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Underage Marriage Of Girls On Rise In J&K: Report

Zaid Bin Shabir

Srinagar: While the national average of underage girl marriages has come down in recent years, J&K has earned disrepute as the percentage of underage girls getting married has significantly flared up in 8 years. Overall, the proportion of women who were married before attaining 18 years of age increased by 0.9 percent from 2012 until 2020.



THE NUMBERS ARE DISHEARTENING, NOT ONLY BECAUSE **THEY SPEAK OF THE INSTANCES** of child marriages increasing but also because this social evil comes with many other disempowerment indicators. It means that many girls are not getting education, are not leading their lives with dignity and are being deprived of the possibility to live a hopeful life."

As per an analysis of the Sample Registration System (SRS) reports, the percentage of underage female marriages has increased to 1.1 percent in 2020 against a considerably lower

rate of 0.2 percent in 2012. The SRS report is the most regular source of demographic statistics in India and is the only official source of demographic data except decadal

censuses in India.

According to the data, while most states had recorded over 1 percent underage marriages in Îndia, J&K had the lowest share in such | More on P10

RS 300 CRORE BRIBE CHARGES

Ex-J&K Guv Satya Pal Malik 'Examined' By CBI

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The CBI has "examined" former governor Satya Pal Malik in connection with two graft cases registered in Jammu and Kashmir in April based on allegations levelled by him, officials said.

They said the CBI team took details of his observations earlier this week, they said. Malik was examined after his five years tenure as Governor ended on October 4, they said.

He was appointed as Governor of Bihar in 2017 after which he was sent to Jammu and Kashmir in 2018 where he oversaw the revocation of Article 370 in August 2019.

Malik, who had issued statements criticising the Centre during farmers' agitation, was moved to Meghalaya where his five-year tenure ended this month. Malik had claimed that he was of-

fered a Rs 300 crore bribe for clearing two files during his tenure as the governor of Jammu and Kashmir between August 23, 2018 and October

"After going to Kashmir, two files came to me (for clearance), one belonging to Ambani and another to an RSS-affiliated man who was a

SECRETARIES TOLD ME THAT 'YOU WILL GET RS 150 crore

each for clearing the files' but I told them that I have come with five kurta-pyjamas and



minister in the previous Mehbooba Mufti-led PDP-BJP coalition government and claimed to be very close to the prime minister (Narendra Modi)," he had said.

"I was informed by secretaries in both departments that there is a scandal and I accordingly cancelled both deals.

"The secretaries told me that 'you will get Rs 150 crore each for clearing the files' but I told them that I have come with five kurta-pyjamas and will leave with that only," Malik had told a gathering at an event in Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan in October last year.

In April this year, the CBI registered the two FIRs in connection with corruption allegations levelled by Malik in the awarding of contracts for a group medical insurance scheme for government employees and civil work worth Rs 2,200 crore related to the Kiru hydroelectric power project

in the erstwhile state.

The central agency has booked Reliance General Insurance and Trinity Re-Insurance Brokers Limited as accused in its FIR related to a controversial health insurance | More on P10

6K Apple Laden Trucks Stuck On Banihal Highway, **Claim Fruit Growers**



Agencies

Srinagar: Halting of fruit laden trucks on Srinagar-Jammu national highway persists with about 6000 trucks waiting, some since October 2, to reach Jammu.

President Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum Dealers Union (KVFGCDU) Bashir

Srinagar: Police on Saturday said a third

man has been arrested in a sextortion case in

Jammu and Kashmir -- days after two jour-

nalists were taken into custody in the matter.

Nadu, who claimed to be journalist, was

arrested from Anantnag district in south Kashmir on October 1 after a woman ac-

friend of Ganie, was arrested on October 3.

cused him of rape and extortion.

Ragoo from Anantnag.

Nadeem Ahmed Ganie alias Nadeem

Another journalist', Salman Shah, a close

Police in a tweet on Saturday identified the third arrested man as Showkat Ahmad

They said Ragoo is an associate of Nadeem Nadu and working in PHE department.

According to the woman's complaint, the

accused had lured her through a WhatsApp

group made for people seeking help and had sex with her sedating | More on P10

Police Makes

Observer News Service

Third Arrest In Sextortion Case

Ahmad told a local news agency that for a few days apple laden trucks were allowed to move towards Jammu while halting for just one or two days.

He said since October

02 the situation has again reached to square one with 6000 trucks waiting for their turn to | More on P10

Panel Formed To Decide Transfer Of Teachers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The school education department has formed a committee for scrutinizing the transfer cases of staff on medical, spouse posting and security grounds.

The committee ordered to be framed by Principal Secretary to government comprises Director School Education, Jammu, Kashmir, Director Finance, School Education Department, Special Secretary to the Government, School Education department, Under Secretary School Education Department and a representative of Health and Medical

"The committee shall examine the applications regarding transfer and furnish recommendations for consideration by the Department," reads the order, adding, "Besides, the Under Secretary concerned shall prepare a list of such cases for presenting the same before the designated committee.'

Srinagar: The Union Territory man said.

Council spokesman said.

Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, and J&K Chief Secretary | More on P10

Nod Given To New Public Distribution System

he Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, approved 'The Jammu and Kashmir Targeted Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2022'. Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor | More on P10

J&K Will Implement NEP In Letter And Spirit: LG

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Saturday that Jammu and Kashmir administration is implementing the National Education Policy (NEP) in letter and spirit and ensuring that all the educational institutions maintain academic standards and empower students to be a key driver of socio-economic growth of the Union Territory and the nation

Sinha made these remarks while interacting with the members of Jammu & Kashmir Students Association at Raj Bhawan here on Saturday, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the JKSA delegation led by Nasir Khuehami submitted a memorandum of demands pertaining to the welfare of student community of J&K including establishment of National Law University; introduction of training course for teachers of Higher education: establishment of Women Degree College in Bandipora; enhancing PG



seats in medical colleges in J&K and fasttracking of recruitment process.

The delegation, he said, also extended their gratitude to the Lt Governor-led UT Administration for taking revolutionary steps for the empowerment of tribal students through various new initiatives.

The spokesperson said that the LG gave a patient hearing to the demands put forth by members of the delegations and assured appropriate | More on P10

Milad Immerses Kashmir Valley In Religious Fervour

SRINAGAR: Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi, the birthday of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), is being celebrated with religious fervour across Kashmir Valley. The largest congregation is expected to be held at Hazratbal shrine.The devotees would have a glimpse of the holy relic after every prayer.

Besides Hazratbal, large congregational prayers are expected to be held at Khanqahe-Maula, Jamia Masjid Srinagar, Asarisharif Kalashpora, Jenab Sahib Soura, | More on P10

LG Greets People On Milad

ieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday greeted the people on the eve of Eid-i-Milad-un-Nabi. In a message, the | More on P10

India Slams Pak, Germany For Kashmir Remarks

Agenceis

New Delhi: India on Saturday took strong note of comments by foreign ministers of Germany and Pakistan on Kashmir and said all conscientious members of the global community have a responsibility to call out international terrorism, especially of a cross-border nature. Without directly nam-

ing Pakistan, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi | More on P10



Preference will be given to Micro Food Processing Enterprises

Around 62000 beneficiaries have been assisted under the scheme

9254997101

9254997102

applying under One District One Product (ODOP)

www.pmfme.mofpi.gov.in

J&K Govt Approves Public Universities Bill

Observer News Service

administration on Saturday gave nod to the Jammu and Kashmir Public University Bill, 2022, with a view to address the issues regarding a wide variety of varsities and separate Acts governing each of them, an official spokes-

Administrative (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha gave nod to the Jammu and Kashmir Public University Bill, 2022, the

For more information, visit



To place an advertisement CALL +91-194 2502327

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

KASHMIR OBSERVER® Srinagar | Sunday | 09-10-2022

Scholarships This Week

with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir.

Scholarship Name 1: L'Oréal India For Young Women In Science Scholar**ships 2022**

Description: L'Oréal India provides educational scholarships to young women who wish to pursue their graduation in any field of science, from a recognized institute in India. The aim of this scholarship is to encourage young women to pursue their education & careers in science and empower them with financial aid.

Eligibility: Female candidates who have passed class 12 with 85% in PCB/PCM/PCMB in the academic year (2021-22) are eligible to apply. Annual family income of the applicant should be less than INR 6 Lakhs.

Prizes & Rewards: Selected women scholars will be provided up to INR 2,50,000 in instalments, towards their tuition fees and academic expenses for pursuing graduation in science

Last Date to Apply: 16-10-2022 Application mode: Online applications only www.b4s.in/observer/ Short Url:

Scholarship Name 2: Ericsson **Empowering Girl Scholarship Program**

Ericsson invites ap-Description: plications from meritorious girl students currently studying in the 2nd year of Engineering (IT/CS) or MBA program from anywhere in India. The scholarship is meant to support meritorious girl students coming from underprivileged sections of society.

Eligibility: The applicants must be currently studying in the 2nd year of engineering (IT/CS) or MBA program at reputed colleges in India. Applicants must

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my name from Zaigum Abass to SZAb-

bas . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/

she can approach Gazatte Publication Of India within

Seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

After that no objection shall be entertained.

R/o Goom Ahmad Pora P/O Magam -193401

SZAbbas (New Name)

S/o Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Sheikh

ashmir Observer in association have scored at least 6.5 GPA or equivalent and meritorious but may lack the resourcmarks in the previous final examination. The annual family income of the applicant from all sources must not be more than

es to pursue their dreams.

Eligibility: Students who have passed Class 10 with at least 75% marks or



Prizes & Rewards: INR 75,000 per vear

07-11-2022 Last Date to Apply: Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/ EEGS13

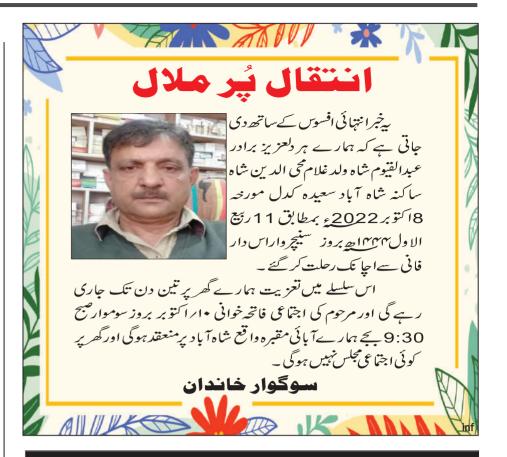
Keep India Smiling Foundational Scholarship & Mentorship Programme 2022-23

dia) Ltd. is giving young students an opportunity to pursue their academic/career aspirations by providing them with scholarships for education. This scholarship program aims to provide foundational support to individuals, who are deserving board exams are eligible to apply for the scholarship program for pursuing their higher secondary, 3-year graduation, and 4-year professional courses (Engineering/ MBBS/BDS Dental) respectively. Annual family income of all applicants must be less than INR 5 Lakhs per annum.

Prizes & Rewards: Selected scholars can avail of scholarship awards of up to INR 30,000 per year for up to 3 years of studies depending on their current level of education.

Last Date to Apply: 31-12-2022 **Application mode:** Online applications only **Short Url:** www.b4s.in/observer/

MCB



FATEHA KHAWANI



With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Syed Muhammad Mosvi son of Late Syed Maqbool Hussain Mosvi of Baghwanpora Lalbazar, Srinagar who passed away on Saturday 8th October 2022.

His congregational Fateha Khawani would be held on Monday 10th October 2022 at their ancestral graveyard near Hussaini Sabeelgah Malik Bagh Baghwanpora Lal Bazar at 7:00 am. Thereafter a day long condolence meeting will be held at our residence Hyderia Colony Baghwanpora Lalbazar, Srinagar.

Bereaved Sadat Mosvi Family Baghwanpora Sved Altaf Hussain Mosvi 9419019023

SS

UT of Jammu & Kashmir Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre Srinagar

Tender Notice Inviting Tenders

e-NIT No: -22SKICC of 2022-23; Dated: 21/09/2022

For and on behalf of the LG of UT of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tender/s (in single cover system) is/are invited from approved and eligible Registered electrical contractors registered with J&K, UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/UT/Central Government Department on aggregate percentage basis for the below mentioned work/s.

1								
S. No	Name of work	Adv. Cost	Cost of t/doc. (in rupees)	Earnest money (in rupees)	Time of completion	Head	Class of contractor	
01	Pruning of trees at Landscape section of SKICC	3.21	200	6400-/	01Month	Non Plan	D-Class	
02	Supply of hybrid sapling for landscape section of SKICC for winter session.	1.42	200	2800-/	01 Month	Non Plan	Registered with floriculture.	

Position of AA: - Accorded Position of funds: - Available

Position of technical section: - Obtained

entertained.

Special conditions:

Bidder shall furnish / uploaded proof of latest returns in GST, 3/GSTR-3B, FORM GST-3B i.e., latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3B OF the preceding month to the issue of e-NIT.

Affidavit on correctness of information submitted / uploaded with the bid.

The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. All the documents /information regarding the qualification criteria shall be uploaded by the agency. Hard copy of the same shall not be

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from www.jktenders.gov.inas per schedule of dates given below:

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	08/10/2022
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	08/10/2022 to 17/10/2022
3	Bid submission Start Date	08/10/2022
4	Bid Submission End Date	17/10/2022 up to 5:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of ONLINE Bids (Online)	18/10/2022

All bidders have to submit bid security declaration form instead of earnest money as per annexure A as per circular of finance department. The first lowest has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in the shape of CDR /FDR within 3 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.

Any item found necessary to be executed at site but not covered by the allotment shall be paid on in vogue LMR along with allotted per-

centage allotment The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on web site www.jktenders.gov.in.

The bids for the contract shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of financial bid. All the materials used have to be of highest quality and standards and have to be approved by the engineer i/c before using them on site. Instructions of the engineering staff will be binding on the successful bidder.

The earnest money shall be forfeited if: g)

Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads "option as well as from "Bidders manual Kit" on website nders.gov.in to acquired bid submission process.

To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per information technology Act 2000, bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

The bidders have to submit their bids on line in electronic format with digital signature. No financial bids will be accepted in physical form.

Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary/documents with bid. Time Extension: The work is to be completed within the time limit specified in the NIT/allotment.

Dated: 08/10/2022

The tender/bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill requirement as laid down in NIT

3. All other terms and conditions as per PWD Form 25 (Double Agreement Form) Sd/=

INR 6,00,000. Class 12 with at least 60% marks in 2022

Scholarship Name 3:

Description: Colgate-Palmolive (In-

My name has been wronlgy written in my Passport bearing No; K1425574 As Ghulam Mehdi S/o Ali Mohd Bhat instead of Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Bhat S/o Ali Mohammad Bhat which needs to be corrected. If anybodyhaving any objection in this regard he/she may fiel his/her objection in the Passport office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the dateof publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Bhat

S/o Ali Mohammad Bhat

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

BMG

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER **R&B ELECTRIC DIVISION SGR**

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS NIT No: 113/e-tendering of 2022-23/R&B DATED: - 07.10.2022

For and on behalf of the LT Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Electrical Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

ı	S.No.	Name of Work	Est. cost in	Earnest	Cost of T/	Time of	Time & Date	Class of	M.H. of
ı			lacs	money (In	Doc.	completion	of Opening		
ı				Rupees)	(In Rupees)		of		
ı							Bid		
ı	1	Electrical work B.W.O Supply, installation, testing			300.00	Side by side civil	15.10.2022	"A"	
ı		& Commissioning of Fixtures, Control Panel				works		class	
ı		Service line all other allied items For Completion	6.76 lacs	13520.00				Electrical	SSY
ı		of New DAK BANGLOW at Dawar Gurez (Under							
ı		Samrida Seema Yojna)							
ı									

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

I	1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	08-10-2022
I	2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	08/10/2022 10.00 A.M
I	3.	Bid submission Start Date	08/10/2022 from 10.00 A.M
I	4.	Bid Submission End Date	15/10/2022 up to 4.00 P.M
I	5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	15/10/2022 at 6.00 P.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer (R&B) Electric Division Sgr
1			

01. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division, Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

The bids must be accompanied with Earnest Money @ 2% of advertised cost in shape of CDR/FDR and the EMD of 2% of successful bidder shall be released after receipt of 3% performance security

The successful /Ist Lowest bidder has to submit Performance security @3% of allotted cost. Bidder must read term/condition in tender document carefully.

AAA/TS = Accorded Position of Funds = committed

No. 113/e-tendering/ERB/2704-11

DIPK-11437/22

Executive Engineer, (R&B) Electric Division

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2.

DIPK-NB-4291/22

No: SKICC/EE/22/421-425

Executive Engineer

the South Bank of the River

Thames in London. It is Eu-

rope's tallest cantilevered

observation wheel and is the

most popular paid tourist at-

traction in the United King-

dom with over 3 million visi-

rector J&K Lake Conserva-

tion and Management Au-

thority, Dr Bashir Ahmad

Bhat said that the project is

at Request for Proposal (R&P)

stage and there are various

factors to be considered as

well before the project could

was made some time back,

but they have to consider

certain factors like environ-

mental impact assessment,

financial modelling and oth-

er things before it could be

take time as environmental

Bhat also said that it will

He said that the proposal

When contacted, the di-

tors annually.

be finalised.

finalised.

Govt Likely To Install "Ferris Wheel" In Dal Lake



Srinagar: In what could be a major boost to the tourism sector in the Kashmir Valley. the government is likely to install "Srinagar Eye" on the pattern of the famous "London Eye" inside the worldfamous Dal Lake in Central Kashmir's Srinagar district.

Sources said that like "London Eye", the government is planning to construct "Srinagar Eye" with a giant "Ferris Wheel" inside the Dal Lake for the attraction of tourists to the Valley.

They said that a location has also been shortlisted for construction of the same and if this goes through, it could become a huge attraction for tourists and will be a major boost to the tourism sector as well in the Valley.

The London Eye, or the Millennium Wheel, is a cantilevered observation wheel on

Authorities Seal Liquor Shop Near Govt School

Press Trust of India

Srinagar: In a swift action, authorities sealed a liquor shop that had come up near a school in the Sonwar area in the city here in violation of rules, with locals hailing the move.

