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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 India, J&K had the lowest share in such **| 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 Khanqah-e-Maula, Jamia Masjid Srinagar, Asarisharif Kalashpora, Jenab Sahib Saura. **| 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 offered 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 30, 2019.

"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

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."

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**



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 fast-tracking 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**

LG Grooms People On Milad

Lieutenant 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

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 naming Pakistan, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi **| 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

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 education

"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."

Police Makes Third Arrest In Sextortion Case

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Police on Saturday said a third man has been arrested in a sextortion case in Jammu and Kashmir -- days after two journalists were taken into custody in the matter.

Nadeem Ahmed Ganie alias Nadeem Nadu, who claimed to be journalist, was arrested from Anantnag district in south Kashmir on October 1 after a woman accused him of rape and extortion.

Another journalist, Salman Shah, a close friend of Ganie, was arrested on October 3. Police in a tweet on Saturday identified the third arrested man as Showkat Ahmad Ragoo from Anantnag.

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**

J&K Govt Approves Public Universities Bill

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Union Territory 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 spokesman said.

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

The 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**

A Special Initiative for the development of Micro Food Processing Enterprises

Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme

"Our Government is continuously empowering small enterprises associated with food processing through various initiatives like easy loans & technical assistance so that they have the ability to compete with the world market and become strong partners of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan."
- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Eligibility for PMFME Scheme

Food Processing units of Individual Micro Enterprises, FPO, SHG & Co-operative Societies

Scheme Benefits

35%

35% Subsidy for Individual Micro Enterprises (Maximum ₹10 lakh)

35%

35% Subsidy available for Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO), Farmer Producer Company (FPC), Self Help Group (SHG), etc to set up common infrastructure (Maximum ₹3 crore)

35%

Beneficiaries of other schemes can also take advantage of this scheme

35%

Preference will be given to Micro Food Processing Enterprises applying under One District One Product (ODOP)

Around 62000 beneficiaries have been assisted under the scheme.

For more information, visit

www.pmfme.mofpi.gov.in

9254997101
9254997102

Scan Now

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association 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 Scholarships 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
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/LIS1

Scholarship Name 2: Ericsson Empowering Girl Scholarship Program 2022

Description: Ericsson invites applications 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

have scored at least 6.5 GPA or equivalent marks in the previous final examination. The annual family income of the applicant from all sources must not be more than INR 6,00,000.

and meritorious but may lack the resources to pursue their dreams.

Eligibility: Students who have passed Class 10 with at least 75% marks or Class 12 with at least 60% marks in 2022



Prizes & Rewards: INR 75,000 per year
Last Date to Apply: 07-11-2022
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/EEGS13

Scholarship Name 3: Keep India Smiling Foundational Scholarship & Mentorship Programme 2022-23

Description: Colgate-Palmolive (India) 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/KISF6


انتقال پر ملال

بیخبر انتہائی افسوس کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ ہمارے ہر دل عزیز برادر عبدالقیوم شاہ ولد غلام محی الدین شاہ ساکنہ شاہ آباد سعیدہ کدل مورخہ 8 اکتوبر 2022ء بمطابق 11 ربیع الاول 1444ھ بروز سنیچر واراس دار فانی سے اچانک رحلت کر گئے۔

اس سلسلے میں تعزیت ہمارے گھر پر تین دن تک جاری رہے گی اور مرحوم کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی 10 اکتوبر بروز سوموار صبح 9:30 بجے ہمارے آبائی مقبرہ واقع شاہ آباد پر منعقد ہوگی اور گھر پر کوئی اجتماعی مجلس نہیں ہوگی۔

سوگوار خاندان

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
Syed Altaf Hussain Mosvi
9419019023 SS

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my name from Zaigum Abass to S Z Abbas. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she can approach Gazette Publication Of India within Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

S Z Abbas (New Name)
S/o Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Sheikh
R/o Goom Ahmad Pora P/O Magam -193401

BMG

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly 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 anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the Passport office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Bhat
S/o Ali Mohammad Bhat

MCB

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

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:-

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

1. 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:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	08-10-2022
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	08/10/2022 10.00 A.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	08/10/2022 from 10.00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	15/10/2022 up to 4.00 P.M
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

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).

02. 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

03. The successful /1st Lowest bidder has to submit Performance security @3% of allotted cost.

03. Bidder must read term/condition in tender document carefully.

AAA/TS = Accorded
Position of Funds = committed

DIPK-11437/22
Executive Engineer,
(R&B) Electric Division
Srinagar

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

UT of Jammu & Kashmir

Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre Srinagar

Tender Notice Inviting Tenders

Single COVER SYSTEM

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.

