parts of Trinidad.

"As we have just come from the UK, we thought that it got to do some specific things would be nice to have an (out- like playing underarm balls. I started raining. So, it's always really excited and really buzzed better to have a knock in the in- about these three ODIs. We fee

man Gill said in a video posted by BCCI on Twitter.

"It was a good session as we

KL Rahul Tests Covid Positive



BENGALURU: India's vicetested positive for Covid-19 and is likely to miss the series in West Indies. He was ju Samson. recovering after the recent surgery at the National Cricket Academy in Banga-

West Indies series, subject June.

to fitness, and his absence will open up the chance to the likes of Ishan Kiscaptain, KL Rahul, has han, Deepak Hooda (who opened in a game in the series in Ireland), and San-

He had underwent a successful surgery for sports hernia in Germany and lore and was set to travel to been missing in action West Indies later this week. ever since he was forced Rahul was only named to skip the home T20 sein the T20I squad for the ries against South Africa in

Asia Cup Will Be Held In UAE, Says Ganguly



Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: The Asia Cup, which was scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka, has been shifted to the UAE, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly said on Thursday.

"Asia Cup will be in UAE, as it is the only place where there won't be rains," Ganguly told reporters after the Board's Apex Council meeting here. Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) on Wednesday had informed the Asian Cricket Council

(ACC) that the board will not be in a position to host the upcoming edition of the Asia Cup T20 because of the economic and political crisis in the country.

The development comes after the SLC recently postponed the third edition of the Lanka Premier League (LPL) due to the ongoing crisis.

Asia Cup is slated to be held from August 27 to September 11 and will be played in the T20

Shafique Headed For The Top: Babar Azam



Agencies

GALLE: Pakistan skipper Babar Azam on Wednesday said that Abdullah Shafique can become one of the world's best Test openers after his epic century against Sri Lanka in Galle.

Abdullah hit an unbeate to steer Pakistan home in a record chase of 342 at the picturesque venue as Pakistan won a tense opening Test in the final session on day five.

The 22-year-old batted for just under nine hours and five sessions against a spin attack led by the in-form Prabath Jayasuriya, who took a match tally of nine wickets.

"As a youngster, when you prove yourself and perform in tough conditions and difficult tracks, then it's good," Babar told reporters. "His confidence was high after performing against Australia so he was on a different level. And to perform against quality bowling, your confidence goes up higher.

The 22-year-old batted for just under nine hours and five sessions against a spin attack led by the in-form Prabath Jayasuriya, who took a match tally of nine

wickets.

"The way he plays, so clean and with his focus, he will get many, many more such knocks," said Babar, who was involved in a key third-wicket stand of 101 with Abdullah to set up the "I hope that he becomes one of

the best openers in the world."

Abdullah, who now averages 80 in 11 Test innings, put on 71 runs with wicketkeeper-batsman Mohammad Rizwan (40) and then an unbeaten final stand of 41 with Mohammad Nawaz, who made 19 not out.

Stay Or Go? Ronaldo's Future Uncertain At Manchester United

Agencies

The weekly social media posts published by Cristiano Ronaldo this offseason typically have shown the soccer superstar halfdressed, muscles bulging, either working out or promoting one of his many brands.

Remaining relevant and highly visible is clearly so important to the player who, along with Lionel Messi, is the greatest of his generation. That also extends to the final years of his career on the field, too.

It's why, for the 37-year-old Ronaldo, playing for Manchester United still one of the world's most famous sports teams, despite their recent trophy drought — just isn't enough. He wants to be competing on the biggest stage, winning the biggest trophies while he can.

Hence the current standoff with United, which is becoming more damaging and disruptive as the days go by and the new season looms.

Publicly, Ronaldo has not yet returned to preseason training with starts in about two weeks.

the English club because of what has been described as "personal reasons." The expectation, recently hired United manager Erik ten Hag repeats on an almost-daily basis, is that Ronaldo will be back before the Premier League begins and be a key member of the squad.

The reality, it seems, is different. Ronaldo reportedly wants out after just one season back at Old Trafford, with United no longer in the Champions League or in shape to compete with the best teams in England like Manchester City and Liverpool. United finished sixth last season, 35 points behind first-place City.

So, while the rest of the United squad has been on tour in Thailand and Australia, getting match-sharp and acquainted with ten Hag and his methods, Ronaldo has been back home in Portugal with his family while his agent, Jorge Mendes, shops around seeking a new club for his most famous client.

Currently, there is no buyer. And the Premier League season "I don't know what Cristiano said to the club and to the manager," said United midfielder Bruno Fernandes, who also plays alongside Ronaldo for Portugal. "I don't know what's going on in his head, if he wants to leave. I didn't ask them that. "From every-

thing we know," Fernandes added. had some

family problems have to respect his space, give him some space and that's it. The only thing I asked Cristiano when he didn't turn up was if everything was OK with the family. He told me what was going on, that's it and nothing more.'

On the face of it, United still

was the team's top scorer last season with 24 goals and is back to being the club's poster boy for the marketing department – and ten Hag has called the striker "extremely important" along with being "not

But why would other top clubs be cold on a player who is still a guaranteed source of goals, and revenue for that matter? Goals might be the aim of the game but they are not necessarily enough for a modern-day coach. A cer-

tain level of mobility and an ability to be part of a team pressing game counts for a lot, too, and Ronaldo does not offer that, even if he remains a supremely athletic player with that uncanny knack of coming alive

in the penalty area and scoring from anywhere. A team's

wants to keep Ronaldo - he structure must change to accommodate a player like an aging Ronaldo, covering for his deficiencies and the need to make him the focal point.

In short, his presence requires compromises to be made. He is a problem and a solution.

Maybe, if he ends up staying at United, ten Hag can come up with a system in which Ronaldo thrives and the players around him can cover for him and make the team operate in an efficient way. That's easier

said than done. Thomas Tuchel – the sort of coach who values a team over the individual - clearly thought that wasn't possible, given his Chelsea team was one of the clubs Mendes apparently spoke to. There was a glaring hole in Chelsea's forward line, too, with Romelu Lukaku re-

turning to Inter Milan. Bayern Munich is another team to have reportedly turned down the chance to sign Ronaldo. There has been no desire from Real Madrid or Juventus to go back in for

Ronaldo's wage demands are likely ruling out most of the other clubs competing in this season's Champions League, a competition in which he is the record scorer with 141 goals - 16 more than Messi - and for which he lives.

It leaves Ronaldo in an awkward spot. Still one of the greatest scorers in soccer but a player unwanted by the best teams.

So what comes next? An uneasy truce with United and a sheepish return to a team playing in the Europa League and unlikely to be involved in the Premier League title race? Or can Mendes pull a blockbuster move out of the bag, like he did last year when Ronaldo sealed a sensational return to England?

For his brand and his legacy, Ronaldo will want the latter, ending what has turned out to be a nostalgia project without a happy ending.

And deep down, that might suit ten Hag, too, enabling him to start the rebuilding job at United with a clean