The liquor shop had come up opposite a Kendriya Vidyalava and was found to be operating without the permission of the Badami Bagh Cantonment (BBC) Board, under whose jurisdiction the area falls, officials said on Saturday.

"We were informed (about the liquor shop) yesterday (Friday) and we sealed it yesterday only," BBC Board CEO John Vikas told PTI.

"Permission was not taken from the cantonment board which is a prerequisite to oper-

We have provisions for penalties. If any trade is being carried out without taking any license or permission, then there is a provision for penalty

ate," he said.

Vikas said whether the owner had the license to run the shop or not, the board will not allow a liquor shop to operate near a school.

"Obviously, we will not allow it but he should have applied for that NoC from the cantonment board. So, it has been sealed," the CEO said.

Vikas said the board is also mulling legal action against the

"We have provisions for penalties. If any trade is being carried out without taking any license or permission, then there is a provision for penalty," he added.

Local residents praised the board's action.

"The shop came up near the school. How can it be allowed to operate? So, we informed the board about it and they acted very swiftly," said Mehraj Ahmad, a local resident.

He said the residents of the area are happy that the BBC Board CEO acted on people's complaints and the shop was sealed immediately.

AIRPORTS SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488,2452222,2452155

SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

PDD: 0194-2450213

CAPD: 18001807011

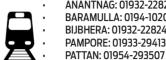
TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686

Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200



RAILWAYS

SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259



ANANTNAG: 01932-228243 BARAMULLA: 0194-102029 BIJBHERA: 01932-228243 PAMPORE: 01933-294132

QAZIGUND: 01951-296153



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

CALENDAR

HIGHWAY STATUS

12 Rabi ul Awwal 1444

PRAYERS FAJR 5:07 **ZUHR** 12:18

4:26 **ASR** 6:09 Magrib ISHA 7:28

Police Shifts 3 Drug Addicts To **Drug De-Addiction Center**

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Taking cognizance of the viral video pertaining to drug addiction, Srinagar police on Saturday shifted three drug addicts to drug de-addiction

A police spokesman said that Srinagar Police have taken cognizance of the Viral Video pertaining to Drug addiction.

The administration and police are taking both De-addiction and enforcement measures to help victims of substance abuse. "We appeal to parents to keep vigil and bring to our Notice positive cases," he said.

He said that there is a viral

video where 3 drug addicts are taking drugs in the Noorbagh area. "It came out during investigation that the 3 were experimenting with medicines provided by the de-addiction centre by injecting into veins and not orally taking them. They are being sent to a de-addiction centre." he said.

assessment is yet to be done.

Dog Menace Continues To Haunt City Dwellers

Sved Mohammad Burhan

As authorities fail to put an end to dog menace in Srinagar, city dwellers find it hard to venture out during morning and evening when the public movement is thin. The presence of dogs on every nook and corner of the city has left people up in arms against authorities for not being able to put an end to the menace.

In the last one year, Kashmir recorded 5,629 bite victims, $mostly\ dog\ bites,\ reported\ to$ the Anti-Rabies Clinic at Srinagar's Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) hospital, official figures reveal.

An official from ARC SMHS said from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022, as many as 5,629 bite cases were reported to ARC SMHS and most of them were from Srinagar.

ver the last few years, the population of stray dogs has increased manifold in Srinagar. The unchecked rise in the dog populace has become a nuisance. People find it difficult to venture outside their homes particularly during morning and evening hours.

"One can't venture out alone due to the fear of dogs" people in other parts of the world will find it difficult to understand.

Although authorities say they are working hard to make the city smart, the ground reality is altogether different.

Irshad Hussain Freelance Journalist

Authorities say they can't kill the dogs because of animal rights issues. Fine enough, we understand that but they are obliged to find a mechanism through which people can get rid from dog menace. We can't turn a blind eye to the burning issue.

Afeefa Anees Homemaker

Every year, thousands of people fall prey to the canine terror but authorities have been doing too little to curb the menace. It is sad to see so many young and old people getting bitten by stray dogs. For animal rights activists, human lives aren't as important as animal lives.

> Atif Ahmad $Government\ Employee$

Dogs are seasonal breeders and they mate twice a year. They give birth to sixteen puppies a year, most of them survive. The availability of non-vegetarian food is the main reason for their breeding. Garbage dumps on the roadsides provide them with more than enough food.

We have to abide by the Law, so

we cannot kill stray dogs.

To reduce the dog population, we have been carrying out the dog sterilization programme for the last many years.

The sterilization of dogs is being done at Shuhama Sterilization centre and around five to six surgeries are being performed daily on a daily basis.

Another dog sterilization centre is being made operational at Tengpora Byepass and work is nearing completion.

Around 60 kennels are being constructed. The work will be completed in around two weeks. Once the centre is made operational, we will be able to perform more sterilizations. Once the dog sterilization programme is done for the next six to seven years, the dog populace will stabilize.

> Dr Tawheed Ahmed Veterinary Officer, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC)

This Day In History

- 1617 Peace of Pavia between Spain and Savoye
- 1621 Turkey & Poland signs Peace of Chotin 1962 - Uganda becomes independent from the United Kingdom
- 1963 French air force gets first nuclear weapons 1963 - Hurricane Flora ravages Cuba & Haiti, kills
- 6,000 1970 - Khmer Republic (Cambodia) declares independence
- 1973 Israel announces loss of Bar-Lev defense line in Suez Canal
- 1975 Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov wins Nobel Peace Prize.
- 1977 Soyuz 25 launched to Saluyt 6, but returned after failing to dock
- 1990 Saddam Hussein threatens to hit Israel with a new missile
- 1997 Nobel prize for literature awarded to Italian playwright Dario Fo.
- 2006 North Korea conducts its first nuclear test, with an estimated yield of between 0.4-2 kilotons.
- 2009 First lunar impact of the Centaur and LCROSS spacecrafts as part of NASA's Lunar Precursor Robotic Program
- 2012 Women's rights and education activist Malala Yousafzai is shot three times by a Taliban gunman as she tried to board her school bus in

From KO Archives

Rs 4 Cr Spent Over 20yrs To Build 1-Km 'Road' Stretch!

AJOURI: History of sorts was created in this farflung border district when the state government last year handed over a major road construction project to the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) after having squandered an astro¬nomical Rs four crore on 'creating' just a kilometre of an improvised fair-weather path- over a period of 20 years. In sharp contrast, the BRO's Project Sam-park had completed 20 km stretch of the road, by September 10 this year

According to reports, the park's very own public works department (PWD) had taken up the construction of 35-km Ghambir Tarkundi road in Rajouri district in 1980 While its physical execution went on at a snail's pace, the department displayed a mad haste in the booking of expen-diture It spent a near Rs four crore till the time the project was finally entrusted to the BRO last year

Locals told Observer News Service that road proved to be a goldmine for the executing agencies. It was first entrusted to the PWD and subsequently to its 'notorious cousin', the rural development department. With politi¬cal blessing, the "worthies' of the two hyper-active' state outfits managed an apology of a small 1-km stretch which defies the description of road. Even light motor vehicles cannot ply-on it. Sources alleged fictitious drawls were made, on a massive scale to swindle the crores provided by the government. Apprehend-ing cognizance of the huge scam, all the records pertaining to the road project were al-legedly consigned to flames in a mysterious- fire. With the entire evidence destroyed thus. they alleged, the sea maters managed their escape from the vigilance dragnet.

Construction of the road had been conceived to provide connectivity to 20 villages in areas close to the line of control (LoC). Even after 53 years of independence, nearly 80 per cent of population in the isolated villages remains landlocked for want of roads. Absence of roads has also retarded the overall development of the chronically back¬ward areas As a result, the funds provided for them under various welfare programmes have allegedly been swindled by officials and their political patrons.

Fictitious drawls are believed to be common in most development departments in the twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri. Sources alleged various PWD and rural development offices had drawn balls for bridle paths and other works executed by the security forces. Likewise, works executed by one agency were charged by more than one department defrauding the state exchequer to the extent of crores of rupe

The state vigilance organisation (SVD) had, in 1988, es¬tablished a case pertaining to construction of a water tank at Sari in Poonch district. It had been built by the public health engineering (PHE) department. However, two more de partments - PWD and rural development – also have allegedly drawn bills for the scheme even after 12 years, no action has been taken against the accused.

(Kashmir Observer, October 09, 2000)

Imran Khan Alleges That 4 Individuals 'Want **Him Assassinated'**

Islamabad: Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday alleged that four individuals were conspiring to assassinate him on charges on blasphemy, warning that the names of these schemers will be revealed to the nation if anything untoward happens to him

Addressing a rally in Mianwali in Pakistan's Punjab province, Imran Khan, the chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, said Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leaders were accusing him of committing blasphemy in a bid to incite religious hatred against him.

"What was the game behind this [allegation]... four individuals sitting behind closed doors

spirators," he warned. This is not the first instance that Mr Khan has claimed that

his life is in peril. Over 250 personnel from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Islamabad, Gilgit-Baltistan, Frontier Constabulary and Pakistan Rangers are deployed to ensure Khan's security, Islamabad IG Akbar Na-

sir Khan had said in September. Mr Khan's latest revelations come when a third alleged audio of Khan surfaced on Friday, featuring him trying to buy the loyalties of lawmakers and also justifying his action before he was ousted in a no-confidence

The two other audio clips, leaked last month, have three Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leaders talking about the American cypher

vote in Parliament in April.



decided to get me killed over blasphemy allegations," Mr Khan alleged.

He announced that a video containing names of the 'conspirators' will be released if anything happened to him.

"If I get killed then they will say a religious fanatic killed him [Imran] because he had committed blasphemy," he said. "The nation will not forgive these conwith Mr Khan, the party chairman. The former premier asked his party workers to prepare for the Azadi March, adding that his planning for the protest was well-thought.

Mr Khan on Monday had asked his party workers to prepare for a mega protest later this week to press for the dissolution of the National Assembly and announce fresh elections in the country.

Syria To Welcome First Official Hamas **Delegation: Report**



Agenceis

ccording to a report by Al-Mayadeen TV, a highranking delegation from Palestinian resistance movement Hamas is expected to visit Syria in October, embarking on their first official visit to reconcile ties.

The delegation will be led by the head of the Arab and Islamic Relations Portfolio and Hamas deputy chief in the Gaza Strip, Dr. Khalil al-Hayya.

No details have been provided by either side on the schedule of the visit nor whom the resistance faction will meet, especially regarding a possible meeting with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Both sides assess that its not yet possible for head of the political bureau in Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, to visit Syria as a result of his old public anti-Damascus remarks.

The reported visit is part of a recent push by the political leadership of Hamas to extend its hands to all Arab states and reestablish a bridge with all countries capable of opposing Israel.

On 15 September, Haniyeh, revealed in an interview to RT that the group is working on restoring ties with Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

Haniyeh highlighted that Hamas stands on equal terms with all of its Arab and international partners and "does not interfere in the internal affairs of

any of these countries." His statement was seen by many as being directed towards Syria, in a bid to affirm that Hamas has abandoned its stand against Damascus, dating back to when it favored Turkish-backed opposition groups

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Blast Damages Crimea Bridge Central To Russia War Effort



Agenceis

Kyiv: A powerful truck explosion seriously damaged Russia's road-and-rail bridge to Crimea on Saturday, hitting a prestige symbol of Moscow's annexation of the peninsula and the key supply route to Russian forces battling to hold territory captured in southern Ukraine

The blast on the bridge over the Kerch Strait, for which Russia did not immediately assign blame, prompted gleeful messages from Ukrainian officials but no direct claim of responsibility.

Russian investigators said three people had been killed, probably the occupants of a car travelling near the truck that blew up.

Russia seized Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 and the 19-km Kerch bridge linking it to Russia's transport network was opened with great fanfare four years later by President Vladimir Putin, who drove a construction truck across it.

It now represents a major artery for the Russian forces who have taken control of most of southern Ukraine's Kherson region, and for the naval port of Sevastopol, whose governor told locals: "Keep calm. Don't panic."

It was not yet clear if the blast was a deliberate attack, but the damage to such high-profile infrastructure came at a time when Russia has suffered several battlefield defeats and could further cloud the Kremlin's messages of

Kochi: In a path breaking judge-

ment, Kerala High Court observed

that an allegation of rape on false

promise to marry will not stand

if the woman knew that the man

was already married and still

continued the sexual relationship

bench of Justice Kauser Edaggapath

who said that any sex between

such a couple could only be termed

as one on account of love and pas-

sion, and not based on any false

respondent is having a relation-

ship with the petitioner since 2010

and she continued the relation-

ship knowing about his marriage

from 2013 onwards would nullify

the story regarding the sexual in-

tercourse on the false pretext of

marrying her. The alleged sex can

only be termed as one on account

"The admitted fact that the 4th

The judgment came from the

with the accused.

promise to marry.

Agenceis

EVERYTHING ILLEGAL MUST BE DESTROYED,

everything that is stolen must be returned to Ukraine, everything occupied by Russia must be expelled."

reassurance to its public that the conflict is going to plan.

It also took place a day after Putin's 70th birthday.

The head of Ukraine's National Security and Defence Council, Oleksiy Danilov, posted a video of the burning bridge on social media alongside a video of Marilyn Monroe singing "Happy birthday, Mr President".

Since the start of the invasion on February 24, Ukrainian officials have made regular allusions to their desire to destroy the Kerch bridge, seen in Ukraine as a symbol of Russia's occupation of Crimea. Ukraine's postal service said on Saturday it would print a special stamp to commemorate the blast.

Russia's Defence Ministry said in a statement that its forces in southern Ukraine could be "fully supplied" through existing land and sea routes, and the Transport Ministry said rail traffic across the

Rape Won't Stand If Woman Continues Sexual Relations After

Knowing Man Is Married: Kerala HC

of love and passion for the peti-

tioner and not on account of mis-

representation made to her by the

man retracts his promise to marry

they had will not constitute an of-

fence of rape under Section 376 of

the IPC unless it is established that

the consent for such sexual act was

obtained by him by giving false

promise of marriage with no inten-

tion of adhering to the same and

that the promise made was false to

The court reiterated that if a

woman, then consensual sex

petitioner," read the order.

bridge would resume by 1700 GMT. Foreign Ministry spokeswom-

its terrorist nature". fuel tanker wagons to catch fire on

It said two spans of road bridge had partially collapsed, but that the arch spanning the Kerch Strait, the waterway through which ships travel between the Black Sea and Azov Sea, was not damaged.

tached, but cracked.

Others taken from a distance showed thick smoke pouring from part of the bridge.

An adviser to Ukrainian Presi-

"Everything illegal must be de-

his knowledge.

an Maria Zakharova said Kyiv's reaction to the destruction of ci-

vilian infrastructure "testifies to The Russian National Anti-Terrorism Committee said a freight truck had blown up on the bridge's roadway at 6.07 am, causing seven

a train heading for the peninsula on the bridge's upper level.

'The beginning'

Images posted by the Russian Investigative Committee showed one half of the roadway blown away, and the other half still at-

dent Volodymyr Zelenskiy posted a message on Twitter saying the incident was just "the beginning" but stopped short of saying Ukrainian forces were responsible for the blast.

stroyed, everything that is stolen must be returned to Ukraine, everything occupied by Russia must be expelled," Mykhailo Podolyak wrote. Moscow has presented largely Russian-speaking Crimea as a his-

The court then passed the order

on a plea moved by man to quash

the case registered against him

for the alleged commission of of-

fences punishable under Sections

406 (criminal breach of trust), 420

(cheating and dishonestly induc-

ing delivery of property) and 376

that over a period of nine years, the

petitioner, by giving a false prom-

ise of marriage to the complainant,

had sexual intercourse with her in

several places in India and abroad.

ment of the complainant disclosed

that she knew the petitioner since

2010 and she came to know about

the fact that the petitioner was

married five to six years ago. Still,

she was in a sexual relationship

The court finally decided to

quash the FIR registered against

with him till 2019.

the petitioner.

The court noted that the state-

The prosecution allegation was

(rape) of Indian Penal Code.

Centre Forms Panel To Examine Giving Dalit Status To Religious Converts

Agenceis

New Delhi: The Centre has appointed a commission headed by former CJI KG Balakrishnan to examine the matter of giving Scheduled Caste status to new people who claim to "historically" have belonged to the Scheduled Castes, but have converted to a religion other than those mentioned in the Presidential orders.

The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 (amended from time to time) says that no person professing a religion other than Hinduism or Sikhism, or Buddhism can be deemed to be a member of a Scheduled Caste.

However, Muslim, and Christian groups have often demanded similar status for Dalits who have converted to their religions. The BJP has been opposed to their demand.

three-member team

The panel will also examine the implications of the decision if it comes to be - on the existing Scheduled Castes, besides taking into account the changes in customs, traditions, and their status of social discrimination and deprivation, after these people converted to other religions.

The commission will also examine any other related questions that the Commission deems appropriate in consultation with the Centre and with its consent.

KG Balakrishnan is the Supreme Court's first Dalit Chief Justice. He was also the chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission of India.

In the notification, the ministry said the issue is a "seminal and historically complex sociological and constitutional question", and a definite matter of public importance.

"And whereas, given its im-



also includes retired IAS officer Dr Ravinder Kumar Jain and member UGC Professor Sushma Yadav, according to a gazette notification issued by the Social Justice and Empowerment ministry on Thursday.

The panel will examine the matter of giving Scheduled Caste status to new persons, who claim to historically have belonged to the Scheduled Castes, but have converted to religion other than those mentioned in the Presidential Orders issued from time to time under article 341 of the Constitution.

portance, sensitivity and potential impact, any change in definition in this regard should be on the basis of a detailed and definitive study and extensive consultation with all stakeholders and no Commission under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 (60 of 1952) has so far inquired into the matter," the notification said.

The headquarters of the commission will be in New Delhi and it will submit its report within two years from the date of taking over of the charge by the Chairperson, the notification said.

Cocaine Worth ₹502 Crore Seized From Fruit Container At Mumbai Port



Agenceis

Mumbai: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized more than 50 kilograms of "highquality" cocaine worth ₹ 502 crore from a container carrying fruits at the Nhava Sheva Port in neighbouring Navi Mumbai, an official said on Saturday.

