

In Kashmir, Amit Shah Rules Out Talks With Pak, Says Elections Soon

‘In The Gupkar Model, Youth Get Stones, Machine Guns, But In Modi Model, Youth Get IIT, AIIMS, NIFT, NEET’



Press Trust Of India

Baramulla: Rejecting any dialogue with Pakistan on Kashmir, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said that his government was more interested in talking to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and assured them that assembly polls will be held with "full transparency".

At his first public rally in the Valley after the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, Shah, in his 27-minute speech at Showkat Ali stadium in Baramulla district, trained his guns at leaders from opposition parties NC, PDP and Congress with frequent references to the "three families", "Mufti and company" and "Abdullah and sons".

The Home Minister

blamed Abdullahs (National Conference), Muftis (PDP) and Nehru-Gandhi (Congress) for the "lack of development" in Jammu and Kashmir as they ruled the erstwhile state for most of the years since the country's independence.

"Those people who ruled here for 70 years advise me to talk to Pakistan. I have a clear intention that I don't want to talk to Pakistan, but I want to talk to my Gujar, Pahari and Bakerwal brothers of Baramulla.

"I will talk to the youth of Kashmir. Think, what did Kashmir achieve because of militancy? Today, every state of the country is moving forward, and Kashmir will also have to keep pace. We don't have to tread the path shown by terrorists.

"The youth of | More on P10

Visits Gurudwara In Srinagar

Union Home Minister Amit Shah visited the Gurudwara Chatti Patshahi in Rainawari area here on Wednesday, officials said. After the public rally in Baramulla district in north Kashmir, Shah returned to Srinagar and attended a function at the Raj Bhavan here, the officials said. They said immediately after the function ended, Shah visited Rainawari area of the city and paid obeisance at the Gurudwara Chatti Patshahi. He was accompanied by Jammu and Kashmir LG Manoj Sinha and some BJP leaders. The Union Home | More on P10

Lays Foundation Stone Of Projects Worth Rs 2000 Cr In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Baramulla: Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 240 development projects of about Rs. 2,000 crore in Srinagar.

Shah, who concluded his three day tour to the Union Territory, also inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of several development projects worth crore

in Baramulla, an official spokesperson said.

In his address, he said, the Home Minister described the hills of Pir Panjal and Chenab and this region of Kashmir Valley as among the most beautiful areas of the world.

"The development ushered in Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Jammu and Kashmir is clearly reflected through the happy faces of the | More on P10



Shah Asks Police, Central Forces To 'Wipe Out Terrorism'



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Union Home Minister, Amit Shah on Wednesday ordered police and central forces to continue with the coordinated efforts through meticulous and well-planned counter-terrorism operations to wipe out terrorism.

Shah made these remarks while chairing top brass security meeting on the concluding day of his three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir, an official spokesperson said. Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha also attended the high-level security meet in which senior officials of the Government of India were present.

Shah, the spokesperson said, asked security forces and the police to pro-actively conduct coordinated counter-terrorism operations, to fulfill the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's vision of a prosperous and peaceful Jammu & Kashmir.

The Home Minister, he said, also appreciated the

efforts of the security agencies and administration of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir for keeping the streets free from violence and significantly restoring rule of law. Shah further said that 'HarGharTiranga' campaign during the Independence Day celebrations saw a new level of unprecedented enthusiasm.

"Home Minister directed that the security grid should be further strengthened to ensure zero fear of terrorists and separatists. He reviewed the working of the security grid and progress made on various items of the security agenda in previous meetings to reduce the incidents of terrorism and strangeness of the separatist networks over the system," the spokesperson said.

Shah, he said, exhorted the security forces and the police to continue with the coordinated efforts through meticulous and well-planned counter-terrorism operations to 'wipe out terrorism'. | More on P10

I WILL TALK TO THE YOUTH OF KASHMIR. Think, what did Kashmir achieve because of militancy? Today, every state of the country is moving forward, and Kashmir will also have to keep pace. We don't have to tread the path shown by terrorists."

4 Killed In Twin South Kashmir Encounters

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Four terrorists, including those involved in the killing of a policeman three days ago, were neutralised in two encounters in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian on Wednesday, police said.

Three Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) ultras were killed in Drach Keegam area, while a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist was eliminated in Moolu, they said.

About the first encounter, a police spokesperson said security forces launched a cordon and search operation following inputs about the presence of terrorists there.

As the search party proceeded towards the spot, the hiding ultras fired indiscriminately and the police retaliated, leading to the encounter, the spokesperson said.

Three terrorists linked to JeM were killed and their bodies

were recovered, he said.

He identified them as Zubair Maqbool Wani, a resident of Doompura Keegam, Jamsheed Ahmad Magray from Rajpora and Hanaan Bin Yaqoob alias Saqib from Kareemabad in Pulwama.

Of these, Magray and Saqib were involved in the murder of Special Police Officer Javed Dar on October 2 at Pinglana area of Pulwama. A CRPF jawan was also injured in the attack on the joint search party that day.

The duo was also behind the killing of a labourer from West Bengal in Gadoora. Besides, Magray had shot at two migrant labourers in Ratnipora, the spokesperson said.

In another encounter at Moolu, also in Shopian, a terrorist identified as Arif Rashid Wani, a resident of Shirmal, was killed.

Liked the three men killed in Drach, Wani was also a categorised terrorist, and he was linked to LeT. | More on P10

Policeman Arrested After 'Misfire' Kills Youth

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A policeman on Wednesday was arrested after he "accidentally" shot dead a youth in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, evoking sharp condemnation from political parties besides calling for an impartial probe.

25-year-old Asif Ahmad Padroo sustained critical injuries when the service rifle of a policeman went off accidentally in Haal area of the district on Wednesday morning, a police spokesperson said. A resident of Poterwaal village, Padroo was removed to the hospital for treatment. However, he succumbed to his injuries.

"In this regard, a case has been registered and the involved police personnel has been arrested. Further



investigation in the case is going on," the spokesperson said. According to reports, charges under section 304 IPC have been pressed against the policeman.

Meanwhile, several political parties have condemned the incident and demanded the Union Territory administration to conduct a "credible probe".

PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti expressed grief over the death of Padroo.

"As if the harsh measures

put in place causing grave inconvenience to the people in Kashmir weren't enough, Asif from Pulwama paid with his life in the name of ensuring security for HM's visit. My heart goes out to his family," Mufti tweeted.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is on a three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir.

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah said the killing was highly condemnable.

"The killing of an unarmed civilian in an 'accidental fire' incident in Pulwama district is highly condemnable. There must be a swift, credible & transparent probe into this death. Those responsible must be punished to the fullest extent possible," Abdullah tweeted.

CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami demanded a credible probe into the killing. | More on P10

No 'Terror Angle' In DG Lohia's Murder: Police

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Director General (Prisons) Hemant K Lohia was cremated with full state honours here on Wednesday, two days after he was murdered allegedly by a domestic help, in a sombre ceremony attended by family members, senior officials and colleagues.

Lohia, a 1992-batch IPS officer, was found dead with his throat slit at his friend's house on the outskirts of Jammu late Monday night.

Jammu Zone Additional Director General of Police Mukesh Singh said Wednesday no terror angle has emerged during the investigation of the case.

The accused, 23-year-old Yasir Lohar domestic help at the house, was arrested from a field in Kanhachak on Tuesday following a major manhunt.

"No terror angle has emerged



during investigation of the case of murder of H K Lohia. Interrogation of the accused is in progress. His disclosures are being corroborated with field investigation," the ADGP said in a brief statement.

Terror group People's Anti-Fascist Front (PAFF) had claimed responsibility for the murder. However, Director General of Police Dilbag Singh, who visited the crime scene on | More on P10

Policeman Injured After Being Hit By Bus

A police constable was injured on Wednesday after his motorbike was hit by a mini-bus in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. Constable Ghulam Rasool was riding his motorbike when a mini-bus (JK01J-5574) hit his motorcycle (JKJK05F-6717) near Beehama area of the district on Wednesday, reports said. The constable sustained injuries in the accident and was removed to the district hospital Ganderbal for treatment. However, the doctors there referred him to SKIMS, Saura for advanced treatment. | More on P10

Man Falls Off Poplar Tree, Dies

A man died on Wednesday after falling off a popular tree in Beerwah area in Central Kashmir's Budgam district. Ghulam Mohammad Mir, son of Ghulam Rasool of Rathuna was critically injured after he fell down from a poplar tree in his native village on Wednesday morning, reports said. The injured man was immediately shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there referred him to JVC Srinagar where he succumbed to his injuries," he said. Meanwhile, police | More on P10

MeT Predicts Dry Weather In J&K

Weather was dry in J&K during the last 24 hours as the MeT office said on Wednesday, and that same conditions are likely to continue in the next 24 hours. "Mainly dry weather is expected to continue in J&K during the next 24 hours", said an official of the MeT department. Srinagar had 9.2, Pahalgam 5.1 and Gulmarg 5.5 degrees Celsius as the minimum temperature today. In Ladakh region, Drass town had 0.4 and Leh 2 as the minimum temperature. | More on P10

Chopper Crash Kills Army Pilot

A pilot was killed and another injured when an Army aviation Cheetah helicopter flying in the forward area near Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh crashed on Wednesday, defence sources said. Defence spokesman Lt. Col Mahendra Rawat said that during a routine sortie, the Cheetah helicopter crashed at around 10 a.m. injuring both the pilots and they were immediately evacuated to nearest Military Hospital. "With regret to inform that one of the pilots, who was critically injured, succumbed to the | More on P10

Injured Biker Succumbs At SKIMS

A motorcyclist, who was injured three days ago at Pampore area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district, succumbed to his injuries at Srinagar hospital on Wednesday. An official said that the motorcyclist was injured in a road accident on Monday evening. He said that he was immediately shifted to a nearby hospital, from where he was referred to SKIMS Saura, where he succumbed to his injuries today. The deceased has been identified as Zahoor Ahmad Lone son of | More on P10

J&K Closes Eight New Covid Cases

Eight more people tested positive for Coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, taking the number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic in the Union Territory to 479188. All the new cases were reported from various parts of the Valley, while no new cases were detected in the Jammu region, officials said. They said Srinagar registered highest seven new cases of virus while a single case was detected in Baramulla district. No other district in the Union Territory reported fresh | More on P10

S H O R T T A K E S

What Is 'Click Chemistry' That Won Chemist Trio The Chemistry Nobel

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The 'Click Chemistry' that won Morten Meldal, Barry Sharpless, and Carolyn Bertozzi this year's Nobel Prize in Chemistry is about making difficult processes easier. Click chemistry and bioorthogonal reactions - which take place without disrupting the normal functioning of the cell - have taken chemistry into the era of functionalism, bringing the greatest benefit to humankind. Sharpless from Scripps Research, US, and Meldal from the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, laid the foundation for a functional form of chemistry in which molecular building blocks snap together quickly and efficiently. Bertozzi, from Stanford University, US, took this click chemistry to a new dimension and started utilising it in living organisms. Chemists have long been driven by the desire to build increasingly complicated molecules. In pharmaceutical research, this has often involved artificially recreating natu-



ral molecules with medicinal properties. This has led to many admirable molecular constructions, but these are generally time consuming and very expensive to produce.

"This year's Prize in Chemistry deals with not overcomplicating matters, instead working with what is easy and simple. Functional molecules can be built even by taking a straightforward route," said

Johan Aqvist, Chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry. Sharpless, who is now being awarded his second Nobel Prize in Chemistry, started the ball rolling. Around the year 2000, he coined the

concept of click chemistry, which is a form of simple and reliable chemistry, where reactions occur quickly and unwanted by-products are avoided. Shortly afterwards, Meldal and Sharpless -- independently of each other -- presented what is now the crown jewel of click chemistry: the copper catalysed azide-alkyne cycloaddition. Azide is an organic compound with the formula N₃ while an alkyne is a hydrocarbon containing at least one carbon-carbon triple bond. This is an elegant and efficient chemical reaction that is now in widespread use. Among many other uses, it is utilised in the development of drugs, for mapping DNA and creating materials that are more fit for purpose. Bertozzi took click chemistry to a new level. To map important but elusive biomolecules on the surface of cells -- glycans -- she developed click reactions that work inside living organisms. These reactions are now used globally to explore cells and track biological processes. Using bioorthogonal reactions, researchers have improved the targeting of cancer drugs, which are now being tested in clinical trials.

Over 60 New Genetic Regions Behind Stroke Identified, May Lead To New Therapies

Press Trust Of India

An international team, including researchers from India, have identified 61 new genetic regions associated with stroke that are potential drug targets to prevent or treat the second leading cause of death worldwide. Previous genome studies on stroke were conducted predominantly in populations of European ancestry. The latest results, recently published in the journal Nature, are based on the analysis of data from 2.5 million people from five different ancestries, more than 200,000 of whom had a stroke. Members of the GIGASTROKE consortium, including Professor Kameshwar Prasad, former head of the department of Neurology at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, conducted the research. "The population studied in this research has a fairly global representation including South Asia, which includes India and Pakistan, Africa, East Asia, Europe and Latin America," Prasad, who is currently the director of Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences, Ranchi, told PTI. "The combined results from different ancestries and regions made things clearer at a micro level," he



added. In 110,182 patients who have had a stroke and 1,503,898 control individuals, the team identified association signals for stroke and its subtypes at 89 (61 new) independent gene loci. Loci are the physical locations of genes on chromosomes in cells and have been called genetic street addresses. A follow-up in 89,084 additional cases of stroke and 1,013,843 con-

trol individuals, 87 per cent of the primary stroke risk regions and 60 per cent of the secondary stroke risk region were replicated. The study also highlighted F11, KLKB1, PROC, GP1BA, LAMC2 and VCAM1 regions as possible targets, with drugs already under investigation for stroke for F11 and PROC regions. Prasad and his team contributed data of 4,088 individuals -- 1,609 stroke cases and 2,479 controls --

from the South Asia, which included India and Pakistan. They found that the frequency of a genetic region called COBL is higher in people suffering neurological disorders from India and Pakistan. Higher frequency of this region was not identified in patients from other ancestries. "Our results provide insights to inform biology, reveal potential drug targets and derive genetic risk prediction tools across ancestries," Prasad noted. Stroke is the second leading cause of death worldwide, responsible for approximately 12 per cent of total deaths, with an increasing burden particularly in low-income countries. Characterised by a neurological deficit of sudden onset, stroke is predominantly caused by cerebral ischaemia, a common mechanism of acute brain injury that results from impaired blood flow to the brain. The frequency of stroke subtypes differs between ancestry groups as exemplified by a higher prevalence of small-vessel stroke (SVS) and intracerebral haemorrhage (ICH) in Asian and African populations compared with European populations.

Study Highlights What Connects Human Senses And Thoughts

ANI

WASHINGTON: The human brain's neocortex is responsible for our ability to think, determine, remember recent experiences, and so on. Neuroscientists have now discovered important portions of the mechanisms underlying these functions. Their discoveries may eventually aid in treating some neuropsychiatric illnesses and brain damage. Scientists have long known that the neocortex integrates information streams known as feedforward and feedback. The brain's sensory systems transfer data from the periphery (our senses) to the higher-order parts of the neocortex. These high-level brain regions then transmit feedback data to modify and adapt sensory processing. This two-way communication enables the brain to pay attention, retain short-term memories, and make judgments. "A simple example is when you want to cross a busy road," said corresponding author Gyorgy Lur, PhD, an assistant professor of neurobiology & behaviour in the School of Biological Sciences. "There are trees, people, moving vehicles, traffic signals, signs and more. Your higher-level neocortex tells your sensory system which merits attention for deciding when to go across." The interaction between higher- and lower-level systems also allows us to remember what we saw when we glanced both ways to gather the information. "If you didn't have that short-term memory, you would keep looking back and forth and never move," he said. "In fact, if our feedforward and feedback streams weren't constantly



working together, we would do very little except respond by reflexes." Scientists have not known how neurons in the brain participate in these complicated processes until now. Lur and his colleagues revealed that feedforward and feedback signals converge on single neurons in the neocortex's parietal regions. The researchers also discovered that different types of cortical neurons integrate the two information streams on significantly different time scales. They identified the cellular and circuit architecture that underpins these distinctions. "Scientists already knew that integrating multiple senses enhances neuronal responses," Lur said. "If you only see something or just hear it,

your reaction time is slower than when experiencing them with both senses simultaneously. We've identified the underlying mechanisms making this possible." According to the study findings, the same rules hold if one input stream is sensory and the other is cognitive. Understanding these mechanisms is essential for creating future treatments for neuropsychiatric illnesses such as sensory-processing problems, schizophrenia, and ADHD, as well as strokes and other neocortical traumas. Lur is a member of UC Irvine's Center for Neurobiology of Learning and Memory, Center for Neural Circuit Mapping, and Center for Hearing Research.

Estd: 1957

Sangam Cricket Club
(Affiliated to the J&K Cricket Association)

No: SCC/10/22

Public Notice

Dated 05/10/2022

1. This is for the information of the general public that some self-styled person namely Anees Ahmad. Mir is impersonating as acting President of Sangam Cricket Club Srinagar and has issued a notification in some local daily/s for elections to the General Body of the aforementioned Club on 9th of October 2022 in CCD Sonawar Sonawar. In this regard, through the medium of this notification, the public is informed that the above person has falsely prepared a seal and illegal letter head of the club and issued the said notification.
2. It is further notified that anyone dealing with the above person directly or indirectly in this regard shall be doing so at his own risk and responsibility. I am lodging an FIR against such person / person's.
3. As per the constitution of the club my tenure as Club President expired some time back and as per the club norms a meeting of the General Body of the club was convened on 30-07-2022 to elect office bearers for next term. Following a due process as per the club Constitution office bearers were elected with an intimation to J&K Cricket Association to which Sangam Cricket Club stands affiliated. A notification to this effect was issued in local press Since I have not been feeling well the said person who is not in any way connected with the club is taking undue advantage and trying to fool people.
4. Moreover, any notification / pertaining to Sangam Cricket Club in the future shall be issued only by the Club President Mr Wajahat Majeed or General Secretary Mr. Fayaz Ahmad
Sangam Cricket Club
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JKPCC Abandons Work On Vital Bridge In City Outskirts

Agencies

Srinagar: Thirteen years after it was sanctioned by the authorities, a vital bridge on Srinagar outskirts is awaiting completion, raising questions on the executing agency.

