

Father Of 2 Shot Dead In Shopian Village

Political Parties Condemn Terror Attack On KP Villager, LG Vows Punishment For Perpetrators



SHARING GRIEF: Muslim neighbours converged at the house of Kashmiri Pandit Puran Krishan Bhat, who was shot dead on Saturday in Chowdari Gund village of Shopian: KO Photo

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: A Kashmiri Pandit was shot dead by terrorists in Shopian district of south Kashmir on Saturday, evoking sharp condemnation from Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and most political parties of Jammu and Kashmir. Deputy Inspector General of Police Sujit Kumar, who is also in-charge of South Kashmir Range, said preliminary reports indicate that a lone militant was responsible for the killing of the Kashmiri Pandit in Chaudhri Gund village.

According to Kumar, "Kashmiri Freedom Fighter" (KFF) group, the proxy name of a terror outfit, has claimed responsibility for the attack. Puran Krishan Bhat was attacked near his residence in the south Kashmir district. He was rushed to a hospital where doctors declared him dead, he said. Officials said the area has been cordoned off and a hunt launched to nab the assailants. "Terrorists fired upon a civilian (minority) Puran Krishan Bhat while he was on his way to | More on P10

MANOJ SINHA @manojsinha_ Attack on Puran Krishan Bhat by terrorists in Shopian is a dastardly act of cowardice. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. I assure the people that the perpetrators and those aiding and abetting terrorists will be severely punished."

Angry KPs Block Jammu Road To Protest Killing

Hundreds of protesting Kashmiri Pandit employees, who are seeking their relocation from the Kashmir valley, on Saturday blocked Jammu-Akhnour road to protest the latest killing of their community member in the valley. Puran Krishan Bhat was fired upon by militants near his residence in the Chowdhary Gund area of south Kashmir's Shopian district Saturday afternoon, resulting in his death. | More on P10

Govt Sacks 5 More 'Anti-National' Employees

Bank Manager, Policeman Among Those Dismissed From Services

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Five government employees, including a police man and a bank manager on Saturday were terminated from services by the Jammu and Kashmir administration for their alleged involvement in anti-national activities. Invoking Article 311 of the Constitution of India, the five employees were dismissed by the government in view of several cases registered against them. Article 311 of the Constitution of India, provides for dismissal of a person employed in civil capacities under Union or a State. "The activities of these employees had come to the adverse notice of law enforcement and intelligence agencies, as they have been found involved in

activities prejudicial to the interests of the security of the State, an official spokesperson said. He said that a committee constituted by the government through order No. 738-JK(GAD) in 2020 for scrutinizing the inputs, records and cognizable material recommended dismissal of these five employees. The spokesperson further said that acting tough on such elements, the government has adopted a Zero tolerance policy towards anti-national elements who have been taking refuge as being associated with the Government machinery. "Prior to these five dismissals, 39 Govt. Officials have been dismissed, invoking provisions of Article 311 of constitution of India. In future also Government will | More on P10



6 PRIOR TO THESE FIVE DISMISSALS, 39 GOVT. OFFICIALS have been dismissed, invoking provisions of Article 311 of constitution of India. In future also Government will not hesitate in taking stern actions against these anti national elements"

Efforts On To Make Infiltration From Pak Impossible: BSF

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Border Security Force (BSF) is taking steps to make infiltration of militants impossible besides tackling the challenge posed by the use of drones to smuggle weapons and narcotics from across the border, a senior BSF officer said on Saturday. BSF Additional Director-General (Western Command) PV Rama Sastry said the force was fully alert to and capable of meeting the challenges on the border and had successfully thwarted all infiltration attempts this year. Sastry was speaking to reporters after witnessing the passing out parade of 43 recruits who joined the force at Subsidiary Training Centre in Udhamapur. Responding to a question on the threat of infiltration during the winter, the officer said all necessary measures were being taken to make sure that it was impossible for militants to infiltrate into India. | More on P10

PM To Unveil 2 Digital Banking Units Of J&K Bank

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate two digital banking units of Jammu and Kashmir Bank to the nation on Sunday via video conferencing, officials said. To deepen financial inclusion, the prime minister on Sunday will inaugurate 75 digital banking units (DBUs) of different banks across the country of which two are of Jammu and Kashmir Bank, they said. Modi will also address the nation on the occasion. Of the two, one is the SSI branch at Lal Chowk in Srinagar and the other is the Channi Rama branch in Jammu. As part of the Union budget 2022-23, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced the setting up of the | More on P10

'Bhat Frequently Visited Shopian, Never Faced Any Problem'

Press Trust Of India

Puran Krishan Bhat was a frequent visitor to his home town in Shopian district and never faced any problem, and on Thursday he had gone there to join his brother to attend their apple orchard. He had shifted his wife and two children -- a son studying in Class 5 and a daughter who is in

Class 7 -- to Jammu in the aftermath of the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020, otherwise all of them were living in Shopian, said one of Bhat's relatives waiting for his body here. Bhat was shot dead by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district on Saturday, according to police. As the news of his killing spread, a pall of gloom descended on Muthi locality here on the outskirts of the city, which | More on P10

Modi Govt Abrogated Art-370 Brought By Nehru: Shah

Press Trust Of India

Shimla: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the Narendra Modi government abrogated Article 370, which was brought by former prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru. Shah was addressing an election rally of the ruling BJP in poll-bound Himachal Pradesh's Sirmour district. "Did you ever think that Article 370 would be abrogated," he asked the gathering. "But Modi ji did it," he added. If you talk to Congress leaders and workers about Article 370, they remain mum as it was brought by Nehru, he said. In August 2019, the BJP-led government at the Centre revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated the border state into two Union Territories. Shah also listed the achievements of the Modi and Jai Ram Thakur governments at the Centre and state and urged the voters to reelect

Made Efforts To Break Barriers Hindering J&K's Development: LG Says Road To Sangam Top Near The Holy Cave To Be Approved This Year



6 EQUALITY, PROGRESSIVENESS, EMPOWERMENT OF ALL, GOOD GOVERNANCE, TRANSPARENT & ACCOUNTABLE ADMINISTRATION, improved infrastructure & connectivity, modern & affordable healthcare & educational services, industrial growth, a strong grass root democratic setup and the 'People First' principle of governance has reduced the developmental gap of seven decades."

Observer News Service


New Delhi: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Saturday that under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his administration has made committed efforts to break the barriers hindering the development of the Union Territory. Sinha made these remarks while

releasing a book "Mere Anubhav aur Itihas Ke Jharoke se Kashmir" written by Dr. Ashok Kumar Gadiya, Chancellor, Mewar University, an official spokesperson said Saturday. The LG, he said, praised the author for exploring crucial aspects of the transformation of Jammu Kashmir over the years, playing a significant part of the transformational | More on P10



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SHORT TAKES

18 Kg IED Destroyed In Bandipora

Security forces on Saturday averted a major tragedy by detecting and destroying an improvised explosive device (IED) in Bandipora district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. The IED, weighing around 18 kg, was fitted with two gas cylinders in the Ashtango area of the north Kashmir district, they said. Srinagar-based Public Relations Officer (Defence) Col Emron Musavi said based on intelligence received from police and corroborated by the army, a joint operation was launched in the early hours of Saturday. | More on P10

5 Drug Peddlers Booked Under PSA

Five drug peddlers were booked under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) in Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam district, police said on Saturday. According to a police spokesperson, the five notorious drug peddlers were booked under the PSA after obtaining formal detention orders from the competent authority. The police spokesperson identified them as Nisar Ahmad Rather, a resident of Kaisermullah Chadoora, Mohammad Ashraf Kumar. | More on P10

Youth Missing Since Sep 24 Found Dead

A youth, who was missing for nearly three weeks, was found dead on Saturday in Safapora area of Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. The body of Mohammad Iqbal Saleem was found near Elvi Agro Breeding Farm & Hatchery in Yangora area of the district on Saturday evening, where he was working since August 28, reports said. A resident of Lar, Saleem has been missing since September 24. An official told a local news agency KNO that the body has been sent for postmortem while | More on P10

Birdsong can reduce anxiety and paranoia, study reveals

Chris Melore

BERLIN : Are there plenty of birds in your neighborhood? A new study finds they may be great for your mental health. Researchers in Germany have found that songbirds help to reduce anxiety and feelings of paranoia among people who listen.

In a study of 295 participants, a team from the Max Planck Institute for Human Development and University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf examined the impact of hearing birds versus various traffic sounds. Although birdsong did not positively impact levels of depression, it did ease the severity of other mental health issues.