This is one of the largest seizures of cocaine attempted to be smuggled through sea containers in the recent past, he said, adding that the drug was seized on Thursday.

"The DRI's Mumbai zonal unit had received intelligence inputs about the consignment, which was brought to Nhava Sheva Port from South Africa. Accordingly, the container was identified and opened in the presence of the DRI officials, following which it was revealed that a large number of bricks made up of high-quality cocaine and weighing approxi-

mately 1 kg each, were concealed inside the boxes of green apples," an official statement said. A total of 50 such bricks

weighing 50.23 kg and valued at ₹ 502 crore in illicit markets were recovered during the examination, it said. This container was brought to

India by the same importer, who was arrested by the DRI in the case involving seizure of 198 kg meth and 9 kg cocaine from a consignment of oranges originating from South Africa at Vashi earlier this week, the official said.

The importer was arrested by the DRI officials under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, he said. This is a part of a series of large

drug seizures made by DRI, Mumbai zonal unit ranging from 198 kg of methamphetamine, 9 kg cocaine to 16 kg heroin in the last 10 days, officials claimed.

NEWS MAKERS

A Gift Of 'God': Officials Hail Vladimir Putin On His 70th Birthday

Agenceis

MOSCOW: Vladimir Putin for his 70th birthday Friday was gifted a tractor by the Belarusian president and told by the head of Russia's Orthodox Church that "God" put him in power, while the Kremlin held back on celebrations as Moscow faces setbacks in Ukraine.

The same day, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to three human rights organisations and activists: Ales Bialiatski of Belarus, Russia's Memorial group and Ukraine's Center for Civil Liberties.

The committee said it wanted the prize to highlight the "way civil society and human rights advocates are being suppressed" in Russia.

In Russia, the head of the Russian Orthodox Church Patriarch Kirill said that Putin's reign over



Russia had been mandated by God. "God put you in power so that you could perform a service of special importance and of great responsibility for the fate of the country and the people entrusted to your care," the patriarch said, joining a chorus of Russian officials congratulating Putin on his birthday

The Patriarch praised Putin for "transforming the image of Russia, strengthening its sovereignty and its defence capability, protecting its national interests."

Kirill wished "health and a

long life" to the Russian leader, who has been in power for more than 20 years. He also called on worshippers across the country to pray for Putin's health.

You gained the reputation of a national leader selflessly devoted to the Fatherland, sincerely loving the Motherland and giving all its strength to it," the Patriarch said.

The leader of the Russian Orthodox Church since 2009, Kirill has been a vocal supporter of the military operation in Ukraine. Kirill has close ties with Putin's government, backing conservative values over Western liberalism.

'If there is Putin, there is Russia' Close Putin ally, Belarus strongman leader Alexander Lukashenko, told journalists he gifted a Belarusian tractor "the best one out there" to the Russian president.

Lukashenko was in Putin's hometown, Saint Petersburg, for a meeting with the Kremlin chief and leaders of ex-Soviet countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). He said the tractor could be

used to sow wheat so that Europeans "do not starve or steal bread from Ukraine" The conflict between Russia

and Ukraine, two of the world's biggest grain exporters, had disrupted exports, raising fears of a global food crisis.

"American Dream Gone Wrong", Says Wife Of Indian-Origin Man Killed In US

Agenceis

San Francisco: "This is the story of our American dream gone wrong," the grieving wife of an Indian-origin Sikh man killed along with three members of his brother's family, including an 8-month-old baby, has said.

Bodies of 36-year-old Jasdeep Singh, 27-year-old Jasleen Kaur, their eight-month-old child Aroohi Dheri and the baby's uncle, 39-year-old Amandeep Singh were found on Wednesday evening in an orchard after they

ow, said in a GoFundMe fundraiser

were kidnapped on Monday. The family, originally from Harsi Pind in Hoshiarpur, Punjab, was kidnapped at a business in Merced County, California. Jaspreet Kaur, Amandeep's wid-

that her husband and his brother had been in the United States for 18 years and supported not only their families in California but also their elderly parents back in India. "This is the story of our

shared American dream gone wrong," she wrote. "Our loving family was violently taken away from us on October 3rd," the family's gofundme page said.

Jaspreet Kaur said her husband routinely donated food to the local food bank and never missed Sunday service in the local Sikh temple. They had a 9-year-old

daughter and an 8-year-old son. The family's gofundme page said the two brothers were "the primary bread earners for the family (and) supported their elderly parents." the appeal said.

Ex-MLA Choudhary Akram Distances Himself From DAP

SRINAGAR: In a major political development in Jammu & Kashmir, former MLA and powerful Gujjar leader Choudhary Muhammad Akram has reportedly distanced himself from Ghulam Nabi Azad-led Democratic Azad Party, sources disclosed.

The former MLA Surankote Choudhary Muhammad Akram has not participated in the activities of the Democratic Azad Party after its launch, a local news agency KNO reported while quoting sources.

"Akram was conspicuously missing from the function when DAP was launched in Jammu, "they said, adding that he has not joined DAP , although he participated in its activities before its launch.

Akram's name also doesn't figure in the list of party leaders appointed as members of six zonal committees constituted by Ghulam Nabi Azad for Jammu & Kashmir.

According to sources, Akram is still weighing his options and is yet to decide on his future course of action.

Akram had won the last assembly election from Surankote assembly segment by a huge margin. He is the son of powerful Gujjar leader Choudhary Mohammad Aslam Lassanvi, who was the first Gujjar leader from J&K to become Rajya Sabha member.

Aslam served as J&K's finance minister, education minister and speaker of the Legislative Assembly. He remained J&K Pradesh Congress Committee chief for 17 years—(KNO)

Raina Urges Govt to Address Grievances Of PM Package Employees

Press Trust Of India

president Ravinder Raina on Saturwho have been protesting for over four months here seeking their relocation outside the Valley in view of targeted killings by terrorists.

They also demanded the government to release their pending salaries ahead of the festival season.

Raina called up Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Secretary Arun K Mehta from the protest venue and later assured the protesters that he was hopeful that the administration will fulfill their genuine demands.

Hundreds of Dogra employees moved to Jammu mands with LG Sinha. from Kashmir after the killing of a teacher named Rajni Bala inside her school in south Kashmir's Kulgam modate us anywhere in Jammu didistrict on May 31.

"They have been on strike for the last 130 days and their demands JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir BJP are justified. Nothing is more precious than a human life. How can day met the government employees a person perform their duties in an atmosphere of fear?" Raina told reporters at Panama Chowk here.

> He said the protesting employees got jobs under inter-district recruitment policy and they have already served in Kashmir for over 15 years.

"I spoke to the LG and the chief secretary, and I am hopeful that the administration will address all their genuine issues and frame a transfer policy for them," the BJP leader said.

He also requested the government to release their pending salaries. The agitating employees said panic-striken they have already raised their de-

> "We want the government to frame a transfer policy and accomvision," one of the employees said.

20 Medical Officers, As Many **Nurses Trained In Palliative** Care In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Twenty medical of- hospital, said an interactive proficers and as many nurses have gramme was held under the subeen trained in palliative care in pervision of Director Health Ser-Jammu division, officials said on vices Jammu Saleem-ur-Rehman. Saturday as the authorities observed the World Palliative Care liative care, AIIMS New Delhi, and Hospice Day here.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has already formulated a policy for palliative care versity, Vinay Kumar enlightand these services have started ened the doctors, paramedics at all district hospitals with 10 and nursing students present beds dedicated in each district, they said.

The the World Palliative Care and Hospice Day is observed on the second Saturday of October

every year. The main function in connection with the day was held at the government hospital in Gandhi Nagar under the theme "healing hearts and community", senior doctor and nodal officer of the project Rohit Lahori said.

Lahori, in-charge of the pain and palliative care unit at the

Professor of pain and pal-Rakesh Garg joined the event virtually. Assistant Dean, Social Works Department, Central Uniabout the social and community aspect needed for palliative care services.

The officials informed that 20 medical officers and as many nurses have been trained in palliative care by the Directorate of Health Services-Jammu in collaboration with the Indian Association of Palliative Care, under the supervision of head of the palliative care department at AIIMS, New Delhi, Sushma Bhatnagar.

548 Dead In J&K Road Mishaps In 10 Months, **Lowest Since Decade**

SRINAGAR: The fatal circle of deaths and injuries through accidents have shown a decrease after eight years in Jammu and Kashmir even as 548 lives have been lost due accidents in the current year so far.

According to official figures, most of the horrific accidents have taken place in the Pir Panjal Range and the Chenab Valley. Figures reveal that 5836 acci-

dents took place in 2015, 5501 in 2016, the 5626 in 2017, 5978 in 2018, 5796 in 2019, while during the period of Covid-19 (2020 and 2021) 10,312 accident have taken place in the Union Territory. 'This year till August end,

4125 accidents have taken place in J&K so far," the data shows.
As per the data 917 were killed and 8142 were injured in 2015, 958 people were killed and 7692 injured in 2016.



injured, 984 people were killed and 7845 were injured in 2018, 996 people were killed 7532 were injured in 2019, while in 2020, 728 people were killed has always been the endeavour and 5894 injured and 774 peo- of J&K traffic police to ensure ple were killed and 6972 were injured in 2021," it shows.

this year till August 548 people in implementation of traffic "In 2017, a total of 926 per- have been killed and 5638 have laws—(KNO)

sons were killed, and 7423 were been injured in fatal road accidents across Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, Inspector General of Traffic Police (J&K), Vikramjit Singh told KNO that it efficient traffic management by way of education, enforcement The data further reveals that and technological intervention

Nodal Officer Appointed For Electric Bus Project In J&K

Press Trust Of India

and Kashmir on Saturday appointed a noadl officer for operations of the electric buses. expeditious execution of the electric bus project for the twin Chalo Mobility Pvt cities of Jammu and Srinagar, to estaban official said.

Jammu and Kashmir administration is procuring a fleet of 200 electric buses, 100 each for capital cities of the Union Territory, Jammu and Srinagar. Principal Secretary, Housing

and Urban Development Department, Dheeraj Gupta appointed General Manager, Finance, Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL), as the nodal officer during a highlevel meeting convened to review the progress of the project, the official said.

The JSCL and Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) are the project executing agencies.

The officials said the meeting was informed that the Letter of **JAMMU:** Authorities in Jammu Intent (LoI) has been issued to Tata Motors for the supply and An LoI was also issued to



lish National mon Mobility Card compliant Digital Ticketing Solution. The contract agreement with both the service providers will be signed soon.

Asserting that establishment of e-bus services is a very crucial project and will play a big

the project executing agencies to expedite the process and clear bottlenecks at the earliest. He directed concerned officials to make proactive efforts to

role towards adopting a clean

mode of transport, Gupta asked

ensure that the electric buses should ply soon, the official The official said the commissioning of electric

buses in both cities will play a vital role in reducing pollution levels. Besides, the electric buses are also equipped

Com- with state-of-the-art facilities like real time passenger information system, live tracking, panic button, location system, CCTV cameras, stop request system, online ticket booking, payments through QR code and other security related features,

J&K Assembly Polls

Congress Promises Special Role To Youngsters

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir highlight the BJP government's of playing with the sentiments of Congress chief Vikar Rasool Wani asked the party's young workers Jammu and Kashmir. on Saturday to work hard for strengthening the organisation role of the youngsters more viin the Union Territory, promising a special role for them in the next Assembly polls.

Wani said this at a daylong convention of the Congress in Kathua district.

"Youngsters need to make the people of the country. strenuous efforts to strengthen They will be assigned special roles in the coming election. They will get their due share," he said.

said the objective of the con-

wrong policies, especially in "The Congress will make the

brant in order to nurture them for future challenges," Wani said. He alleged that over the last

eight years, in the name of "achhe din" (good days), the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has misled "Farmers are suffering instead

the party at the grassroot level. of getting double income, the unemployment rate is growing like never before, the backbone of the common people is broken A Congress spokesperson due to inflation and a skyrocketing rise in the prices of essen- ti-people policies, misrule and vention was to mobilise public tial commodities," the Congress mismanagement".

opinion to strengthen the party leader said.

those who voted it to power.

"People are not happy with its policies and the government has proved to be a failure. We have taken to the streets against the governance deficit, the lack of development and the failure of the government to deliver on the promises made to the people of ammu and Kashmir," Wani said.

Addressing the gathering, All India Congress Committee (AICC) joint secretary and Jammu and Kashmir in-charge Manoj Yadav urged the members of the public to join the party in its fight against the BJP-led Centre's "an-

IAF Jammu Station Conference Hall Named After Flight Lt Advitiya Bal

Press Trust Of India

Jammu Station conference hall on Saturday was named after Flight Lieutenant Advitiya he said. Bal who died after his aircraft July, a defence spokesman said.

in Jammu, was flying a battle inoculation training mission on a Mig-21 Type-69 trainer of the Jammu Station were present on the occasion. Flight Lieutenant Bal, an alumaircraft along with Wing Com-mander Mohit Rana of Himachal Pradesh. Both the pilots were killed in the crash on July 28.

On the occasion of the 90th the IAF on June 16, 2018. Air Force Day, the 'Bal Conference Hall' was inaugurated by sacrifice made by Flight Lieutenspokesman said.

from the hall was between Bal's JAMMU: The Indian Air Force's parents and the commanding officer and officers of his fighter squadron at Utarlai in Barmer, The spokesman said that Air

The first video conference call

crashed during a training mis-sion in Rajasthan's Barmer in Air Commodore G S Bhullar, president of the Air Force Wives The 26-year-old officer, a Welfare Association, Jammu, resident of Jinder Mehlu village Ruhi Bhullar, and senior officers

nus of the Sainik School Nagrota in Jammu and the National Defence Academy, was commissioned into the fighter stream of

the flight lieutenant's mother ant Bal will always be remem-Prayeen Kumari and his father bered and inspire generations of Subedar Major Swaran Bal, the this soil for years to come," the spokesman said.

Electoral Roll Revision

Div Com Jammu Reviews Process In Districts



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, who has been appointed as Electoral Roll Observer for DEOs to personally monitor the the districts of Kishtwar, Doda, Reasi and Ramban, on Saturday chaired a meeting of District Electoral Officers of these districts to review the progress of Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls with reference to informed that BLOs have been October 1, 2022 as the qualifying date.

Detailed discussions were held on a wide range of issues, including the provisions and parameters of Special Summary Revision and the progress achieved in the districts so far.

The Div Com inquired about the notification of the Electoral 100 percent attendance. Registration Officers, Assistant Electoral Registration Officers spective districts.

The Div Com instructed the District Electoral Officers to of mega camps were organised conduct revision strictly in ac- in the districts to raise awarecordance with the Election Com- ness and encourage the young mission of India guidelines and schedule and complete the process within the given timeline.

He exhorted DEOs to take extra care while making addition of new voters/left out voters and

further pass instructions to all Ramban participated in the meetthe officers and Officials associ- ing through video conferencing.

ated with the SSR to work with dedication and zeal to complete the exercise in a time bound manner with 100 percent enrolment of eligible voters. He asked process of summary revision and ensure that all guidelines, circulars are being followed.

The Div Com also inquired about the appointment of the Booth Level Officers and was appointed in the districts.

The DEOs were further asked to ensure that the list of BLOs along with their contact numbers is uploaded on websites, pasted on notice boards for information of the general public. He also asked them to conduct training of the BLOs and ensure

The Div Com asked the DEOs to conduct meetings with regis in the districts. The DEOs in- tered political parties and senformed that EROs and AEROs sitize them about the summary have been notified in their re- revision and share draft electoral rolls with them.

It was informed that a series

The Div Com also stressed on the timely disposal of claims and objections.

Among other the meeting was attended by Additional Commisdeletion of duplicate voters to sioner, Pankaj Katoch while Disavoid errors and completion of trict Election Officers alongwith the process before the due date. Deputy District Election Officers The Div Com directed DEOs to of Kishtwar, Doda, Reasi and

SHORT TAKES

Two 'Nari Niketan' Students Selected As Constables In J&K Police

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Two students of a 'Nari Niketan' in the border district of Rajouri have been selected for the post of constable in Jammu and Kashmir Police, officials said. The students were admitted to the Nari Niketan in 2011

and completed their studies while staying there, they said. While Punam Devi completed her graduation followed by a diploma in computer operation, programming assistant and fashion designing, Sonia Kousser completed a two-year diploma in draftsmen (civil), one year diploma in computer software and one year diploma in tourism after her graduation,

Both the students expressed gratitude to the Social Welfare Department (SWD) for providing them the "best possible" facilities and guidance that led to their selection.

Commissioner Secretary, SWD, Sheetal Nanda congratulated the students and said their selection will inspire other candidates staying in Bal Ashrams and Nari Niketans across the Union Territory.

Director General, SWD, Jammu, Vivek Sharma said an enabling environment is being created in all the institutions of the department to pave the way for overall development of the enrolled students.

"More facilities for the welfare of the students are in offing and shall be made available to the enrolled students in due course of time, he said.

MeT Predicts Mainly Dry Weather In J&K

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The weather department here on Saturday said that mainly dry weather was likely to continue in Jammu and Kashmir during the next 24 hours.

A meteorological department official here said that there was no large change expected in the weather for the subsequent two days also even as there was possibility for isolated light rains.

Regarding the mercury, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 8.6°C against 9.2°C on the previous night. The temperature was 1.3°C above normal for the summer capital during this time of the year, he said. Qazigund recorded a low of 7.8°C against 9.2°C on

the previous night. The temperature was 1.7°C above normal for the gateway town, he said. In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at 5.3°C, same as on the previous night and it was 1.7°C above normal

Kokernag recorded a low of 7.8°C against 7.7°C on the previous night and it was 0.1°C above normal for the place, he said. In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at 5.6°C against

for the south Kashmir resort, he said.

below normal for the north Kashmir place, he said. Jammu recorded a low of 21.1°C against 21.3°C previous night. It was 2.3°C above normal for J&K's winter capital, he said. Banihal recorded a low of 10.6°C, Batote 14.6°C, Katra 19.2°C and Bhadarwah 11.0°C. (GNS)

7.5°C on the previous night, the official said. It was 0.8°C

2 Weeks On, No Trace Of 'Man-Eater' Leopard In Uri

Agencies

BARAMULLA: Two weeks after Chief Wildlife Warden accorded sanction to "hunt down" a 'man-eater' leopard in Uri area of this north Kashmir district, authorities on ground have been unable to make any significant leads about the beast.