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

Special conditions: -

I. 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.

II. 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 entertained.

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.in as 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

a) All bidders have to submit bid security declaration form instead of earnest money as per annexure A as per circular of finance department.

b) 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.

c) 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 percentage allotment

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

e) The bids for the contract shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of financial bid.

f) 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.

g) The earnest money shall be forfeited if:

1. Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
1. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquire bid submission process.
- b. 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.
- c. The bidders have to submit their bids on line in electronic format with digital signature. No financial bids will be accepted in physical form.
- d. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.
2. Time Extension: The work is to be completed within the time limit specified in the NIT/allotment.
3. The tender/bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill requirement as laid down in NIT
4. All other terms and conditions as per PWD Form 25 (Double Agreement Form)

DIPK-NB-4291/22
Sd/= Executive Engineer
SKICC

No: SKICC/EE/22/421-425 Dated: 08/10/2022

Govt Likely To Install "Ferris Wheel" In Dal Lake



Agencies

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 world-famous 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

the South Bank of the River Thames in London. It is Europe's tallest cantilevered observation wheel and is the most popular paid tourist attraction in the United Kingdom with over 3 million visitors annually.

When contacted, the director J&K Lake Conservation and Management Authority, 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 be finalised.

He said that the proposal was made some time back, but they have to consider certain factors like environmental impact assessment, financial modelling and other things before it could be finalised.

Bhat also said that it will take time as environmental assessment is yet to be done. (KNO)

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 Vidyalaya 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 owner.

"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.

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 centre.

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.

TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
PDD: 0194-2450213
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES :
2479488,245222,2452155
CAPD: 18001807011
SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
12 Rabi ul Awwal
1444

PRAYERS

FAJR	5:07
ZUHR	12:18
ASR	4:26
Magrib	6:09
ISHA	7:28

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 Swat district of northwest Pakistan

From KO Archives

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

Rajinder Singh

RAJOURI : History of sorts was created in this far-flung 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 Ghandir 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 expenditure 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 political 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 draws were made, on a massive scale to swindle the crores provided by the government. Apprehending cognizance of the huge scam, all the records pertaining to the road project were allegedly 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 draws 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 bridge 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 rupees.

The state vigilance organisation (SVD) had, in 1988, established 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 departments - 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)



VOX POP

Dog Menace Continues To Haunt City Dwellers

Syed 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.

Over 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 Bypass 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)

Imran Khan Alleges That 4 Individuals 'Want Him Assassinated'

Agenceis

Islamabad: Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday alleged that four individuals were conspiring to assassinate him on charges of 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 Nasir 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 vote in Parliament in April.

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



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 con-

with 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

According to a report by Al-Mayadeen TV, a high-ranking delegation from the 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 re-establish 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 in 2011.

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



“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

bridge would resume by 1700 GMT.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said Kyiv's reaction to the destruction of civilian infrastructure "testifies to its terrorist nature".

The Russian National Anti-Terrorism Committee said a freight truck had blown up on the bridge's roadway at 6:07 am, causing seven fuel tanker wagons to catch fire on a train heading for the peninsula on the bridge's upper level.

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.

The beginning

Images posted by the Russian Investigative Committee showed one half of the roadway blown away, and the other half still attached, but cracked.

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

An adviser to Ukrainian President 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.

"Everything illegal must be destroyed, 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-

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.

The 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 "high-quality" 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.

Rape Won't Stand If Woman Continues Sexual Relations After Knowing Man Is Married: Kerala HC

Agenceis

Kochi: In a path breaking judgment, 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 with the accused.

The judgment came from the bench of Justice Kausar Edagappath who said that any sex between such a couple could only be termed as one on account of love and passion, and not based on any false promise to marry.

"The admitted fact that the 4th respondent is having a relationship with the petitioner since 2010 and she continued the relationship knowing about his marriage from 2013 onwards would nullify the story regarding the sexual intercourse on the false pretext of marrying her. The alleged sex can only be termed as one on account



of love and passion for the petitioner and not on account of misrepresentation made to her by the petitioner," read the order.

The court reiterated that if a man retracts his promise to marry a woman, then consensual sex they had will not constitute an offence 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 intention of adhering to the same and that the promise made was false to

his knowledge.

The court then passed the order on a plea moved by man to quash the case registered against him for the alleged commission of offences punishable under Sections 406 (criminal breach of trust), 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) and 376 (rape) of Indian Penal Code.