The 120 meter long bridge in Pandrethan area of Srinagar was sanctioned in 2009 and the work was handed to Jammu and Kashmir Project Construction Corporation (KPCC) and the work on it was started in 2012.

An official said that the bridge was aimed to connect Lasjan-Soibugh and its adjacent areas to the old national highway, besides providing an easy alternative to Pampore residents to reach Pulwama.

Locals from Lasjan said that no work has been done on the bridge in the last several years and the bridge is nowhere near completion.

Irshad Ahmad, a resident of Padshahi Bagh

Srinagar said that if the bridge is completed, it will give easy access to thousands of residents to reach the old national highway thereby saving their time and money.

He said people of the area have no option than to take long routes in order to reach Srinagar and other parts in absence of the bridge.

Locals said that in case of emergencies, they suffer more as they have to take long routes.

They said that around 75 percent work has been already done but due to unknown reasons it has been left abandoned now.

They said that the issue has been brought in notice of higher ups time and again but the situation on ground hasn't changed.

They requested concerned higher ups to look into the matter at an earliest and complete this bridge so that they can heave a sigh of relief—(KNO)

Darakshan, DDC Members From Srinagar Meet Shah

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chairperson J&K Wakf Board Dr Darakhshan Andrabi met Home Minister Amit Shah at Raj Bhawan and discussed many issues for the welfare of the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

Dr Andrabi said she gave a presentation about the reformatory steps taken by the Wakf Board in J&K which got applause from the Home Minister.

"He assured Dr Andrabi about all required help from the government to streamline and develop sufi shrines in the UT" Andrabi in a statement said.

BJP leader and DDC member for Khonmoh Aijaz Hussain also met Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

As a token of love, Aijaz presented a paper mache carved Shikara sample to the Home Minister.

Aijaz was also among 12 DDC members who presented memorandums on various developmental and issues related to public importance to Home Minister Shah. The Home Minister assured the DDC members that genuine issues pertaining to public importance will be given priority and he will direct the concerned quarters to address the issues raised in memorandums on

priority basis and in fast track mode.

The Home Minister hailed DDC members for their commitment towards serving people of Srinagar stating that DDCs were backbone of government and governance and it was for the first time that the people of Srinagar were



reaping the benefits of real democracy on ground. He urged the DDC members to keep up their good work for the benefit of the common man.

DDC members from Srinagar were also present during the inauguration of scores of developmental projects E-inaugurated by the Home Minister for Srinagar and other parts of Kashmir. Meanwhile, DDC members presented a separate memorandum to Chief Secretary A K Mehta seeking removal of DDC chairman for Srinagar to which the Chief Secretary assured them that the matter will be sorted out shortly.

Police Arrests Seven Gamblers In City



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu And Kashmir Police conducted raids at Gagribal Nehru Park & arrested 7 gamblers in Central Kashmir's Srinagar district on Wednesday.

In a tweet, Srinagar Police said, "Nehru Park

Police Post raided a gambling location at Gagribal Nehru Park & arrested 7 gamblers from a gambling site, Stake money was also recovered & seized. In this connection a FIR No. 120/2022 under section 13 of Gambling Act has been registered at Police Station Ram Munshibagh."



Union Home Minister Amit Shah paid obeisance at Gurudwara Chatti Patshahi in Rainawari area of Old City.

Some Corporators Taking Bribes, Alleges Mayor

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Mayor Junaid Azim Mattoo has alleged that some corporators were involved in corruption and taking bribes to facilitate illegal constructions in the city.

"Lakhs of rupees in bribes have been found to be deposited electronically into the bank account of an elected representative in SMC over the course of the last two years.

The amount is roughly 1.4 crores with individual transactions running into lakhs," Mattoo said in a series of tweets late on Tuesday.

He said multiple witnesses have come forward, narrating "horrific tales" of extortion and brazen corruption. Three citizens have recorded statements before the officials in this regard, he added.

"A JKACB investigation is underway and the JmuKmrPolice Crime Branch and Srinagar Police has also

A JKACB investigation is underway and the JmuKmrPolice Crime Branch and Srinagar Police has also taken cognizance

taken cognizance," Mattoo said.

He said the matter has been officially brought to the notice of the administration, seeking removal of the elected representative from a position of authority immediately, pending the final outcome of the investigation.

"Multiple witness statements have been recorded in the presence of Commissioner SMC, Srinagar Police officials and representatives of investigative agencies over the last two weeks. Documents and de-

tails sought from SMC have been promptly submitted to JKACB - as sought," he said.

The Mayor said a "symbiotic eco-system that has thrived on corruption, forgery and extortion" is trying to distract attention from the investigation.

"That won't happen. There will be absolutely no compromise on corruption. The law will take its toll!" he said.

Mattoo said he would prefer the dissolution of the corporation and fresh elections than suppress the "scam".

"And let this be a one-time, LOUD and CLEAR message to those two-bit, lumpen elements trying to pressurize me into suppressing this scam it is FAR better for me to seek the dissolution of SMC and fresh elections than to compromise with corruption and extortion," he said. Mattoo, however, did not name any corporator.

The elections to the SMC are due next year.

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HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS

FAJR	5:06
ZUHR	12:20
ASR	4:31
Magrib	6:16
ISHA	7:37

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This Day In History

- 1762 - British troops occupy Manila, Philippines
- 1783 - Benjamin Hanks patents self-winding clock
- 1861 - Revolt of Russian student shuts down university of Petersburg
- 1863 - Battle at Baxter Springs, Kansas
- 1889 - Thomas Edison shows his 1st motion picture
- 1939 - Adolf Hitler denies he intends to go to war against France and Britain
- 1943 - Battle at Vella Lavella, Solomon Island
- 1944 - Allied aircraft accidentally bomb Fishing, Overijssel
- 1944 - Canadians free Austria
- 1948 - The 1948 Ashgabat earthquake kills 100,000 in the Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic
- 1948 - Paleoanthropologist Mary Leakey finds the first partial fossil skull of Proconsul africanus, an ancestor of apes and humans on Rusinga Island, Kenya
- 1956 - Scientist Albert Sabin announces that his oral polio vaccine is ready for testing; it would soon supplant Jonas Salk's vaccine in many parts of the world
- 1959 - Soviet Luna 3, 1st successful photographic spacecraft, impacts Moon
- 1986 - Russian nuclear sub K291 sinks in Atlantic Ocean
- 1987 - Military coup leader Maj-Gen Sitiveni Rabuka declares Fiji a republic
- 1990 - US 67th manned space mission STS 41 (Discovery II) launches into orbit
- 1990 - Solar Polar Orbiter 'Ulysses' launched
- 1995 - 51 Pegasi discovered as the first major star, apart from the Sun, to have a planet orbiting around it
- 2000 - President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Slobodan Milošević resigns
- 2010 - Kevin Systrom and Mike Krieger launch Instagram
- 2015 - Nobel prize for Physics awarded to Takaaki Kajita (Japan) and Arthur McDonald (Canada) for work on neutrinos

From KO Archives

70-Yr-Old Sets Himself Ablaze

Observer News Service

Srinagar- Overcome by his daughter's defiance, a 70-yr-old set himself and his house ablaze in Sopore village today. Muhammad Aabid Malla later succumbed to burn injuries.

Reports said that Sabir's daughter had opposed the match he had arranged for her. Unable to bear this rebel-lion, Sabir drenched himself and his two story home with petrol, climbed atop the building and set himself alight. The village Sopar Naghama some 7 kilometres from Handwara watched aghast as flames engulfed the man and his dwell-ing. Fire tenders rushed from Dangiwaicha prevented the blaze from spreading to the ground floor. Sabir who had sustained extensive burns passed away soon after.

Meanwhile there were reports of two youth and women trying to put an end to their lives in different parts of the Valley. Tired of his life Shiraz Ahmad Lone of Sappora Pattan attempted suicide but was rushed to the hospital, where he is reported to be in a serious condition.

Saleema w/o Muhammad Shaban Bhat of Baran Pattan was rushed to hospital after she consumed some poisonous substance in a bid to put an end to her life. Doctors saved her life.

(Kashmir Observer, October 06, 2000)

Lebanese Banks Seek Dialogue With Depositors To Stop Heists

**AGENCEIS**

The Association of Banks in Lebanon (ABL) on 4 October pleaded with depositors groups to hold talks to put an end to the wave of heists by people desperate to retrieve their life savings.

In a statement released on the same day that four banks were held up by depositors across Lebanon, the ABL issued a statement calling for "a frank dialogue between depositors and banks to demand the recovery of the private sector funds wasted by the state."

The banks used the rest of the four-page statement to skirt any blame for Lebanon's manufactured financial meltdown, instead saying the government is solely to blame.

"[Banks] have borne and are still bearing repercussions that exceed any responsibility for them in this extended systemic crisis," the statement stresses, before criticizing the government for "passing budgets, spending and wasting funds, and declaring a default."

Since 2019, Lebanon has been experiencing the worst economic collapse in modern history, as a result of rampant corruption within the state and among the financial elite.

After initially locking citizens out of their bank accounts, Lebanese banks have since imposed strict limits on withdrawals.

The situation has created the current wave of bank heists, as

well as a migrant crisis that has seen hundreds lose their lives in the Mediterranean Sea.

An investigation by The Cradle in February of this year showed that 14 Lebanese banks were liquid enough to pay 100 percent of the value of deposits up to \$200,000.

The banks could also pay 20 percent of the value of deposits above \$200,000, according to IMF documents. But despite this reality, the banks are still blocking depositors from accessing their savings.

Moreover, banks have continued their practice of speculating on the Lebanese lira (LBP) by purchasing dollars with the LBP they receive from the central bank, which are meant for clients.

For years the banks have ignored state instructions to ease the lira's downturn by incentivizing clients who have transferred over \$500,000 of their deposits abroad to repatriate 15 percent of that amount back to Lebanon.

Bank chairmen, members of their boards of directors, large shareholders, top management, and politically exposed persons (PEPs) were also required to repatriate 30 percent of their foreign transfers, a measure mainly ignored by the ABL.

The banks' role in Lebanon's financial crisis is deeply tied to the mismanagement of state funds by the central bank and its long-time Governor, Riad Salameh, who faces embezzlement and money laundering probes in several European states.

"Hindu Rashtra" Concept Being Taken Seriously, But...: RSS Chief Explains

AGENCEIS

Nagpur, Maharashtra: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh or RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat today said scare-mongering was being done by some that there was a danger to minorities, but asserted that this is neither the nature of the Sangh nor of Hindus.

"The Sangh resolves to stand on the side of brotherhood, amity and peace," Mr Bhagwat said at the RSS Dussehra rally in Nagpur. Raising concerns over inequality, he said "unless temples, water sources and cremation grounds are open to all Hindus, till such time the talk of equality will be a mere pipe dream".

There should be no recurrence of Udaipur and Amravati incidents (where a tailor and a pharmacist were killed after they support suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma), Mr Bhagwat said, adding that a particular community as a whole should not be taken as the root cause for it.

The RSS chief added that the concept of "Hindu Rashtra is now being taken seriously".

"Now, when the Sangh is receiving the affection and confidence of people and also has become strong, the concept of Hindu Rashtra is being taken seriously," he said.

"Many people agree with the concept, but are opposed to the word 'Hindu' and they prefer to use other words. We don't have any issue with that. For the clarity of concept - we will keep emphasising the word Hindu for ourselves," he said.

He also laid emphasis on women's empowerment and said a society cannot progress without women.

Acclaimed mountaineer Santosh Yadav was the chief guest at the function. She is the first woman in the world to climb the



Mount Everest twice.

Mr Bhagwat said "horrific and grisly incidents" occurred in Udaipur and some other places recently which stunned the society made most of the people sad and angry.

After the Udaipur incident, few prominent persons from within the Muslim society voiced their protest against it. "This manner of protest should not be an isolated phenomenon within the Muslim society rather it should become the nature of their large sections," he said.

"The Hindu society in general assertively expressed their protests and strong reactions after such incidents even if the accused be Hindu persons," he said.

"Whatever be the extent of provocation, protests always have to be within the boundaries of laws and Constitution. "Our society should come together, not fall apart or quarrel," said Mr Bhagwat.

He said everyone should speak mindfully and sensibly with a sense of mutual reciprocity in word, deed and actions.

"We look different and distinctive, so we are different, we want separation, we cannot be with

this country, its way of life and ideas or its identity; due to this falsehood brothers were separated, territory was lost, places of worship were destroyed - no one was happy with the poisonous experience of partition," he said.

"We are of Bharat, came from Bhartiya ancestors and its eternal culture, we are one as a society and in our nationality, this is the only protective shield, the mantra for us all," he said.

He said "scare-mongering is done among the so-called minorities that there is a danger to them because of us or organised Hindus".

This has not happened in the past, nor will it happen in future. This is neither the nature of the Sangh nor of the Hindus, history bears this out, he asserted.

"Self defence and defence of our own becomes a duty for everyone against those who spread hatred, commit injustice, atrocity, engage in acts of hooliganism and enmity towards society," he said.

"Neither threatens nor gets threatened," this kind of a Hindu society is a need of the present times. This is not anti-anybody. The Sangh has a steely resolve to stand on the side of brotherhood, amity and peace," said Mr Bhagwat.

Dubai's Majestic Hindu Temple With 16 Deities Opens For Public

Agenceis

A majestic new Hindu temple that blends Indian and Arabic architecture designs has been inaugurated here in Jebel Ali Village, with a powerful message of tolerance, peace and harmony.

Located in a neighbourhood referred to as the Emirates "worship village", the temple formally opened its doors to worshippers across the UAE on Tuesday.

"Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance & Coexistence & Amb @sunjaysudhir inaugurated the new Hindu Temple

tabla and dhol greeted people as they entered.

The 'worship village' in Jebel Ali now houses nine religious shrines, including seven churches, the Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara, and the new Hindu house of worship.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was organised in the main prayer hall. Sheikh Nahyan was joined by Ambassador Sudhir, CEO of the social regulatory and licensing agency for the Community Development Authority, Omar Al Muthanna and trustee of the Hindu Temple Dubai, Raju Shroff.

Over 200 dignitaries, in-



in Dubai. On the occasion, Ambassador Sunjay Sudhir thanked the UAE Government for their support to the 3.5 million-strong Indian diaspora in the UAE," the Indian Embassy in Abu Dhabi tweeted.

A powerful message of tolerance, peace and harmony, bringing together people from various faiths, marked the official opening ceremony, the Khaleej Times newspaper reported.

Priests chanted "Om shanti shanti Om" in a peace salutation and musicians playing the

cluding the heads of diplomatic missions, religious leaders of several faiths, business owners and Indian community members were also present at the glittering opening ceremony.

The temple features detailed hand carvings, ornate pillars, brass spires and striking lattice screens that blend Indian and Arabic architecture.

By the end of the year, there will be a spacious community centre where Hindu ceremonies, including weddings, rituals and prayers can take place.

Rajnath Singh Performs "Shastra Puja" At Military Base In Uttarakhand

Agenceis

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today performed 'Shastra Puja' (worship of weapons) on the occasion of Vijaya Dashami at a military base in Uttarakhand's Auli.

In his impromptu address to the soldiers, Mr Singh hailed the "unparalleled bravery and courage" of the military personnel during the clashes in eastern Ladakh's Galwan Valley in June 2020.

He said India believes in the principle "the whole world is one family" but gives a befitting response if any outsider casts an "evil eye" on it.

Chief of Army Staff Gen Manoj Pande and General-Officer-Commanding-in-Chief of Surya Command Lt Gen Yogendra Dimri were among the officials present on the occasion.

Because of such bravery, the whole world acknowledged India's growing stature, and India emerged as one of the key decision makers on all issues of international importance, Mr Singh added.

He said India is heard with respect in international fora.

Mr Singh has been performing "Shastra Puja" for last several

years, including during his tenure as the Union home minister in the previous NDA government.

He said interacting with the "men and women in uniform" is always a source of motivation and reaffirmed that the entire nation has pride and faith in the capabilities of its soldiers.

The defence minister also applauded the role of the armed forces in securing the nation against external threats.

"This secure environment has enabled India to pursue economic development and achieve new heights of progress under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said.

Mr Singh also spoke of the significance of 'Shastra Puja' and highlighted the traditions and uniqueness of Indian culture, which he said emphasises the unity of all things.

They teach us that we must acknowledge the contribution of all things that contribute to our lives, both living and non-living, including "shastra" (arms), which aid us in defending ourselves, he added.

He also interacted with the soldiers who celebrated Vijaya Dashami.

Hundreds Of Israeli Settlers Storm Al-Aqsa Mosque

Agenceis

On 4 October, the Islamic Endowments Department in occupied Jerusalem reported that hundreds of settlers stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque under strict protection from Israeli authorities.

According to the Palestinian News and Information Agency (WAFA), 300 Israeli settlers stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque in successive groups via the Mughrabi Gate.

The settlers carried out provocative acts and were allowed to perform their religious rituals in the courtyard under the protection of Israeli occupation forces, while many Muslim worshippers were forcibly removed from the area.

According to local reports, "dozens of settlers blew the trumpet between the graves of Muslims in the Bab al-Rahma cemetery, which is adjacent to the eastern wall of Al-Aqsa Mosque," where hundreds of settlers performed Talmudic rituals.