Local sources said that several joint teams of Wildlife Department and Police are on job to track the movement of 'man-eater' leopard in and around woods of Uri. However they haven't achieved any success in this regard so far, the sources said. Officials of the wildlife department said that the movement pattern of the beast is highly dynamic which is why it is taking time to develop any significant lead so far.

The officials said that after the killing of two minors, several teams were deputed on several spots in Uri and launched search operations to locate the animal. "We are still trying to catch or kill the beast.

On 16 September at 7.00 PM, a girl child namely Munzia Beigh daughter of Imran of Jabadar Lachipora Boniyar (Uri) was lifted and killed by a leopard. Her body was recovered from a nearby forest area late in the night on the same day. Subsequently on September 22, at about 7.30 PM another child namely Ali Hussain son of Abbas Hussain of Dani Cholan Boniyar (Uri) was lifted and killed by the leopard and subsequently his body was retrieved after several hours search from the forest area. (GNS)

PIB Jaipur To Organise Press Tour To Ladakh UT

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Press Information Bureau, Government of India, Jaipur is organizing a Press Tour to the Union Territory of Ladakh from 9th October to 18th October 2022. A group of 13 media persons and PIB officials from Rajasthan will be part of the press party to the Union territory.

The team is scheduled to visit and study the implementation of various centrally sponsored schemes and projects across the Union Territory of Ladakh. During the tour, the group will be visiting Kargil, Drass, Leh, Nubra and other locations to get first-hand information about various schemes and achievements of schemes like National Rural Health Mission, Jal Jeevan Mission, Poshan Abhyaan, Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, National Education Policy, Khelo India, in addition to other ground-

breaking initiatives. The team of journalists associated with various print and electronic media houses will also experience the Best practices followed by the UT in the field of agriculture that has got recognition. In addition to this, the implementation of schemes like Atmanirbhar Bharat and Mission Organic Development Initiative (MODI) will also be experienced.

An interaction with Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Ladakh is also lined up during the

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Change Education Policy

he socio-economic scene in Jammu and Kashmir has undergone a substantive change over the past five decades. The status of the common man has changed after land reforms were introduced and usury abolished. Exploitation of the peasantry, artisans and craftsmen has almost been eradicated. But many problems still plague the state despite these changes.

Benjamin Rush, an American scientist, had written after the American Revolution: "We have changed our form of government, but it remains yet to effect a revolution in our principles, opinions and manners'. This is equally true of Jammu and Kashmir. From feudal rule we have shifted to popular government. Social and economic status of an ordinary citizen has changed considerably. Ruling the state is no longer the prerogative of a royal family or the aristocracy. But the transformation that could build a robust society is yet to take place. 'Proper' and 'genuine' education is essential to bring about such a change.

Kashmiri leadership had recognised lack of education amongst the masses as one of the important factors for poverty and backwardness. Being fully conscious that society could not progress without the spread of education, it had been made free right from the primary level. Jammu and Kashmir was the first state in the country were no tuition fee was charged up to the postgraduate level and whose students admitted to professional colleges were fully supported by the state government. This policy helped in changing the social fabric of the society and children of many poor and socially-backward parents were able to hold the highest offices in the state administration. Initially, no doubt, the prime concern of the government was to spread education amongst the socially backward and under privileged people. But what could be described as an educational policy is yet to evolve in the state.

The government has been blindly following educational policies that are contrary to the social and cultural ethos of the people. From class ten to the post-graduate level it has adopted syllabi drafted by experts from outside the state. There is hardly a chapter on Kashmir in any of the books prescribed for the state's schools.

The identity crisis of an average Kashmir student which is responsible for many a problem the state is confronted with at present is born out of the alien education given to our youngsters. Kashmir has had a glorious past going back to thousands of years. It has not only nurtured three great religions - Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam - but is the birth place of some important religious philosophies like Mahayana, Shaivism and Reshism. It has rich literary and cultural traditions. Kashmir is a civilization in every sense of the word. But there is hardly any school or college in the state where students are taught about Kashmir history, culture and literature. A lot of literature of this land is in Sanskrit and Persian, but this rich heritage is totally inaccessible to the new generation, either in the original or in translation. No efforts have been made at the government level to make this great treasure available to the new generation.

Now when the state government is talking a lot about Kashmeeriat, there is need for developing a Kashmiri personality and this cannot be achieved without making the younger generation conscious about its glorious past. In case the state government is serious in promoting what it describes as Kashmeeriat, it needs to evolve its own educational policy.

The article is an editorial from KO's archives and was originally published on November, 23, 2000

Unlikely Allies

India-Pakistan Ties Are Warming—but Don't Get Excited Just Yet

Derek Grossman

hen the historic floods inundating large parts of Pakistan prompted worldwide offers of assistance, they included a rare public outreach from Pakistan's arch-nemesis, India. In an exchange of tweets in late August, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote he hoped for "an early restoration of normalcy," and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif thanked Modi for his condolences, adding that Pakistan "shall, InshaAllah, overcome." The two governments were also reportedly in discussions for New Delhi to begin sending humanitarian relief. But in the end, the usual logjams appear to have prevailed. Islamabad has so far refused to accept the aid due to continued bilateral disputes over the status of Jammu and Kashmir. Following the tweets, Sharif described India's policies in the disputed region as "genocide" and lamented that "Kashmiris have been denied their rights.

The status of Jammu and Kashmir, awarded to India during Partition in 1947 and subsequently the object of multiple border wars and skirmishes between the two countries, has remained the one key stumbling block in improved India-Pakistan relations. In recent years, however, a quiet but determined warming trend has become apparent between New Delhi and Islamabad; the volley of well-wishing tweets after the disastrous floods is simply the thaw's latest evidence. That two nuclear-armed sworn enemies are getting along better is incredibly significant news—yet it has received little media attention in the West.

Remarkably, as late as February 2019, India and Pakistan were bracing for war. That month, a suicide terrorist attack in the Pulwama district on the Indian-administered side of Jammu and Kashmir left 40 Indian police officers dead. Pakistan condemned the attack, but the Pakistan-based terrorist group Jaishe-Mohammed claimed responsibility. In retaliation, a few days later, India carried out airstrikes in Balakot, Pakistan, against a Jaish-e-Mohammed facility. During the operation, Pakistani forces shot down one of India's fighter jets and captured the pilot. In a gesture of goodwill, Islamabad released the pilot a few days later, and tensions eased.

Ever since this harrowing episode, bilateral ties have been on the mend-even when faced with daunting new challenges. For example, in August 2019, Modi unilaterally revoked the special autonomy status of Indian-controlled Jammu and Kashmir, which had been enshrined under Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, and converted it into a union territory directly administrated by New Delhi. Such a move would normally have prompted a Pakistani response, but silence reigned across the border, perhaps in a bid to avoid reescalation. Then, starting in May 2020, Indian and Chinese troops engaged in the most violent clashes since 1967 along their disputed land border in the Himalayas. As a declared "iron brother" of China, Pakistan could have tried to exploit India's distraction on its eastern flank to wreak havoc on its western flank, but again it chose restraint.

New Delhi for the first time will allow Pakistani counterterrorism forces to train alongside the Indian military in India next month

By late February 2021, the Indian and Pakistani militaries released a rare joint statement renewing a cease-fire along their line of control separating Indian-controlled Jammu and Kashmir from Pakistani-controlled Kashmir. By all accounts, this cease-fire has overwhelmingly held up, save for one minor violation earlier this month.

This recent border incident aside, bilateral ties continue to show signs of durability and even progress. For instance, in March, the Indian military launched a missile into Pakistan, by all appearances an accident. Fortunately, there were no casualties, and Islamabad did not respond in kind. Last month, New Delhi fired the three officers involved, showing that it plans to be accountable for its actions.

Meanwhile, on the very sensitive issue of counterterrorism, New Delhi for the first time will allow Pakistani counterterrorism forces to train alongside the Indian military in India next month. Granted, the exercise will take place under the banner of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and include the bloc's other members: China, Russia, Iran, and several Central Asian states. But this represents a significant step toward building mutual trust.

Relatedly, earlier this month, Islamabad accepted the remains of a Pakistani-based terrorist who died in Indian custody—the first time it has done so in at least two decades. The terrorist was a member of Lashkar-e-Taiba, a group that prioritizes attacks against Indian targets, and he was reportedly directed by Pakistani intelligence to attack an Indian post in Jammu and Kashmir. By accepting his remains, Islamabad tacitly acknowledged culpability for the attack through one of its terrorist provies

Bilateral ties are also increasingly bullish on trade. In the last quarter alone, for instance, Indian imports from Pakistan were \$17.6 million, compared to \$340,000 for the same quarter last year. India, in turn, exported \$205 million worth in goods to Pakistan during the first quarter, up 72 percent from the same quarter last year. Although these numbers are small compared to most other bilateral trade volumes around the world, the point is that they are rising—and doing so in spite of strict mutual restrictions on trade access. For example, India taxes Pakistani goods at 200 percent. New Delhi also revoked Islamabad's "most favored nation" trading status following the Pulwama attack. In 2019, Pakistan banned Indian imports outright, but then allowed Indian pharmaceuticals and drugs to enter the country during the COVID-19 pandemic, which paved the way for additional access.

All of this bilateral progress raises the question:



Modi and his BJP government have also pursued an ultrarealist foreign policy, not only within India's neighborhood but globally as well, most recently by deftly navigating the fallout from Russia's invasion of Ukraine. India now has an unprecedently strong partnership with the United States, as well as countries throughout Europe, the Middle East, and the Indo-Pacific. China and Russia are simultaneously courting India. All this has put New Delhi at the crossroads of strategic competition and on the world stage for the first time

Are there some sort of back-channel negotiations ongoing between India and Pakistan? Both New Delhi and Islamabad have denied media reports that such a channel exists, but speculation persists. Either way, it is clear India-Pakistan ties are on a good trajectory after decades of antagonism. But why now?

One key factor for quietly improving relations is that India has lately been brimming with confidence. Modi and his Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have done quite well for India. Modi, elected in 2014 and reelected by a landslide in 2019, will preside over a projected 7.5 percent growth rate in GDP this year despite mounting global uncertainties. Modi and his BJP government have also pursued an ultrarealist foreign policy, not only within India's neighborhood but globally as well, most recently by deftly navigating the fallout from Russia's invasion of Ukraine. India now has an unprecedently strong partnership with the United States, as well as countries throughout Europe, the Middle East, and the Indo-Pacific. China and Russia are simultaneously courting India. All this has put New Delhi at the crossroads of strategic competition and on the world stage for the first time, as I've written

Such achievements have probably made engaging constructively with Pakistan less politically sensitive in New Delhi than in the past. In other words, Modi's and the BJP's detractors will be hard-pressed to credibly criticize them when things are going so well. And because the BJP is a Hindu nationalist party, the public overwhelmingly trusts the current government never to go soft on Pakistan—which gives Modi leeway his Indian National Congress party predecessors never had.

Another possibility is that New Delhi, through stepped-up engagement, may seek to persuade Islamabad to end or limit its support for terrorist proxies targeting India. This has become particularly crucial given Pakistan's long-standing support of the Taliban and the latter's reconquest of neighboring Afghanistan after last year's U.S. withdrawal. India worries that Afghanistan could once again become a safe haven and launching pad for future terrorist attacks against India. Productive working relations with Islamabad could complicate or disrupt terrorist activities and planning there.

While the warming trend in India-Pakistan ties is encouraging, it makes sense to keep a healthy check on expectations

On the Pakistani side, there are also good reasons to engage with India. For one thing, Pakistan has become highly dependent economically on China through Belt and Road Initiative investments, infrastructure projects, and trade. Many have argued that Pakistan is headed into a so-called debt trap with China. Thus, diversification to countries like India simply makes sense. Also, ever since the United States decided to suspend most security assistance to Pakistan under the Trump administration, the Pakistani military, which de facto runs the country, has been looking to get back into Washington's good graces as a counterbalance to Beijing. Given that India is an integral partner in the U.S. Indo-Pacific strategy, Pakistan probably figures that peace with its neighbor might convince Washington to reset ties.

It is important to consider the state of Pakistani politics, too. Until his ouster in April, Prime Minister Imran Khan, a recalcitrant populist, tried to fundamentally alter Pakistani policies. On foreign policy, he stressed the need for Islamabad to pursue an "independent foreign policy" by exploring new opportunities. Khan was the first Pakistani leader to visit Russia in over 20 years, deepening ties while taking an increasingly anti-American position. All the while, he was

moderating his India policy; at times, he even praised New Delhi, notwithstanding sharp criticism on Jammu and Kashmir. Significantly, Khan's approach on India reflected the views of his chief ally and patron, Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa, according to one of my Pakistani interlocutors.

However, after losing a no-confidence vote in parliament in April, Khan was forced to step down and make way for Sharif. One of the most pro-Indian politicians in Pakistan, Sharif began his tenure by stating, "We want peace with India." Still, the extent to which he will actually pursue this policy remains unclear.

While the warming trend in India-Pakistan ties is encouraging, it makes sense to keep a healthy check on expectations. Events could easily derail progress. A terrorist attack connected to Pakistan and Indian retaliation, for example, could make both countries reconsider their approaches. This is precisely what happened soon after the image of Modi hugging then-Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif went around the world in 2015 and instilled newfound hope the two nuclear-armed states might finally be getting along. Then the Pathankot and Uri terrorist attacks set bilateral ties back once again.

Additionally, any slight, real or perceived, could easily escalate to renewed tensions, especially if it suggests disrespect for either Hinduism or Islam. The United States, too, could inadvertently deepen divisions. For example, Washington's latest sale of an F-16 fighter aircraft upgrade package to Islamabad has irked New Delhi, which believes the United States is purposefully arming Pakistan to fight India.

But the most important caveat is that despite their thawing relationship, neither India nor Pakistan has fundamentally changed its threat perception of the other. For instance, Islamabad's first-ever National Security Policy, released in January, briefly mentions the importance of forging peace with India but focuses the vast majority of discussion on New Delhi's "hegemonic" goals and Indian oppression of Kashmiris. India has also been reluctant to seize the initiative and pursue peace, waiting instead for Pakistan to make the first move. Indeed, the last couple of weeks have featured dueling speeches by Indian and Pakistani leaders at both the SCO summit and United Nations General Assembly, suggesting the relationship will remain chilly for the foreseeable future.

There are, however, additional positive steps both sides could take to keep the increasingly friendly momentum going. One could be reappointing their respective high commissioners, the equivalent of ambassador among members of the British Commonwealth, which both countries still are. The last ones were sacked in August 2019 over Modi's decision on revoking constitutional autonomy for Jammu and Kashmir. Another might be to remove some of the many restrictions on bilateral trade and investment. Ultimately, it will take trust for India and Pakistan to normalize their relationship, especially around the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. Unfortunately, trust can only develop organically over time. There is simply no way to speed up that process—or even know what might derail it.

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 Foreign Policy

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The Prophet of Mercy from the 'All Merciful'

Dr Tauseef Ahmad Parray

"The Prophet carried a universal message; Loving, and learning to love: God, the Prophet, the creation, the

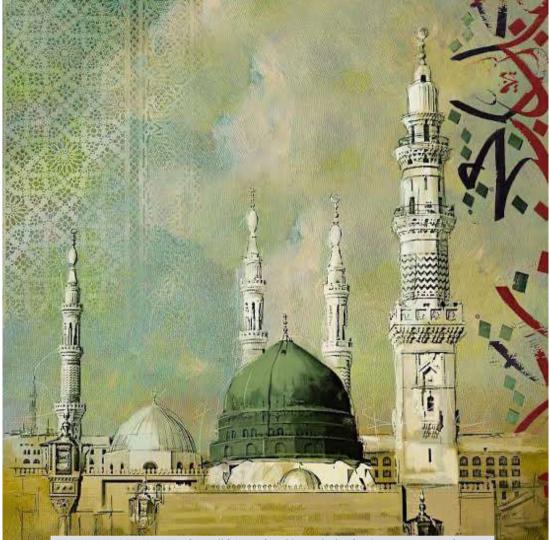
ne scholarship on Islam in general, and on different aspects of Qur'an and Prophet (pbuh) in particular, have continued for centuries, and, indeed, has seen an impressive growth in post-9/11 era. A plethora of literature has been produced on the life of the Last Prophet, Muhammad (pbuh), which is generally denoted by the Arabic term Seerah/Sirah—one of the most prominent genres in the Islamic literary tradition. A large number of biographies of the Prophet (pbuh) exist in all Islamic languages as well as in the European languages (especially English) in prose, poetry, and more recently even through films/ documentaries. In the West, interest has increased about the popular as well as scholarly Seerah works. Among the recent scholarship on this theme, a good number have been written by Western (Muslim and non-Muslims alike) scholars. In this backdrop, this write-up presents a summary of the views of some selected Muslim and non-Muslims scholars/ writers on the life of the Last Prophet (pbuh).

The Quran is the Last Divine Book of Allah, and Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is the person whose words and deeds are the first and most important commentary and explanation of the Quran. Every detail of his blessed life (Seerah) is thoroughly known to us. In Following Muhammad: Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World, Professor Carl W. Ernst writes: "While the Qur'an as divine revelation may be the most important resource of the Islamic tradition, we would not have it in its present form without the Prophet Muhammad [(pbuh) who has] ... served as an ongoing model for ethics, law, family life, politics, and spirituality in ways that were not anticipated 1,400 years ago".

The Prophet (pbuh) was a devoted husband, an affectionate father, and a sincere friend; a successful business man, a far-sighted reformer, a brave warrior; a skillful general, an efficient administrator, an impartial judge, a great statesman, and more. "In all these magnificent roles and in all these departments of human activities he is equally a hero", writes K. S. Ramakrishna Rao, in his 'Mohammed: The Prophet of Islam'. Tariq Ramadan in his 'In The Footsteps of the Prophet: Lessons from the Life of Muhammad', The Messenger, puts it as: "The Prophet [pbuh] came to humankind with a message of faith, ethics, and hope, in which the One reminds all people of His presence, His requirements, and the final Day of Return and Encounter".