Before and after hearing these sounds, the group completed questionnaires assessing their mental health, as well as a cognitive test.

"Everyone has certain psychological dispositions. Healthy people can also experience anxious thoughts or temporary paranoid perceptions. The questionnaires enable us to identify people's tendencies without their having a diagnosis of depression, anxiety, and paranoia and to investigate the effect of the sounds of birds or traffic on these tendencies," says first author Emil Stobbe, a predoctoral fellow at the Lise Meitner Group for Environmental Neuroscience at the Max Planck Institute, in a university release.

Results show birdsong did not influence depressive states among the

participants. However, it did reduce levels of anxiety and paranoia. Conversely, traffic noise worsened depression, especially if the audio clip contained multiple traffic sounds.

The team says this is the first report to document the positive impact of birds singing on feelings of paranoia. Interestingly, the researchers found that birdsong and traffic noise did not have any effect on cognitive performance.

What makes birdsong so beneficial to mental health?

Study authors believe birdsong "is a subtle indication of an intact natural environment." It distracts the listener from other stressors that they would normally view as a threat.

"Birdsong could also be applied to prevent mental disorders. Listening to an audio CD would be a simple, easily accessible intervention. But if we could already show such effects in an online experiment performed by participants on a computer, we can assume that these are even stronger outdoors in nature," says Stobbe.

"We were recently able to perform a study showing that a one-hour walk in nature reduces brain activity associated with stress," adds the research group's head Simone Kühn. "We cannot say yet which features of nature - smells, sounds, color, or a combination thereof - are responsible for the effect. The present study provides a further building block to clarify this issue."



W: <https://jkhpnc.jk.gov.in/>
 E: jkhpncitd@gmail.com



T: 0194-2311312 (S)
 F: 0194-2311420 (S)
 T/F: 0191-2476079 (O)

Jammu & Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing & Processing Corporation (JKHPMC) Ltd Horticulture Department, Jammu & Kashmir Government

Opposite Presentation Convent School, Rajbagh, Srinagar-190008, J&K

No: JKHPMC eNIT 110 of 2022

Date: 13-10-2022

Subject: Date Extension Corrigendum w.r.t e-NIT No. 110 of 2022, Dated: 14-09-2022.

Due to inadequate response received in respect of the "e-Tender" for "Request for Proposal for Tender for Selection of Agency for Operation and Management (O&M) of Corporation's 120 MT Integrated Pack House, for Onions and Potatoes, at Narwal, Jammu, J&K", Last Date of Online Bid Submission is hereby extended by a spell of ten (10) days' period and as such the Last Date of Online Bid Submission would be up to 22-10-2022. Subsequently the Technical Bid Opening Date would be 24-10-2022.

Other Terms and Conditions shall remain the same unless notified otherwise.

No: JKHPMC/MD/22/2795
 Dt:13/10/2022
 DIPK-NB-4396-22

Managing Director
 JKHPMC

DOCUMENTS LOST

While travelling from Natipora to Barbarshah, I lost documents of my auto rickshaw JK01R-5479. If anyone has found, please contact 7889730081

Ajaz Ahmad Bhat
 S/o Ghulam Nabi Bhat
 R/o Barbarshah Srinagar

SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER LEFT RIVER WORKS DIVISION



Ph. No. 0194-2458118 Email: lrwdsmc@gmail.com

FRESH SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

INVITING E- TENDERS



NIET NO: 44e-Tendering/2022-23

Dated:12-OCT-2022

For and on behalf of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation, e-tenders are invited on Percentage Basis from approved and eligible Contractors for the following work:-

Sl. No.	Name of work	Est. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document (Non-refundable)	Earnest Money (CDR)	Time of Completion in days/ Weeks	Class of Contractor (Civil)	Head of Account
1.	Development of Graveyard near Masjid Syed Toiba at Charamgari-Mohalla Nawabazar Ward 47	Rs. 13.49/-	Rs. 675/-	Rs. 26980/-	24 days strictly	BEE/ CEE/ DEE	@20 lacs State Capex 2021- 22

- Accord of Administrative Approval: SMC/Plg/2020-21/545-60, Dated: 13-07-2021.
- Technical Sanction No. 145 (ix), Dated: 20-07-2021.

Other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

CRITICAL DATE SHEET

1	Publish date	12-10-2022
2	Document download date	12-10-2022 04:00 PM To 18-10-2022 04:00 PM
3	Bid submission/uploading date	12-10-2022 04:00 PM To 18-10-2022 04:00 PM
4	Bid Opening date	19-10-2022 11:00 AM
5	Submission of hard copy for successful bidder	20-10-2022 10:00 AM To 04:00 PM

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- The Earnest Money (EMD) in respect of the advertised Cost of the work should be 2% in shape CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer LRWD SMC. EMD 2% of the successful bidder will be discharged when the bidder has signed the Agreement & furnished the required Performance Security.
- The contractor shall have to furnish the performance security @ 3% in shape CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer LRWD SMC of the value of contract valid till DLP before issuance of LOA / LOI. In case of L-1 failing to provide performance security @ 3% for the work within 7 days after being notified, his bid shall be cancelled and work shall be executed through other sources U/R at the risk, cost and responsibility of L1.
- In Case of Holidays/office happens to be closed on the date of opening of bids. Bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The intending tenderer/bidder should attach sales tax clearance certificate with upto date validation without which no tenders/bids will be entertained.
- The bid shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer LRWD, SMC at Old Funds office Building Karan Nagar near National School Municipal Park on 19-10-2022 11:00 AM.

No.SMC/EELRWD/2121-2130
 Dated:12-OCT-2022.
 DIPK-NB-4401-22

Sd/-
 Er. Sajad Ahmad Kawoosa,
 Executive Engineer,
 Left River Works Division
 Srinagar Municipal Corporation.



Government of Jammu & Kashmir

DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM, KASHMIR

e-mail: ddtreg123@gmail.com

Subject: - Inclusion of one partner in the Registration Certificate of "M/s Velocity Kashmir Tour & Travels" situated at Main Market, Chanapora, Srinagar.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, Mr. Ovais Ahmad Laway proprietor of the Travel unit namely M/s Velocity Kashmir Tour & Travels" situated at Main Market, Chanapora, Srinagar has approached this office for inclusion of one partner namely Mr. Imtiyaz Ahmad Mir S/o: Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Mir R/o: Mini Colony, Chanapora, Srinagar in the Registration Certificate of the said Travel Unit under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas, the applicant along with his application has submitted all requisite documents of new partner and Partnership Deed (Sub-registrar) by virtue of which Mr. Imtiyaz Ahmad Mir is to be included as 2nd partner in the Registration certificate of above mentioned Travel Agency.

Now, therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before the request of the applicant is considered for inclusion of partner in the Registration certificate, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/ Financial Institutions/Banks/Organizations, etc. for objection, if any. The same should reach this office within a period of 7 days from the publication of this Notice in the local newspaper. No objections beyond period of 7 days will be entertained and request of the applicant will be considered, as per rules.

No: Reg/1203/DTK/646

Sd/-

Dated: 13.10.2022

Deputy Director Tourism,

DIPK-11756-22

Registration (Kashmir)

(1st Call)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION Ganderbal

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

CIVIL WORKS

SINGLE COVER SYSTEM (upto Rs.2.50 Crores)

EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl/e-Tender NIT No.180 of 2022-23 issued under endorsement No.12661-70
 Dated:13.10.2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of the Work	Adv. Cost (Rs.In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class Of Contactor
2		3	4	5	6		8
1.	Other Roads in Ganderbal Constituency (Wakura Waskoora road, Bakura road, Sanik School link road and Check Watalbagh road and Sehpora incl. roads in Pandach area at Phak area under State Sector.	Rs.41.54 Lacs	Rs.1100/=	Rs.83080/=	500-Days	UT Sector	BEE/AAV

Position of AAA:-Accorded,
 Position of funds:-Available.

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	13-10-2022
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	13/10/2022 from 5:00 PM.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	13/10/2022 from 5.00 PM.
4.	Bid Submission End Date	19/10/2022 upto 4.00 PM.
5.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids(Online)	19/10/2022 at 4:05 P.M in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of Treasury Receipt/e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal.
 Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan and CDR must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

1. The Bidders shall upload earnest money equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the shape of CDR/FDR at the time of tendering pledged in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal and 3% of the allotted cost as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG by the successful bidder pledged in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal. The Performance Security i.e. 3% shall be released after successful completion of the Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. The EMD of 2% of successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 3% Performance Security/ after award of the contract for the Work is issued.