Last month, Israeli troops raided the home of the director and Imam of Al-Aqsa Mosque, Omar al-Kiswani, who was transferred to the Al-Maskobiya interrogation center after being



arrested inside his home. He was released hours later.

The raid and arrest reportedly came in response to statements Al-Kiswani made to the media, denouncing Israel's continued attacks on Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Israeli intelligence allegedly threatened the Mosque's director a few days earlier, demanding that he will stop with his statements that "disturb" the government in Tel Aviv.

The Mosque has been subjected to countless attacks by far-right Israeli groups in the past year, encouraging settlers to provoke Muslim worshippers.

In August, hundreds of Israeli

extremists stormed the courtyards of Al-Aqsa Mosque and called for the destruction of the holy place. The provocative event was organized by Jewish supremacist groups.

The provocateurs were escorted inside under the protection of heavily armed Israeli police and accompanied by Itamar Ben-Gvir, a far-right member of the Knesset.

Israeli troops carry out near-daily raids in the West Bank, targeting populated Palestinian communities. Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Aqla was murdered by the Israeli Defense Forces during one of such raids on 11 May.

NEWS MAKERS

On Dussehra, This Maharashtra Village Performs 'Aarti' Of Ravana. Here's Why

Agenceis

Akola, Maharashtra: Residents of a non-descript village in Maharashtra celebrate Dussehra in a different way as they perform the 'aarti' of demon king Ravana on the festival when his effigies are burnt in other parts of the country.

Many residents of Sangola village in Maharashtra's Akola district believe they are employed and able to sustain their livelihood because of Ravana's blessings and the peace and happiness in their village is because of the demon king.

Locals claim the tradition of worshipping Ravana for his "intelligence and ascetic qualities" has been going on in the village for last 300 years.



At the centre of the village stands a tall black stone statue of the 10-headed demon king.

The villagers believe in Lord Ram, but they also have faith in Ravana and do not burn his effi-

gies, local resident Bhivaji Dhakre told news agency PTI on the occasion of Dussehra today.

Visitors from across the country come to this small village on Dussehra every year to catch a glimpse of

the Lanka king's statue and some even offer prayers, locals said.

Sangola resident Subodh Hatole said, "With the blessings of Mahatma Ravana, today many people in the village are employed. On the day of Dussehra, we worship the statue of Ravana with a maha-aarti." Some of the villagers hail Ravana as a "scholar" and believe he abducted Sita for "political reasons and preserved her sanctity", Dhakre said.

Local temple priest Haribhau Lakhade said while the rest of the country burns effigies of Ravana on Dussehra, symbolising the victory of good over evil, residents of Sangola worship the demon king for his "intelligence and ascetic qualities".

PM Modi Attends Dusshera Festival In Himachal In Traditional Attire

Agenceis

Kullu (Himachal Pradesh): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday, attended International Kullu Dussehra Festival in traditional attire.

Prime Minister Modi was seen wearing a yellow kurta that he paired with a blue Nehru jacket. What caught the limelight was the Himachali cap and Kullu's printed traditional shawl.

This is the first time that Prime Minister Modi is participating in the Dusshera festival in Kullu.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended greetings to citizens on the occasion of Dussehra and expressed

his happiness to be a part of the International Kullu Dussehra Festival that is to be celebrated here from October 5 to 11 at the Dhalpur Ground in Kullu.

The festival is unique in the sense that it is the congregation of more than 300 deities of the valley. On the first day of the Festival, obeisance is paid to the Deities in their well-decorated palanquins at the temple of the Chief Deity Bhagwan Raghunath Ji and then it proceeds to the Dhalpur Ground.

"I am elated to provide the citizens of Himachal Pradesh with the gifts of projects of education, health, and infrastructure worth thousands of crores," Prime Minister Modi said adding that

he will seek the blessings for the country by joining the Raghunath Ji Yatra.

"I am very fortunate to participate in the Kullu festival after so many years," he added.

The Prime Minister will witness this divine Rath Yatra and the grand assembly of the Deities in the historic Kullu Dussehra celebrations.

"The development projects inaugurated today on the occasion of Vijayadashami will play an important role in achieving the vision of a developed India by following the 'Panch Pran'. Today, Bilaspur has got the double gift of education and medical facilities," Prime Minister Modi said.

Allowing Doctors, Specialists To Take Night-Off Against Set Norms: DHSK

Says Hospital Administrators Must Strictly Monitor Attendance, Dereliction Shall Be Viewed Seriously



Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Directorate of Health Services Kashmir on Wednesday said that some hospital administrators are allowing specialists, doctors to take night-off which is against norms.

In this regard, hospital administrators have been directed to strictly monitor the attendance of the specialists and any dereliction shall be viewed seriously. "It has been observed that the hospital administrators are al-

lowing on-call specialists/doctors to take night-off, which is against the set norms as prescribed." Reads the circular issued by Director Health Services Kashmir, Mushtaq Ahmad Rather.

It adds that "As such enjoined upon all the hospital administrators not allow this practice henceforth and strictly monitor the attendance of the specialists. Any dereliction in this matter shall be viewed seriously. Further, compliance report in this regard may be shared with this Directorate."—(KNO)

Div Com Inspects Progress Of Highway Widening In Ramban

Observer News Service

RAMBAN: Divisional Commissioner, Jammu Ramesh Kumar on Wednesday inspected the pace of progress on National Highway-44 four laning construction works in district Ramban.

He also reviewed the status of traffic movement on the Highway.

The Div Com was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Mussarat Islam, SSP Mohita Sharma, officers from NHAI besides representatives of the construction companies engaged for the four laning project.

The Div Com visited several vulnerable spots, including the sliding area at Mehar, and directed the NHAI to expedite the road clearance works to facilitate smooth double lane traffic.

He also directed the NHAI to expedite the pace of progress on the widening work and ensure mehadamization of existing highway for undistruptive

movement of the traffic on the National Highway.

He directed the construction companies to station adequate manpower and machinery at all the vulnerable sliding zones for immediate clearance of landslides and to maintain hassle free traffic.

The DC apprised the Div Com about section wise progress on the four-laning of National Highway, including Nashri-Ramban and Ramban-Banihal sections.

The Div Com also directed the traffic police department to effectively regulate the Vehicular traffic and facilitate smooth passage of the fruit carrying vehicles on the National Highway.

Meanwhile, the DC also apprised the Div Com about measures taken by the District Administration to resolve the bottlenecks hindering the pace of progress on the prestigious national project as projected by the Construction Companies.

Row Over 'House Arrest'

Mehbooba, Police Engage In Twitter Spat

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti and Jammu and Kashmir Police engaged in a Twitter spat on Wednesday after she claimed that she was placed under house arrest to prevent her from visiting an area in north Kashmir.

The police rebutted the claims of the PDP chief and said she was free to travel anywhere.

Mehbooba claimed that since Union Home Minister Amit Shah was travelling to Baramulla, 54 kilometres from here, in north Kashmir and addressing a public rally there, she had been stopped from attending a wedding of a party worker in Pattan, 27 kilometres from here.

"While HM is going around Kashmir beating drums of normalcy, I am under house arrest for simply wanting to visit Pattan for a worker's wedding. If an ex CM's fundamental rights can be suspended so easily, one can't even imagine the plight of a commoner," she said in a tweet and tagged the home minister and Lt Governor Manoj Sinha.

She also put out pictures of the alleged locking of the door of the

main gate of her house.

However, almost 40 minutes later, the Srinagar Police tweeted that there were no restrictions on her travel to Pattan. The police even claimed that she herself had locked the gate from inside.

"It is clarified that no restriction of any kind (of) travel to Pattan, travel to Pattan at 1 pm as intimated to us. The picture tweeted by her is of inside of the gate with own lock of residents who stay in the bungalow. There is no lock or any restrictions. She is free to travel," the police said in the tweet.

They also put out pictures of her gate with no locks from the outside.

This was quickly rebutted by Mehbooba who said the SSP Baramulla had informed her Tuesday night that she would not be allowed to travel. She claimed that the police were "now lying through their teeth".

"I was informed last night by SP (SSP) Baramulla @bhatray that I wouldn't be allowed to travel to Pattan. Today @JmukmrPolice have themselves locked my gates from inside & are now lying through their teeth. Sad that law enforcement agencies are brazenly trying

Government land at Garend Kalan, a police spokesperson said.

He said both the vehicles have been seized and drivers identified as Mushtaq Ah Dar son of Abdul Ahad Dar and Mukhtar Ahmad Ganie son of Mohammad Akbar Ganie, both residents of Shahpora Chatabugh were also arrested.

"Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered in police station Budgam and further investigation has been initiated," he added.

Thousands Throng HM's Rally In Baramulla, Welcome Quota Announcement



Abid Bhat/KO

Press Trust Of India

BARAMULLA: Long queues with people jostling to enter through two narrow gates and excitement writ large on their faces, thousands flocked the Showkat Ali Stadium where Union Home Minister Amit Shah held a rally on Wednesday.

The highest turnout was from Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora districts in north Kashmir.

People walked up to the venue as vehicles were stopped at a distance from the stadium due to security considerations.

It was a long wait for the people to get in as the security personnel made sure to thoroughly frisk them.

At the venue, BJP supporters were seen dancing to the sounds of beating drums and blowing flutes.

In between, army helicopters made sorties and the crowd cheered.

"We are very excited to welcome the home minister to Baramulla. There is a lot of 'josh' (enthusiasm) among the people here," Fayaz Khan, a resident of Kupwara said.

Toufeeq Ahmad, a resident of Karnah, told PTI, "We have so many hopes from the home minister's visit. This is the government that does what it says."

He welcomed the announcement on reservation made by Shah in Rajouri and said the people wanted to see it implemented soon.

The home minister had on Tuesday announced that the Gujar, Bakerwal and Pahari communities in the Union territory will get reservation benefits in accordance with the recommendations of the Justice Sharma Commission.

"Our forefathers struggled for this. The announcement has brought a wave of happiness. But we want the home minis-

ter to implement this decision sooner," Ahmad said.

A large number of women were also present at the rally and sought their grievances to be addressed.

Ruksana Bano, a resident of Baramulla, said, There are many developmental issues which should be addressed on priority. We need proper water supply and electricity. There is price rise and unemployment. Our children need jobs.

Many locals said the rally was arguably among the largest ones held in Baramulla so far.

As Shah arrived, "Har har Modi, Har ghar Modi" slogans reverberated the air. The minister walked up to the podium and bowed in acknowledgment to the cheers.

He started his speech that lasted for less than half-an-hour with Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and later walked up to the people and shook hands with them.

NC Welcomes Amit Shah's Assurance To Paharis

AAP Says BJP Failed Litmus Test

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: National Conference leader Rattan Lal Gupta Wednesday welcomed Union Home Minister Amit Shah's assurance of reservation to the Pahari community but accused him of "cooking up unfounded stories and twisting historical facts" over the role of three families in Jammu and Kashmir.

At his first public rally in the Valley after the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, Shah, in his 27-minute speech at Showkat Ali stadium in Baramulla district, trained his guns at leaders from opposition parties NC, PDP and Congress with frequent references to the "three families", "Mufti and company" and "Abdullah and sons".

The home minister blamed Abdullahs (National Conference), Muftis (PDP) and Nehru-Gandhi (Congress) for the "lack of development" in Jammu and Kashmir as they ruled the erstwhile state for most of the years since the country's independence.

Later, in a statement, National Conference provincial president Gupta said, "The struggle initiated by NC president Farooq Abdullah for the Pahari community's rights in 1983 has finally reached its logical conclusion in 2022, with the Union home minister assuring reservation to the community.

Shah on Tuesday announced that the Gujar, Bakerwal and Pahari communities in Jammu and Kashmir will get reservation benefits in accordance with the recommendations of the Justice Sharma Commission which examined the issue of quota.

Gupta, however, said the NC would not tolerate if the 'dole' to the Paharis was given at the cost of genuine rights of Gujjars and Bakerwals.

"The NC leadership has continuously taken up the matter of Paharis with the Centre since 1983. The endeavour has finally led to relief for the community, which is a welcome step," he said.

"The NC was also expecting an employment package for the youngsters of Jammu and Kashmir from the visiting home minister," the senior NC leader said.

Reacting to Shah's "three families" remark, Gupta said the Abdullah family served the people of Jammu and Kashmir for more than seven decades.

"No one in the country is so big in stature to cook up unfounded stories for the sake of political mileage by twisting historical facts, which are unchallengeable and true to the hilt," he said.

Gupta also accused the home minister of trying to take credit for five medical colleges, saying they were sanctioned by the NC regime headed by former chief minister Omar Abdullah.

"The BJP has bluffed and misled the people of Jammu region on every front, and that is why it has failed to win the hearts of Kashmiri people," he said.

Senior AAP leader and former minister Harsh Dev Singh also the slammed BJP-led government. He said it has failed the litmus test as no mention of any of the burning issues of Jammu and Kashmir was made in the home minister's rallies which showed "a completely insensitive approach".

Singh said there were large-scale expectations and hopes from the home minister's visit and people were waiting for some big announcements but there were none except the promise for the ST status to Paharis.

Jammu and Kashmir is passing through a phase of uncertainty with rising unemployment, poor development, issue of daily wagers, NHM employees, vocational trainers, SPOs, home guards, teachers, special package employees and Kashmiri Pandit employees among others which require immediate attention of the government, the AAP leader said.

Delhi HC Orders Shifting Of Separatist Altaf Shah To AIIMS

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court has ordered the shifting of Kashmiri separatist Altaf Ahmad Shah, currently in jail and facing trial for an alleged terror funding case probed by the NIA, to AIIMS for appropriate treatment after he was stated to have been diagnosed with cancer.

Shah, the son-in-law of late Hurriyat leader SAS Geelani, told the court he was receiving treatment for certain serious ailments at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital (RML) but it was recently revealed he was suffering from the last stage of renal cancer.

While claiming RML does not have the adequate facility to treat renal cancer, he prayed he should be allowed to be shifted to AIIMS or Apollo Hospital for urgent treatment.

Justice Sudhir Kumar Jain, without going into the merits of the case under Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, said right to have adequate and suitable treatment was the part of the fundamental rights under the Constitution and it was in the interest of justice that the petitioner receives treatment at AIIMS.

"The medical record submitted on behalf of the petitioner reflects that the petitioner is suffering from various ailments. The petitioner is also diagnosed with renal cancer although there is no such medical document submitted on behalf of the petitioner.

"However, without going into the merits of the case as the right to have adequate and suitable treatment is the part of fundamental right as enshrined in Article 21 of the Constitution and after considering the totality of the circumstances and in the interest

of justice it is ordered that the petitioner be shifted to AIIMS, Delhi for appropriate treatment under the judicial custody and direct supervision of the concerned jail superintendent and after following all necessary security measures," said the court in its order dated October 3.

The NIA stated that at present, there was no medical record available to indicate that the petitioner is suffering from renal cancer and that the doctors at RML had not recommended his transfer to any other hospital.

In its order, the court also granted permission to the petitioner to either meet his son or daughter once a day for one hour in the hospital. Necessary expenses likely to be incurred in the transportation of the petitioner to AIIMS and for further treatment shall be borne by the petitioner, the court added.

Positive Changes In J&K After Constitutional Reforms: RSS Leader

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: RSS leader Krishna Gopal on Wednesday said the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are witnessing positive changes due to the reforms undertaken by the BJP government at the Centre.

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's joint general secretary also asserted that India is a "Hindu Rashtra". "The Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are witnessing positive changes after constitutional reforms, he said in an apparent reference to the revocation of Article 370 in August 2019.

He was addressing a function to celebrate Vijayadashmi, also known as Dussehra, here.

Recalling the formation of the RSS, he said the organisation has been working relentlessly since its birth in 1925 to consolidate the Hindu society and usher in a "glorious era of prosperity" for the nation. "In the Sangh's long journey of 97 years, we have had to face hardships Despite this, the RSS stands with one force. Our resolve is eternal..India is a Hindu Rashtra," he said.

He urged the RSS workers to

reach out to all sections of the society and eradicate all forms of discrimination.

On the philosophies of Hindu and Hindutva, Gopal said not all people understand them because they are seen through western vision.

"The Hindu philosophy and Hindutva take different ideologies and thoughts together by evolving a consensus," he said and pointed out that despite having hundreds of dialects, languages, and diversity in the country, Bharat is one and Hindutva is its binding force.

Referring to India's mantra of 'Sarvay Bhavantu Sukhinah' (May all be happy), the RSS leader said despite having hostile relations with Pakistan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered to send wheat to that country to overcome shortage there.

RSS General Secretary Datatreya Hosbale, who is on a three-day visit to Jammu, was also present.

He held a separate meeting with senior RSS functionaries on the prevailing political situation in the two Union territories and also took part in a parade, a leader said.

Shah's Remark Against Gupkar

Omar Asks Why PM Invited PAGD Leaders For Discussion

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) leader Omar Abdullah on Wednesday hit back at Union Home Minister Amit Shah over his remarks that the Gupkar model gave stones and guns to the youth of Kashmir, asking if so, why had the prime minister invited them for meetings over the situation in the Union territory.

The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration is an alliance of six mainstream political parties, including the NC and the Mehbooba Mufti-led Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), seeking the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, which was revoked by the Centre in August 2019.

During his speech at a public rally in Baramulla, Shah had said the Gupkar model gave the country the Pulwama attack in February 2019 where 40 CRPF personnel were killed after a suicide bomber rammed his explosives-laden vehicle on the force's convoy at Lethpora.

In response, the former chief minister of the erstwhile state said the Pulwama attack took place when Jammu and Kashmir was under the central rule with Satyapal Malik as the governor.

@HMOIndia @AmitShah ji says 'Gupkar model gave us Pulwama attack.' Just to remind everyone that Pulwama attack happened when J&K was under central (BJP) rule with their handpicked Satyapal Ma-

lik running the state from Raj Bhavan, the NC vice president wrote on Twitter.