The Prophet (pbuh) touched every aspect of human life and proved the greatest reformer the world has ever produced. He was a great savior, liberator, and protector of the 'oppressed' humanity. He removed all kinds of social inequalities; reconciled different creeds; bestowed security of life and property to all the people; united warring and opposing tribes; gave women their due status and place; and did much more. In the modern times, the Prophet (pbuh) is presented as a 'reformer' who considerably raised the social and ethical level of the Arabs of his time. Leo Tolstoy said: "Undoubtedly, Prophet Muhammad [pbuh] is one of the greatest reformers who rendered extensive service to the human community".

The Prophet (pbuh) was a great administrator as well. After the hijrah (migration) from Makkah to Medina in 622 CE, he presided over the Commonwealth of Islam for ten years (622-632 CE) which brought numerous transformations in the Arabs. Syed Ameer Ali, in his A Short History of the Saracens, writes: "During the ten years Mohammed [Muhammad (pbuh)] presided over the commonwealth of Islam, a great change had come over the character of the



FEATURE IMAGE CREDIT: Al-Masjid An-Nabawi is a painting by Corporate Art Task Force

The Prophet (pbuh) devoted all his life to the realization of his mission. A mission which every Prophet is bestowed with by Allah: To illuminate humanity's way; to guide people to the service of Allah; to teach people Allah's Laws; to be Role Models; to establish 'Balance'; and to be Allah's Witnesses. The Prophet's (pbuh) mission was also same: "To liberate man, to unite man, to educate man, in a word to humanize man"

Arab people". He further states: "The work done within that short period [of 10 years] will always remain as one of the most wonderful achievements recorded in history". On the same lines, Gerhard Bowering (in the 'Introduction' of his *Princeton Encyclopedia of Islamic Political Thought*) puts it as: "That one man could achieve so much in such a short time is astounding. … His message has stood the test of time for more than a thousand years, and his community has grown steadily over the centuries".

A savior and liberator of oppressed humanity, the Prophet (pbuh) transformed the Arabs, within a short span of twenty three (23) years, into a civilized and reli-

gious nation. Justice, equality, and truth were his motto; and modesty, kindness, patience and generosity pervaded his conduct. Hadrat Anas (RA), a well-known Companion, is reported to have said: "I served the Prophet (pbuh) for ten years, and he never said to me, 'Uf' (a minor harsh word denoting impatience)".

The Prophet (pbuh), as a leader and as political head of the City-State/ Commonwealth of Medina, never led the life of a king: he was a "King without kingly pretension". He had no arms, no standing army, no body guard, and no palace. Bosworth Smith, in his well-known book 'Mohammad and Mohammadanism', describes him in these words:

"if ever any man had the right to say that he ruled by the right divine, it was Mohammad [pbuh], for he had all the power without its instructions and without its supports".

The Prophet (pbuh) devoted all his life to the realization of his mission. A mission which every Prophet is bestowed with by Allah: To illuminate humanity's way; to guide people to the service of Allah; to teach people Allah's Laws; to be Role Models; to establish 'Balance'; and to be Allah's Witnesses. The Prophet's (pbuh) mission was also same: "To liberate man, to unite man, to educate man, in a word to humanize man".

The Qur'an describes his character as an exemplary role model/ "Uswah-e-Hasanah" (Q. 33: 21). Professor Tamara Sonn, in her 'Islam: A Brief History', admits that Prophet's life is "a model for humanity of how to live every moment, and make every choice, in accordance with God's will." Together with the Quran, his example (Sunnah) comprises the guidance and direction "Muslims need in their collective responsibility to establish justice". Hadrat Ayesha (RA) was questioned about Prophet's personality and she replied: "His character [the ethics underlying his behavior] was the Qur'an". Truly a "Living Quran"! Prof. John L. Esposito in his The Future of Islam, writes: "Muhammad [pbuh] is one of the great figures of world history. Few have had more of a global religious and political impact.... In his lifetime, throughout Muslim history, and today, the Prophet Muhammad [pbuh] is seen as the 'living Quran', the embodiment of God's will in his behavior and words".

The Prophet (pbuh) has been described by the Quran with many titles; some of them are: "the best of the creation" (Q. 33: 21); "a mercy to the worlds" (Q. 21: 107); "the seal of all Prophets" (Q. 33: 40); etc. Moreover, the Quran shows respect for him in these words: "Verily, God and His angels bless the Prophet: [hence,] O you who have attained to faith, bless him and give yourselves up [to his guidance] in utter self-surrender!" (Q. 33: 56). All this brings us to the point that while God and the Quran have a higher status, it is Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) who, par excellence, is the "human face of Islam". In the words of Abdul Hamid Sidiggi (the translator of Sahih Muslim), it is in the Prophet's (pbuh) "august personality that we can know the Will of the Lord, His love for humanity, and his view, how man should live in this world" and "it is through him that we have learnt the true concept of God, the real implication of Tauhid [monotheism], the role of man, his accountability in the Hereafter—in fact the whole of the religion".

All those who study Prophet's life, irrespective of their personal religious belief or ideology, can derive teachings from this, as Dr. Annie Besant (in her book, 'The Life and Teachings of Muhammad') puts it beautifully: "It is impossible for anyone who studies the life and character of the great Prophet of Arabia ... to feel anything but reverence for that mighty Prophet".

It is apt to conclude with these two statements summarizing the mission and message of the Prophet beautifully. Syed Ameer Ali in his *The Spirit of Islam* writes: "Fourteen centuries have passed since he [Prophet (pbuh)] delivered his message, but time has made no difference in the devotion he inspired, and today as then the Faithful have in their hearts and on their lips those memorable words: 'May my life by thy sacrifice, O Prophet of God'." Tariq Ramadan in his *The Messenger* writes: "The Prophet carried a universal message. ... The Messenger may have left the human world, but he has taught us never to forget Him, the Supreme Refuge, the Witness, the Most Near. ... Loving, and learning to love: God, the Prophet, the creation, the humankind."

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Indulge in Milad Spirit

KO Web Desk

Here are some things that you can do to get closer to the essence of the Prophet (pbuh) to commemorate the days of Milad. What better way but to remember him through accounts of his life and through a recollection of his praise over generations!

BOOKS TO READ:

THE SEALED NECTAR BY SAFIUR RAHMAN AL MUBARAKPURI

One of the most read books on the life of Prophet (pbuh). This is the book you'd encounter the most in a bookstore for Prophet's (pbuh) biography. Written by Sheikh Safi-ur-Rahman al-Mubarkpuri, it was awarded the first prize by the World Muslim League. It is a great book to start learning about the life of Muhammad (pbuh) in a holistic manner.

MUHAMMAD: HIS LIFE BASED ON THE EARLIEST SOURCES BY MARTIN LINGS

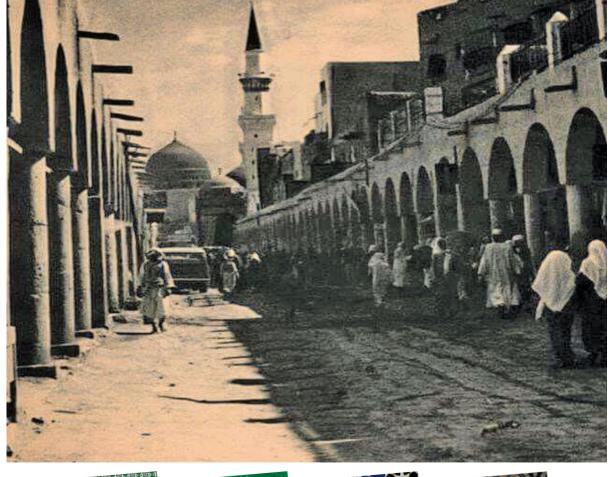
Preferred by many, Martin Lings' biography of Muhammad is a trust-worthy and detailed book on the life of Prophet (pbuh). It is internationally acclaimed for the depth and veracity of its contents. Based on the sira, the eighth- and ninth-century Arabic biographies that recount numerous events in the prophet's life, it contains original English translations of many important passages which revealed the presence and impact of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) through the world and the people he encountered.

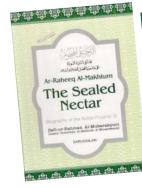
MUHAMMAD BY MAXIME RODISON

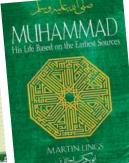
Maxime Rodinson's Muhammad is considered a classic in the scholarship on the life of prophet (pbuh). From appearance, personality, background and society — it speaks vividly about the history of how Islam spread and Muhammad's (pbuh) life.

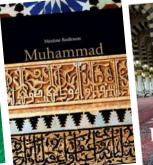
ENWRAP BY ZIRRAR

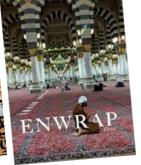
A collection of poetry and prose, this book, "brings together conversations, reflections and supplications











from man to his Creator and to his

beloved Prophet Muhammad".

Beautifully crafted, its verses create an immersive bliss for the readers as they encounter their own love for the most beloved (pbuh). This effect can be summed up in the author's note which goes thus:

"One thousand three hundred and eighty-seven years have passed since our beloved Prophet (pbuh) left us. Enwrap is the unfolding of our mantle. Enwrap is a request to our Mustafa to pull us in, to cloak and envelop us. Enwrap is an attempt to reflect our place on this caravan, Enwrap asks for hands to be clasped in supplication as the burden has become too weighty. For who is better to ask for intercession than our Mustafa, our al-Shafi (intercessor)?"

YOUTUBE SERIES TO WATCH: MEETING MUHAMAD BY YAQEEN INSTITUTE

A 33 episode series on all things about the Prophet (pbuh). From "his appearance", to "attending his Khutbah", "praying behind him", "sitting in his circles", "with him in the trenches", "his blessed demeanor" – This series covers it all. It is extremely detailed and makes one feel as though one were transported into the times when the Prophet (pbuh) lived.

SEERAH- BIOGRAPHY OF PROPHET (PBUH) BY YASIR QADHI

A very detailed series on the life of the Prophet (pbuh) which is easy to understand and detailed at the same time.

THE LIFE OF PROPHET BY HAMZA YUSUF

This is yet another detailed series on the life of Prophet (pbuh). Its 40 parts are detailed accounts which cover a wide array of aspects allowing one to get acquainted to the details of the life of Muhammad (pbuh).

SHUFFLE PLAY:

SHUFFLE PLAY: Tala'Al Badru Alayna

Tala'Al Badru Alayna is a nasheed which was reportedly sung by the Ansars upon the arrival of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) at Medina.

It goes thus: The full moon rose over us From the valley of Wada'

And it is incumbent upon us to

show gratitude For as long as anyone in existence

calls out to Allah Oh our Messenger amongst us

Who comes with the exhortations to be heeded

You have brought to this city nobility Welcome you who call us to a

good way

QASIDA BURDA

One of the most popular ode to Muhammad (pbuh) especially in South Asia. Qasīdat al-Burda, or al-Burda for short, is a thirteenth-century ode of praise for the Islamic prophet Muhammad composed by the eminent Sufi mystic Imam al-Busiri of Egypt.

You may recognise it by the lines: Mawla Ya Salli Wa Sallim Daa'iman,

'Ala Habeebika Khaiyril Khalqi Kullihimi.

Muhammadun Sayyidul Kawnayni Wath-Thaqalayn

Wali Fareeqayni Min 'Urbiw-Wa Min 'Ajami

FASLON KO TAKALUF

Yet another classic in South Asia, this naat is a household tune. It was written by Professor Iqbal Azeem. Interesting trivia: It seems that Iqbal Azeem had written "Qaflon" instead of "Faslon" and this oversight got a permanent living out of reciter Qari Waheed Zafar Qasmi's rendition of the naat.

Here are the iconic verses:

'Faaslon Ko Takalluf hay hum se agar, hum bhi bebas nahin bay-sahara nahin'

If distance despises us, mind you that we are not powerless and helpless



Qatar Gambles On Soccer World Cup Netting It Wealth And Glory

Soft power for Qatar ... is about security and defense as much as it is about anything else. Qatar is a country of about 2.3 million citizens – it doesn't matter how many tanks or warplanes it buys, or how sophisticated the weaponry it acquires – it simply doesn't have the bodies or wherewithal to defend itself in a conventional war

David Rosenberg | Haaretz

he 2022 World Cup in the Gulf emirate of Qatar kicks off in less than seven weeks with a match between the host country and Ecuador. Thirty-two soccer teams will be competing in front of what the Qataris say will be more than a million spectators. An estimated 5 billion others will be watching via television and streaming services. The games will be held in a state-of-the art stadium, with visitors being whizzed around in a shining new metro.

Qatar's leader, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, says the event will give the tiny but incredibly wealthy country a unique opportunity to showcase itself to the world and boost its efforts to attract investment and tourism and build itself into a world sports center. "Everyone, no matter who they are, no matter what their origin or culture, is welcome. We want these visitors to learn about the differences between cultures, to discover the culture of Qatar, and we hope they will want to come back," Sheikh Tamim said in an interview last month.

Not everyone is convinced. Critics say the World Cup is a multibillion boondoggle that will never earn a return on the money invested in it. Qatar's bid and the human rights violations involved in constructing the facilities have already saddled the country with bad publicity; the month-long games themselves risk creating even more image headaches.

"The empirical record does not suggest that these things help economically or otherwise," says Andrew S. Zimbalist, the Robert A. Woods professor of economics at Smith College in Massachusetts and the author of the 2015 book "Circus Maximus: The Economic Gamble Behind Hosting the Olympics and the World Cup."

"There are a couple of exceptions historically when all the stars align properly and you can have a break-even situation – even considerably a slightly positive outcome," he says. "What happens is that you get cities and/or countries around the world competing against each other to host events and the way they win the right to host the events is by spending more than anybody else and building things that they don't need that cost billions of dollars."

ions of dollars." In the case of Qatar, there are no official figures, but the one that has been reported leaves previous World Cup budgets in the dust. Brazil invested some \$15 billion to host the 2014 games and Russia \$11.6 billion four years later. But Qatar is spending by many estimates \$200 billion or more.

Only a fraction of that – no more than \$10 billion – is going into construction of eight state-of-the-art stadiums that include coolant machines to enable players and fans to cope with temperatures that even in late autumn can reach 30 degrees centigrade (86 degrees Fahrenheit). The rest is going to new hotels, a metro, airport expansion, a planned city called Lusail where foreigners can buy property and the like. It's money that Qatari officials said they would have invested anyhow in economic development.

Qataris say the goal of all this spending isn't just to develop infrastructure to serve the games, but to accommodate a swell of tourists they expect will begin visiting the emirate in the wake of the World Cup. No less, officials expect the publicity will attract foreign investment and help turn the country into a major international sports venue, not only for traditional athletic events but esports. Officials even foresee Qatar evolving into a major center for sports medicine.

White elephant projects

Qatar has no shortage of cash to lavish on projects like these. Last year, it was the world's second-largest exporter of liquefied natural gas, generating revenues of nearly \$74 billion for a country of just 330,000 citizens (and 2.3 million expats). This year, revenues have soared as the war in Ukraine raised natural gas prices.

But Zimbalist says that even if that is the case, inevitably large parts of World Cup spending ends up in white elephant projects that wouldn't have been developed without the event or would have been given much lower priority. Every country that hosts big sports events promises side benefits that almost never materialize.

That includes foreign investment. Figures compiled by GlobalData FDI Projects showed that inward investment grew in South Africa, Brazil and Russia in the years before they each hosted the FIFA World Cup, but in the years that followed investment declined.

Zimbalist isn't surprised by the figures: Multinational companies make investment decisions based on factors like access to markets and inputs and local labor costs and skills, not because the CEO had a good time watching the World Cup, he says.

In fact, many of the short-term benefits of hosting the games are going to be lost to Qatar's neighbors. Desperately short of hotel rooms, Qatar has hired cruise ships to house guests and built temporary "fan villages" in the desert. Hotels are being built to open just days and weeks before the event.

But most of the country's estimated 50,000 rooms will be taken up by teams, FIFA officials and sponsor delegations, leaving little room for the one million-plus fans expected to attend the matches over the course of the month. Between the shortage of accommodation, lack of nightlife and entertainment in Doha, and restrictions of alcohol, many World Cup fans are expected to stay in nearby Dubai, or even Saudi Arabia and come by plane or bus for the games they have tickets for. That will mean less money is spent on Qatari hotels, restaurants and souvenir stores.

But James Dorsey, senior fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University and a long-term observer of the Arab world sports scene, says that any economic gains Qatar might get from the World Cup are less important than the soft power benefits.

Soft power strategy The emirate h

The emirate has long sought to punch above its weight by positioning itself as a key player in international diplomacy, for instance, mediating between the United States and the Taliban and between Israel and Hamas. Its Al Jazeera news network gives Qatar a voice throughout the Arab world and its high-profile foreign investments, such as London's famed Harrods department store and Paris Saint-Germain Football Club, have raised its profile in Europe.

Dorsey says sports is part and parcel of Qatar's soft power strategy. "Countries' images are in part shaped by how they perform in sports," says Dorsey, the author of the 2016 book "The Turbulent World of Middle East Soccer." In Qatar's case, however, the stakes are much higher than international branding, he notes. Sandwiched between two, often hostile powers – Iran and Saudi Arabia – Qatar needs to have global popular opinion on its side.

Here Are 7 Reasons Why You Should Think Twice Before Eating Frozen Food

Nikita Bhardwaj | Health Shots Community

e all love those bite sized frozen treats, because let's face it, they are quick to prep and are absolutely delicious. But we are forgetting one thing that depending too much on frozen food can be dangerous for our body.

Enjoying a non-seasonal delicacy is fine once in a while, but being addicted to frozen meat, fruits, veggies or other gourmet products is not a wise choice. The biggest reason being – most of them are not seasonal, and the nutritional quality is really very low.

But apart from this, there are seven huge problems that come with eating frozen food. Here they are:

1. Risk of diabetes

Starch is used to keep the frozen food items fresh. This starch helps in adding taste and texture to the food. The starch gets converted into sugar, before digestion takes place. Any rise in sugar levels can put you at a risk of diabetes.