2.1 Note:-All bidders shall submit the uploaded Treasury Challan in Original before issuance allotment.
 3. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on WebSite www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division(tender receiving authority).

4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical

5. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-

a) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified timelimit.

c) Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

6(A). Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

6.1 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 acquaint bid submission process.

6.2 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 Vendor.

6.3 The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature.No bid will be accepted in physical form.

6.4 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

6.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original photocopies of documents related to the bid be submitted physically I by registered post /through courier before the dates specified in Para-1.

6.6 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including tender documents fee in terms of soft copies and all other documents required as per NIT with technical bid. No document (s) which has/have not been uploaded shall be entertained for technical evaluation in the form of hard copy. However in case of any clarification the bidders all have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

No.12661-70
 Dated-13-10-22
 DIPK-11753-22

Sd/-
 Executive Engineer
 R&B Division Ganderbal

JE Found Dead Under Mysterious Circumstances

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A Junior Engineer of Irrigation and Flood Control department was found dead under mysterious circumstances in Ellahibagh area of Srinagar on Saturday, reports said here.

JE identified as Qazi Mohammad Hanief of Buchpora was found dead under mysterious circumstances in Ellahibagh.

After police received the information about the same, they reached the spot and shifted the body to hospital for medico-legal formalities.

Meanwhile, an official said that further investigations have been initiated in this regard.

Super Specialty Hospital Starts Kidney Transplant Procedure

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In yet another feather to its cap, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar's Super Specialty Hospital has started the procedure of Kidney transplant, first of its kind in Kashmir.

Head of the Department (HoD) Nephrology, Dr Tajamul Hussain Mir said that it is a big achievement and it was great news for poor people who had to struggle hard to go outside Kashmir.

He said that SKIMS Soura was conducting such procedures very well but due to work load and now SSH has started conducting such procedures.

"Around 370 kidney transplant patients are on follow-up and we have been doing post transplantation care and

managing them for 15 years," he said, while requesting the government to provide more space and manpower and "we promise we will give better results."

HoD Anaesthesia, Dr Ruksana Najeeb said that it is a big achievement for us as now patients won't have to go outside and wait so long.

Both patients are recovering very well and all credit goes to the government, especially Principal GMC Srinagar for reaching this milestone, she said.

HoD Urology Dr Sajad Nazir said that in Kashmir they have been trying to start such services since 2006 and finally now we have started a Kidney



Transplant procedure at Super Specialty Hospital (SSH).

Earlier there was a shortage of staff for other things but now there is no such shortage and if the government will provide us more space. "We can conduct such procedures on a daily basis," he said.

"Both procedures have been conducted free and whatever medicine they will require

for one year will be free on Golden card," he said, the majority of work in such procedures is being conducted by the nephrology department.

He said that we are giving the best treatment to all the patients.

One of the donor from Sumbal, Bandipora said that his brother was suffering from kidney problems for the last 10 months and he donated one kidney to him.

"We are very much satisfied with the treatment and all medicines and other things were provided free on golden card," he said, adding that such facilities will prove beneficial for poor people in the long run. (KNO)

Multilingual Poetic Symposium Begins At NIT

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two-day multilingual poetic symposium & literary meet on the promotion of Hindi and other regional languages of Kashmir today began at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar.

The programme titled 'Akshar Aur Muskaan' is being organized by Wadie's Hindi Shiksha Samiti, Srinagar in collaboration with Kendriya Hindi Sansthaan (Central Institute of Hindi), Agra.

The aim of the symposium was to promote Hindi in the Union Territory of Kashmir and other regional languages of the Kashmir valley.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chairman of Kendriya Hindi Shikshan Mandal, Anil Kumar Sharma highlighted the importance of Hindi and other local languages in communication.

He said that Hindi helps a majority of Indians to communicate with each other and is also



considered one of the binding forces for India.

He said that Hindi is becoming a pan-world language and is being loved by people all over

the world.

He also urged the participants to promote the Hindi language for being the national language as it is being understood by the

vast population of the country.

Director CHI, Prof Bina Sharma, Regional Manager (HR) LIC, Head of Department of Hindi, University of Kashmir, Director

NIT Srinagar, Dr Rakesh Sehgal, Registrar NIT Srinagar, and others also spoke on the occasion.

The event saw the participation of several schools from Srinagar and appreciation of students studying Hindi in these schools.

On the occasion, Sheersh Puraskars were also distributed among JK BOSE Hindi toppers.

Skits on the theme of the promotion and preservation of Hindi and other cultural items were also performed by Presentation Convent School, Tyndale Biscoe School, Khalsa School, and Malinson Girls' School.

Bi-lingual Hindi and Urdu Mushaira was also held in which Hindi and Urdu poetry was recited.

Every stanza of the poetry was appreciated by the participants with claps.

On the second day of the seminar, paper reading and discussions will be held on regional languages like Sheena, Pahari, Gojri, Punjabi, and Kashmiri.

DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488, 2452222, 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
- BIJBERA: 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
19 - Rabi-ul-Awwal
1444

PRAYERS

FAJR	5:13
ZUHR	12:16
ASR	4:18
Magrib	6:00
ISHA	7:19

- ### This Day In History
- 1710 - British troops occupies Port Royal, Nova Scotia
 - 1757 - Austrian troops occupy Berlin
 - 1793 - Battle of Wattignies: French defeat Allied forces and lift siege of Maubeuge.
 - 1900 - Great Britain and Germany sign the Anglo-German Treaty, agreeing to maintain territorial integrity of China and support 'open door' policy called for by US Secretary of State
 - 1901 - Baron Hayashi of Japan begins negotiations in London to make an alliance with the British and strengthen Japan's position against Russians
 - 1913 - Booth Theater opens at 222 W 44th St NYC
 - 1915 Great Britain declares war on Bulgaria
 - 1926 - Mohammed Nadir Khan begins coup in Afghanistan, 1200 killed
 - 1926 - Troop ship sinks in Yangtze River, killing 1,200
 - 1934 - Mao Zedong & 25,000 troops begin 6,000 mile Long March
 - 1943 - US 1st Army establishes headquarter in Bristol
 - 1944 - Hungary: Horthy government falls/nazi count Szalasi becomes premier
 - 1945 - UN's Food & Agriculture Organization comes into existence
 - 1951 - The first Prime Minister of Pakistan, Liaquat Ali Khan, is assassinated in Rawalpindi.
 - 1952 - Pakistan's 1st Test starts, v India at Delhi
 - 1953 - Fidel Castro sentenced to 15 years (Havana)
 - 1957 - USAF sends 2 aluminium bullets into space
 - 1962 - Cuban missile crisis begins as JFK is shown photos confirming the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba
 - 1964 - China becomes world's 5th nuclear power
 - 1968 - China reports removal of president Li Sjao-tji
 - 1968 - Czechoslovakia & Russian "accord" rules allies Soviet forces
 - Sports Awards Black Power Salute.
 - 1969 - Soyuz 6 returns to Earth