If the Gupkar model gave guns and stones to the youth of Kashmir, Why on earth are PM & other senior leaders inviting these Gupkar leaders' to meetings in Delhi? he sought to know.

He was referring to an all-party meeting convened by the prime minister in June last year.

In a separate tweet, the NC said it will respond to Shah's charges on Thursday as the list of the party's contribution to the development of Jammu and Kashmir was rather exhaustive.

We are grateful to @HMOIndia @AmitShah ji for challenging Dr. Farooq Sb to account for @jknc_'s contribution to the development of J&K. As the list is rather exhaustive, please expect our response tomorrow, the party said in a tweet.

Mehbooba Mufti said her party does not need validation for its contribution towards the welfare of Jammu and Kashmir and that the BJP has nothing to show except its broken record of dynastic rule.

Dedicating his speech to answer my questions, HM forgets that Mufti sahab (Mufti Mohammad Sayeed) was CM for just 3.5 years & doesn't need validation from him (Shah) for his work for welfare of J&K. Even after ruling J&K directly since 2018, BJP has nothing to show except their broken record of dynastic rule, Mufti said in a tweet.

Dr Farooq Asks People To Stand United For Their Rights

JAMMU: National Conference President Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday exhorted people to stand united for the restoration of their "abridged" democratic and constitutional rights.

The former chief minister was addressing a series of public gatherings in Warwan and Marwah on the third day of his tour of the remote areas of Kishtwar district.

"People need to stand united for the restoration of abridged democratic and constitutional rights. If we don't do it, our future generations won't forgive us. The need of the hour is to unite," he said.

Abdullah said the "anti-J&K" forces are hell bent on dividing people.

"They are consistent in their efforts to create differences between the people by flaring up communal, regional and ethnic tensions. But we as a civilised society have to fight such divisive agenda democratically," he said without naming anyone but apparently referring to the BJP.

The former chief minister

said the common man of Jammu and Kashmir must stand up for his rights.

"There can be no trade-off between development and one's dignity. Both have to go hand in hand. It's only the NC that can protect the unique identity of our diverse people across J&K and also strive to ensure fruits of development reach the last man living in Marwah, Warwan, Paddar, Linderwal, and Bhadarwah," Abdullah said.

Asking people who have attained the age of 18 years to register themselves as voters, he said they need to come out in huge numbers to vote at the time of the elections.

"There is no other way to salvage our future generation from the repercussions of on-going assaults on our unique identity. If we err in our efforts, it will have a lasting impact on our future generations, he said, referring to the Centre's move of abrogating Article 370 of the Constitution and bifurcating the erstwhile state into two Union territories.

KASHMIR OBSERVER

A Successful Visit

Home minister Amit Shah's two-day visit to Kashmir has turned out to be very successful. He addressed two rallies, one at Rajouri in the Jammu division and another at Baramulla in the Kashmir Valley, both attended by a large gathering of people. The Baramulla rally, however, was notable for the size of the crowd and the significance of the event. It was once unthinkable that a rally of this size could be held by a top BJP leader in a north Kashmir town, once roiled by militancy and conflict. The government had imposed tight security in the town to ensure the rally passed without an incident. And it did. In the run-up to the visit, however, there were a few incidents of violence in Jammu including the blast on passenger buses and the killing of the DGP Prisons H K Lohia, the latter termed by the police as a crime.

The home minister's visit was marked by outreach to Gujjar, Bakerwal and Pahari communities. Shah announced the implementation of reservations for economically disadvantaged communities. Addressing the rally in Rajouri, the home minister said minorities and Dalits living in the Union Territory would not have gotten reservation rights if there was no abrogation of Article 370 and 35A in 2019. And in Baramulla, he reiterated the reservation promise to the three communities.

The home minister once again refused to start a dialogue with Pakistan, saying instead he would prefer to hold talks with Gujjars and Paharis and also with the youth of Kashmir. In a packed schedule, the home minister made sure he pays close attention to the problems of the former state. The visit, however, was primarily not political in nature. The home minister tried to keep the focus on the development of J&K. As with his visit last year, he didn't, however, announce any big-ticket economic or political initiative as is otherwise expected from a high-profile visit like that of a home minister. And that too as powerful as Amit Shah. In fact, the visit even dampened the expectations of talks with Pakistan.

It is true, in the last over three years New Delhi has tried to cleanse Kashmir of its Pakistan and separatist discourse. And it has so far been successful in that. Though there had been some back-channel contact between the two neighbours towards the end of 2020 which culminated into a re-affirmation of 2003 ceasefire in February 2021, the dialogue failed to move on after India apparently refused to reverse the revocation of Article 370. And ever since the two countries have drifted apart. Their relations have become tense again. And it is unlikely that the neighbours can negotiate their way out of this dead-end unless there is a minimum level of mutual confidence between them. In the current circumstances, it seems unimaginable how this confidence could be restored. Meanwhile, the home minister's visit has almost sounded the election bugle in Kashmir. His outreach to the tribal communities has signaled that elections could likely be held by March-April next year.

OTHER OPINION

Monsoon's retreat

As it revived, there was surplus rainfall during July to September. Spatially, the eastern and north-eastern parts of the country experienced significant deficiency, of 18%, while central and peninsular India received rainfall of 19% and 22% higher than the LPA, respectively. Another characteristic of this year's monsoon is that the number of light and moderate rainfall events has been decreasing while the number of heavy rainfall days has been rising. There were 1,874 heavy rainfall events this year when compared to 1,636 events last year according to India Meteorological Department's report on the salient features of monsoon 2022.

The monsoon's uneven progress during the crucial months of June and July impacted kharif sowing operations for paddy, coarse cereals, pulses, oilseeds, cotton and soya bean. Till end-September, the overall kharif sown area was 0.8% less than a year ago at 110.2 million hectares. The shortfall was greater for paddy due to rainfall deficiency in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. On the other hand, surplus rains in September delayed harvesting of paddy in the northern regions while it helped add some area in southern states like Karnataka, Telangana and Tamil Nadu. The area under paddy thus was 4.7% less than a year ago, at 40.2 million hectares. As a result, the country's rice production—at 104.99 million tonnes—is expected to be less by 6% than a year ago during the 2022-23 cropping season, according to the first estimate of food grain production released by the agriculture ministry. Overall kharif food grain output, too, is estimated to decline by 4% than a year ago to 149.2 mt this cropping season. Higher than normal rains however ensure sufficient moisture for the ensuing rabi or winter season.

As the monsoon affects India's agricultural sector, it is necessary to improve the forecasting of its progress during the season. While there is no doubt an improvement in IMD's predictions, accuracy is not high at a location-specific level. IMD's DG admitted that the agency could not accurately forecast the extent of deficiency in key rice-growing states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal, according to a report in FE. But the larger moral of the story is to encourage a shift in cropping patterns away from water-intensive crops like paddy in the vanguard agrarian regions. This diversification however entails a larger policy rethink on the existing practice of procuring food grain at minimum support prices as urged by a member of the official think-tank Niti Aayog. Farmer incomes can be boosted manifold with crop diversification from staple cereals to high-value crops. To cope with an erratic monsoon, there is a need to build more irrigation facilities in the rain-fed regions and develop short duration crop strains to enable farmers to make timely shifts in cropping patterns.

Financial Express

Peace Is Not The Absence Of War

To get peace, we must first understand the causes and logic of war.

Mukesh Kapila

War, per se, is not illegal. It is permitted in the UN Charter to counter crimes of aggression. The concept of a "just war" also exists under international humanitarian law. War may also be necessary, indeed moral. Historically, genocides and crimes against humanity have been ended through the use of force.

At the same time, our peacemaking track record is unimpressive. Over the past half-century, it is hard to think of many armed conflicts that have truly, fully ceased. Instead, most grumble along, boiling up or simmering down periodically. Think of the historical conflicts in Palestine or Kashmir, or the many struggles on Myanmar's periphery, or the insurgencies in the Maghreb and in the Sahel. Many national authorities are preoccupied with persistent internal divisions, such as Pakistan which is facing unrest in tribal areas and South Sudan which has seen ethnic violence.

Internationally, the UN has spent billions of dollars and deployed tens of thousands of peacekeepers in scores of countries. Dozens of UN envoys along with those of regional bodies such as the European Union, African Union, and ASEAN criss-cross warzones. Think-tanks and NGOs are busy, peacebuilding projects abound, and peace conferences fronted by eminent personalities fill the calendar.

Some efforts are sanctified by portentous UN Security Council resolutions on the increasingly rare occasions of consensus among the great powers. Sticks and carrots are dangled through sanctions and aid inducements.

But this well-practised modus operandi of the peace business produces meagre returns. It may put a temporary lid on violence as protagonists under pressure sign any piece of paper that allows a breather and chance to regroup. Then the conflict flares up again until the next ceasefire or "peace" deal. And so, the cycle goes on.

Worse still, there is concern that premature peace meddling prolongs conflict as happened in Bosnia and Herzegovina and on the Korean Peninsula. That is because conflicts end only when they are ready to do so. Ideally, that would be when underlying causes or differences have been resolved, including accountability and justice for wrongs inflicted. But, in reality, that hardly ever happens and so wars end only when one side has won decisively. Think World War II or the Vietnam War.

But modern war-making is multidimensional and much more resilient, especially when external sponsors pitch in on different sides. The durability of any subsequent peace depends on two key factors. First is the viciousness of the way in which the earlier war was waged. The reality is that nowadays, appalling atrocities are the norm, and raped, tortured, starved, dispossessed survivors are in no mood to reconcile with their assailants. The second factor then kicks in – the magnanimity or wisdom of victors. This is almost always in short supply.

The irony is that although we know a lot about waging war, we are not smart at making peace. It is easy to award Nobel Peace Prizes, but many winners are embarrassed when their efforts do not withstand the test of time. Prominent examples are former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Ethiopian President Abiy Ahmed.

That is why, all peace is provisional and once a society has tasted violence, it is perpetually prone to it, especially when Hollywood, Bollywood, and Netflix myth-makers get into shaping the remembrance of history.

We should not be surprised, therefore, that endless armed conflicts have accumulated over



Those who enjoy such rights in peace and comfort have no moral standing to stop others from acquiring them. While peaceful means to do so are preferable, conflict often breaks out when authoritarian regimes thwart progress

the decades: some 170 of different types are now raging across the world. The numbers who died directly in combat increased approximately three-fold to 120,000 last year compared to mortality in the early 2000s. Such statistics give a partial view of the human cost of war, as they underestimate the indirect consequences that fall largely on civilians. These have increased greatly over past decades as wars last longer and become more vicious. The United Nations estimates that currently a quarter of the global population – two billion people – live in conflict areas.

The war-and-peace theory holds that it is not supposed to be this way. As more of us get educated, healthier, and better off, we are supposed to become more peace-loving because that serves our self-interest in achieving stable prosperity. Besides, with more of our essential needs satisfied, and more of our higher needs for voice and esteem realised through representative democracy, we should have less reason to fear or fight others.

Even if we do, we have a plethora of norms and entitlements, laws and institutions to constrain us. Thus, our disputes – within communities and nations, or between them – should be settled tranquilly, informed by the rationality of facts and balanced give-and-take.

Indeed, global indicators on poverty alleviation, human development, and institutional capacity suggest that despite periodic crises, including currently around energy and food, we have made historically unprecedented progress in most economic, social, and political dimensions. But that has not brought world peace. Does that mean the theory is wrong?

Not necessarily, because history also suggests that more education and development bring greater enlightenment about what is wrong with our world as well as the aspiration and capability to do something about it. Most of our social

and political advancements have come through fighting for them.

For example, each of the human rights that we take for granted nowadays were achieved through struggle. This happened first in one pioneering setting, and then, as particular rights such as to food and water, or to vote or not to be tortured, got codified, they became universal.

But without the sturdy defence of hard-won rights, they easily flip into wrongs, thereby triggering renewed conflict. And some rights are yet to be fully realised everywhere, such as the right for women and girls to learn in Afghanistan or for them to have reproductive choice in parts of the United States.

Those who enjoy such rights in peace and comfort have no moral standing to stop others from acquiring them. While peaceful means to do so are preferable, conflict often breaks out when authoritarian regimes thwart progress.

Looking ahead, yet more conflicts loom with new geopolitical tensions, and novel insecurities from climate change, pandemics, resource competition, and dysfunctional globalisation. These spawn violence because inequalities within and between societies grow and people around the world continue battling vested interests to gain new human rights.

Every conflict has a logic that must be understood before countering it fairly and justly so that the consequent peace is sustainable. Otherwise, to get peace, we may be obliged to first give conflict a chance.

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 Al Jazeera

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Non-Violence, Peace and Communal Harmony

Though there is no doubt in describing the present age as the age of Information Technology and Globalization; but when we look through another perspective it is not incorrect to call present age as the age of violence, oppression, extremism, intolerance, political crisis, protests/ uprisings, and what not. Therefore, the need of the hour is to look on the values, concepts, ideas and ideals like nonviolence, justice, kindness, tolerance, pluralism, communal harmony and other such positive values and concepts.

These concepts and notions have been preached by almost all religions and religious traditions. These are the values preached, propounded, propagated and practised by many thinkers and leaders, irrespective of their religion, era, area/region, gender, ethnic-

ity, language, etc. and the thinkers and leaders of India are no exception.

Among the 20th century prominent Indian personalities (thinkers or leaders) who have contributed enormously to the ideas and ideals like non violence/ ahimsa, Satya/ Satyagraha truth/ struggle for truth, communal harmony are (i) Mohan Das Karamchand Gandhi (b. 2 October 1869-d. 30 January 1948) commonly known as Mahatma Gandhi; and (ii) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (11 November 1888 - d. 22nd February 1958).

Mahatma Gandhi, as described by Encyclopedia Britannica (EB), was an "Indian lawyer, politician, social activist, and writer who became the leader of the nationalist movement against the British rule of India. ... Gandhi is internationally esteemed for his doctrine of nonviolent protest

(satyagraha) to achieve political and social progress." His Birthday (2nd Oct.) is celebrated as "Gandhi Jayanti" in India and in 2007, the United Nations General Assembly declared it as "the International Day of Non-violence". He is the person who has influenced a number of world renowned personalities including Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, Barack Obama, etc. at international level and Maulana Azad at national level (among the muslims). Azad was highly influenced by his thought and philosophy of non-violence.

Similarly, Maulana Azad, whose original name was Ghulam Muhiyuddin, is described by EB as an "Islamic theologian who was one of the leaders of the Indian independence movement against British rule in the first half of the 20th century" and was

"highly respected throughout his life as a man of high moral integrity." His birthday (11th Nov.) is celebrated as the National Education Day in India for he served as the first Education Minister of independent India and for his overall contribution to the educational thought and education system.

Both Gandhi and Azad were preachers and practitioners of non-violent activism, peace, tolerance and communal harmony. Let's follow their thoughts and philosophy of non-violence, peace, tolerance and communal harmony in an age of violence, extremism, intolerance, protests and oppression. This will be the best tribute people can pay to these luminaries, irrespective of their religious beliefs and ideology.

Dr Tauseef Ahmad Parray

Virtues of Being ‘Correct’

Firdous Ahmad Mala

AUTHENTICITY, brevity and correctness are my A, B and C of academic excellence. These are among the several possible academic virtues one can aspire for. Absence of any of these is akin to being unworthy of being labeled academically sound and intellectually upright. Only the good and academically correct deserve acclaim and applause. One is supposed to be well-versed with the art and science of dotting all the “i”s and crossing all the “t”s in pursuit of academic excellence.

Take the example of the act of writing. It often happens that if we fail to express clearly what we intend to express, there will be many a slip between the cup and the lip. One does not and should not expect oneself to be popular with the listeners if one is bereft of the gift of gab or if one writes, but is not versed with the ingredients that bring about good and praiseworthy write ups.

As per Ruskin Bond, India is in danger of producing more writers than readers. This could be due to several possible reasons. These include the advent of self-publishing avenues and the access to a plethora of digital tools that simplify the art of writing. As a matter of fact, writing is becoming more of a mechanical process than the art of being able to express through the tongue that which lies in the heart. The sad part of the tale is the fact that despite the availability of accessible-writing-tools and a quantum of examples to learn from, many

of us are still butter-fingered when it comes to writing. This is a very sad state of affairs.

Regarding speaking, one who speaks and knows not what or how to speak makes others loathe and detest the practice of lending one's ears to others.