2. Risk of heart disease

"Packaged or frozen food items contain trans fats that increase the risk of getting heart disease, and are also linked to clogged arteries. This fat increases bad cholesterol (LDL) in the body and lowers the good cholesterol (HDL). All this contributes to heart illness. Sodium is also high in such food items, which can also raise cholesterol levels in the body," reveals celebrity nutritionist Manisha Chopra.

3. Weight gain or obesity Frozen food items are extreme

frozen food doesn't have. These foods may not even look good, in comparison to fresh food. The crunch and taste of fresh food cannot be matched by frozen foods.

6. Risk of pancreatic cancer

"Research shows that eating frozen food can lead to pancreatic cancer. Frozen sausages, salamis or other items can increase the risk of contracting cancer. This is usually because of the preservatives used in these frozen food items. Corn syrup, present in frozen food, also exhibits carcinogenic tendencies," reveals Ms Chopra.

7. Elevates blood pressure

According to studies, frozen foods can elevate the blood pressure, as they contain a high amount of sodium. Consuming too much sodium also increases the risk of other medical conditions like stroke and heart diseases.

Ms Chopra reveals the shelflife of frozen food

Food cannot live forever. Every food has a shelf life, just that frozen varieties stay on longer than fresh food. The shelf life of some frozen foods is mentioned below:

Vegetables – 3 to 4 months

- Fruits 4 to 5 monthsFish about 4 months
- · Meat 4 to 6 months
- $\begin{array}{cc} \cdot & Ready\ Made\ food-3\ to\ 4\\ months \end{array}$

· Dairy products – 2 to 3 months

"Always read and follow the instructions mentioned on the frozen food package. While microwaving, remember to cover the food with a plate in order to produce



ly high in fat. The ratio of fats to carbs and proteins in these foods is almost double, which is why they are loaded with calories.

4. Negligible nutritional value

Freezing food for a long time may kill some important vitamins and minerals present in the items. Hence, frozen foods are not as nutritious as fresh foods.

5. Doesn't taste as good as fresh food Fresh food obviously has a great aroma and taste, which the moist heat, which helps in killing harmful bacteria. Keep stirring, rotating and turning the food while cooking, so that no cold spots are left," suggests Ms Chopra.

The last word

People with pre-existing health conditions like diabetes, heart problems, cancer, etc. should avoid eating frozen foods. Also, if one has a family history of such diseases, he/she should be extra careful about the quantity and frequency of eating frozen food items.

Google Reveals Pixel Tablet, To Arrive In Early 2023

ANS

ech giant Google has revealed its first Pixel Tablet that is scheduled to arrive in early 2023. Pixel Tablet comes with 'Material You' that helps to personalise it with a customised

colour palette and new colour variants based on the wallpaper and lock screen, the company said in a blog post.

Pixel Tablet is equipped with the power of Tensor G2 chip that helps in advance image processing and machine learning.

The new device will come with smooth and rounded corners.

Features like videocalling, photo-editing, and hands-free help with Google Assistant, will work smoothly on the new tablet.

The new device can be paired with a new Charging Speaker Dock to make the device more helpful.

"The dock keeps your device charged, makes your tablet helpful 24/7, and unlocks a whole new set of experiences in the home," said Google.

The speaker will have an enhanced audio. It offers hands-free help from the Assistant when the tablet is docked.

The tablet also offers an easy control on smart home devices,



home," it added

the company said.

"With Pixel Tablet, we're taking everything we've learned from years of making Pixel and products for the home and combining it into one great device. It reimagines how a tablet can actually be helpful all the time in your

JKEDI's 10 Day EDP Under **Tejaswini Scheme Concludes**



Observer News Service

preneurship Development Programme (EDP) under Mission Youth's Tejaswini (The Radiant) livelihood scheme concluded today at the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) campus here.

The EDP was organized by the JKEDI for the aspiring female entrepreneurs of district Pulwama. During the 10- Day EDP, the candidates were apprised about basic business concepts marketing plans, accounts management, and many other topics of relevance.

The program was coordinated by JKEDI District Centre, Pulimparted by a team of trainers Faculty and Aayatullah Bashir, Associate Project Manager. Officials from the I&K Bank, District Employment and Counselling Centre, Pulwama, District Industries Centre, Pulwama, Animal Husbandry Department, Pulwama, Labour Department, Pul-

invited as guest faculty to brief the participant trainees about **PAMPORE:** The 10-Day Entre- different facets of the livelihood generation scheme

Speaking during the valedictory session of the EDP, Incharge Trainings (K), JKEDI, Dr. M,D Bhat said that unemployment is a serious issue and entrepreneurship is the only solution to this problem. He congratulated the aspiring female entrepreneurs for taking timely and life changing decision by choosing entrepreneurship as their career choice.

In his address, District Nodal like business plan formulation, Officer, IKEDI, Pulwama. Ansarullah Machloo, highlighted the scope of entrepreneurship and its contribution in the economic development of J&K.

Assistant Director, District wama while the training was Employment and Counseling Centre, Pulwama, Hafsa Qayincluding Saba Nazir, Assistant oom, on the occasion distributed training certificates to the

participants. Sharing their experiences at the valediction ceremony, the trained female entrepreneurs said that the training programme has given them a great deal of confidence to start their wama, among others were also entrepreneurial journey.

We Are Facing '5th Wave' Of Debt Crisis Globally: **World Bank Chief**

WASHINGTON: The world is facing a "fifth wave of debt crisis," World Bank President David Malpass warned Friday, calling for more support for countries in distress.

The pandemic forced many countries to take on more borrowing, and the World Bank and International Monetary Fund have warned that many are already facing or at risk of debt distress amid soaring global inflation and rising interest rates.

"I'm worried about the debt levels, worried about the individual countries," Malpass told

'In 2022 alone, around \$44 billion in debt service payments from bilateral and private debt service have become due" in some of the poorest countries, bigger than the foreign aid flows the countries could hope for, he said.

of what I think is the fifth wave to ripple around the globe and of the debt crisis.'

Speaking days before policymakers gather in Washington for the annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank, Malpass called for "radically more transborrowers on the debt levels.



He has long called for China, a major creditor to low-income nations, to be more open about lending and more active in efcess that has struggled to gain

His comments come at a difficult time for the world economy, which is grappling with surging inflation and ris-"Right now we're in the midst ing interest rates that threaten derail nascent recoveries.

Some observers have warned that aggressive interest rate hikes by major economies could trigger a global recession, but policymakers say allowing high parency" from creditors and inflation to take hold would be

"It's very important, as we face these financial crises around the developing world, that we recognize the supreme forts to restructure debt, a pro- importance of the advanced economies in terms of restoring growth and moving towards a faster growth environment," Malpass said.

Developing countries also need more capital flows, and although the World Bank is expanding help for countries, it is simply not enough," he said.

According to the World Bank, there have been four waves of debt accumulation in the global economy since 1970, and have generally sparked financial crises in many emerging and developing economies. (AFP)

India Will Buy Oil From Wherever It Has To: Puri

Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON: India, world's third biggest oil importer and consumer, will continue to buy oil from any country that it has to, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said asserting that no country has told New Delhi to stop buying oil from Russia.

India, which has not publicly condemned Moscow for its 'spehas become Russia's No.2 oil buyers stopped trading with that country and its oil prices

Puri, who is here for talks with the US authorities on clean energy, said the government has a moral duty to provide energy at affordable rates to consumers.

"India will buy oil from wherever it has to for the simple reason that this kind of a discussion cannot be taken to the consuming population of India," he told "Have I been told by anyone to USD 20 a barrel cheaper. stop buying Russian oil? The answer is a categorical 'no'."

He also expressed confidence that India would be able to grounds that it has to source oil mitigate a two million barrels per day cut in production by oil producers' cartel OPEC and its allies, known as OPEC+.

"If you are clear about your policy, which means you believe in energy security and energy affordability, you will buy from wherever you have to purchase energy from sources," Puri said after his bilateral meeting with the US Energy Secretary Jennifer



With imports meeting 85 per cent of its oil needs, India has cial military action' in Ukraine, been diversifying its sources of oil purchases. Its refiners buyer after China as Western snapped up discounted Russian oil that was shunned by some Western buyers over Moscow's Ukraine invasion in February.

From making up for just 0.2 per cent of all the oil imported, Russia now is India's second biggest oil supplier after Iraq, accounting for about 18 per cent of all oil bought.

At one point Russian Urals crude was more than USD 30 a barrel cheaper than Brent crude (the global benchmark). By the a group of Indian reporters here. end of September, it was around

Indian government, which has been defending its purchases from Russia on from where it is cheapest, has so far not shown any inclination to join a plan by the G7 group of nations led by the US to cap the price of oil purchased from Russia as a means of limiting Moscow's revenue.

On the production cut by OPEC+ which has reversed the downward trend in international oil prices, Puri said it was the sovereign right of the producers to decide on the output.

VC KVIB J&K Submits Rs 180.41 Lakh Cheque To LG to Be Refunded To KVIC, GOI



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Dr Hina Shafi Bhat, Vice Chairperson, J&K Khadi Village and Industries Board (KVIB) Saturday submitted a cheque of Rs 180.41 lakh to be refunded to Khadi Village and Industry Commis- Industries Commission, Ministry sion (KVIC) to Lieutenant Governor of MSME, GoI, which borrows Manoj Sinha, at the Raj Bhavan.

nor appreciated the endeavours the Boards on bankable interest of the J&K KVIB in providing rates enabling them to carry fortraining, technology and infra- ward the schemes approved by structure support required for growth of Handicraft and local manufacturing units in the Union Territory. He also lauded the efforts of artisans, new entrepreneurs for strengthening village industries to ensure all-round development and self-sustainability of Jammu Kashmir.

"KVIB has harmoniously blended modern technology & business practices with tradition and making immense contribution in wealth and job creation. Handicraft clusters, manufacturing and service units at the village level the growth and earnings of arti- philosophy and principles.

sans," the Lt Governor said. J&K Khadi and Village Industries Board is among the leading Boards in the country which have cleared pending liabilities with the KVIC. The amount will be refunded to Khadi & Village funds from the consortium of On the occasion, the Lt Gover- banks and in turn releases it to

> J&K Khadi & Village Industries Board had borrowed Rs 734.63 lakh from the Commission under Consortium Bank Credit (CBC) in order to finance the Khadi institutions and rural artisans in the UT. The board had already refunded Rs 671.39 lakh and the latest refund of Rs 180.41 lakh will liquidate the whole liability of J&K KVIB on account of CBC funding, including the accrued interest.

the commission.

Pertinently, the J&K KVIB is observing a fortnightly long programme under the theme 'Ganwill significantly contribute to dhi Katha' to promote Gandian

Retail Job Searches Decline 11.8%: Report

Press Trust Of India

decline of 11.80 per cent in sales associate level roles Indians searching for retail jobs from August 2021 to Au- per cent, followed by store with last year given the gust this year, according to a

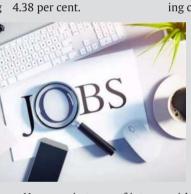
jobs has seen a fall during the pandemic and beyond as jobs in retail sector have seen a 5.50 per cent degrowth in the past three years (August 2019 - August 2022), global job site Indeed said in the re-

Although retail job searches saw an uptick August 2020 - August 2021, it again de-grew by 11.80 per cent from August 2021 to August this year, the report said.

purchase online during festivities, it noted.

The report is based on an platform from August 2019 till August 2022.

'branch manager' have the year, that's not to say a subhighest number of job post- stantial number of jobs have MUMBAI: There has been a ings (22.9 per cent) whereas not been created. Over 39.6 were slightly less at 10.07 manager at 9.52 per cent, logistics associate at 4.58 per Indians searching for retail cent and merchandiser at the cautious nature of hir-



However, in terms of inter- with 5.5 per cent of all delivest from jobseekers, opera- ery jobs in the country being tional roles like store man- generated in this city. This could largely be due ager (15 per cent), retail sales This is followed by Chento the lockdowns last year associate (14.4 per cent), canai (4.92 per cent), Mumbai and the work from home set shier (11 per cent), branch (4.16 per cent), Kolkata (3.75 up where people chose to manager (9.49 per cent) and logistics associate (9.08 per cent) have more demand.

"The festive months in In- mand from analysis of data from Indeed dia are usually a time where Chennai ranks first with we see an increase in season- 6.29 per cent of jobseekers al jobs to meet the increasing searching for delivery jobs, The report further re- demand. Even though the followed by Hyderabad (5.23 vealed that in the retail sec- percentage increase of jobs per cent) and Kolkata (4.85 tor, managerial roles like hasn't been on par with last per cent), it added.

per cent new jobs have been.

"We see the discrepancy global recessions happening, possible inflation, and ing currently," Indeed India's Head of Sales Sashi Kumar said.

> According to the report, Bengaluru holds the largest share of jobs in retail sector nationally at 12.26 per cent. It is followed by Mumbai at 8.2 per cent and Chennai at 6.02 per cent.

The report further said delivery jobs have seen the highest demand in Bengaluru,

This is followed by Chenper cent) and Hyderabad (3.27 per cent).

However in terms of dejobseekers.

CNG, Piped Cooking Gas Prices Hiked By Rs 3

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The prices of CNG and cooking gas piped to household kitchens in the national capital on Saturday hiked by Rs 3 each in step with rise in input natural gas prices.

The Rs 3 per kg increase in CNG price is the first hike in rates in over four months, while a Rs 3 per standard cubic metres increase in piped natural gas (PNG) was the first raise in two months.

CNG in the national capital territory of Delhi now costs Rs 78.61 per kg, up from Rs 75.61 the firm which retails CNG and Ajmer in Rajasthan. piped cooking gas in the national capital and adjoining cities.

This is the 14th increase in price since March 7. Rates were USD 8.57 per million British last increased by Rs 2 per kg on thermal unit from October 1. May 21. In all, the CNG price has 35.21 per kg or 80 per cent, according to data compiled by PTI.

gas piped to household kitchens, manufacture fertilizer. called piped natural gas (PNG), was increased to Rs 53.59 per stan-50.59 per scm, according to IGL.

rates since August 2021. In all and a Rs 4 per scm increase in prices have gone up by Rs 29.93

per scm, or almost 91 per cent. IGL said rates of CNG and PNG have also been increased in Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad per kg, according to the infor- and Gurugram as well as other mation posted on the website cities where it operates such of Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL) -- as Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh and

government raising natural gas prices by 40 per cent to a record

Natural gas, which is extractrisen by Rs 22.60 per kg during ed from below earth's surface, is this period. Since April 2021, converted to compressed natu-CNG prices have increased by Rs ral gas (CNG) for running automobiles and piped to household kitchens for cooking. It is also Simultaneously, the rates of used to generate electricity and

Mahanagar Gas Ltd (MGL) the city gas operator in Mumbai dard cubic metre in Delhi from Rs and adjoining areas - earlier this week announced a Rs 6 per kg It is the 10th increase in PNG hike in CNG price to Rs 86 per kg PNG price to Rs 52.50 per scm.

SHORT TAKES

ED Arrests One Person For Rs 99 Cr Bank Fraud Case

NEW DELHI: The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) said on Saturday it has arrested one person in connection with the Bank Fraud Case involving Rs 99.74 crore by Deluxe Cold Storage & Food Processors Ltd.

The person named Gian Chand was arrested on October 6 and produced before the Special Court. The court has remanded him to ED custody till 17th October 2022.

ED initiated a money laundering investigation on the basis of an FIR dated 06.03.2020 registered by Central Bureau of Investigation, EO-I, Delhi against M/s Deluxe Cold Storage and Food processors Ltd, its Directors Amar Chand Gupta & others on the basis of allegations that directors of M/s Deluxe Cold Storage and Food Processors Ltd, in conspiracy with each other and other individuals indulged in the misappropriation of bank funds, criminal breach of trust, manipulation of books of accounts through fictitious entities and sister concerns of M/s Deluxe Cold Storage and Food processors Ltd and have routed funds through shell entities and siphoned off the funds from company's accounts for their personal gains causing loss to the tune of Rs 99.74 Crore to the Public Sector Banks during 2015 to 2017.

Animal Husbandry B'pora Launches Sexed Semen **Technology**

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA- The Animal Husbandry Officer (CHO) Bandipora, Dr Lone Saturday launched Sexed Semen Technology at Veterinary Complex Bandipora in presence of

BVO Bandipora, Dr M Ramzan Chopan; OI ABS, Dr Khalid Hamid; VAS Quil, Dr Khursheed and trained para veterinarians.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr A Lone said that the introduction of SEXED SEMEN Technology is a wonderful milestone in the progress of Dairy Sector in the district. With the aid of SEXED SEMEN Technology, the chances of Birth of female calf is close to 100% and this will help to increase the female stock and accordingly increase the milk pool of the district.

He said that proper training and guidance is provided to the field staff and are already familiar with the introduction of the new technology. Department will provide every possible support to the farmers for enhancing the milk productivity and high quality live stock in the district he said.

'Demand For Due **Diligence Of Properties** Rising'

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: With nearly USD 50 billion investment in real estate since 2012, property consultant Colliers India said the demand for technical due diligence of realty projects has increased as developers and investors look to safeguard their interests

In its latest report 'Technical Due Diligence: Risk-proofing Realty', the consultant noted that the cost of conducting due diligence of a property is generally less than 0.3 per cent of the project cost, but the benefits are immense as it can save the stakeholder from substantial loss of money, time and legal hassles.

"As developers and investors venture into new geographies and asset classes, there is an increased demand for investigations into a real estate project across facets. Understanding associated risks and potential upsides of any prospective project has become pivotal to all stakeholders," the report said.

Investors, developers and occupiers of real estates space are looking for diligent investigation of properties, also known as technical due diligence in real estate parlance.

EPFO Holding Pension Adalat On October 10

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), Regional Office -Jammu is organising outreach programmes "Nidhi Aapke Nikat" and "Pension Adalat" on 10th October 2022 in its office premises from 12.00 PM onwards..

Rizwan Uddin, Regional PF Commissioner-I will personally hear the grievances/ issues of all stakeholders. Nidhi Aapke Nikat is a public outreach programme that endeavours to address the problems/grievance of all stakeholders i.e., employees and employers by bringing them on a common platform and to increase awareness and sensitize them about the new initiatives undertaken in their interest by the organisation (EPFO).