From KO Archives

MoU Contained Some Deficiencies

Observer News Service

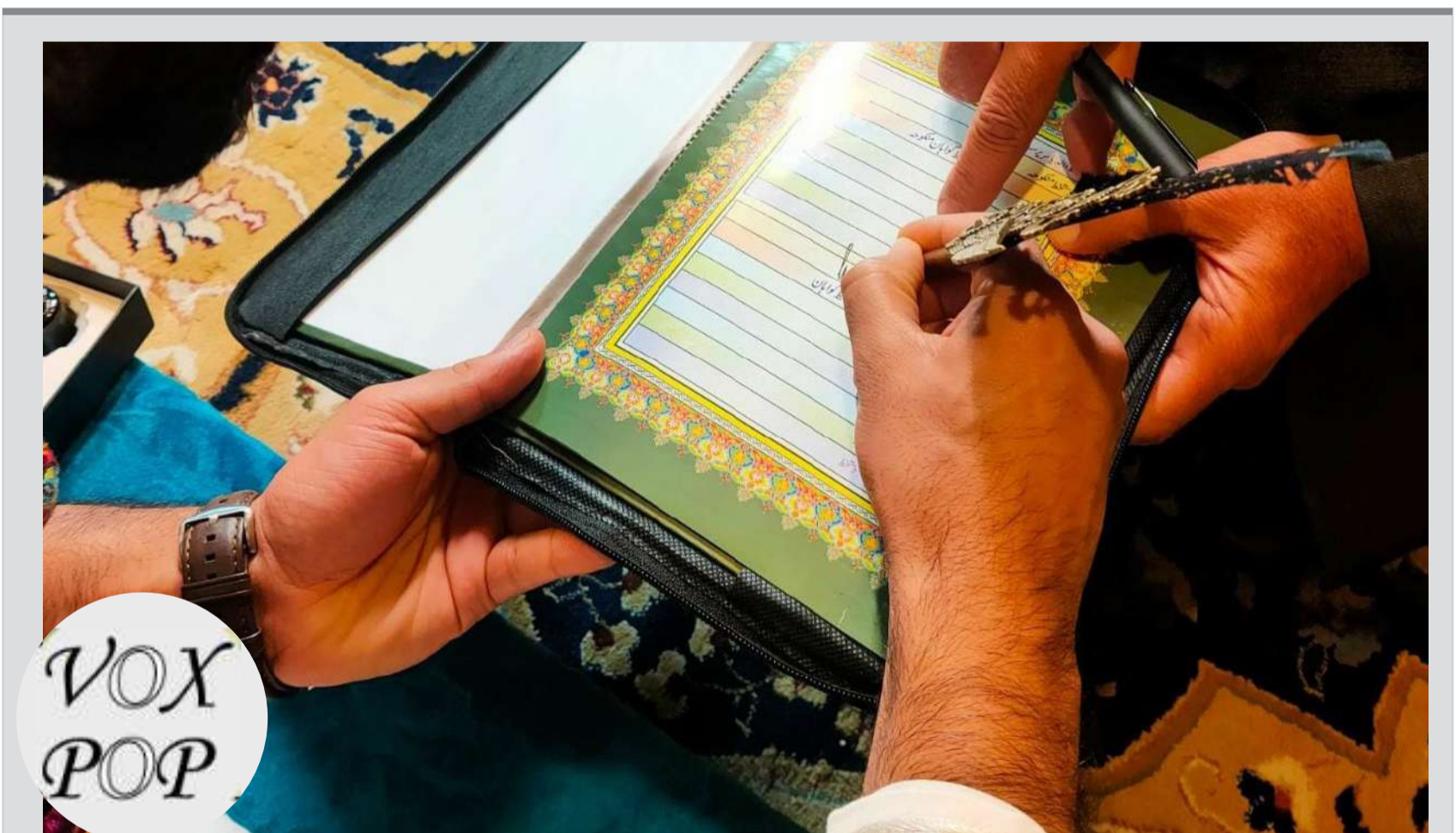
SRINAGAR: In a candid admission, the chief minister, Dr Faarooq Abdullah, today said the Centre had taken him for a ride when the former union energy Minister P K Kumaramanglam, obtained his signatures on the memorandum of understanding (MoU) whose contents later turned out to be detrimental to the state's interests

According to a CNS report Dr Abdullah told the state assembly during an obituary reference to the late Kumaramanglam that a MoU had been signed between him and union minister. However, when the documents were prepared the union energy minister allegedly with malafide intentions, obtained his signatures on such papers which, on closer scrutiny later revealed that these were against the interests of the state.

However an official handout issued today said the chief minister had said "the MoU signed by him with the then union energy minister had been signed in good faith to benefit the State." However the handout said "Later on the state officials pointed out some deficiencies." He said he immediately up the matter with Kumaramanglam who "readily agreed". But before correction could be effected, the union Minister passed away. "These clauses have to be modified to protect the interests of the State" Dr. Abdullah added.

When contacted the principal secretary power development department Ajit Kumar told Observer News Service, the 'deficiencies' pertained to the state's claim for reimbursement of the expenditure it had already incurred on the power projects. The MoU did not mention this. However, Kumar said the Centre had agreed to reimburse the expenditure and necessary modifications would be incorporated in the MoU shortly.

(Kashmir Observer, October 16, 2000)



VOX POP

City Youth Voice Measures To Counter Late Marriages

Syed Mohammad Burhan

At a time when wedding bells are ringing in almost every city locality, research suggests that young adults in Kashmir not only marry and have children later than previous generations, they take more time to get to know each other before tying the knot. Indeed, some spend some part of their life as friends or romantic partners before marrying.

In 2021, a survey conducted by a non-profit organization Tehreek e Fala-Ul-Muslimeen showed that nearly 50,000 women in Kashmir valley have crossed the age limit of getting married of whom more than 10,000 are from Srinagar. In a bid to put an end to late marriages, city youth voice their opinions to counter the burning issue.

I think, the extravaganza and new customs have tarnished the naive and sublime institution of marriage are the main factors behind late marriages. The pompous and futile practices add a burden to people who fail to match the social pressure. In addition, the imbalance is created by educational status among both genders, economic background, caste system and choices of working or nonworking class. As a result, the poor, lower middle class and middle class are left in a very bad state resulting in late marriages.

It is high time we need to stop spending lavishly on our weddings and we need to give up the casteist and racist approach when we look for a match.

Gazala Hassan
Educator

In contemporary times, the number of "single people" is increasing in

Kashmir. In my opinion, late marriages are a self-made socio-cultural issue which should be viewed at multiple levels. At an individual level, we are giving preferences to worldly success. At the parental level, we are still very conservative and at socio-cultural levels.

I think we need to have counseling sessions for everyone to be husband and wife, their parents, siblings to make them understand the new life and its responsibilities and get rid of unnecessary customs and traditions.

Ilyas Rizvi
Socio-Cultural Researcher

Marriage is a sacred institution where two independent individuals have to understand and invest in a relationship, rather than expect to be perfectionist.

When an individual or parents or the society wants to look at your skin color,

accounts and professional position, late marriages will be common. To attain such a level one has to invest time and money. This has taken a toll on our social fabric and we see chaos. We need to stop looking into marriage from a materialistic point of view and look at it as a lifelong relationship based on mutual respect.

Syed Mehran
Student, LASE

I wanted to get married two years ago but due to monetary and caste issues, was not able to find a good match. I think we should stop judging someone from a monetary and casteist point of view. We need to restore our faith in God and try to value people for who they are and not because of monetary aspects.

Rafiq Ahmad (Name Changed)
Businessman

Can Accused Be Convicted If Weapon Not Recovered? What Supreme Court Said

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday said an accused in a murder case can be convicted even in the absence of recovery of the crime weapon, if there is direct evidence in the form of an eyewitness.

The Supreme Court set aside the June 2018 verdict of the Madras High Court which had acquitted three accused in a murder case.

A bench of Justices M R Shah and Krishna Murari said the submission by the counsel for the accused that the original informant and other independent witnesses have not been examined and recovery of weapon not been proved, and so the accused should be acquitted cannot be accepted.

"Similarly, assuming that the

"As per settled position of law, there can be a conviction on the basis of the deposition of the sole eyewitness, if the said witness is found to be trustworthy and/or reliable," it said, adding, there is no reason to doubt the credibility or reliability of the eyewitness in the case.

Setting aside the high court judgement which had acquitted the accused, the bench restored the trial court verdict that convicted and sentenced them to life imprisonment.

The bench noted that the accused, who were arrested in August 2013, were tried for committing murder of a man.

According to the prosecution, the accused had obstructed the car, in which the victim and others were travelling, and assaulted him due to which he sustained injuries and



recovery of the weapon used is not established or proved also cannot be a ground to acquit the accused when there is a direct evidence of the eyewitness," the bench said.

"Recovery of the weapon used in the commission of the offence is not a sine qua non to convict the accused. If there is a direct evidence in the form of eyewitness, even in the absence of recovery of weapon, the accused can be convicted," it said.

The bench noted that one of the prosecution witnesses was an eyewitness and he fully supported the case.

died on the spot.

After the trial court convicted the three accused, they approached the high court which acquitted them.

While allowing the appeals filed by the state, the Supreme Court directed the accused to surrender within six weeks before the court concerned or jail authorities to undergo the sentence.

The bench directed that if the accused do not surrender within the time stipulated, the court concerned or superintendent of police will take them into custody to serve out the sentence.

Former high court chief justice shot dead in Pakistan's Balochistan: Report



ANI

PAKISTAN: The former chief justice was taken to a nearby hospital, where he died of his injuries, the report said.

A former high court chief justice of Pakistan's Balochistan province was shot dead outside a mosque on Friday, police officials said.