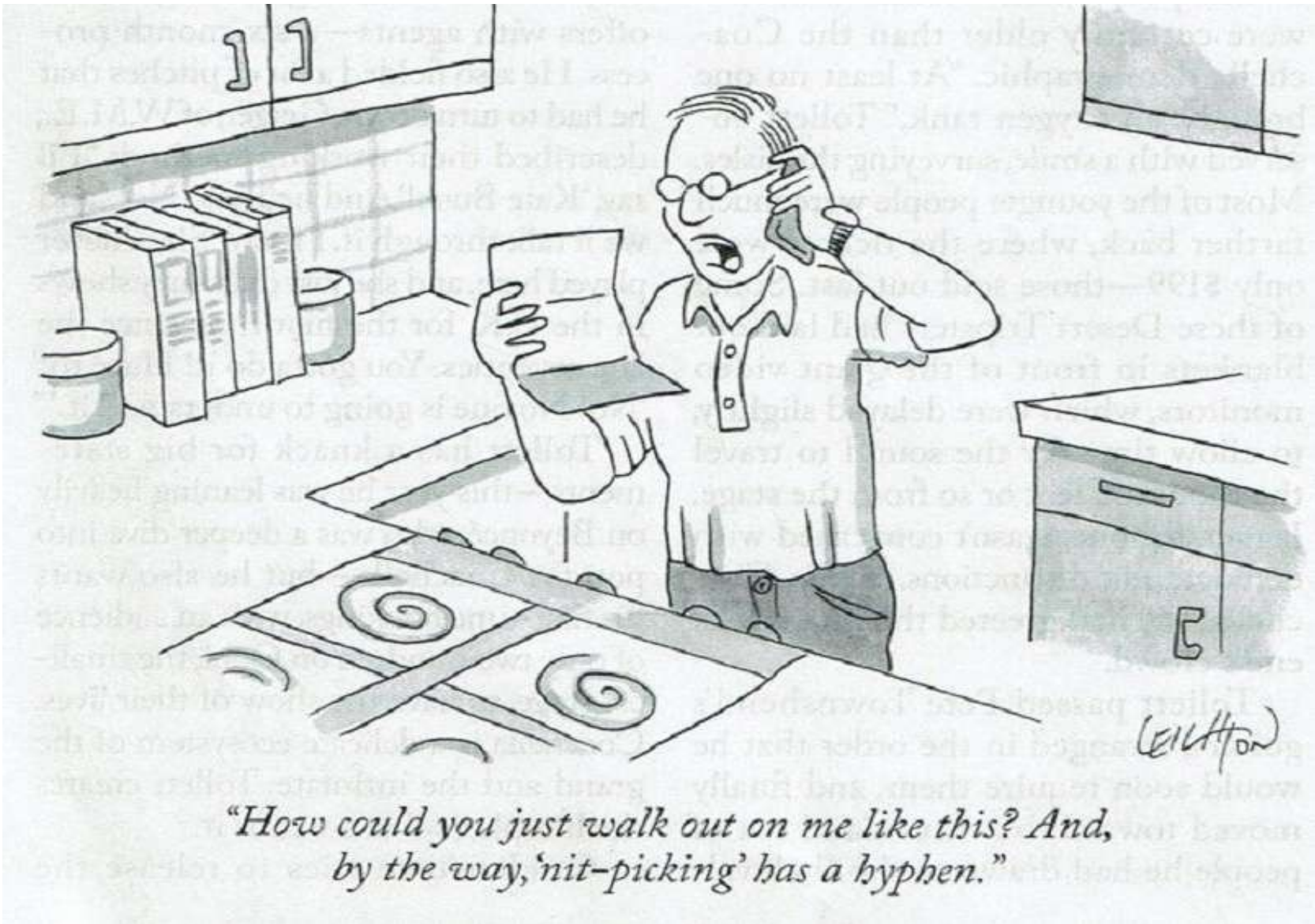
Irresponsible speeches can be disastrous to say the least. In the words of Napoleon Hill, “Think twice before you speak, because your words and influence will plant the seed of either success or failure in the mind of another.” Speaking ad nauseam is very likely to do more harm than any good.

In the words of Dorothy Sarnoff, “Make sure you have finished speaking before your audience has finished listening.”

Regarding the exercise of power, one must be wise enough to know that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Misuse of power and making the irrational overpower the rational is never long-lasting. Correctness, rationality and being sensible apply equally to all, irrespective of being in power or being subjugated. As per Patricia Cornwell, abuse of power is the root of all evil. Correctness vis-à-vis power means being just, kind, understanding and rational.

Apart from the endeavors of writing, speaking and exercising one's power, it is almost evident that for all other endeavors, correctness is a prerequisite.

The importance of being correct is difficult to overemphasize. In the words of Stephen Jay Gould, “A man does not attain the status of Galileo merely because he is persecuted; he must also be right.”



Regarding the exercise of power, one must be wise enough to know that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Misuse of power and making the irrational overpower the rational is never long-lasting

The Science Behind Deja Vu

Anne Cleary

HAVE you ever had that weird feeling that you've experienced the same exact situation before, even though that's impossible? Sometimes it can even seem like you're reliving something that already happened. This phenomenon, known as déjà vu, has puzzled philosophers, neurologists and writers for a very long time.

Starting in the late 1800s, many theories began to emerge regarding what might cause déjà vu, which means “already seen” in French. People thought maybe it stemmed from mental dysfunction or perhaps a type of brain problem. Or maybe it was a temporary hiccup in the otherwise normal operation of human memory. But the topic did not reach the realm of science until quite recently.

MOVING FROM THE PARANORMAL TO THE SCIENTIFIC

Early in this millennium, a scientist named Alan Brown decided to conduct a review of everything researchers had written about déjà vu until that point. Much of what he could find had a paranormal flavor, having to do with the supernatural – things like past lives or psychic abilities. But he also found studies that surveyed regular people about their déjà vu experiences. From all these papers, Brown was able to glean some basic findings on the déjà vu phenomenon.

For example, Brown determined that roughly two thirds of people experience déjà vu at some point in their lives. He determined that the most common trigger of déjà vu is a scene or place, and the next most common trigger is a conversation. He also reported on hints throughout a century or so of medical literature of a possible association between déjà vu and some types of seizure activity in the brain.

Brown's review brought the topic of déjà vu into the realm of more mainstream science, because it appeared in both a scientific journal that scientists who study cognition tend to read, and also in a book aimed at scientists. His work served as a catalyst for scientists to design experiments to investigate déjà vu.

TESTING DÉJÀ VU IN THE PSYCHOLOGY LAB

Prompted by Brown's work, my

own research team began conducting experiments aimed at testing hypotheses about possible mechanisms of déjà vu. We investigated a near century-old hypothesis that suggested déjà vu can happen when there's a spatial resemblance between a current scene and an unrecalled scene in your memory. Psychologists called this the Gestalt familiarity hypothesis.

For example, imagine you're passing the nursing station in a hospital unit on your way to visit a sick friend. Although you've never been to this hospital before, you are struck with a feeling that you have. The underlying cause for this experience of déjà vu could be that the layout of the scene, including the placement of the furniture and the particular objects within the space, have the same layout as a different scene that you did experience in the past.

Maybe the way the nursing station is situated – the furniture, the items on the counter, the way it connects to the corners of the hallway – is the same as how a set of welcome tables was arranged relative to signs and furniture in a hallway at the entrance to a school event you attended a year earlier. According to the Gestalt familiarity hypothesis, if that previous situation with a similar layout to the current one doesn't come to mind, you might be left only with a strong feeling of familiarity for the current one.

To investigate this idea in the laboratory, my team used virtual reality to place people within scenes. That way we could manipulate the environments people found themselves in – some scenes shared the same spatial layout while otherwise being distinct. As predicted, déjà vu was more likely to happen when people were in a scene that contained the same spatial arrangement of elements as an earlier scene they viewed but didn't recall.

This research suggests that one contributing factor to déjà vu can be spatial resemblance of a new scene to one in memory that fails to be consciously called to mind at the moment. However, it does not mean that spatial resemblance is the only cause of déjà vu. Very likely, many factors can contribute to what makes a scene or a situation feel familiar. More research is underway to investigate additional possible factors at play in this mysterious phenomenon.

By arrangements with The Conversation

On Innovation: What Makes People Creative

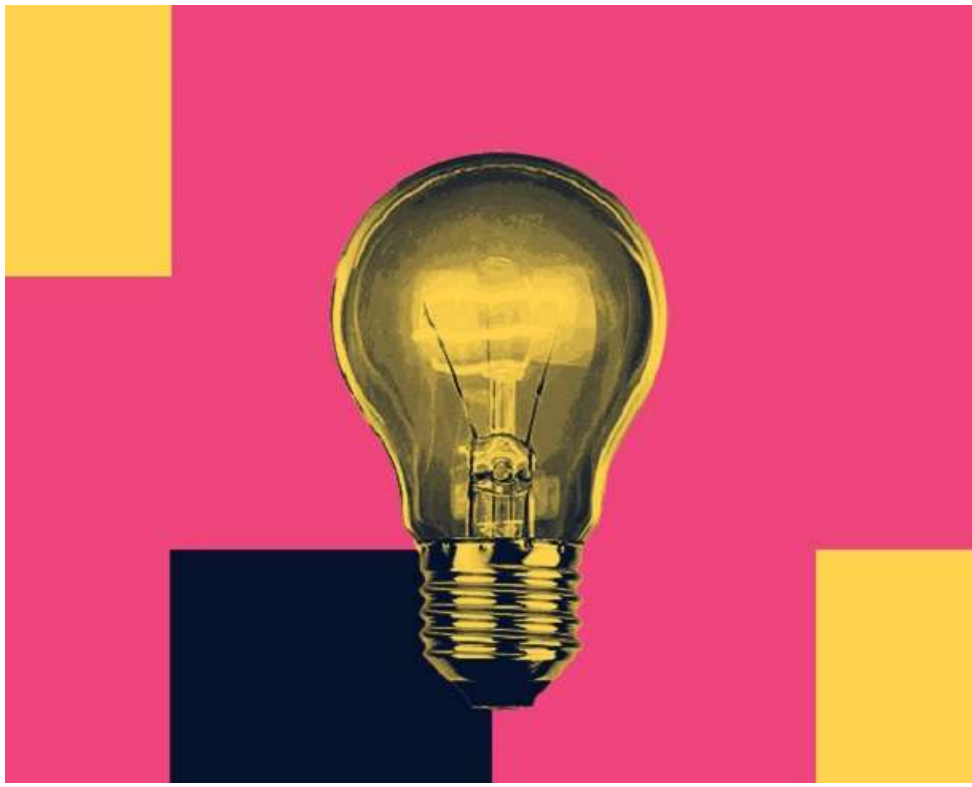
Muzamil Farooq

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

Let's take a look at what inspires people to be creative. Teresa Amabile, a Harvard scientist, developed a model that specifies the factors that are important for people to become creative as early as the 1980s. She specified three variables. The first is expertise, which includes technical, procedural, and intellectual knowledge of the domain in which one works. The second factor is motivation, or the willingness to complete a task. Finally, the third factor is creative thinking abilities, which refer to how effectively and imaginatively people can approach problems. According to the Amabile arc, all three of these factors are required for creativity to emerge. So, rather than having just one of them, you need to have all three to some extent in order to be creative.

Let's take a closer look at these three components. When people consider expertise, they frequently believe that there is such a thing as too much knowledge. And perhaps this is true in the sense that some people have been working in a job for too long and have learned so much that they can no longer think outside the box. But, in all honesty, what is far more of a problem is a lack of knowledge. Why is a lack of knowledge such a problem? For example, if you don't know enough about a subject, you won't know what has been done before, so you might be working on something that isn't novel. You also have no idea where the boundaries in this area are because you have insufficient expertise. So you could be working on something spectacular and not even realise it, and then abandon it because you don't see the value of your idea. Or you're unsure what's feasible. Maybe you're working on a solution that simply doesn't work, and because you don't realise it, you keep working on it for far too long. Finally, you might not know what's useful and come up with ideas that are completely unrelated. It is therefore difficult to be creative unless you have sufficient knowledge and expertise to speak for these four elements.

Let's take a look at the second aspect of moti-



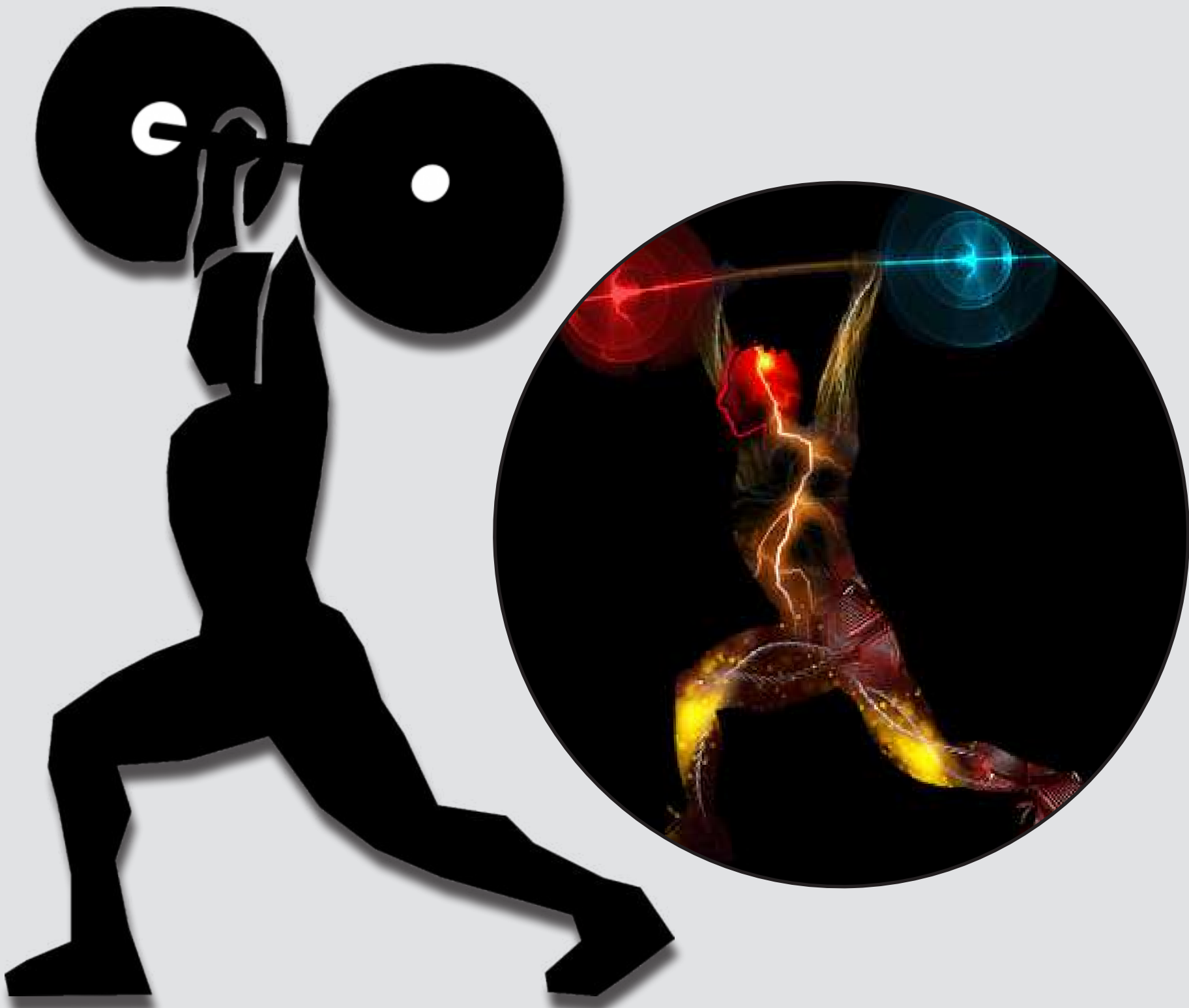
vation. People frequently distinguish between two types of motivation when discussing motivation: extrinsic motivation and intrinsic motivation. Extrinsic motivation refers to doing a task not because you enjoy it, but because of something you gain from it. Consider the carrot and the stick. Maybe you work because you want money or a promotion, or maybe you work to keep your house from being foreclosed on because you owe money on it. All of this is an example of extrinsic motivation. You engage in an activity, but you do so in exchange for a reward. There is also intrinsic motivation, which is when you do something simply because you enjoy it and would do it anyway if you didn't get anything out of it other than joy and satisfaction. And we know that intrinsic motivation has some advantages. For instance, if you are more intrinsically motivated, you are more likely to overcome obstacles that arise. You are more willing to overcome them and go the extra mile. You are more willing to continue after a failure, and this is an important aspect of creativity, failing, failing, failing before you can succeed. Intrinsic motivation increases your willingness to work hard and think about the problem continuously, and all of these factors combine to make intrinsic motivation such an important component of creativity. So, if you want to be creative, it helps to be intrinsically motivated.

Let's take a look at the final aspect of creativity. The final component is called creative thinking skills, and it is all about how adaptable and imaginative you can be when approaching problems. This is difficult because many people live their lives like robots, as if everything is pre-programmed for them, which makes sense because it is very efficient. For ex-

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

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

The author is a Student M.Sc. Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship at NIT Srinagar



LIFTING WEIGHTS

Once A Week Linked To Reduced Risk Of Premature Death



Moderate-intensity exercise was described as “activity where you worked up a light sweat or increased your breathing and heart rate to moderately high levels”, and vigorous activity as “activity strenuous enough to work up a sweat or increase your breathing and heart rate to very high levels”.

For adults who reported no aerobic activity, any weightlifting was associated with a nine per cent to 22 per cent lower risk of early death, depending on how often they lifted weights. For those who did not lift weights but did any level of aerobic exercise, this was 24 per cent to 34 per cent.

The Conversation

It is well known that aerobic exercises, such as running and cycling, can help you live longer, but less has been known about the effect of lifting weights on longevity. Now, results from a new study suggest that adding weightlifting to your exercise regime, even in later life, is a sensible thing to do if you want to avoid an early death. The study, published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, aimed to find out if lifting weights was linked to a lower risk of death from any cause, either on its own or alongside moderate to vigorous exercise. Moderate-intensity exercise was described as “activity where you worked up a light sweat or increased your breathing and heart rate to moderately high levels”, and vigorous activity as “activity strenuous enough to work up a sweat or increase your breathing and heart rate to very high levels”. The researchers led by a team from the National Cancer Institute in Rockville, Maryland, analysed data on just under one lakh men and women from ten cancer centres in the US. The participants had an average age of 71 and an average body-mass index of 27.8 (overweight). They followed the group for just shy of a decade, monitoring deaths from any cause, including heart disease. Around a quarter of people (23 per cent) reported lifting weights, with 16 per cent doing so regularly – between one and six times a week. And around a third (32 per cent) either met

or did more than the recommended amount of aerobic exercise. Weightlifting and aerobic exercise were independently linked with a lower risk of premature death from any cause, except cancer. For adults who reported no aerobic activity, any weightlifting was associated with a nine per cent to 22 per cent lower risk of early death, depending on how often they lifted weights. For those who did not lift weights but did any level of aerobic exercise, this was 24 per cent to 34 per cent. However, the lowest risk was seen in those who did both weightlifting and aerobic exercise. For example, lifting weights once or twice a week and doing at least the recommended amount of aerobic exercise had a 41 per cent to 47 per cent lower risk of premature death. The study also found that women benefited more from weightlifting than men. **Explanation for the findings** Possible explanations for these findings are that weightlifting may have similar beneficial effects to aerobic exercise. For example, reducing heart disease risk factors by improving blood pressure and blood lipid

(cholesterol and triglycerides) profile. Other recent research that combined studies on muscle strengthening and health outcomes found similar results, but also found a reduced risk of cancer, overall. Perhaps this new study did not find effects for cancer as they were targeting a population already at higher cancer risk, given the participants were part of a cancer screening programme. The best effects were again seen from combining aerobic and strengthening activity. Measuring exercise by asking participants to recall how much they exercised over the past year, for example, is a good option for large observational studies of this type, but it can mean over or under-reporting may influence the findings. A study that used digital devices such as smart watches to measure actual activity would provide more accurate results. People in this study were also recruited as part of a cancer screening trial, so the study would probably recruit people with an interest in health, which means they might be more physically active as a result. This means that in the general population, the risk of earlier death related to not exercising or lifting weights is possibly even higher. The findings from this study, and others, show that lifting weights, either on their own or with aerobic exercise, can help reduce the risk of early death. Lifting weights should be a lifelong commitment. It is never too late to start, and the results could be a healthier, longer life.