Pension Adalat provides a platform to existing and prospective pensioners for closer interaction with EPFO officers for understanding the provisions of EPS 1995 and getting resolution of their pension related grievances such as non-receipt of pension, Digital life certificates etc.

All the stakeholders are invited to attend the above programme for quick disposal of their grievances and/or to register any problems faced by them related to

Extension Lecturer On Online Financial Frauds Held

Observer News Service

UDHAMPUR- The Cyber Jagrukta Club of Govt College for Women, Udhampur organised an Extension Lecture on "Online Financial Frauds" under the supervision of Prof. Jugal Kishore, Convenor, Cyber Jagrukta Club.

Prof. (Dr.) Monika Sharma, Principal of the college, was the chief guest on the occasion.

The proceedings of the programme were initiated by Dr. Arun Gupta. He welcomed the Chief Guest and introduced the audience to the today's Resource Person, Prof. Jugal Kishore, Assistant Professor in Mathematics.

Prof. (Dr.) Monika Sharma, the principal of the college inaugurated the event in the presence of other faculty members. Addressing the audience, Prof. (Dr.) Monika Sharma, encouraged the students to participate in the awareness lectures regarding Cyber Security and related domains as it is of utmost importance to stay updated in the present digital age. She also appreciated and motivated the organisers of Cyber Jagrukta Club to conduct such activities on regular intervals to create awareness among the students regarding the Modus Oprandi employed in the execution of online financial frauds.



Milad Immerses Kashmir Valley In Religious Fervour

Observer News Service

al Bazar, Pinjura Shopian, Khiram Sirhama Anantnag, **√**Seer Hamdan, Kaba Marg Qaimoh, Ahmshrief Bandipora and Ziyarat Hazrat Janbaz Wali Baramulla.

A festive look prevailed in Srinagar for the past several days as many markets and thoroughfares were decorated and illuminated with florescent lights while religious flags and buntings were hoisted atop many buildings and vehicles to celebrate the birth day of the prophet.

Thousands of devotees

flocked to Hazratbal shrine on the eve of Milad.

Devotees converged at the shrine that houses the holy relic of the holy Prophet for Shab Khwani or night long prayers.

People offered prayers and recited Durud (praises of the Prophet) at the shrine for atonement of their sins. People could be seen engrossed in prayers while seeking refuge in Almighty Allah's greatness.

Similar religious congregations were held across the length and breadth of the Kashmir Valley. Reports of Milad functions have come from major Khanqah's and shrines including Khanqah-e-Maula, Asar Sharief Lal Bazar, Jenab Saheb Soura, Kalashpora, Syed Sahib-Sonwar, Shopian, Makhama-Beerwah and other places located across the Kashmir Valley.

In South Kashmir, thousands of people offer prayers at Masjids and Shrines mainly at Jamia Masjid Reshi Sahab, Khiram Sirhama, Kaba Marg, Dooru and Seer Hamdan while in north Kashmir Milad procession will be taken out at various places.

Special arrangements were put in place by Traffic Police for smooth movement of people to and from the shrine.

Enforcement Agencies Must Destroy All Channels Of Drug Trafficking: Amit Shah

Press Trust of India

Guwahati: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday asserted that seizing narcotics alone cannot make the country drug-free and enforcement agencies must aim at destroying all channels between traffickers and final consumers.

Addressing the regional meeting on 'Drug Trafficking and National Security' here, the home minister said under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', a target to destroy 75,000 kg narcotics was set but un-der the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, so far over 1.5 lakh kg narcotics has been destroyed, which is more than double the target set.

He said, the prime minister has a dream to make the country drug-free and for this, coordinated effort is necessary between central and state agencies.

The security of the nation can only be ensured if drug trafficking and all related channels are destroyed as insurgency, arms smuggling, and other antinational activities are linked to trafficking, he said.

"Insurgency along with arms trade and drug trafficking are two sides of a coin," he said.

The home minister urged the law-enforcing, health, revenue, and social revenue departments to adopt a twin-pronged approach for ensuring that drug trafficking is stopped.

'We must be harsh with the traffickers while at the same time the victims must be dealt with sensitively," he said.

Shah said considerable efforts have been made to tackle the issue in the Northeastern states, where drugs enter from the neighbouring countries, but "it is not enough".



He urged the chief ministers, chief secretaries, and director generals of police of the Northeastern states to adopt strategies both "from top to bottom and vice versa so that the results percolate to the lowest level and the problem of trafficking can be eradicated from the roots".

Shah expressed concern over all the seven states in the region facing alarming levels of drug abuse which is more than the average in India.

He directed the state and central agencies to take effective steps on the country's borders with Myanmar and Bangladesh to curb cross-border trafficking of drugs.

"Drug trafficking is a borderless crime and better coordination between all Drug Law Enforcement and Intelligence agencies and bordering districts of the northeastern states is essential to tackle it," he said.

We have to go beyond catching the "faces" like drug abusers and distributors involved in any seizure and nab the masterminds who send drugs from outside the border to India, he added.

The Union home minister further said a drug syndicate

gion with evidence of involvement of Nigerian nationals coming to light which must be curbed effectively. Cases of drug trafficking

was also functioning in the re-

should be investigated thoroughly from its source to destination to crackdown on its entire network, he added.

A total of 1,257 drug trafficking cases were registered between 2006-2013 which increased by 152 per cent to 3,172 between 2014-2022 while the total number of arrests during the same period increased by 260 per cent to 4,888 from 1,362, he said.

During 2006-2013, 1.52 lakh kg of drugs were seized which doubled to 3.30 lakh kg between 2014-2022 while drugs worth Rs 768 crore were seized during 2006-2013, which increased by 25 times to Rs 20,000 crore between 2014-2022, he said.

"The Ministry of Home Affairs has adopted a threepronged formula of strengthening the institutional strucempowerment and coordination of all narcotics agencies and a comprehensive awareness campaign to crack

The central government and its agencies have taken several initiatives to strengthen the existing mechanism to curb trafficking and these include restructuring Narcotics Coordination (NCORD) for effective coordination between the central and state agencies

along with a development of

down on narcotics," Shah said.

NCORD Portal, an all-in-one portal for all types of drugrelated information. Development of National Database Integrated Arrested Narco Offenders (NIDAAN) database by the NCB in collaboration with the ICJS, establishment of Nar-K9 pool as a national asset at NCB Imphal and a 24x7 dedicated

being prepared, he said. Standardised training modules on NDPS subjects and publication of a compendium of important NDPS court judgments have also been planned.

and toll-free national narcotics

helpline named MANAS is also

The Ministry of Home Affairs under the "assistance to states/ UTs scheme" has allocated Rs 17,29,74,130 for strengthening the drug law enforcement mechanism of states of Northeastern region, he said.

Empowerment of border guarding forces -- BSF, Assam Rifles and Sashastra Seema Bal -under the NDPS Act 1985 to carry out search, seizure and arrest has also been planned, he said.

Measures taken against illicit cultivation of cannabis and opium poppy and constitution of an Inter-Ministerial Committee on Alternative Livelihood Arrangements for the farmers engaged in the cultivation of illegal crops has also been initiated, Shah said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT **PAGE**

Underage Marriage

marriages in 2012. However, the graph saw a vicious increase in 2020, as I&K was ranked 12th in India.

The facts emerging from the analysis clearly reveal that in 2014 the percentage of underage marriages had increased to 1.7 percent. However, the rate came down to 1.5 percent in 2015 but took a substantial leap in 2016 as the overall percentage touched 1.6 percent.

As per the data, in 2017 I&K's share in such cases increased to 1.8 percent. But. in 2018, I&K again saw a decrease as the overall percentage came down to 1.5 percent. The Union Territory's overall percentage of underage marriages took another leap in 2019 when the rate increased to 1.6 percent.

A cursory look at the data also reveals that the percentage of such marriages was higher in rural J&K than urban J&K. In 2012, rural J&K contributed 0.3 percent of underage marriages and urban J&K accounted for 0.2 percent. And in 2020, rural J&K's share increased to 1.2 percent while urban J&K hadn't recorded any

"The numbers are disheartening, not only because they speak of the instances of child marriages increasing but also because this social evil comes with many other disempowerment indicators. It means that many girls are not getting education, are not leading their lives with dignity and are being deprived of the possibility to live a hopeful life," says Srinagar based rights activist Tania Sayeed.

Pertinently, in May, Kashmir Observer had reported that Jammu & Kashmir had recorded the second lowest percentage of underage marriages for women across India, according to the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS) report.

Among the states and Union Territories, J&K and Ladakh had recorded a 6 percent (each) average of underage marriages for women while at the National level about twentyfive percent of women aged 18-29 were married before reaching the legal minimum age, the report said.

"In any conflict zone, the social fabric gets affected. We've seen how post 1990s insurgency, women especially girls under 18 years of age were visualized as soft targets for men. However, that trend changed after 2010. But, 2019 onwards, the social fabric degraded due to the economic distress and inflation, pushing women to the edge," says an official from the Social Welfare Department.

The official further said that due to economic and mental distress, a family finds a young girl as the easiest person to get rid of. "To lower their economic burden, they get these

young girls married even before they attain the legal age. Lack of proper Guidance and awareness is one of the primary reasons behind the rising percentage of underage marriages in J&K. In rural J&K, child pregnancies are also found to be very normal because of the lack of awareness," the official said.

LG Greets

Lt Governor said, "On the auspicious occasion of Eid-i-Miladun-Nabi, the birthday of the Holy Prophet, I convey my greetings and good wishes to all. The Holy Prophet showed us the path of compassion, love and righteous living. May his teachings of universal love and compassion guide each one of us to live in harmony and unity and bring peace, prosperity and happiness to all".

India Slams Pak

said Jammu and Kashmir has borne the brunt of a terrorist campaign for decades and it continues till now.

He was responding to comments on Jammu and Kashmir by the Pakistani and German foreign ministers at a joint press conference in Berlin on

"All serious and conscientious members of the global community have a role and responsibility to call out international terrorism, especially of a cross-border nature," Bagchi said.

"The Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has borne the brunt of such a terrorist campaign for decades. This continues till now," he

Bagchi said foreign nationals have been victims there, as also in other parts of India.

"The UN Security Council and FATF are still pursuing Pakistan-based terrorists involved in the horrific 26/11 attacks," he said.

"When states do not recognise such dangers, either because of self-interest or indifference, they undermine the cause of peace, not promote it. They also do grave injustice to the victims of terrorism," Bagchi added.

At the press conference in Berlin on Friday, Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said peace inside South Asia would not be possible without the peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN resolutions and taking into consideration the aspirations of Kashmiri people.

India has been strongly maintaining that Kashmir is a bilateral issue between New Delhi and Islamabad.

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said she believed that every country in the world has a role and responsibility for solving conflicts and for ensuring that "we are living in a peaceful world".

Ex-J&K Guv

scheme for Jammu and Kashmir government employees reportedly cleared by Malik in the state administrative council meeting on August 31,

"...unknown officials of Finance Department of Government of Jammu and Kashmir by abusing their official position in conspiracy and connivance with Trinity Reinsurance Brokers Ltd, Reliance General Insurance Company Ltd and other unknown public servants and private persons have committed the offences of criminal conspiracy and criminal misconduct," the FIR alleged.

They caused "pecuniary advantage to themselves and wrongful loss to state exchequer during the period 2017 and 2018 and thereby manner cheated the Government of Jammu and Kashmir", it alleged.

It was alleged in different quarters that there were glaring deviations from the government norms in the contract awarded to Reliance General Insurance like the absence of an online tender, removal of an original condition that the vendor should have experience of working in the state and companies having turnover of Rs

5.000 crore among others. "The case was registered on the request of Jammu and Kashmir government on the allegations of malpractices in the award of contract of J&K Employees Health Care Insurance Scheme to private company and release of Rs 60 crore (approximately) in the year 2017-18," CBI Spokesperson R

C Joshi had said. After allegations of irregularities surfaced, the scheme, which was rolled out on September 30, 2018, was

scrapped, officials said "The governor has approved foreclosure of the contract with M/s Reliance General Insurance Company (RGIC) for implementing group mediclaim health insurance policy for the employees and pensioners in the state," a Raj Bhavan spokesperson had said on October 27, 2018.

He had said the matter was referred to the Anti-Corruption Bureau for examining the entire process to see whether it was conducted in a transparent and fair manner.

In the scheme which was initially signed up with RGIC for one year, the employees and pensioners would have got Rs 6 lakh cover for themselves and five dependent family members by paying an annual premium of Rs 8,777 and Rs 22,229 for employees and pensioners, respectively.

In its second FIR pertaining to the alleged malpractices in the award of contract for the civil works package of Kiru hydroelectric power project, the CBI said guidelines related to etendering were not followed.

"The case was registered on allegations of malpractices in the award of the contract worth Rs 2.200 crore (approximately) of civil works of Kiru Hydro Electric Power Project (HEP) to a private company in the year 2019," Joshi had said.

The agency has booked Navin Kumar Chaudhary, former chairman of Chenab Valley Power Projects (P) Ltd, M S Babu, former MD, M K Mittal and Arun Kumar Mishra, former directors

and Patel Engineering Ltd. "Though a decision was taken in the 47th Board meeting of CVPPPL (Chenab Valley Power Projects Ltd) for re-tender through e-tendering with the reverse auction after the cancellation of the ongoing tendering process, the same was not implemented (as per the decision taken in the 48th board meeting) and tender was finally awarded to Patel Engineering Ltd," the FIR alleged.

Implement

redressal of the genuine issues and demands.

While interacting with the members of I&K Students Association. he said, Sinha observed that the UT Government is making dedicated efforts to ensure access to quality education for all.

"We are implementing the National Education Policy in letter and spirit and ensuring that all the educational institutions maintain academic standards and empower students to be a key driver of socio-economic growth of the UT of J&K and the nation," the LG added.

Earlier, the spokesperson said that Nuzhat Ishfaq, DDC Chairperson, Ganderbal called on the LG at Raj Bhawan.

He said that the DDC Chairperson accompanied by former Legislator, Ishfaq Jabbar apprised the LG about various issues of public importance of Ganderbal area pertaining to development of prominent tourist & religious places, expediting major development projects and strengthening the revived water transportation.

Nuzhat, he said, also projected the demands for beautification of nallah Sindh and construction of amusement park in the district.

Similarly, the spokesperson said, a public delegation led by Vijay Raina, Sarpanch Chowgam-A and BJP District Spokesperson, Kulgam also called on the LG and raised several public issues including permanent rehabilitation of families of village Gund Tankipora, Devsar affected during 2014 floods and creation of CD Block for Village Chowgam in Kulgam.

6K Apple Laden move towards Jammu.

He said that the among the apple laden trucks which are waiting for their turn, there are few hundred trucks which are waiting for their turn since October 2.

He said that on every alternate day around 3000 trucks are getting loaded here in Kashmir but just a few hundreds are allowed to move towards Jammu and others get time after three, five or even seven days to move towards Jammu.

He said that the government claims are confined to press notes only and situation is worse on the ground.

"I have never witnessed such things in last four years," he said, adding, "even meeting with Home Minister Amit and others have beared no fruits as their assurances have proved hoax on the ground."

He said that market is also getting down each passing day as fruits are reaching markets late.

Notably, around 70 percent of population in Kashmir are directly or indirectly dependent on apple

Police Makes

her with some intoxicant on the sly. Srinagar police arrested a self-proclaimed journalist Nadeem Ahmed Ganie @ Nadeem Nadu, a resident of Qazibagh, Anantnag, in a rape case on a complaint received from a girl, a police spokesman had said on October 1.

The victim has also alleged that the accused took her pictures too when she unconscious and used these to have sex with her many times, said a police spokesperson.

The accused also took her gold ornaments in the course of blackmailing her. Pertinent to mention, the lady was a student in an institution in central Kashmir at the time of the occurrence of this crime, the spokesperson added.

Police have booked the accused under various sections including 376 IPC (rape) at Women Police Station, Srinagar and have constituted a Special Investigation Team to investigate the matter.

J&K Govt

Arun Kumar Mehta attended the meeting.

With the view to address the issues regarding a wide variety of universities in Jammu and Kashmir and separate Acts governing each university or group of universities with existing regulations, the government intends to frame a common Public University Bill which would apply to all public universities of the Union Territory, the spokesman said.

He said the National Education Policy-2020 (NEP-2020) envisions an education system rooted in Indian ethos that contributes directly to transforming India, sustainably into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society, by providing high-quality education to all, and thereby making India a

global knowledge superpower. Moreover, the NEP 2020 envisages fundamental transformation in the structure of higher education by mandating the transformation of all affiliated colleges to either multidisciplinary research or teaching universities or degree-awarding autonomous

institutions by 2035. The salient features of the current draft include emphasis on uniformity and flexibility in working of all the higher educational institutions, the spokesman said.

A number of new provisions have also been introduced to make the functioning of universities transparent and accountable through transparent procedures and public disclosures. In order to make the recruitment process fully transparent and meritbased, screening by the Public Service Commission and reduction in weightage to interview has been proposed for gazetted positions, he said.

For non-gazetted positions, it has been proposed to do away with interviews altogether and conduct recruitment through the Service Selection Board.

Screening/recruitment by Public Commission's/ Selection Boards have been introduced in varying measures by other states like Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand etc, the spokesman said.

Nod Given To New and Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief

Secretary, J&K attended the meeting. 'The Jammu and Kashmir Targeted Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2022 is reform in the existing system and permits diversification of commodities & services other than those distributed under the TPDS at FPS, which will, besides making FPSs economically viable, will help in putting an end to leakage/pilferage.

The new policy shall significantly revise the existing provisions pertaining to opening of new FPS and their licensing and will ensure atleast one FPS in each Panchayat/ Municipal Ward/ULB and for this purpose new FPS will be also be established.The number shall be based on the population of the Panchayat/ MunicipalWard/ULB.Opening of new FPSs shall result in livelihood opportunities for unemployed youth as well as for destitute & separated women, orphan girls, as they have been given additional weightage by virtue of this

In deference to the position of PRIs in the governance structure, the policy stipulates that the location of the Fair Price Shop and transfer of license to dependent family member shall be done in consultation with the concerned Gram Sabha. The Licensing Authority shall consider the opening of new FPS to cater the need of the rationees in an area, satisfying the indicative norms under the order.