Assaults opened fire at Muhammad Noor Meskanzai outside the mosque in the

Kharan area, which left him gravely injured, Kharan Superintendent of Police Asif Halim told Dawn.

The former chief justice was taken to a nearby hospital, where he died of his injuries, the report said.

Expressing condolences over the death of the "fearless judge", Balochistan chief minister Mir Abdul Qudoos Bizenjo said his services were "unforgettable".

Bizenjo said that the "cowardly attacks of the enemies of peace cannot intimidate the nation".

Maskanzai authored the landmark judgement that declared the Riba-based banking system against the Sharia.

Quetta Bar Association (QBA) President Ajmal Khan Kakar also condemned Muskanzai's killing. He said every citizen of Pakistan was deeply saddened by the death of the former judge.

Clash Between NATO & Russia Will Lead to 'Global Catastrophe': Putin

Agencies

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin has warned of a "global catastrophe" in the event of a direct clash of NATO troops with Russia. Putin made the comments at a news conference at the end of a summit in Kazakhstan. Just a few days back, Moscow hit Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities with its heaviest missile attacks since the start of its invasion on February 24.

"In any case, direct contact, direct clash of (NATO) troops with the Russian army is a very dangerous move which could lead to a global catastrophe. I hope that those who are saying this are smart enough not to take such a step," Putin said.

Putin said that the missile strikes were a retaliation for the attack on Crimea bridge and there was no need for further attacks right now.

"We do not set ourselves the task of destroying Ukraine. No, of course not," Putin said.

He said there was "no need for massive strikes" now because most designated targets had been hit.

Putin also spoke about Moscow's current situation and said



they were "doing everything right". Russia has suffered a string of embarrassing defeats against Kyiv's forces in the past few weeks.

"What is happening today is not pleasant. But all the same, (if Russia hadn't attacked in February) we would have been in the same situation, only the conditions would have been worse for us," Putin told reporters.

"So we're doing everything right," he insisted.

Earlier, Putin had warned that he would use nuclear weapons to defend Russian territory after annexing four regions of Ukraine last month, a move

which the UN condemned in a vote this week.

Putin also spoke on the matter of mobilisation and said that his call-up of Russian reservists would be over within two weeks and there were no plans for a further conscription.

He also repeated the Kremlin position that Russia was willing to hold talks, although he said they would require international mediation if Ukraine was prepared to take part.

Just a few hours before Putin made the comments, Kremlin-installed officials in the southern Kherson region had urged residents to leave as Kyiv said its soldiers were advancing.

Pak "Surprised" By Biden's "Dangerous Nation" Remark, Summons US Envoy

Reuters

PAKISTAN: Pakistan's foreign minister on Saturday said the US ambassador to the country had been summoned after President Joe Biden said in a speech that Pakistan is "maybe one of the most dangerous nations in the world" as it has "nuclear weapons without any cohesion".

The minister, Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari said he was surprised by Biden's comments and a misunderstanding was created by a lack of engagement.

Bhutto-Zardari said he didn't



think the decision to summon the US Ambassador will negatively affect relations with the United States.

Biden made the remarks at a Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee reception on Thursday.

Woman Alleges Top Bureaucrat, Officials Raped Her, Special Team To Probe

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A Special Investigating Team has been constituted to probe allegations of a 21-year-old woman in Andaman and Nicobar Islands that she was gang-raped by officials there including a former chief secretary.

The police registered a case earlier this month on the complaint filed by the woman alleging that she was sexually abused by Narain, a 1990 batch IAS officer, and Labour commissioner R L Rishi at the latter's official

residence on two occasions. The Aberdeen police station registered the case and a Special Investigating Team headed by a Senior Superintendent of Police was formed to probe the serious allegation against Narain, who is at present posted as the chairman and managing director of the Delhi Financial Corporation.

When contacted, Narain told PTI that he can not comment on the issue as the matter is sub-judice.

The woman lodged the complaint with the police on August

21 in which she gave a detailed account of the alleged sexual attack on her twice - in April and May - and requested for preserving the CCTV footage of the then chief secretary's residence for evidence.

She has also requested a Test Identification Parade of the employees present at the residence of the official.

The complainant has also recorded her statement under section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) before the chief metropolitan magistrate detailing the allegation

Soon, Aadhaar For Newborns Along With Birth Certificates In All States

Reuters

NEW DELHI: Aadhaar enrollment for newborns along with birth certificates is expected to be available in all states in the next few months, expanding beyond 16 states currently offering the facility, government sources told Press Trust of India.

At present, 16 states have Aadhaar Linked Birth Registration. The process began more than one year ago, with various states getting added over time.

Work is on in remaining states and Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) -- the government agency that issues Aadhaar numbers -- expects that over the next few months all states will be able to offer the

facial photograph linked with the UID of their parents. Hence, biometric update is required (ten fingers, iris and facial photograph) once the child turns 5 and 15.

More than 1,000 state and central government schemes today leverage Aadhaar for identification and authentication of beneficiaries, transfer of benefits, and ensuring de-duplication. Of these, nearly 650 schemes are of state governments and 315 central government-run schemes -- all of which use Aadhaar ecosystem and its biometric authentication.

As many as 134 crore Aadhaars have been issued till date. Last year, updates and enrolments for this 12-digit biometric identifier added to nearly



facility, bringing added convenience to new parents.

For children up to 5 years, no biometrics is captured. Their UID is processed on the basis of demographic information and

20 crore. Of this, 4 crore were new enrolments, a number that includes newborn babies and children up to 18 years. Only 30 lakh were related to new adult enrolments.

Around 100 Hindus From Pakistan Reach Jodhpur, Say Don't Want To Go Back

Press Trust of India

JODHPUR: Two batches of Hindus from Pakistan's Sindh province reached Rajasthan's Jodhpur this week, alleging persecution and discrimination in relief work following flash floods in that country.

The migrants, who belong to the Bhil community and came from Sindh's Tando Allahyar district, expressed willingness to settle in India and said they don't want to go back.

Chaturaram Bhil, who came here with his wife and eight children, said the two batches had around 100 people from his community. Both groups came to India through the Attari-Wagah check post.

While the first group crossed over to India on October 12, the other came on October 14, Mr Bhil said. He said they first reached Haridwar and from there they travelled to Jodhpur.

Some of them stayed in Jodhpur while others left for Rajasthan's Jaisalmer, he said.

Mr Bhil said the flash floods in their area made their lives miserable as they faced increased discrimination in relief work.

"We neither have any job to sustain our family nor enough money to buy food. Houses of several of us were washed away

in floods. We hardly have any place to live," he said.

Vishnu, another member of the group that reached Jodhpur on Friday night, said, "The discrimination that we faced till now turned out to be unbearable in flood times. The bias made life very difficult there. We had no alternative other than leaving Pakistan."

He said none of them has the intention of going back, and they will settle in India and find some work.

Seemant Lok Sangthan chief Hindu Singh Sodha said the migrants had no other option in the wake of persecution and discrimination faced by them in their country. They consider India as their natural home, he said.

"They come on a pilgrim visa to Haridwar, where their arrival was reported by the agencies, and then they headed to their final destination. They don't have a visa to settle here," Mr Singh said, adding that some of the families have left for Jaisalmer.

Meanwhile, the police authorities sent teams to check documents of the migrants.

"We will do whatever is lawful. If they do not want to go back, they will be asked to carry out the formalities to stay here," said ASP (CID) Rameshwar Lal Meghwal.

NEWS MAKERS

Why APJ Abdul Kalam Skipped Addressing RSS Event In 2014

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Former president APJ Abdul Kalam had once cancelled his visit to the RSS headquarters in Nagpur for an event after friends warned him that he would be labelled as an "RSS sympathiser", claims a new book "Kalam: The Untold Story".

The book, written by Mr Kalam's private secretary RK Prasad, claimed that the flip-flop by President Kalam on the visit "annoyed the RSS leadership" as they had made the arrangements and planned for publicity around his visit.

Mr Kalam eventually did visit the RSS headquarters and addressed the participants at an in-house training a month after the date that he had agreed on initially. However, none of the top brass of the organisation turned up.

October 15, 2022, marks the 91st birth anniversary of Mr Kalam. An aerospace scientist who served as the President of India from 2002 to 2007, he was widely considered the 'People's President'.

"In May 2014, our office received an invitation from the RSS general secretary Ram Madhav. They wanted the former President to address young RSS volunteers at a training camp in the presence of the RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat," writes Mr Prasad, who has served Mr Kalam from 1995 when he was the sci-



entific adviser to the then Defence Minister until his death in 2015.