The prosecution allegation was that over a period of nine years, the petitioner, by giving a false promise of marriage to the complainant, had sexual intercourse with her in several places in India and abroad.

The court noted that the statement 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 with him till 2019.

The court finally decided to quash the FIR registered against the petitioner.

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 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 widow, said in a GoFundMe fundraiser



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

Agencies

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 Lassani, 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

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Saturday met the government employees who 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 panic-stricken Dogra employees moved to Jammu from Kashmir after the killing of a teacher named Rajni Bala inside her school in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on May 31.

"They have been on strike for the last 130 days and their demands are justified. Nothing is more precious than a human life. How can 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 they have already raised their demands with LG Sinha.

"We want the government to frame a transfer policy and accommodate us anywhere in Jammu division," one of the employees said.

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

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Twenty medical officers and as many nurses have been trained in palliative care in Jammu division, officials said on Saturday as the authorities observed the World Palliative Care and Hospice Day here.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has already formulated a policy for palliative care and these services have started at all district hospitals with 10 beds dedicated in each district, they said.

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 hospital, said an interactive programme was held under the supervision of Director Health Services Jammu Saleem-ur-Rehman.

Professor of pain and palliative care, AIIMS New Delhi, Rakesh Garg joined the event virtually. Assistant Dean, Social Works Department, Central University, Vinay Kumar enlightened the doctors, paramedics and nursing students present about 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

Agencies

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 to 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 accidents 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.

"In 2017, a total of 926 per-



sons were killed, and 7423 were 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 and 5894 injured and 774 people were killed and 6972 were injured in 2021," it shows.

The data further reveals that this year till August 548 people have been killed and 5638 have

been injured in fatal road accidents across Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, Inspector General of Traffic Police (J&K), Vikramjit Singh told KNO that it has always been the endeavour of J&K traffic police to ensure efficient traffic management by way of education, enforcement and technological intervention in implementation of traffic laws—(KNO)

Nodal Officer Appointed For Electric Bus Project In J&K

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday appointed a nodal officer for expeditious execution of the electric bus project for the twin cities of Jammu and Srinagar, an 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 high-level 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 Intent (LoI) has been issued to Tata Motors for the supply and operations of the electric buses.

An LoI was also issued to Chalo Mobility Pvt Ltd to establish-



lish National Common 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

role towards adopting a clean mode of transport, Gupta asked the project executing agencies to expedite the process and clear bottlenecks at the earliest.

He directed concerned officials to make proactive efforts to ensure that the electric buses should ply soon, the official said.

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 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, he said.

J&K Assembly Polls

Congress Promises Special Role To Youngsters

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Vikar Rasool Wani asked the party's young workers on Saturday to work hard for strengthening the organisation in 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 strenuous efforts to strengthen the party at the grassroot level. They will be assigned special roles in the coming election. They will get their due share," he said.

A Congress spokesperson said the objective of the convention was to mobilise public

opinion to strengthen the party at the grassroot level as also to highlight the BJP government's wrong policies, especially in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Congress will make the role of the youngsters more vibrant 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 the people of the country.

"Farmers are suffering instead of getting double income, the unemployment rate is growing like never before, the backbone of the common people is broken due to inflation and a skyrocketing rise in the prices of essential commodities," the Congress

leader said. He accused the saffron party of playing with the sentiments of those who voted it to power.

"People are not happy with its policies and the government has proven 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 Jammu 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 "anti-people policies, misrule and mismanagement".

IAF Jammu Station Conference Hall Named After Flight Lt Advitiya Bal

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Indian Air Force's Jammu Station conference hall on Saturday was named after Flight Lieutenant Advitiya Bal who died after his aircraft crashed during a training mission in Rajasthan's Barmer in July, a defence spokesman said.

The 26-year-old officer, a resident of Jinder Mehlu village in Jammu, was flying a battle inoculation training mission on a Mig-21 Type-69 trainer aircraft along with Wing Commander Mohit Rana of Himachal Pradesh. Both the pilots were killed in the crash on July 28.

On the occasion of the 90th Air Force Day, the 'Bal Conference Hall' was inaugurated by the flight lieutenant's mother Praveen Kumari and his father Subedar Major Swaran Bal, the spokesman said.

The first video conference call from the hall was between Bal's parents and the commanding officer and officers of his fighter squadron at Utarlai in Barmer, he said.