The present FPS dealers shall have to obtain a license under this order within 4 months so that uniformity in licensing system can be ensured. The provisions concerning ration cards, portability, maintenance of records, e-PoS, penalties, monitoring, inspection and removal of difficulties, etc, have also been introduced in the order.

The new policy is in consonance with National Food Security Act, 2013 and the guidelines of GoI.

IND vs SA 2nd ODI: Men In Blue Eye All-Round Improvement In Must Win ODI

Press Trust of India

RANCHI: Deepak Chahar's unavailability due to an ankle injury will complicate selection matters with India looking for a much improved bowling performance in a must win second ODI against South Africa here on Sunday.

Never before a bilateral ODI series has looked so out of context with the T20 World Cup in Australia beginning later this month.

All eyes are now on Rohit Sharma and Co who have already checked in Perth for their T20 World Cup warm-up matches.

The three-match ODI series in

India offers little incentive to the fringe players who have missed the flight to Australia. But with Chahar injuring his ankle

ahead of the first ODI in Lucknow and his back troubling him again, it gives India plenty of soul-searching to do on Sunday.

Mohammad Siraj and Avesh Khan have so far failed to impress and that



might open the door for uncapped Bengal pacer Mukesh Kumar.

On the batting front, it will be

important for Shreyas Iyer to score some runs under his belt as the toporder batter is among the reserve

batters for the T20 World Cup. Iyer, who has been named vice-

dia out of a top-order collapse on

But the biggest positive for India out of the second ODI was the performance of Sanju Samson, who has not been able to cement his place in the team seven years after his debut.

Samson's 63-ball 86 oozed maturity and offered a sense of calmness in the middle-order as he took calculated risks in India's narrow loss.

Unlike India, the Temba Bavumaled South Africa have much to play for with crucial Super League points on offer which will give an automatic qualification for them for the next year's ODI World Cup.

Personally, Bavuma is going through the worst phase of his career with his scores in the series reading 0, 0, 3 (T20s) and 8 at Luc-

With T20 World Cup in two weeks' time, the Proteas skipper will look to

find his form in quick time. David Miller has proved to be the nemesis for India this series with an unbeaten century in Guwahati and 75 not out in the last match and the lefthander would look to continue his rich form.

The Kagiso Rabada-led pace attack, which copped criticism in the preceding T20 series, also looks to be back in business.

Teams (from): India: Shikhar Dhawan (c), Shubman Gill, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Ishan Kishan, Shreyas Iyer, Sanju Samson, Shardul Thakur, Kuldeep Yadav, Avesh Khan, Ravi Bishnoi, Mohammad Siraj, Deepak Chahar, Mukesh Kumar, Rajat Patidar, Shahbaz Ahmed and Rahul Tripathi.

South Africa: Temba Bavuma (c), Janneman Malan, Quinton de Kock, Aiden Markram, Heinrich Klaasen, David Miller, Wayne Parnell, Keshav Maharaj, Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi, Tabraiz Shamsi, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen, Anrich Nortje and Andile Phehlukwayo.

Match starts: 1.30pm IST.

Santosh Trophy In Saudi? AIFF Boss **Confirms Move**

Press Trust of India

ball Federation (AIFF) will host areas we will discuss and maybe the knock-out stages of the Santosh Trophy in either Jeddah or Riyadh in Saudi Arabia for three years, AIFF president Kalyan mam. Chaubey said on Saturday.

sibility to stage the final stages does not mean you stop this

capital. And so the government there can club it together with **NEW DELHI:** The All India Footaart and culture. So these are the by January we'll take a final call," said BJP leader Chaubey.

The MoU was signed in Dam-

"We will make it for three AIFF on Thursday signed a years. See it, is not that easy. Memorandum of Understanding One year, it may not be success-(MoU) with their Saudi Arabian ful, because several unexpected counterparts to "study the pos- challenges will come but that



of the Santosh Trophy in the tournament," he said. West Asian country in February

"The MoU that we signed with the Saudi Football Federation, have to see what is the pace of one was for hosting Santosh Trophy in Jeddah and Riyadh," Chaubey said.

"Jeddah has more Indian population there, but Riyadh is the properly."

"So it's a three years thing and I'm sure year-wise we will do well. We definitely improvement, where are we improving, and whether it is 10% growth rate or a growth of 50%. So we have to monitor it

Women's Asia Cup: **India Beat Bangladesh** By 59 Runs



Press Trust of India

SYLHET: After an indifferent batting show in the defeat against Pakistan, the 'Women In Blue' put up a much improved performance scoring 159 for 5, largely due to a 96-run opening stand between Shafali and stand-in skipper Smriti Mandhana (47 off 38 balls).

Credit should also go to Jemimah Rodrigues, whose 35 not out off just 24 balls helped the Indian team score nearly 160.

Bangladesh managed 100 for 7 at the end of 20 overs and never looked like being in the hunt for

With 8 points from five games, India are on top of the seventeam table with a match left in the round robin stage.

Having never chased a total beyond 142 in their entire T20I history, Bangladesh did try their bit but could never force the momentum against a solid In-dian bowling attack which kept

things tight. After a shoddy fielding effort against Pakistan, it improved by a couple of notches on the day as there were no easy runs in store. The hosts couldn't even score 50 in the first 10 overs and scoring more than 110 runs in the back-10

was virtually impossible for them. The two openers Fargana Hoqie (30 off 40 balls) and Murshida Khatun (21 off 25 balls) could add only 45 in the first nine overs and Bangladesh actually were thrown out of the contest at that stage.

Mbappe Beats Messi & Ronaldo To Top Forbes Rich List



Reuters

PARIS: St Germain forward Kylian Mbappe has emerged as aldo (\$100 million) occupying the world's highest-paid soc- third spot. PSG's Neymar (\$87 cer player, according to Forbes million) and Liverpool forward magazine, the first time a play-Mohamed Salah (\$53 million) magazine, the first time a player other than Lionel Messi or rounded off the top five. Cristiano Ronaldo has topped

earn \$128 million for the 2022a record for Forbes' annual makes his debut in the top 10 from last year's \$585 million.

Messi second at \$120 million and Manchester United's Ron-

Erling Haaland, who has of their glorious careers. made a blistering start to his In total, the 10 highest paid joining the club from Borussia

rankings, with PSG team mate with earnings of \$39 million.

The rise of Frenchman Mbappe and Norwegian Haaland, the only players under the age of 30 on the list, signals a shift in the global game, the Forbes report said, as Messi and Ronaldo edge closer to the end

Mbappe, 23, is estimated to Manchester City career after soccer players are expected to collect record earnings worth 23 season before agents' fees, Dortmund in the close season, \$652 million this season, up 11%

Babar Shines As Pakistan Beats New Zealand By 6 Wickets

Agencies

CHRISTCHURCH: Pakistan capwicket win over New Zealand in Zealand out of the game. the Twenty20 tri-series

Azam struck an unbeaten 79 from 53 balls and shared a 61-run partnership with Shadab Khan in a six-wicket win over New Zealand on Saturday in the Twenty20 tri-series.

New Zealand captain Kane Williamson made the unusual decision to bat first after winning the toss and the Black Caps managed only 147-8 in their 20 overs, stalled by tight bowling from Haris Rauf and Mohammad Wasim.

The New Zealanders then had to bowl as spring temperatures dropped to single figures and the outfield at Hagley Oval became damp and dewy. The bowlers could do little to arrest Babar and Shadab as the ball became wet

some hope when top-ranked T20 batter Mohammad Rizwan placement to tally 11 boundarfell lbw to Tim Southee for 4 in

the fifth over, leaving Pakistan on 36-1. But the partnership between

tain Babar Azam struck an un- Babar and Shadab, which came beaten half-century in a six- as the cold settled in, shut New



Shadab batted higher in the order than usual and struck two fours and two sixes in a 22-ball innings of 34.

Babar reached his half century from 33 balls and was able to control Pakistan's run chase, leading his team to victory with New Zealand might have had 10 balls remaining. He struck the ball with superb power and

FIFA Won't Sanction Indonesia **Over Fatal Crush, Says Widodo**

Agencies

JAKARTA: Indonesia's president said the country will not face sanctions from football's world governing body after the firing of tear gas inside a half-locked stadium caused a crush at the exits, killing 131 people, including 17 children.

Joko Widodo said FIFA President Giani Infantino wrote in a letter to him about potential collaborations between Indonesia and FIFA and the country will remain the host of next year's U-20 World Cup joined by 24 countries from five continents. "Based on the letter, thank

God, Indonesian football is not sanctioned by FIFA," Widodo presidential office's YouTube channel late Friday.

In its security protocols, FIFA advises against the use of tear gas in or around stadiums and minister, the national police recommends exit gates be unlocked at all times during a game. While those rules are gation into the deadly stadium considered a safety standard, crush,



they don't apply to domestic or national leagues and FIFA has no authority over how local said in a video posted on the governments and police control

> Since last week, the domestic league has been suspended. Widodo has ordered the sports chief and the soccer federation to conduct a thorough investi-

He said on Friday that Indonesian government has agreed to take collaborative measures with FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation to improve stadium safety to prevent another tragedy.

"FIFA, together with the government will set a transformation team for Indonesian football," Widodo said, adding that Infantino would also to visit Indonesia in the near future. (AP)

PL: Haaland Scores As City Rolls; **Chelsea Beats Wolves**

Agencies

LONDON: Erling Haaland netted his 15th league goal in the Gunners' game against Liver- Pulisic made the most of a rare 65th minute to put the finishing touches on a 4-0 win over Southampton on Saturday, taking the Norway striker's remark-

games in all competitions. The win lifted City two points ton 3-0 at Stamford Bridge.

ahead of Arsenal before the pool on Sunday. City are the start by making it 2-0 in the only team still unbeaten after 54th minute, after Kai Havertz nine rounds.

able scoring streak to 10 straight momentum under Potter, beat- Broja added the third.

ing manager-less Wolverhamp-

American forward Christian opened the scoring deep into Chelsea kept up its recent first-half injury time. Armando

Verstappen Inches Closer To F1 Title With Suzuka Pole

Agencies

SUZUKA (JAPAN): Max Verstappen put himself on course to wrap up a second successive Formula One title in the Japanese Grand Prix by edging Ferrari rival Charles Leclerc to pole position in qualifying at the Suzuka circuit on Saturday.

The 25-year-old hustled his Honda-powered Red Bull around the popular figure-of-eight layout in one minute, 29.304 seconds, beating Leclerc by just 0.010 seconds.

Carlos Sainz was 0.057 seconds off the pace in the other Ferrari in third.

Verstappen came under investigation for dangerous driving after appearing to swerve into the path of McLaren's Lando Norris but was let off with a reprimand.

104 points in the overall standings and needs to score eight more than the Monegasque to

wrap up proceedings on Sunday. That means he will be champion if he wins with the fastest lap ahead of Leclerc. But with rain affecting Fri-

day's practice session and threatening to hit again on Sunday, the race could be far from straightforward. Norris was forced to drive

off the track and onto the grass to avoid contact and said he expected Verstappen to be penalised.

But Leclerc seemed on the verge of causing a last-gasp upset on his final flying lap even as Verstappen, on provisional pole, did not appear to be improving on his earlier benchmark. In the end it was not quite

enough, with Verstappen's first Verstappen leads Leclerc by flier good enough for pole.





Indian Workers Rescued From Digital Job Scams In Southeast Asia

Agenceis

ndia's government says it has rescued about 130 Indians who were forced to work in Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia after they were lured by agents who had offered well-paying job opportunities in the information technology sector that turned out to be fake.

Arindam Bagchi, the Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson, said on Friday the rescued Indian workers had been held captive and forced to commit cyberfraud for companies engaged in digital scamming and forged cryptocurrencies.

The companies appeared to be operating through agents in Dubai, Bangkok and some Indian cities and were recruiting Indian workers through social media advertisements for fake, highly lucrative jobs in Thailand, he said.

Many of the workers were taken illegally across the border into an area of Myanmar that is difficult to access because of the local security situation, Bagchi said.

elected official of India's southern Tamil Nadu state, said in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi that 300 Indians, including about 50 Tamils from the state, were being held captive in Myanmar.

Citizens of other countries in the region have suffered in similar scams, including in Cambodia where an Al Jazeera investigation in July uncovered a sophisticated web of firms involved in luring workers into slave-like conditions to labour in online scams.

The investigation by Al Jazeera's 101 East found Chinese, Thais, Vietnamese, Indonesians, Malaysians, people from Myanmar, and others from further afield – entrapped in cyber-scam operations across Cambodia.

On Thursday, 21 Malaysians that were rescued from human traffickers in Cambodia and Laos were returned home.

Malaysia's Foreign Minister Saifuddin Abdullah said the government has now rescued 273 people out of 401 reported missing in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand.



He said nearly 50 workers have been brought back to India from Myanmar, while some others were still in police custody in Myanmar for questioning because they entered the country without visas

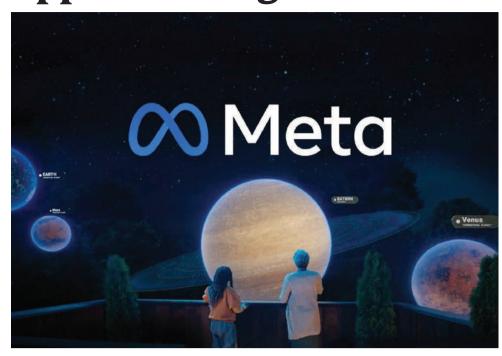
He said 80 other Indian workers have been rescued from Cambodia and Laos.

Last month, MK Stalin, the top

Most have returned except for 60 still in immigration detention centres in those countries, who are waiting to be processed, he said.

A UN envoy has said the cyberscam networks, which often have links to transnational organised crime, are set up in countries with weak law enforcement, attracting educated young workers with promises of high earnings.

Meta Warns 1 Million Users About 400 Malicious Apps That Targeted Them



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New Delhi: Meta has warned at least 1 million Facebook users about more than 400 malicious Android and iOS apps targeting them to steal their login information and compromise their

According to the company, it reported its findings to Apple and Google and is helping po-tentially impacted people to learn more about how to stay safe and secure their accounts.

"These apps were listed on the Google Play Store and Apple's App Store and disguised as photo editors, games, VPN services, business apps and other utilities to trick people into

downloading them," said David Agranovich, Director, Threat Disruption at Meta

Meta said Apple and Google have taken down those 400 malicious apps from their respective online stores.

"We are also alerting people who may have unknowingly self-compromised their accounts by downloading these apps and sharing their credentials, and are helping them to secure their accounts," the company said in a blog post late on Friday.

Malicious developers create malware apps disguised as apps with fun or useful functionality -- like cartoon image editors or music players -- and publish

and are helping them to secure their accounts."

them on mobile app stores.

"To cover up negative reviews by people who have spotted the defunct or malicious nature of the apps, developers may publish fake reviews to trick others into downloading the malware," said Meta.

If the login information is stolen, attackers could potentially gain full access to a person's account and do things like message their friends or access private information.

Meta said that if you believe you've downloadeď a malicious app and have logged in with your social media or other online credentials, "we recommend that you delete the app from your device immediately"

WE ARE ALSO ALERTING PEOPLE who may have unknowingly self-compromised their accounts by downloading these apps and sharing their credentials,

Delhi Hospitals See Big Rise In Typhoid, Respiratory Issues; Unseasonal Rains A Trigger

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elhi hospitals are seeing an uptick in patients coming to Out Patient Departments (OPDs) with upper respiratory tract infections, typhoid, and gastroenteritis due to the unseasonal rains and weather changes.

According to doctors, the number of such cases has nearly doubled owing to an increased awareness about such infections necessitated by the pandemic.

"These days, we are getting more than 20 patients every day in the OPD with complaints of upper respiratory tract infections, undiagnosed prolonged fever, typhoid, cases of swine flu, allergies, pneumonia and dengue," said Dr Bhagwan Mantri, consultant pulmonologist and critical care specialist at Mool-chand Hospital.

Earlier, the number of such patients was less than 10 per day but we are seeing a spike now,' he said. The infections are happening across all age groups but when respiratory tract infections happen among the elderly, they

assume a severe form, he added. Experts say that the surge of infectious diseases is generally seen after monsoon every year.

But unlike previous years, some hospitals are also witnessing cases of scrub typhus and leptospirosis in greater numbers.

'Dengue which has become a regular burden this season is a regular ailment these days among OPD patients. Besides we are getting typhoid fever, acute gastroenteritis, viral hepatitis, upper respiratory infections, some cases of swine flu, and occasional Covid cases," said Dr Manoj Sharma, Senior Consultant Internal Medicine, Fortis Hospital Vasant Kunj.

This year we are getting cases of scrub typhus and leptospirosis as well, although numbers are not huge, they are definitely more than previous years," he said.

Scrub typhus is an infectious disease caused by Orientia tsutsugamushi, a mite-borne bac-



terium. Chigger mites, the larval stage of mites, transmit the disease from animals like rats, squirrels, and rabbits to humans.

Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection transmitted through urine or excreta of rats and cattle.

According to Dr SCL Gupta, Medical Director, Batra Hospital, the unseasonal rains and the sudden weather change could be a reason behind the spike in the cases.

"Our hospital is seeing cases of upper respiratory tract infections among children, especially among the seven to eight years old. The symptoms include fever, breathlessness, cough, uneasiness," SCL Gupta said.

Mantri concurred with SCL-Gupta and said that the month of September saw unseasonal rains, which could have been the trigger for this.

"Earlier, the illnesses would rear their head in July and August but now with the rains in September, the timing of emergence of these illnesses has also shifted to September," Dr Bhagwan Mantri said, adding that when Covid-19 was at its peak, a spike in such cases was not seen.

Doctors advise people to wear mask since it not only protects against Covid-19 but other viruses too which get transmitted through air. "Consult a doctor if you have

fever for more than 48 hours. Fever, if not treated well in time, can lead to complications," advised Dr Bhagwan Mantri.

The senior doctor also said that thanks to Covid-19, people have started taking respiratory infections seriously.