RBI Plans To Extensively Use AI, ML To Improve Regulatory Supervision

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Reserve Bank is planning to extensively use advanced analytics, artificial intelligence and machine learning to analyse its huge database and improve regulatory supervision on banks and NBFCs.

For this purpose, the central bank is also looking to hire external experts.

While the RBI is already using AI and ML in supervisory processes, it now intends to upscale it to ensure that the benefits of advanced analytics can accrue to the Department of Supervision in the central bank.

The department has been developing and using linear and a few machine-learned models for supervisory examinations.

The supervisory jurisdiction of the RBI extends over banks, urban cooperative banks (UCB), NBFCs, payment banks, small finance banks, local area banks, credit information companies and select all India financial institutions.

It undertakes continuous supervision of such entities with the help of on-site inspections and off-site monitoring.

The central bank has floated an expression of interest (Eoi)

for engaging consultants in the use of Advanced Analytics, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for generating supervisory inputs.

"Taking note of the global supervisory applications of AI & ML applications, this Project has been conceived for use of Advance Analytics and AI/ML to expand analysis of huge data repository with RBI and externally, through the engagement of external experts, which is expected to greatly enhance the effectiveness and sharpness of supervision," it said.

Among other things, the selected consultant will be required to explore and profile data with a supervisory focus.

The objective is to enhance the data-driven surveillance capabilities of the Reserve Bank, the Eoi said.

Across the world, regulatory and supervisory authorities are using machine learning techniques (commonly referred to as 'Supertech' and 'regtech') for assisting supervisory and regulatory activities, it added.

Most of these techniques are still exploratory, however, they are rapidly gaining popularity and scale.



No Charge On UPI Transactions Up To Rs 2,000 Via Rupay Credit Card: NPCI

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: There will be no charge for RuPay credit card use on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for transactions up to Rs 2,000 in line with the RBI direction, a recent NPCI circular said.

RuPay credit card has been operational for the last four years, and all major banks are enabled and are issuing incremental cards for both commercial and retail segments.

During credit card on-boarding on the apps, the device binding and UPI PIN setting process shall include and be construed as customer consent for credit card enablement for all types of transactions," the circular dated October 4 said.

For international transaction enablement, the existing process from the app will apply to credit cards too, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) said in the circular.

Nil Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) would apply for this category up to the transaction amount less than and equal to Rs 2,000, it noted.

MDR is the cost paid by a merchant to a bank for accepting payment from their customers via credit or debit cards every time a card is used for payments in their stores. The merchant

discount rate is expressed in the percentage of the transaction amount.

"This circular is applicable from the issuance date and members are requested to take note and bring the contents of this circular to the notice of the relevant stakeholders," it said.

"The basic objective of linking credit cards to UPI is to provide

a customer with a wider choice of payments. Currently, UPI is linked through debit cards to savings accounts or current accounts," Reserve Bank Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar had earlier said.

As per the circular, UPI apps would ensure complete transparency on transactions made by a customer using a credit card, by means of easily accessible transaction history and clearly visible user interface while making the payment.

Credit card issuers and apps will send appropriate notifications or communications to the customer during each event of the credit card lifecycle for such transactions, as per the circular.

The step will promote the homegrown payment gateway and encourage wider acceptance of RuPay cards. It further said there is a need to maintain a separate mobile number attached to an add-on card.



Goal Of Ending Extreme Poverty By 2030 Out Of Reach: World Bank

AFP

WASHINGTON: Covid-19 has dealt the "biggest setback" to global poverty reduction efforts in decades, and the World Bank warned Wednesday that the goal to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030 likely remains out-of-reach.

Poverty rose sharply during the pandemic, and the development lender estimates about 70 million people were pushed into extreme poverty in 2020 -- the biggest one-year spike since monitoring began in 1990.

The report offers the first tally of those struggling to live on less than \$2.15 a day, the new global definition of extreme poverty, but follows many warnings from the global development lender that poorer nations are being left behind.

Earlier this year the institution warned that as many 95 million people would fall back into extreme poverty by the end of this year.

War in Ukraine, rising inflation and slowing global growth have put further pressure on the bank's mission to lift people out of poverty.

"Inflation, currency depreciations, and broader overlapping crises" point to a grim outlook, World Bank President David



Malpass said in a statement.

"Progress in reducing extreme poverty has essentially halted in tandem with subdued global economic growth," he said.

Global extreme poverty had fallen to 8.4 percent by 2019 from 38 percent in 1990, but the pandemic triggered the first rise in more than two decades.

Amid the setbacks the report projects global extreme poverty rate for 2030 will only fall to seven percent, or nearly 600 million people.

Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for 60 percent of all people in extreme poverty, according to the bank, and history-defying growth rates for the rest of the decade would be needed to hit poverty reduction targets.

While wealthy countries generally had the resources to cushion

the economic blow from the pandemic, this was not the case for developing economies.

Income losses of the world's poorest countries were twice as high as in their richer counterparts, causing global inequality to rise for the first time in decades, the report said.

"Over the next decade, investing in better health and education will be crucial for developing economies," said World Bank Chief Economist Indermit Gill.

Governments should favor targeted cash transfers over broad subsidies to support poor and vulnerable groups, the World Bank added.

It also urged for measures like property and carbon taxes which can raise revenue without hurting the poorest.

7.85 Lakh Unsold Housing Stock In Top 8 Cities In Sep-End: Report

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: estate developers are sitting on around 7.85 lakh unsold housing units across eight major cities and it will take them 32 months to clear these stocks at current sales velocity, according to PropTiger.

However, in Delhi-NCR residential market -- which has been adversely impacted due to defaults of many big builders like Amrapali, Jaypee InfraTech and Unitech -- it will take 62 months to sell over 1 lakh unsold housing units.

Housing brokerage firm PropTiger.com data showed that unsold housing inventory has increased to 7,85,260 units as on September 30, 2022 from 7,63,650 unsold units at the end of previous quarter.

The consultant tracks primary housing market of eight cities -- Ahmedabad, Delhi NCR (Delhi, Gurugram, Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad, and Faridabad), Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai Metropolitan Region (Boisar, Dombivli, Mumbai, Mazagaon, Panvel, Thane West), and Pune.

Housing sales rose 49 per cent to 83,220 units in July-September 2022 across these



eight cities as compared to 55,910 units sold in the corresponding period of the last year.

With revival in housing demand, PropTiger report highlighted that there has been a significant decline in the inventory overhang -- the estimated period builders in a particular market are likely to take to sell off their unsold stock at the existing sales velocity -- to 32 months in July-September this year from 44 months in Q3 of 2021.

The consultant noted that revival in sales after the second wave of the COVID pandemic has helped in improvement in inventory overhang. Kolkata has the lowest inventory overhang of 24 months, while Delhi-NCR has the highest 62 months.

Nearly 21 per cent of the unsold inventory across these eight cities falls in ready-to-move-in category.

As per the data, Ahmedabad

has 65,160 unsold housing units at the end of September quarter with inventory overhang of 30 months.

Unsold housing stocks in Bengaluru are 77,260 units and builders will take 28 months to clear the inventories.

Chennai has 32,180 unsold housing units with 27 months of inventory overhang, while Delhi-NCR has 1,00,770 unsold stocks, which are estimated to get exhausted in whopping 62 months.

Unsold homes in Hyderabad are 99,090 units with inventory overhang of 41 months.

Kolkata has 22,530 unsold housing units with lowest 24 months of inventory overhang. In Maharashtra's two biggest property markets, Mumbai has 2,72,960 unsold housing units with inventory overhang of 33 months.

Pune builders will need 22 months to clear 1,15,310 unsold housing units at current speed.

PropTiger.com is owned by REA India, part of REA Group Ltd of Australia. REA India is one of the leading full stack real estate technology platform that owns three platforms -- Housing.com, Makaan.com and PropTiger.com.

WTO Predicts Trade Growth To Slow Next Year Amid Crises

Associated Press

GENEVA: The World Trade Organisation is predicting global trade volumes will grow a lackluster 1% next year as crises and challenges weigh on markets, including high energy prices, rising interest rates and uncertainties about Chinese manufacturing output amid the lingering COVID-19 pandemic.

The Geneva-based trade body said Wednesday that the amount of goods shipped between countries are expected to rise 3.5% this year, up from the 3% that WTO anticipated in its first forecast for the year in April. In 2023, the prediction is for such trade volumes to grow just 1%, down from the 3.4% expected previously.

"The risks are certainly to the downside" next year, WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala told reporters at its headquarters.

This year, the higher predicted increase in trade volumes stems from better data that arrived in the middle of the year, contributing to a clearer forecast, and a boom in trade volumes from oil- and gas-producing countries in the Middle East as supplies from Russia were shunned and consuming countries sought alternative sources, WTO economists say.

The WTO laid out several factors weighing on trade, including higher energy prices resulting from Russia's war in Ukraine, which prompted a number of countries including European Union members that are big consumers of Russian oil and gas to slap economic sanctions on Moscow.

"Today, the global economy faces a multipronged crisis," Okonjo-Iweala said. "Monetary

tightening is weighing on growth across much of the world, including in the United States. In Europe, high energy prices are squeezing households and businesses. And in China, COVID-19 outbreaks continue to disrupt production and ordinary economic life."

"Low-income developing countries in particular face serious risks from food insecurity and debt distress," she added.

While global trade has rebounded from a deep slump in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, U.S. Federal Reserve and other central bank moves to choke off inflation through higher interest rates are likely to have knock-on effects for crucial spending in areas like housing, motor vehicle sales and bond prices, WTO says.

The trade body said, however, that new information from purchasing managers, on final goods prices, and an index of input prices suggested that inflationary pressures "may have peaked" a factor that could influence decision-making from central bankers in the months ahead.

Shrinking demand and the continued fallout from the coronavirus pandemic is likely to crimp exports out of China, the world's manufacturing powerhouse, the WTO said.

WTO senior economist Coleman Nee said Russia hasn't reported its trade figures to the global trade body since January, clouding the picture about how Russian export and import activities were faring. The WTO said Confederation of Independent States countries made up of most of the former Soviet states saw quarter-on-quarter exports drop nearly 10.5% in the second quarter. (AP)

India Inc's Foreign Commercial Borrowings Rise By 4.6% In Aug



Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: India Inc's foreign commercial borrowings in August this year rose by nearly 4.6 per cent to USD 2.98 billion, according to the RBI data.

In August 2021, the Indian businesses borrowed USD 2.85 billion in the form of external commercial borrowings.

Of the total borrowings in August this year, over USD 2.47 billion was through the automatic route of raising funds from foreign sources. While more than USD 502.79 million was raised by way of issuing rupee denominated bonds (RDBs) or masala bonds.

Among the major borrowers include mortgage lender HDFC Ltd USD 1.1 billion for the purchase

of sub-lending; FS India Solar Ventures USD 500 million for a new project; Fullerton India Credit Co Ltd USD 350 million for sub-lending and Toyota Financial Services USD 50 million for refinancing of Rupee loans.

Among others, IIFL Finance raised USD 50 million for refinancing of earlier ECB; Tata SIA Airlines raised USD 36 million for import of capital goods; Flender Drives USD 31.37 million for working capital requirement and Hyundai Transys India USD 23.3 million for refinancing of earlier ECB.

AM Green Energy was the only company to issue masala bonds for the entire USD 502.79 million for a new project, as per the Reserve Bank (RBI) data.

5G Users To Get Up To 600 Mbps Speed During Launch Phase: Experts

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Mobile subscribers will get up to 600 megabit per second speed in 5G network during the launch phase and handsets are expected to work at par with professional computers for accessing apps and data processing, according to industry players.

Reliance Jio has started providing 5G services to select customers in parts of four cities -- Delhi Mumbai, Kolkata and Varanasi -- and Bharti Airtel in parts of eight cities -- Delhi, Mumbai, Varanasi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Nagpur and Siliguri -- to all customers with 5G handsets.

Subscribers of both the companies will not require to replace existing sim for availing 5G services.

Jio has said that its customers will continue to avail 5G services under "Beta trial" until the network coverage of a city is substantially complete.

The company has promised access to unlimited 5G data with speed of up to 1 gigabit per second (GBPS). Industry players are of the opinion that this level of speed will be available very close to mobile stations.

"5G is expected to deliver up to 600 mbps (megabit per second) during the launch phase because traffic on the net-

work will be low. However, it will continue to remain in the range of 200-300 mbps after full roll out," Ericsson head of network solutions, strategic network evolution, South east Asia, Oceania and India, ThiawSeng Ng told PTI.

This means a two-hour high definition movie which is generally around 6 GB file size can be downloaded in 1 minute 25 seconds and a 4K movie in about 3 minutes at a top speed of 600 mbps.

Customers buying 5G handsets or having a 5G-enabled handsets will see 5G option in their network setting and they will need to select it for availing the service.

The mobile network display on their device will start showing 5G instead of 4G when 5G will be available in their locality.

Former BSNL chairman and managing director Anupam Shrivastava said that telecom operators are expected to provide free 5G service till the time of roll out and give them a taste of the new service.

"Once the roll out is over in a circle, telecom operators may announce their tariff plan and charge a premium for 5G over 4G," Shrivastava said.

Nokia senior vice president and head of India market Sanjay Malik said that the high speed in 5G will double av-

erage data consumption per subscriber in India in one and half years.

He said that the tariff for 5G services varies from country to country.

"There are some countries who are not charging separately for 5G and there are some who are charging a premium. The model for India will evolve based on the business case here," Malik said.

The roll out of 5G is expected to drive down the cost of smartphones in India as well as make them work at par with workstations (professional computers).

Qualcomm president and CEO Cristiano Amon said the launch of 5G technology in India will also help bring 5G devices across all different price points. "When we look at the opportunities with 5G development in India, I see multiple and very important opportunities. They can all happen at the same time. The first one is India scale will bring in 5G technology into every single device at all different price points," he said.

"5G will democratise computing



power. If you have a 5G device, whether it's a phone or a computer, you want to run an application that requires a lot of computing power. 5G will provide that connection to the cloud (computers) that allows you to tap on demand the computation of the cloud as if both were the same computer," Amon said.

Indian mobile phone company Lava

consumption on mobile phones is expected to drain the battery quickly. Keeping this in mind, several mobile phone companies have started coming up with 5,000 mAh batteries and above along with fast charging features.

"Mobile devices power consumption will go up with 5G usage as more cloud

based applications like gaming will start. Fortunately we have a high capacity battery along with fast charging already available. Personally, I feel consumers will appreciate smartphones offering 50 watt and above charging as that will help them quickly replenish the battery," market research and analysis firm TechArc Chief Analyst Faisal Kawoosa said.

He said that there is all chances of finally seeing 'light' or 'thin' smartphones just like thin client laptops as computers will be primarily in the cloud.

"This could mean an affordable range of smartphones. However, to support other specifications like 4K video, ultra rich graphics, etc. the chipsets enabling such features will still be in demand," Kawoosa said.

The June 2022 Ericsson Mobility Report also verifies that 5G is scaling faster than all previous mobile technology generations.

The report said that 5G is expected to account for nearly 40 per cent of all subscriptions by 2027 in India.

The 5G services will progressively cover the entire country over the next couple of years -- Jio promises to do that by December 2023 and Bharti Airtel by March 2024.

33 killed as bus carrying marriage party falls into gorge in Uttarakhand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pauri (U'khand): Thirty-three members of a wedding party were killed and 19 injured when a bus carrying them fell into a gorge in Uttarakhand's Pauri Garhwal district, police said on Wednesday.

The tragedy struck at around 7 pm on Tuesday as the bus, which was on its way to Kanda village in Bironkhal from Laldhang town in Haridwar, plunged into the 500-metre deep gorge near Simri bend.

Local villagers were the first to reach the spot and used mobile phone flashlights to look for the victims in the night before assistance arrived.

There were over 50 people in the bus. Rescue operations were carried out throughout the intervening night and on Wednesday, the police said.

Thirty-one bodies were retrieved while two injured succumbed on way to the hospital taking the death toll to 33, State Disaster Relief Force (SDRF) incharge Vikas Ramola said this evening adding the rescue operation has come to an end.

"Climbing down the steep gorge in the darkness, with just mobile phone flashlight, was really challenging," said a villager Rajkishore who lent a helping hand to the SDRF personnel in extricating the victims from the mangled remains of the bus.

Twenty people injured in the accident were pulled out



and rushed to hospitals in Bironkhal, Rikhnkhal and Kotdwara, police said.

Two of them died on the way to the hospital, they said.