The spokesman said that Air Officer Commanding, Jammu, Air Commodore G S Bhullar, president of the Air Force Wives Welfare Association, Jammu, Ruhi Bhullar, and senior officers of the Jammu Station were present on the occasion.

Flight Lieutenant Bal, an alumnus of the Sainik School Nagrota in Jammu and the National Defence Academy, was commissioned into the fighter stream of the IAF on June 16, 2018.

"The bravery and supreme sacrifice made by Flight Lieutenant Bal will always be remembered and inspire generations of 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 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 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 Registration Officers, Assistant Electoral Registration Officers in the districts. The DEOs informed that EROs and AEROs have been notified in their respective districts.

The Div Com instructed the District Electoral Officers to conduct revision strictly in accordance with the Election Commission 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 deletion of duplicate voters to avoid errors and completion of the process before the due date.

The Div Com directed DEOs to further pass instructions to all the officers and Officials associ-

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 DEOs to personally monitor the 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 informed that BLOs have been 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 100 percent attendance.

The Div Com asked the DEOs to conduct meetings with registered political parties and sensitise them about the summary revision and share draft electoral rolls with them.

It was informed that a series of mega camps were organised in the districts to raise awareness and encourage the young voters.

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

Among other the meeting was attended by Additional Commissioner, Pankaj Katoch while District Election Officers along with Deputy District Election Officers of Kishtwar, Doda, Reasi and Ramban participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

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 draftsman (civil), one year diploma in computer software and one year diploma in tourism after her graduation, the officials said.

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 for the south Kashmir resort, he said.

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

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 Abhiyan, 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 tour.

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Change
Education Policy

The 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 where 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 Reshim. 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

When 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 Jaish-e-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 administered 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 escalation. 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 proxies.

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 unprecedentedly 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 unprecedentedly 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 in Foreign Policy.

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 humankind"

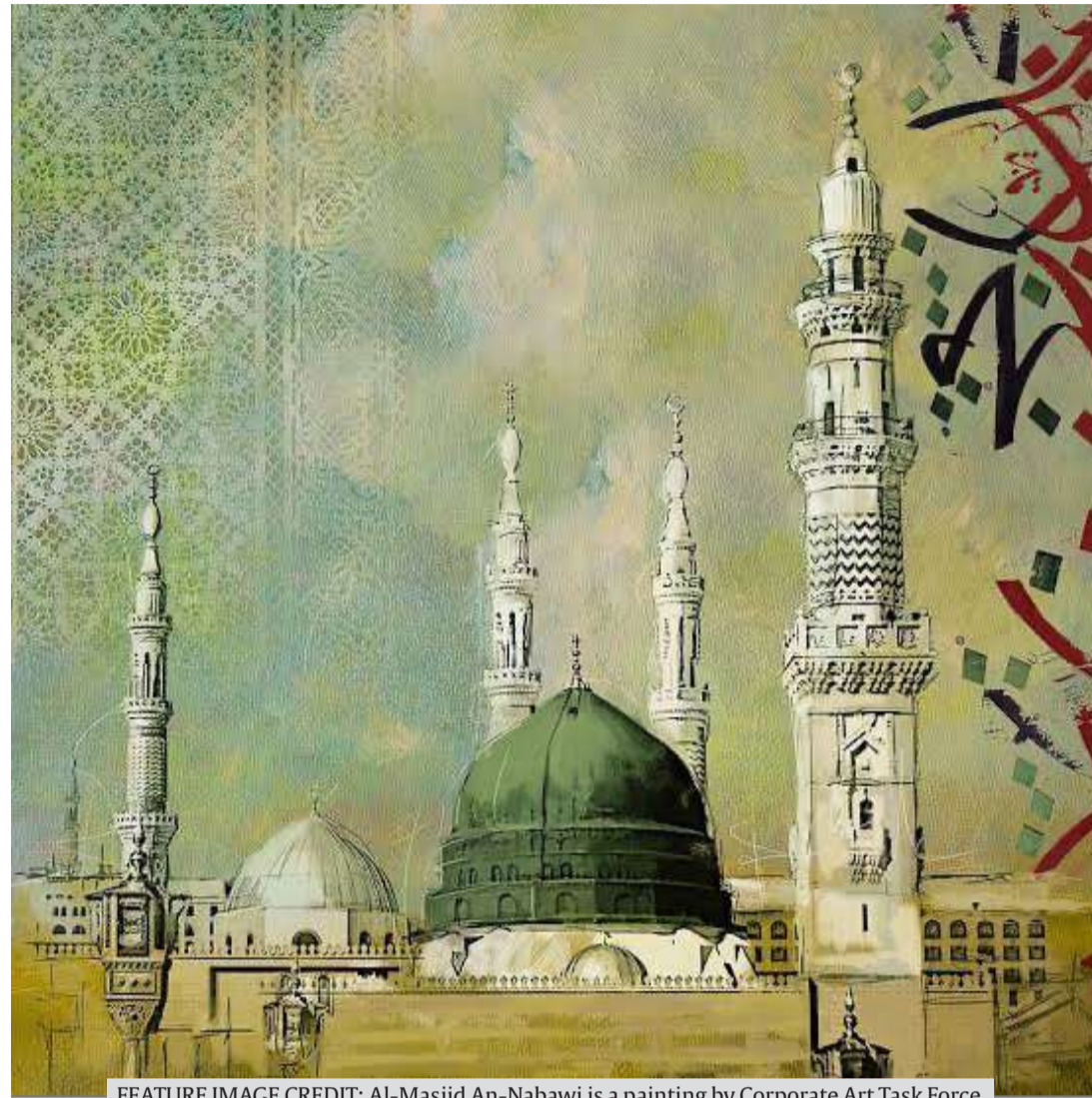
The scholarship on Islam in general, and on different aspects of Qur'an and Prophet (pbuh) in particular, have continued for centuries, and, indeed, has seen an impressive growth in post-9/11 era. A plethora of literature has been produced on the life of the Last Prophet, Muhammad (pbuh), which is generally 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 Siddiqi (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 be 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-Mubarakpuri, 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