"The camp would conclude on June 12, and they wished to have Mr Kalam visit before that on a date convenient to him. Ram Madhav later visited Mr Kalam, and it was decided that the former President would attend the programme at the RSS headquarters

on the concluding day of the training camp," he added.

However, as a result of inputs and advice received from some of his friends, Mr Kalam changed his mind.

According to Mr Prasad, he was warned by them that a visit to the RSS headquarters would get him labelled as "RSS sympathiser" and "lead to a possible misuse of his name by the organisation".

Not willing to go after the stern advice from his friends, as per the book, Mr Kalam asked Mr Prasad to provide an excuse to the organisation and to say that he would be glad to pay a visit there five days prior to the said event.

"I really had a rough time talking with the contact person at the RSS. The leadership got really annoyed at this sudden backing out because they had made arrangements and planned for publicity around his visit," he added.

Notably, former President Pranab Mukherjee attended a valedictory session of the "Tritiya Varsh Varg" or the Third Year Course organised by the RSS at its headquarters in June 2018 despite criticism by the Congress and his family members.

Published by Bloomsbury, "Kalam: The Untold Story" throws new light on Mr Kalam's relationship with political leaders, including those at the highest level, and the truth behind some of the controversies.

Kerala Governor's Facebook Account Hacked



Press Trust of India

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan's Facebook account was hacked on Saturday, police said.

The hacking was informed to the police. The Governor Arif Mohammed Khan said "My Facebook page appears to be hacked since today morning. The matter has been reported and efforts are on to restore the page", a tweet said.

Even after several hours of reporting the incident to the police and the social media platform, the unauthorised posts on Mr Khan's account were yet to be removed.

There were three posts on the account that show hardware or construction-related videos, along with descriptions of the same in Arabic script.

A source in Raj Bhavan said it would take time to restore the account.

Trade Body President Joins BJP In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Several prominent people, including the president of a trade body, joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) here on Saturday, a party spokesman said.

Chamber of Traders Federation president Neeraj Anand and several other social activists were welcomed into the party fold by J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina and other senior leaders at the party headquarters, the spokesman said.

"Our hands are further strengthened today with this joining and we are sure that we will together take forward the development mission initiated by Prime Minister Narendra

Modi in J&K," Raina said.

Lauding the trader fraternity for its efforts towards the welfare of the people during the coronavirus lockdown, he said Anand along with other trade members was actively helping the needy with the distribution of essentials.

He recalled that Anand along with others donated liberally into the Prime Minister's relief fund at that time.

Anand thanked BJP leader for the warm welcome and said he along with other new entrants will work with dedication for betterment of the people in Jammu and Kashmir. He said he will work for the organization and the whole of Jammu and Kashmir with a new vigour.



A cordon and search operation (CASO) was launched in Chowdari Gund, village of Shopian on Saturday after a Kashmiri Pandit man was shot dead.

KO Photo

Goyal Given Additional Charge Of Chairman BOPEE

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Government on Saturday assigned charge of Chairman BOPEE to Additional Chief Secretary R K Goyal (IAS) in addition to his duties.

"In exercise of powers conferred under Section 4 of the Jammu and Kashmir Board of Professional Entrance Examinations Act, 2002, the Government

hereby orders that Mr. Raj Kumar Goyal, IAS (AGMUT:1990), Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Home Department shall discharge functions of Chairman, J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examinations, under the provisions of the Act, in addition to his own duties, as an interim arrangement, till further orders," reads a government order

Army Invites People Across Country For Tourism Activities In Jammu

Agencies

JAMMU: The army has invited people across country for different tourism related activities and has also extended support to tourism department for exploring new destinations.

Official sources told a local news agency KNO that the army units have been inviting people across the country to explore the virgin treks, waterfalls and new destinations of Jammu division.

The army is facilitating the stay of visiting tourists and also making them aware of local landscape and history.

Official sources said that besides organizing events in far flung areas of Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Poonch and Rajouri in coordination with civil administration. The army now invites people from across the country on trekking expeditions in Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Udhampur districts.

"The move aimed to showcase the real picture of peace in development in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly post abrogation of 370 besides improving the living standards of people residing in far off areas of Jammu division," a senior army officer told KNO.

"The tourism is synonymous with tranquillity and development. If tourists come and visit the unexplored destinations of

bordering Rajouri- Poonch or explore the mountains of militancy affected Doda-Kishtwar, it will give a clear and loud messages of peace in Jammu and Kashmir," the officer said and adding, "Government of India is banking high on development of tourist destinations and army just supplement the government's intend as we have the access to all the areas."

The officers quoted above said that from past few months' army officials and tourism authorities in unison inviting civilian populations particularly travel bloggers and sports enthusiast from various parts of the country on trekking and mountaineering expeditions in mountainous Doda-Kishtwar districts and also felicitating tourists at unexplored valleys and lakes of Rajouri-Poonch.

Recently, the Army's Mendhar Gunners Battalion under the Ace of Spade Gunners Brigade brought a group of tourists from Maharashtra to Poonch's Mendhar and took them to various untouched tourist spots and places of religious importance.

As per army officials, the visiting group takes to Upper Dharna Park near the Line of Control, Ancient Ram Kund Temple, Pir Baba Chhote Shah Dargah, Buddhist Viharas in Sakhi Pir, Hanuman Temple at Mendhar and other places.

MD NITI Aayog Reviews Progress Of Baramulla District Under ADP

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: Managing Director, Aspirational District Programme (Govt of India) Rakesh Ranjan on Saturday paid visit to Baramulla district where he carried out various developmental activities and reviewed the overall progress of the district under Aspirational District Programme (ADP).

At the outset, the MD NITI Aayog accompanied by DC Baramulla Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar paid a visit to Wagoor block where he laid the foundation stone of Tehsil Complex under Aspirational District Programme. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 38.30 lacs.

The MD after laying the foundation stone also interacted with the PRIs and other concerned stakeholders at Community Center Wagoor where he listened to various issues and demands of the people and got their feedback with regard to the various developmental works to be carried out in the area.

During the interaction, the people applauded the efforts being taken by the government for the welfare of the district. Various initiatives being taken with regard to engagement of

women folk in employment generation schemes were also comprehensively discussed during which the MD exhorted under the women to come forward and take benefits of these welfare schemes meant for their socio-economic development.

The MD also inspected the ongoing work of the Play field under Aspirational District Programme (ADP).

Later, the MD chaired officers meet at Dak Bungalow wherein DC Baramulla presented a welcome note to the MD. She presented a district profile and briefed the chair through Power Point Presentation the progress achieved under the parameters of ADP.

While assessing performance of different departments, the MD NITI Aayog expressed satisfaction over the progress achieved so far and further issued instructions to DC to monitor all the developmental works and accomplish the pending task in a time bound manner. He also congratulated District Administration Baramulla for achieving milestones under the Aspirational District Programme.

'Experience Heaven On Earth'

MoS Education Urges People To Visit Kulgam

Observer News Service

KULGAM: Union Minister of State for Education, Dr. Subhas Sarkar, who is on visit to Kulgam under Central Government Public Outreach Programme, on Saturday held interaction with SHG members and beneficiaries of various schemes at Mini-Secretariat Kulgam.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat briefed the Minister that there are 3200 SHG groups under NRLM in the district and about 54,000 employments were generated in different sectors through various self employment generation schemes in the district.

It was shared that there are 42000 active job card holders and an amount of Rs 14 crore was disbursed this year. Moreover, 1,414 units of PMAY-G were completed in the district.

While interacting with beneficiaries of PMAY-G, the Minister said that it is the dream of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to see every Indian having a house. He also distributed some household items among PMAY-G beneficiaries for grah pravesh.

The Minister also highlighted initiatives and measures of Government and district Administration Kulgam for development and promotion of tourist destinations in the district.

He stated that people must visit this beautiful district and must explore Aharbal, Chiran-

bal, Malvan Top, Kousarnag, Chirsar, Kousarnag, Chimer Badibehak and other tourist destinations of the district and added that Aharbal witnessed a footfall of near about two lakh tourists in last 9 months.

The Minister also appreciated the district administration for developing and rejuvenating more than 273 amrit sarovars.

Later, he also interacted with the beneficiaries of various schemes and also distributed farm machinery among the beneficiaries.

The Minister also handed over Keys and sanction letters of vehicles to beneficiaries under MUMKIN scheme at a distribution function.