Another man who was injured in the mishap had tried to walk to safety on his own and the rescue teams could not spot him but he later walked back to the accident site, the SDRF said adding he has also been hospitalised.

The bus accident in Pauri district did not just snuff out lives but also ruined many families.

Among them was 58-year-old Chandraprakash who lost sons Satish (34) and Anil (30), their wives Varsha (28) and Anjali (24) respectively, and a grandson in the accident.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, who along with former Union minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank arrived for an on-the-spot assessment of the situation, met the people hospitalised in Kotdwara.

Dhami announced financial assistance of Rs 2 lakh each for the next of kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 for the injured.

He also directed the district administration to identify the villagers who were the first responders to the incident so that they could be rewarded.

10 Bodies Retrieved, 27 Mountaineers Missing After Avalanche In Uttarkashi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun/Uttarkashi: Twenty-seven mountaineers remained missing on Wednesday after rescue workers brought 14 injured members of their team to safety, a day after an avalanche claimed 10 lives in Uttarkashi.

The Uttarakhand Police said on Facebook that 10 bodies have been retrieved so far as a multi-agency search and rescue operation aided by IAF helicopters continued through the day to find those missing.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami did an aerial inspection of the area, which is at a height of 17,000 feet, that was hit by the avalanche on Tuesday and told reporters that 27 climbers are still missing.

He said he prayed for their safety even as personnel of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and mountaineers from the Nehru Institute Of Mountaineering (NIM) are trying to find the missing climbers.

"Out of 34, 27 are still missing, Dhami told reporters after the aerial survey along with Haridwar MP and former Union Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'.

Meanwhile, 14 injured mountaineers were airlifted to the ITBP camp at Matli out of which five were admitted to district hospital Uttarkashi and nine who had sustained minor injuries were sent back to the



NIM, the Uttarakhand Police said on the social media.

However, it is still not clear whether the 14 injured mountaineers rescued on Wednesday were part of the 41-member team that had gone to summit the Draupadi ka Danda-II peak or waiting at the NIM basecamp.

According to the NIM, the team which was caught in the avalanche consisted of 34 trainee mountaineers and seven instructors only.

Earlier in the day, the Uttarakhand Police released a list of 28 trainee mountaineers who were missing in the avalanche at the height of 17,000 feet.

Sub Divisional Magistrate, Bhatwari, Chattar Singh Chauhan said 14 members of the team out of which six had sustained minor injuries in the avalanche were airlifted to Matli in two sorties.

Eight more rescued in another sortie are alright, he said, adding they are being sent back to the NIM.

Out of the 14 rescued so far, 10 are trainees and four instructors, he said, adding the NDRF, SDRF, ITBP and NIM are jointly conducting the search and rescue operations. A search is on to find the rest of the 41-member team of mountaineers who have been missing since the avalanche occurred at 8.45 am on Tuesday.

The missing are said to be stuck in the crevasse in Dokriani Bamak glacier where the avalanche struck.

The trainees hail from West Bengal, Delhi, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Assam, Haryana, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

The bodies recovered include that of mountaineer Savita Kanswal who had climbed the Everest in May this year. She was from Lonthru village in Uttarkashi district.

Search and rescue operations resumed on Wednesday morning with four ITBP jawans dispatched in Cheetah and ALH helicopters to Dokriani Glacier.

Delhi's Air Quality Turns 'Poor' CAQM Asks States To Strictly Enforce Pollution Control Measures

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: With the air quality in Delhi dropping to the 'poor' level on Wednesday, authorities in the National Capital Region have been asked to strictly implement measures under the first stage of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).

The action plan includes penal and legal action against polluting industrial units.

The Centre's sub-committee on GRAP in a meeting noted that there has been a "sudden dip" in air quality parameters in the region in the last 24 hours which pushed Delhi's AQI into the "poor" category.

An AQI between 201 and 300 is considered 'poor'.

"While this is likely to be a localised influence and the forecasts do not predict any further deterioration, in an effort to maintain the AQI in the moderate category, as a precautionary measure, the sub-committee decided that all actions as envisaged under Stage I of the GRAP - 'Poor' air quality be implemented in right earnest by all the agencies concerned, with immediate effect in the NCR," the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) said in an order.

Delhi's 24-average air quality index stood at 211 at 4 pm, worsening from 150 at 4 pm on Tuesday. It stood at 248 in Ghaziabad, 196 in Faridabad, 234 in Greater Noida, 238 in Gurugram and 215 in Noida.

Under Stage-I, the Centre's Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) recommends stopping construction and demolition (C&D) activities at sites having plot size equal to or more than 500 square metres that are not registered on the "web portal" of the respective states for remote monitoring of air pollution levels.

Project proponents are required to ensure proper implementation of guidelines for dust mitigation, management of C&D waste and use of anti-smog guns at construction sites.

Agencies concerned are required to ensure periodic mechanised sweeping of roads and water sprinkling, and impose heavy fines for violation of the curbs on open burning of biomass and municipal solid waste.

The authorities are required to strictly enforce PUC (pollution under check) norms for vehicles and maintain a strict vigil to ensure that there are no burning incidents at landfills and dump sites.

They also need to ensure that thermal power plants comply with emission norms and only approved fuel is used by industries, and stringent action is taken against violations.

Dr Vijay Kumar Soni, a scientist at the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and part of the Centre's sub-committee for GRAP, said the air quality is likely to improve to moderate category by Thursday.

CONTD. FROM PAGE 03

In Kashmir, Amit

Kashmir will tread the path of country's development, will join corporate sector after securing education and jobs. Modi is taking the country forward. I appeal to you to support him," Shah told the jam-packed stadium.

The Home Minister also used the occasion to announce that the political process has been initiated in the union territory.

"I want to assure you that once the Election Commission completes the electoral rolls exercise, elections will be conducted in Kashmir with full transparency so that your elected representatives govern here."

He said that before delimitation, only the "three families" used to come to power, "but the delimitation by the Election Commission will result in your own representatives winning in the elections and then governing".

Ahead of his visit to the Baramulla, security arrangements were tightened by the police and paramilitary forces to ward off any threat by terrorists.

Shah was greeted with cheers from the audience when he paused during his speech briefly as 'Azaan' or Muslim call to prayer started from a nearby mosque.

Five minutes into his speech, Shah paused and asked those on the stage "if something was going on at a mosque".

When someone on the dais told him that it was an 'Azaan', Shah stopped his speech briefly and the people chanted slogans hailing him.

Shah said that it was the government's endeavour to make Jammu and Kashmir the most peaceful place in the country.

"Has terror benefited anyone ever in the world? About 42,000 people of J-K have lost their lives from 1990 till now because of terrorism. Tell me, who is responsible for this? These three families who have ruled J-K are responsible," he said.

The Home Minister asserted that terrorism is slowly and steadily coming to an end and cited the development work undertaken after Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over the reins in Delhi.

"God forbid, if anyone in your family falls ill, Modi ji will provide free of cost treatment up to Rs five lakh. About 77 lakh people have been given (Ayushman Bharat gold) cards and they will not have to spend even a single rupee for their treatment.

"There were one lakh people who had no shelter in bone-chilling cold. For 70 years, Mufti and company, and Abdullah and sons, ruled J-K, but one lakh people didn't get houses.

"However, from 2014 till 2022, Modi ji gave houses to one lakh people in J-K," he said, adding about 12 lakh families were provided with gas cylinders and the prime minister got rid of "chulhas".

Shah said that there were two models available for the people - one of Prime Minister Modi which talks about development, peace and unity, and increases employment avenues, and the other one is the Gupkar model which let the Pulwama attack happen.

The Gupkar model brings Pakistani terrorists, while the Modi model brings Rs 56,000 crore worth of investment on the ground which will provide five lakh jobs, he said.

"In the Gupkar model, youth get stones, machine guns, but in Modi model, youth get IIT, AIIMS, NIFT, NEET. "The youth need education Abdullah sahab, don't put stones in their hands. Modi ji has made it possible for youth to shed stones and get on with their studies," he said adding that under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, the ecosystem of terror has almost ended.

"If anyone supports terrorists in your locality, please make him understand that Kashmir will not benefit from terrorism. Bring him back to the mainstream. Kashmir will benefit from democracy, from industries being set up here and other developmental steps," he said.

Due to the improved security situation, 22 lakhs tourists have visited Jammu and Kashmir this year so far whereas the figure earlier stood at an average of six to seven lakh, Shah said.

"Earlier it was a terrorist hotspot but today it is a tourist hotspot. Imagine how many people have benefited from this," he said.

Shah on Wednesday visited the house of policeman Mudasir Sheikh, who was killed in an encounter in Baramulla district, at Uri, 100 km from Srinagar, and met his family members.

He also presided over a review meeting on the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir where Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and senior officials of the Centre, officers of the Army, CAPF, J-K Police and Jammu and Kashmir Government were present.

Shah came down heavily on the three political families, alleging that their rule was full of misgovernance, corruption and lack of development.

Mufti and company, Abdullah and sons and the Congress have done nothing for the welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, he alleged at the rally.

The home minister repeated what he had said at his rally in Rajouri on Tuesday that earlier, power in Jammu and Kashmir was with three families, 87 MLAs and six MPs.

Now 30,000 people, who were elected representatives of panchayat and districts councils, are part of the governance process, he said.

He said the first work done under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is that democracy has reached the grass root level.

Shah said due to Article 370, there was no reservation for the SCs and STs but after its abrogation, quota benefits could be given to Gujjars, Bakarwal and Pahadis.

Everyone will get their due share under the reservation. There will be no loss of share for anyone, he said.

On Tuesday, Shah announced that ST reservation benefits will be given to the Pahadi community along with Gujjar and Bakarwal communities following a recommendation of the Sharma Commission.

At the rally here, Shah said that Rs

56,000 crore investment has come to Jammu and Kashmir in the last three years which will give employment opportunities to five lakh people, while just Rs 17,000 crore investment had come since independence.

"Today I have come to ask Farooq Sahab and Mehooba Mufti ji to give an account of how much investment has come into Jammu and Kashmir during their rule of 70 years. How many industries had come up? How many factories were set up and how many youths benefited from employment," Shah said.

He alleged that rampant corruption led to underdevelopment in Jammu and Kashmir and said the Modi government has ensured that every rupee being spent goes to those most deserving.

He said it was the third day of his visit to Jammu and Kashmir and he was happy to see that development has taken place in the Union territory.

"Some days back, I read a tweet from Mehbooba Mufti in which she had asked me to give an 'account' of our work.

"Mehbooba Ji, keep your eyes and ears open. You along with Farooq (Abdullah) sahab should see what we have given and compare it with the rule of three families over the last 75 years," he said.

Shah said all states have an Anti-Corruption Bureau except Jammu and Kashmir and alleged that the "three families" were responsible for stalling it. "I wonder why they did not allow it," he said.

Visits Gurudwara

Minister also interacted with the devotees, the officials added.

Lays Foundation

people in the region," Shah said, adding that the three families who used to rule in the region hardly worked for the development of the region.

Shah, according to the spokesperson, said that the PM has completed a huge task of ensuring that democracy reaches every village of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Earlier, the meaning of democracy in Kashmir was restricted within the three families, 87 MLAs and 6 MPs, but after August 5, 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has connected 30,000 people with democracy by taking it to the level of Panch, Sarpanch, BDC and Zilla Panchayat of the village," the Home Minister added.

Shah, the spokesperson said that earlier, due to corruption, the money of the poor was being misused, but now, PM is ensuring that the money of the poor will reach the poor.

"Under the rule of three families, only Rs. 15,000 crore investment came in Jammu and Kashmir in 70 years, but under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, an investment of Rs. 56,000 crore has come in just three years," he said.

"Earlier the region was a Terrorist Hotspot but now it has become a Tourist Hotspot. Earlier, maximum of six lakh tourists used to visit the Kashmir Valley every year, whereas

this year alone till now, 22 lakh tourists have visited the region, giving employment to thousands of youth, and this process will be further strengthened," he added.

The spokesperson said that the Home Minister further stated that 77 lakh people have been given health cards so that they do not have to spend a single penny for their treatment.

"Earlier there were one lakh people without a pucca house to live even in the icy winds in the region, but Prime Minister Modi has provided housing to these people in Jammu and Kashmir from 2014 to 2022," he said.

"The government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has provided gas cylinders to about 12 lakh families, tap water in the homes of 58% people under the Jal Jeevan Mission and depositing Rs. 6,000 annually in the accounts of about 11.87 lakh farmers," he added.

The Home Minister, as per the spokesperson said that five new degree colleges are also being opened in different areas of Jammu and Kashmir and the work of setting up a residential school with 100-bed capacity for Gurjar-Bakarwal girls of Baramulla has also been undertaken by the government under the leadership of PM Modi.

"A Government Medical College is also being set up in Baramulla, which will enable the children in the region to become doctors and help them serve the people of Kashmir. He said that only four medical colleges were built in Jammu and Kashmir from 1947 till 2014, whereas from 2014 till 2022 under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Government of India has built nine new medical colleges and 15 nursing colleges," Shah said.

"Whereas earlier only 500 doctors used to pass out of Jammu and Kashmir, now 1,300 doctors will complete their studies and serve the country and Jammu and Kashmir. Shri Shah said that AIIMS, NEET, B.Sc Nursing College and two Cancer Institutes have also been set up in Kashmir. New medical colleges have been set up at Anantnag and Baramulla and two cluster universities have been built in Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

According to the spokesperson, Shah said that the expressway from Nangal to Baramulla and from Baramulla to Uri has been built at a cost of Rs. 850 crore.

The Home Minister further said that a 43-km road has been built connecting Baramulla to Gulmarg at a cost of Rs. 85 crore to help tourists travelling from Gulmarg to Baramulla.

"He said that over one lakh families are being brought under the ambit of education through a scheme of Rs. 847 crore. Two stadiums have been built in 402 panchayats of Jammu and Kashmir along with one playground in each panchayat. Additionally, two indoor stadiums are also being built at a cost of Rs. 10 crore," he said.

The Home Minister also stated that in the month of September this year, 13 lakh tourists visited Gulmarg.

He further said that installation of power plants and irrigation projects worth thousands of crores of Rupees will bring prosperity to the valley of Kashmir.

"In order to improve the rail network, the work on rail link from Udhampur to Baramulla has been initiated. Under the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana, 119 new roads worth Rs., 3167 crore have been built. The Union Home Minister said that under the Prime Minister's Industrial Package, an investment of Rs. 56,000 crore has come from across the country in Kashmir, which is likely to provide employment to five lakh people," Shah added.

Shah Asks Police

"The cases registered under the UAPA were also reviewed and it was stressed that investigation should be timely and effective. The agencies concerned should work on improving capacities for ensuring quality investigation," the spokesperson said.

"The Terror eco-system comprising elements that aid, abet and sustain the terrorist-separatist campaign to the detriment of the well-being of the common man requires to be completely dismantled, said the Union Home Minister," he added.

4 Killed In Twin

the spokesperson said.

Four AK series rifles, a pistol, eight AK magazines, four pistol magazines and other incriminating materials were recovered from both the encounter sites, he added.

Policeman Arrested

"Deeply pained by the unfortunate incident in which an innocent young man lost his life in Hall village of Pulwama. There must be a credible probe into the incident. Sharing the pain and grief of the bereaved family," Tarigami tweeted.

Peoples Conference also condemned the killing and demanded a transparent and time bound probe into the incident.

"The killing of an unarmed civilian in Pulwama is highly unfortunate and condemnable. We express our deepest condolences to the bereaved family", PC spokesperson said in a statement.

He urged the government to investigate the circumstances resulting in this unfortunate incident and ensure justice to the bereaved family.

"The government must thoroughly probe this incident and ensure responsible officers are held accountable. It is incumbent upon the government to ensure timely justice to the bereaved family", the spokesperson added.

No 'Terror Angle'

Tuesday, told reporters on Tuesday "these terror groups shamelessly own everything and anything".

The body of the slain officer was handed over to his family this morning for last rites after completion of legal and medical formalities.

Later, a coffin carrying the mortal remains of the officer and wrapped in

the Tricolour, was taken to police lines Jammu, where a wreath laying ceremony was held to pay homage to him.

Senior police officers, his batch-mates including additional director general of police (ADGP), STF, Punjab Harpreet Singh Sidhu, and civil officers turned up and offered floral tributes to the departed officer. Hundreds of people joined them in paying their last respects.

His family members including wife Madhu Lohia, daughter and son were present at the wreath laying ceremony, which witnessed emotional scenes as many of his relatives broke down. His wife controlled her emotions and was heard telling the ADGP headquarters M K Sinha she will not cry.

"It is a very unfortunate incident as we have lost a dynamic and courageous officer. His departure is a big loss for the J&K police and the nation as a whole and the void left by him is impossible to be fulfilled," Sidhu told reporters.

After the wreath laying ceremony, the mortal remains of the officer were taken to the Jogi gate crematorium. The body was consigned to the flames amid a gun salutes.

Policeman Injured

Meanwhile, police have filed a case and arrested the driver identified as Muzafar Ahmad Malik of Nunner. Malik's mini-bus has also been seized.

Man Falls Off

have taken cognizance of the incident, reports said.

MeT Predicts Dry

Jammu had 19.6, Katra 18.2, Batote 12.1, Banihal 7.8 and Bhaderwah 10.1 as the minimum temperature.

Chopper Crash

injuries during treatment.

"The second pilot is under medical treatment. The cause of the crash at this stage is not known. Details are being ascertained," Lt. Col Rawat said.

Injured Biker

Abdul Ahad Lone of Frisal village of Kulgam.

Meanwhile, three persons from Kathua were injured in a road accident near Banihal area of Ramban on Wednesday afternoon.

An official said that the injured were rushed to a nearby hospital, where from they were shifted to GMC Anantnag for advanced treatment—(KNO)

J&K Clocks Eight

cases of novel Coronavirus.