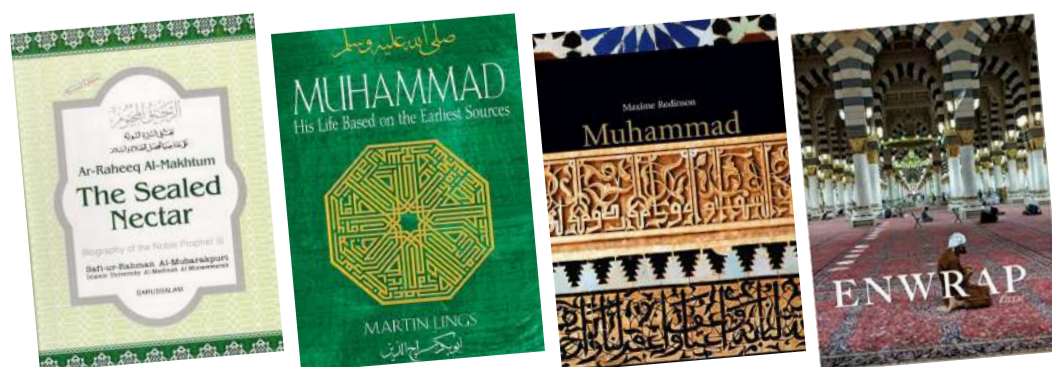
Preferred by many, Martin Lings' biography of Muhammad is a trustworthy and detailed book on the life of Prophet (pbuh). It is internationally acclaimed for the depth and veracity of its contents. Based on the sira, the eighth- and ninth-century Arabic biographies that recount numerous events in the 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 RODINSON

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 ZIRRAH

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 MUHAMMAD 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:

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. Qasidat 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'imam, Abadan
'Ala Habeebika Khayril Khalqi Kul-lihimi.

Muhammadun Sayyidul Kawnayni
Wath-Thaqalayn
Wal 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 "Qafalon" instead of "Fasloun" and this oversight got a permanent living out of reciter Qari Waheed Zafar Qasmi's rendition of the naat.

Here are the iconic verses:

'Faasloun 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

David Rosenberg | Haaretz

The 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."

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 de-

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

isions 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 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

We 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 shelf-life 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 months
- Fish – about 4 months
- Meat – 4 to 6 months
- Ready Made food – 3 to 4 months
- 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

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Tech 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 video-calling, 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 help-

ful 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,



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 home," it added

Indian Workers Rescued From Digital Job Scams In Southeast Asia

Agenceis

India'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 cyber-fraud 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.

ected 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 cyber-scam 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



Agenceis

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 accounts.

According to the company, it reported its findings to Apple and Google and is helping potentially 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

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 downloaded 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, and are helping them to secure their accounts.”

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

Agenceis

Delhi 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 Moolchand 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.

Quick eats for busy people

Bun Maska
& Chai

Chicken Crispy

Burger

JK BANK LAWNS, NEAR GHAT 6, BOULEVARD-SRINAGAR