He also visited stalls of various departments at Mini-Secretariat which were installed by various departments.

Earlier, the Minister in presence of Deputy Commissioner and SSP also laid foundation stone of 100 bedded Gujjar & Bakerwal hostel at Kulgam which will come up at an estimated cost of Rs 6.70 crore at Kulgam.

He also visited Government Girls Higher Secondary School Kulgam. School children presented colourful cultural programmes and patriotic songs during the event. Stalls were also installed by these students showcasing their achievements, innovations and cultural ethos which were inspected by the Minister. He also inspected various sections of the school which include herbal garden and fish pond raised inside the school premises.

He also flagged-off group of 15 girls for trekking expedition to Aharbal from premises of school and also visited District Civil Services Library/reading room at District Employment & Counseling Centre Kulgam.

The Minister also held meeting and interacted with DDC and BDC members, MC counsellors and other PRI members and listened to their demands at Rest House Chawalgam.

He also interacted with delegations of fruit traders, youth, ST and other delegations to listen to their demands.

Electoral Roll revision

Wave Of Anxiety In J&K Over Manipulation Attempts: PAGD

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Alleging an attempt of manipulation of the electoral rolls in the name of revision, the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) on Saturday said it has created a wave of anxiety across Jammu and Kashmir and appealed to the people and political parties to raise their voice against it.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting of the alliance here, PAGD spokesperson and CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami referred to the Jammu administration's now-withdrawn order on facilitating the registration of new voters who are from outside the Union territory and asked, "What was the need?"

"The process was started in the name of delimitation...but the attempt of manipulation in the name of revision of electoral rolls has created a wave of anxiety among the people in Jammu as well as in Kashmir," he said.



First, the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Electoral Officer said about 25 lakh new voters will be added and even non-locals can register themselves as voters in the Union territory, but a few days later, the government clarified it was a disinformation created by the media, Tarigami said.

"Then, at an all-party meet, the Lieutenant Governor said it is a wrong perception. If it was wrong

perception then, what is it now? A deputy commissioner from Jammu comes out with an order," he said, referring to the order authorising tehsildars to issue certificate of residence to those residing in the winter capital for more than one year to facilitate their entry in the ongoing special summary revision of electoral rolls.

The order was subsequently withdrawn.

No Forecast For Any Major Snowfall In J&K: MeT

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Weather department on Saturday said that there was no forecast for any major snowfall for ten days in Jammu and Kashmir even as night temperatures recorded a slight improvement in the Valley but hovered below normal in some places on Saturday.

A meteorological department official here said that while dry weather was expected to con-

tinue till October 17, light to moderate rain or snowfall (over higher reaches) was very likely during 18-20th in J&K with main activity on October 19th (60-70% chance). He however said that there was no forecast of any major snowfall for next one week to 10 days in J&K.

Regarding minimum temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 6.6°C against 6.4°C on the previous night. The temperature

was 0.6°C above normal for the summer capital during this time of the year, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 5.0°C, the same as on the previous night. The temperature was 0.2°C below normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at 2.2°C against 2.2°C on the previous night and it was 0.2°C below normal for the south Kashmir resort, he said. (GNS)

Chief Justice Highlights Need For Better Infra In Judiciary In J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Justice, Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey today chaired a meeting today in the conference hall of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh at Srinagar and took review of ongoing construction works of District Court Complex, Kulgam and new Munsiff Court building at Damhal Hanjipora.

The meeting was attended by Registrar General, Sanjeev Gupta, Registrar Judicial Srinagar, M.D. Housing Board through Virtual Mode, Joint Director Housing Board, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam and heads of various other departments.

During the meeting, the Chief Justice directed officers for speedy execution of work so that the court complex is completed within the timeline.

The Chief Justice, during the meeting, also highlighted the need and requirement of infrastructure in the District Judiciary in the U.T of J&K and Ladakh for better administration of Justice so that no inconvenience is faced by the Litigants and Advocates.

During the meeting, ADC Kulgam briefed the Chief Justice regarding the progress of work of District Court Complex at Kulgam and new Munsiff Court building at Damhal Hanjipora.

Union Minister Inspects Under-Construction Dry Port In Samba

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Union Minister Shantanu Thakur on Saturday inspected the under-construction dry port in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district and said its completion will facilitate industrial growth and also generate numerous job opportunities for the youth.

Thakur, Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, visited Samba as part of the Centre's outreach programme and assessed the pace of development works across various sectors in the border district.

While inspecting the Inland Container Depot (dry port) being set up by Associated Container Terminal Ltd (ACTL) for felicitation of domestic and international trade, the minister said it will pace up the Industrial growth in J&K besides generating numerous job opportunities for the youth.

Earlier, interacting with

the public representatives, the minister said the government is committed to develop Jammu and Kashmir on all fronts and every sector will be given due importance for the welfare of the people.

"The government is ensuring that the benefits of all the centrally sponsored schemes must reach the last man in the last queue in Jammu & Kashmir," he said.

The minister virtually inaugurated various development works including construction of deep drain at Municipal Committee Bari Brahmana under drainage sector having project cost of Rs 2.71 crore, construction of four link roads, two RCC bridge spans, one vented causeway total amounting to Rs 22.68 crore.

The minister also distributed sanction letters among beneficiaries of Mumkin Scheme, Ladli Beti Scheme, PMEGP scheme, Handicrafts, Handloom, Landpass Books under Digital India Initiative and three e-rickshaws.

Public Representation Pivotal For All-Round Dev: Minister Khatik



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Public representation is pivotal for all-round development and for strengthening democracy, Union Minister Virendra Kumar Khatik said on Saturday.

Khatik, who was on two-day visit to Srinagar as part of the Centre's public outreach programme, held a public darbar in the Harwan area of the city. He also held an interaction with representatives of rural and urban local bodies.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union minister of social justice and empowerment said public representation is pivotal for all-round development and for strengthening democracy.

By establishing grassroots-level governance through urban local bodies and panchayat raj institutions, the Srinagar district has witnessed a visible change in overall developmental front, he said.

Khatik lauded the efforts of the district administration in effective implementation of different centrally-sponsored public-oriented schemes.

He also appreciated the sanitation and cleanliness measures undertaken by the SMC to maintain hygienic environment in Srinagar city.

He praised the people of Srinagar in extending full support to the district administration in strengthening the grassroots-level democracy and participating actively in development process.

Khatik stressed upon the people to further cooperate with the administration so that all development and welfare schemes are effective and effi-

ciently implemented on ground for the benefit of the people.

The minister also urged the people to take benefit from the individual beneficiary scheme launched for children suffering from profound hearing loss under the age group of 0-5 for free treatment through cochlear implant (a prosthetic device).

He said the children from poor families whose annual family income is below Rs 2 lakh are eligible to get the benefit of this scheme. This scheme is implemented through the government as well as selected empanelled private hospitals in the field, he added.

While underscoring the achievements of women entrepreneurs of SHGs, the minister said the prime minister is focused on giving employment opportunities to the women so that they could improve the economic condition of their families.

He said Kashmir, globally known as Heaven on Earth, is on path of development with robust democratic setup at grassroots and assured all possible support from the central government for its prosperity, besides fulfilling the demands of the local people and he administration.

The minister handed over sanction letters to the tune of Rs 55 lakh among beneficiaries under PMEGP, ACC and NRLM in setting up of income generating units to earn livelihood with dignity and honour.

Khatik also handed over keys of milk vans to the beneficiaries under the Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS), besides sanction orders for setting up dairy units in the district.

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Costs of War

The second Gulf War has begun. How the war will progress, how Saddam Husain will respond, and how military and political events will unfold cannot be predicted. And what after the war? The first casualty of the war has already occurred: it is the United Nations. America and Britain have fatally harmed it by stripping the world body of its international authority and by establishing a dubious principle - that if it suits a state or a group of states, the UN can be bypassed. What matters is the unabashed pursuit of geopolitical and commercial interests. If the UN stands in the way, it should be brushed aside. By refusing to table a second resolution for fear it may not get a Security Council majority or it may be vetoed, the US and UK have seriously undermined the world body. The world should now get ready to witness a descent into the law of jungle. All this talk about the war ushering in an era of democracy in the Middle East is poppycock. Democracy cannot be imposed from above; it has to grow from within as a result of a people's home-grown struggle.

Saddam may disappear from the scene, enabling the US to occupy Baghdad, install an interim administration there and pacify resistance elsewhere; or he may succeed in resisting at length, in Baghdad or elsewhere, forcing the US into a long fight. Or he could disappear, but others emerge to resist the US. The possibilities are endless.