Also, the officials said that the death toll in the pandemic remained unchanged at 4785 in J&K—2352 in Jammu and 2433 in the Valley, as no fresh fatality was reported during the last 24 hours.

Besides, they said, fifteen Covid-19 patients recovered during the last 24 hours—one from Jammu division and 13 from Kashmir Valley. There are now 99 active cases— 40 in Jammu and 59 in Kashmir.

Realising Vision Of Making J&K A Power House Of Sporting Talent: Government

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir administration on Wednesday released a press note detailing its efforts to make the region a "power house of sporting talent."

"In the last three years, government has ensured unprecedented progress in the establishment of world class infrastructure, career progression as well as future of the players. The new policies and initiatives of government has established an enabling environment for sportspersons which was non-existent from last 70 years," the press release said.

"Earlier, merely two to three lakh youth used to get opportunities for participation in sports every year, but J&K Government set a new record and 17.5 lakh youth were provided the opportunity to participate in sporting activities last year.

"The Government has set itself a target of providing sports opportunities to 35 lakh youth. The FIFA standard renovated and upgraded Bakshi Stadium has been dedicated to the young players and play fields have been established in all Panchayats. Women's teams for Rugby, Football, Cricket, Volleyball, Kabaddi and



Hockey have been formed in all 20 districts.

"To secure career progression of the talented and meritorious sports persons, a new sports policy has been notified and the process of their

appointment to government services has been initiated for clearing the backlog from 2014-2021. 22 indoor multi-purpose halls have been set up in all 20 districts of the Union Territory and 40 state-of-the-art sports grounds have been constructed to host national level tournaments.

"38 Khelo-India Centers have also been established in various sports disciplines. Presently, work on 948 Sports infrastructure projects is underway which are expected to be completed in this financial year," the statement added.

Sports gives a new identity to the youth and the Sports Council and the administration are ensuring that every player gets an opportunity to play with better infrastructure and earn the identity that of a champion.

'My Youth My Pride' in 22 disciplines in the Kashmir division and 18 in the Jammu division programme turned out to be a solid forum for sportspersons to showcase their talent. It has inculcated a winner's instinct among youth and kindled hopes of an ascent in sporting performance in national and international games.

With the help of veteran sportspersons, schools and coaches, the Sports Council is working to ensure young

generation get to play a variety of sports and everyone has the opportunity to develop strong skill-set.

The policy incorporates various annual awards like award for excellence in sports for 10 sportsperson, J&K Khel Protsahana Award for sports association, and two veterans/ experienced sportspersons/organisers or referees, Parshuram Award for five best coaches in different disciplines.

The sports policy announces special cash awards to the winners in Olympics, Asian Games, and Commonwealth Games among other tournaments in the range of Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1 crore. Further, the winners in all recognised national competitions and National School Games in various sports disciplines will be granted specified scholarships.

Special emphasis has also been laid to meet the sporting needs of the specially-abled sportspersons through sufficient infrastructure and training facilities.

Remarkably, the government is making dedicated efforts to develop sports infrastructure and engage more youth in sports activities here, to realize the vision of making J&K a power house of sporting talent, the statement concluded.

India Keep A Wary Eye On Shami's Fitness



Reuters

NEW DELHI: India head coach Rahul Dravid said that seamer Mohammed Shami's recovery from COVID-19 is being monitored by the team management, as they look to replace the injured Jasprit Bumrah, ahead of the Twenty20 World Cup.

On Monday, the BCCI confirmed that pace spearhead Bumrah had been ruled out due to a back injury, delivering a huge blow to the team, who are already missing injured all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja.

Shami, Deepak Chahar and Mohammed Siraj are seen as the frontrunners to replace Bumrah. While Siraj and Chahar were part

of India's 2-1 T20 series win over South Africa, Shami has been out of action after failing to recover in time from COVID.

"Shami obviously is someone who is on standby, but unfortunately for us, he couldn't play this (South Africa) series, which would have been ideal from that perspective," Dravid told reporters on Tuesday. Shami is recovering at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru. The Indian team management and selectors have till October 15th, to name Bumrah's replacement.

Captain Rohit Sharma said the team would be looking at players with prior experience of bowling in Australia, where the World Cup begins on October 16.

ICC Rankings: Surya Slips To 2, Rizwan Reclaims Top Spot



Press Trust of India

DUBAI: In-form India batter Suryakumar Yadav lost his top position in the ICC T20I list by a few ranking points to Mohammed Rizwan of Pakistan, who has regained his pole position in the latest standings published on Wednesday.

The difference between the two is a mere 16 ranking points with Rizwan reclaiming his top spot with 854 points and Surya in second spot with 838.

Rizwan finished the recent seven-match T20I series against England as the leading run scorer with an impressive haul of 316 runs, but the fact the keeper-batter was rested for the sixth game of the series and managed just one in the series decider in Lahore meant the right-hander lost valuable breathing space at the top of the rankings.

Pakistan captain Babar Azam remained third on the latest T20I batter rankings and should not

be discounted from re-claiming his place at the top, while a host of other batters from around the world made giant strides on the latest set of rankings.

India opener KL Rahul jumped seven spots to 14th on the updated list on the back of his 108 runs from two matches against the Proteas, while South Africa trio of Quinton de Kock (up eight spots to 12th), Rilee Rossouw (up 23 places to 20th) and David Miller (up 10 spots to 29th) were also eye-catching movers.

Champions League: Inter Beats Barca; Napoli, Bayern Win Big



Agencies

MADRID: Barcelona's high-powered attack faltered against Inter Milan and the Italian club gained an edge in the battle for second place in their Champions League group on Tuesday, while Bayern Munich and Napoli continued to impress and Club Brugge earned a surprising third straight victory.

Inter defeated Barcelona 1-0 at home to move into position to grab the second qualifying

spot in Group C, which is led by Bayern Munich after it comfortably defeated Viktoria Plzen 5-0 to set record of 31 straight matches unbeaten in the competition's group stage.

Napoli impressed with a 6-1 win at Ajax, while Belgian champion Club Brugge also kept a perfect record with a home victory against Atlético Madrid, which saw Antoine Griezmann miss a penalty kick.

Liverpool picked up its second win by beating Rangers

2-0, while Porto earned its first victory by defeating Bayern Leverkusen by the same score.

A moment of silence was held before all matches in memory of the victims of the stadium tragedy in Indonesia.

Marseille ended Sporting's perfect record with some help by the visiting goalkeeper's blunders in a 4-1 win.

Porto picked up its first points with a 2-0 win against Bayer Leverkusen, which missed a penalty kick. (AP)

Indonesian President Says Locked Gates Contributed To Deaths



Agencies

MALANG: Indonesia's President Joko Widodo said on Wednesday that locked gates had contributed to the crush at the soccer stadium that left 131 dead and over 400 injured when police fired tear gas and set off a panicked run for the exits.

Widodo made the statement after touring the Kanjuruhan football stadium in East Java's Malang city for a first-hand look at the scene of one of the world's deadliest disasters at a sporting event. He also visited the victims recovering at Saiful Anwar General Hospital and pledged a thorough investigation into what had transpired on Saturday night.

Police continued to insist that the gates were open but were too narrow and could only accommodate two people at a time when hundreds were trying

ing to escape.

"As an illustration, I saw the problem was there are locked doors, steep stairs and panic," Widodo said in a news conference. "But all of this will be concluded later by an inquiry team."

"I think we really need a total evaluation of our entire football management of the matches, stadiums, spectators, time and security," he said. "So that this stadium disaster will never occur again."

According to recommendations by FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation, exits at stadiums must be unlocked at all times during a game for safety purposes.

The deaths at the stadium included 17 children while 440 people were injured. At least 61 remained in the hospital as of Wednesday, 29 of them in critical condition. (AP)

'Grateful' Dhawan Eyes 2023 World Cup Spot



Press Trust of India

LUCKNOW: He is easily been India's most consistent ODI batter in last two years and at 36, all Shikhar Dhawan wants is to stay fit and play the 2023 ODI World Cup in India.

Dhawan has had a solid career, amassing 2315, 6647 and 1759 runs in 34 Test, 158 ODI and 68 T20 matches respectively.

Dhawan has captained the ODI team in Sri Lanka, West Indies and Zimbabwe and will don the responsibility once again in the three-match ODI series against South Africa starting in Lucknow on Thursday.

"I feel very blessed I had a beautiful career. I am really grateful. Whenever possible I

pass on my knowledge to youngsters. Now there is new responsibility on me but I see opportunity in challenges and I enjoy it," the left-handed opener said on the eve of the series opener.

"My goal currently is the 2023 World Cup. I just want to keep myself fit and be in a good state of mind to be in the fray," he added.

Dhawan said that he tries to give a nice environment to the youngsters so that they can be themselves and communicate better with support staff and others.

"I try to keep the atmosphere happy and relaxed as it helps performance. I share my experiences with them as to what to do in a certain situation. I learn a lot from them too. It is always give and take," he added.

Ukraine Joins Spain & Portugal's 2030 WC Bid



Reuters

NYON: Ukraine has joined Spain and Portugal in their bid to host the 2030 FIFA World Cup, the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) and the Portuguese Football Federation (FPF) said on Wednesday, in what they hailed as an act of European solidarity.

They said the decision, announced at a news conference at the Swiss headquarters of UEFA, had the full support of European soccer's governing body and also of the Spanish, Portuguese and Ukrainian governments.

"Our bid is not an Iberian bid anymore, it's a European bid," Luis Rubiales, president of the RFEF, said.

"I'm convinced that now our bid is much better than before.

Football is universal and if it is capable of changing the life of people in so many ways it should also be used for doing good," Rubiales added.

The Spain, Portugal and Ukraine bid for the 2030 tournament will compete against other candidates such as a collaboration between Egypt, Greece and Saudi Arabia, and a joint South American proposal from Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay and Chile.

In a statement released on Wednesday, the RFEF said: "The candidacy (of Spain, Portugal and Ukraine) strengthens ties with Europe by generating hope and providing reconstruction tools to the Ukrainian people, who have expressed their pride and gratitude for participating in this project."

"For Situation To Be Normal In Eastern Ladakh...": What Air Force Chief Said



Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari on Tuesday said the benchmark for the situation to become normal in eastern Ladakh would be to return to status quo ante prior to the stand-off and complete withdrawal of troops from all friction points and asserted that appropriate "non-escalatory" measures were taken following China's recent air activities in the region.

The Chief of Air Staff said Chinese actions along the frontier including in the Ladakh sector are being monitored constantly and the IAF's overall preparations are part of continuing efforts irrespective of challenges from China. He was addressing a press conference ahead of the Air Force Day on October 8.

"The benchmark to say the situation on LAC is normal would be to return to status quo ante and complete withdrawal from all the points all along the LAC. That is the situation that we are looking for," he said, replying to a question.

"All preparedness in terms of infrastructure building, equipment, training and tactics is a continuous effort, irrespective of whether we see any belligerence on the part of the Chinese or not," he added.

His comments came days after Chinese envoy Sun Weidong claimed that the situation along the border is "overall stable" and the two sides have moved from the "emergency response" that followed the Galwan Valley clashes in June 2020 to "nor-

malised" management.

India has been insisting on the restoration of the status quo ante prior to the standoff in eastern Ladakh.

Asked about reports of China's air incursions and military activities along the LAC in eastern Ladakh, Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari said the issue was taken up with the Chinese military and that all the activities by the adversary are being monitored.

"As regards to the recent air violations or incursions or increased air activity by the Chinese, we continuously monitor it by continuously enhancing our air defence efforts there. We have increased the presence of our radars and Surface to Air Guided Weapon (SAGW) systems and have integrated them into the Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS) network," he said.

"Appropriate non escalatory measures have been taken. I think we have been able to signal our intent and state of readiness with the actions taken so far," he said.

Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari said confidence building measures (CBM) are in place between the two sides, but noted that a hotline between the two air forces is yet to be set up.

He said an IAF officer now takes part in the border talks between the two sides and suggested that the official takes up issues that the force feels should be flagged.

"In the last border talks, we had an Air Force officer and the various air violations cases have been communicated to them," he said.

Chemistry Nobel Goes To 3 Scientists "For Development Of Click Chemistry"

Agenceis

Stockholm: The Nobel Chemistry Prize was on Wednesday awarded to a trio of chemists from the US and Denmark who laid the foundation for a more functional form of chemistry.

Americans Carolyn Bertozzi and Barry Sharpless, together with Denmark's Morten Meldal, were honoured "for the development of click chemistry and bioorthogonal chemistry," the jury said.

The award marks the second Nobel for 81-year-old Sharpless, who won the chemistry Nobel in 2001. Only four other individuals have achieved the feat, including Polish-born Frenchwoman Marie Curie.

Click chemistry "is an elegant and efficient chemical reaction that is now in widespread use," the jury said in a statement.

"Among many other uses, it is utilised in the development of pharmaceuticals, for mapping DNA and creating materials that are more fit for purpose," it added.

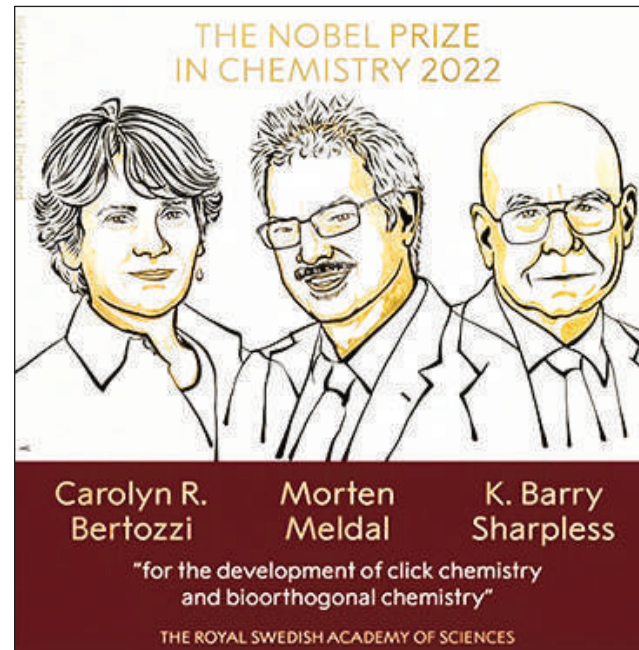
"This year's Prize in Chemistry deals with not overcomplicating matters, instead working with what is easy and simple," Johan Aqvist, Chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry, said in the statement.

The trio will share the Nobel award sum of 10 million Swedish kronor (\$917,500), will receive the prize from King Carl XVI Gustaf at a formal ceremony in Stockholm on December 10, the anniversary of the 1896 death of scientist Alfred Nobel who created the prizes in his last will and testament.

Click chemistry

Sharpless, a professor at Scripps Research in California, "started the ball rolling" and "coined the concept of click chemistry" around 2000, the jury said.

"Shortly afterwards, Morten Meldal and Barry Sharpless - independently of each other - pre-



SHE DEVELOPED CLICK REACTIONS THAT WORK inside living organisms. Her bioorthogonal reactions take place without disrupting the normal chemistry of the cell."

sented what is now the crown jewel of click chemistry: the copper catalysed azide-alkyne cycloaddition," the jury said.

Meldal, 68, is a professor of chemistry at the University of Copenhagen.

Bertozzi, who is a professor at Stanford in the United States, then took it to "a new level."

"She developed click reactions that work inside living organisms. Her bioorthogonal reactions take place without disrupting the normal chemistry of the cell," the jury said.

"I'm absolutely stunned, I'm sitting here and I can hardly breathe," Bertozzi told reporters via telephone, minutes after the announcement.

Last year, the academy honoured Germany's Benjamin List and US-British dual national David MacMillan for their development of a precise tool for

molecular construction known as asymmetric organocatalysis.

On Monday, the medicine prize went to Swedish paleogeneticist Svante Paabo for his discoveries on the genomes of extinct hominins and human evolution.

Then on Tuesday, physicists Alain Aspect of France, John Clauser of the United States and Austria's Anton Zeilinger were given the physics prize for developing experimental tools that helped prove quantum entanglement — a phenomenon Albert Einstein dismissed as "spooky action at a distance".

The chemistry prize will be followed by the highly watched literature and peace prizes, announced on Thursday and Friday respectively.

The peace prize is expected to hold a special significance this year given the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Centre Eases Guidelines To Help FM Radio Expansion In Smaller Cities

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The government on Tuesday announced the removal of the three-year window period of restructuring of FM radio permissions within the same management group during the licence period of 15 years, a move that is expected to pave the way for further expansion of such services in smaller cities.

The decision to amend the Policy Guidelines on Expansion of FM Radio Broadcasting Services through Private Agencies (Phase-III) was taken at the meeting of the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last week.

The amendments also include simplification of the financial eligibility norms to allow participation of companies with net worth of ₹1 crore in the bidding process for category 'C' and 'D' cities. Earlier, the mandatory net worth of a company to participate in the

bidding process was ₹1.5 crore.

The government has also accepted the long pending demand of the radio industry to remove the 15 per cent national cap on channel holding, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said on Tuesday.

The three amendments together will help the private FM radio industry to fully leverage the economies of scale and pave the way for further expansion of FM radio and entertainment to Tier-III cities in the country, it said.

"This will not only create new employment opportunities but also ensure that music and entertainment over the FTA (Free to Air) radio media is available to the common man in the remotest corners of the country," it said.

The approved amendments to Phase-III policy guidelines for private FM are expected to provide a fillip to 'Ease of Doing Business' in the country, the ministry said.



THIS WILL NOT ONLY CREATE NEW EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES but also ensure that music and entertainment over the FTA (Free to Air) radio media is available to the common man in the remotest corners of the country."

Quick eats for busy people

Bun Maska

& Chai

Chicken Crispy

Burger

JK BANK LAWNS, NEAR GHAT 6, BOULEVARD-SRINAGAR