If the United States is sincere in its assurance that all it wants is the destruction of Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction, it will have no difficulty in living up to the world's much reduced expectations.

However, only the ignorant or foolish believe in any of that anyway. America has more far-reaching goals in Iraq. It will not be content to stop at destroying Saddam's arsenal of weapons of mass destruction, if indeed such an arsenal exists. Nor will it be content to depose Saddam himself and then install a civilian government in his place. Nor will it rest once the mechanisms for a democratic future in Iraq are a reality, if in fact they are really a part of the vision.

Rather, US ambitions are for nothing less than complete control of Iraq and its oil reserves, and for a redrawing of the map of the entire region according to its own -- and crucially, Israel's -- agenda. On its way toward achieving that goal, the US has amassed the most terrifying arsenal of weaponry ever dispatched from its soil into the Persian Gulf. The weapons themselves -- awesome though they may be in their destructive power and technical sophistication -- are of course not foolproof. Just how smart are the famed "smart bombs" the US are proposing to unleash on Iraq? Previous conflicts -- in Kosovo, for instance -- revealed that a large percentage of them go horribly astray. They have even landed in the wrong country on occasion. How safe will Iraq's civilians be when all hell comes raining down on them?

The prospect of a bombardment, the extent of which can barely be imagined, is terrifying. How can such a force fail to cause significant "collateral damage" -- the Pentagon's deceptive euphemism for blowing into pieces men, women and children, whose misfortune it is to have been born citizens of Iraq?

As the region braces itself for a full fledged war, two images crystallize in the mind one is of Saddam Hussein -- isolated and perhaps long out of touch with reality in the identical bunkers between which he moves, all the time contemplating his lack of a future. We must not forget, after all, that he has ultimately brought this fate upon himself and upon the Iraqi people, whom he has for so long terrorized.

The second image is of an Iraqi mother with her small children in a small house, which has had only intermittent power supplies for the 12 years of sanctions, her children robbed of an education. They are caught in a situation for which she was never even given a chance of bearing responsibility, but for which they will pay the ultimate price.

The article is an editorial from KO's archives and was originally published on March 21, 2003

A Case for Part-time Jobs in Kashmir

Mohammad Tawheed

Who financed your college or university degree? The latest smartphone you have in your hand, did you pay for it with your own hard-earned money? Or how much of the wedding jewellery you have was not bought with your parents' but your own savings? Is it your friend or a sibling who pays the cab fare when you go for a job interview? Well, if it's usually a person other than you who pays your bills, then you are very unlike those working part-time or shift jobs. There's also a likelihood that you live in Kashmir because part-time work is still a taboo here.

Kashmir being a class-conscious society, associates different kinds of jobs with different classes. For instance, the educated upper and middle classes are typically associated with white collar jobs and the lower or uneducated class is associated with blue collar jobs. As a result, white collar jobs are valued highly whereas blue collar jobs are looked down upon. This class-based hierarchy of the job market in Kashmir has created a stigma around part-time work, which due to lack of a robust private sector mainly includes blue collar jobs.

Traditionally, government has been the biggest employer in Jammu and Kashmir and young educated people especially in Kashmir Valley have banked on full-time government jobs for their employment and job security. Most of the people in the Valley are averse to private sector jobs that do not guarantee job security. This dependence on government jobs as the only secure work has also added to the stigma around part-time work among Kashmiris.

Consequently, a large number of young people -- students, college or university pass outs, people planning their marriages, people wanting to earn some extra money on top of their jobs or ventures or simply those in need -- miss out on a lot of part-time work or possibilities of making money. The educated but unemployed youth who aspire for nine to five administrative or managerial office jobs are unwilling to accept part-time blue-collar jobs as an alternative, at least for the time being. Even the unskilled and uneducated youth is reluctant to work as a part-timer.

Moreover, as the data released by Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) depicts, the Union Territory of J&K is reeling under high unemployment rates. J&K reported a 17.1% unemployment rate, 3rd highest in the country for January-April quarter of 2022. In the May-August quarter, the rate was at 19.1%, again 3rd highest in the country. And in the month of September 2022, the unemployment rate jumped to 2nd highest in the country at 23.2%. This comes in the backdrop of huge economic devastation caused by crippling lockdowns necessitated by COVID-19 pandemic. During the lockdown periods, J&K's major economic sectors like

horticulture, tourism, transport and trade were among the least performing and also the most damaged sectors. According to CMIE, more than five lakh people in J&K lost their livelihood between June 2020 to March 2021. Daily wagers & labours depended upon NGOs or other volunteer organisations for their basic needs like food. Many businesses like local handicrafts suffered irrecoverable losses while some

university, the percentage of unmarried population in Kashmir is fifty-five percent.

All these figures and facts put up an extremely worrying reality of Kashmiri society in front of us. To deal with such issues, why can't we, as in the developed world, set aside the stereotypes associated with part-time or blue-collar jobs and simply let people work and earn according to their needs? Therefore, it is high time we



of the business units were closed down due to non-payment of loans and debt. The overall economic activity in Kashmir during the pandemic was almost zero. The losses incurred by Kashmir's economy during the pandemic were estimated by various trade and commerce bodies to be around 40000 crores.

Given the cumulative effect of class consciousness, unemployment and pandemic, it would be an informed guess that many people in the valley are living in precarious economic conditions. And in a society like ours, where your class determines whether you take up a certain kind of a job or not, you are basically cutting down on your chances of achieving some level of financial stability. For example, if you are a person in need -- you are currently unemployed or your first business tanked or you don't want to miss the EMI of your education loan -- taking up a part-time job would be the ideal respite from your financial worries, however, if at the same time you are living in a class-conscious Kashmiri society, probably there won't be an easy respite from your financial woes because of the cultural demeaning of part-time or blue-collar jobs.

In Kashmir we see many young people who have attained the marrying age either being unable to afford their marriages or totally depending on their parents for getting married as well as their post marriage life. This has led to an upward trend of late marriages. According to a study done by the Sociology Department of Kashmir

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR KASHMIR? The probability is that it will be more of the same. Even if the BJP loses power in the future, the Article 370 move remains a fait accompli. And if a large number of outsiders acquire citizenship and buy the land, as the new legal regime has made possible, J&K will be a different place a few years down the line

break the taboo around part-time work culture in Kashmir and inculcate dignity of labour in our society so that people are encouraged to take up part-time jobs in whatever form.

Additionally, working in a part time job doesn't always have to be driven by need. Those seeking part-time work voluntarily or involuntarily shows an upward trend across the globe particularly across the developed world. According to the data

provided by Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the proportion of persons employed part-time among all employed persons in 2021 for various countries is as -- 36% in Netherlands, 25.6% in Japan, 25.3% in Switzerland, 22.2% in Germany, 21.7% in UK and 20.3% in Norway.

In the present world scenario, Millennials (26-41) and Gen Z (8-25) are more financially sophisticated than any previous generation was at their age. According to the 2022 Investopedia Financial Literacy Survey conducted in United States, 54% Gen Z adults already hold some kind of investment in the stock market. So again, why can't people in Kashmir earn and learn to manage their finances at a young age? We need to encourage our youth, particularly students, to develop the temperament for simultaneous work-study culture. Besides part-time work being essential for students sponsoring their own education, it helps students acquire skills for managing finances and solving real-world problems early in their lives.

There is also a dire need for normalizing part-time or blue-collar jobs existing in Kashmir's job market. Hardworking people who come here from outside J&K can teach us a lot because the jobs a local Kashmiri finds himself averse to are the same jobs they fill up after travelling long distances and away from their home. Although Kashmir doesn't have a huge part-time job market, opportunities like working as a barista at restaurants or as a sales person at retail stores, driving a cab or guiding tourists on weekends are still up for grabs. Freelancing opportunities are opening up in fields like journalism. Online jobs that pay on hourly basis like content writing also exist.

It is very important to realize the fact that low status associated with part-time or blue-collar jobs is purely a social construct and this construct is hampering people to mitigate effects of financial uncertainty particularly in the times of record unemployment and high inflation. We need to create a culture free of any constraints on seeking financial independence.

Yes, part-time work especially blue-collar jobs don't provide the kind of job security or financial development one looks for but part-time work is definitely something better than idleness. More often than not, working as a part-timer benefits rather than harm or does nothing for you. The unemployed youth of Kashmir regardless of its educational status or class needs to show up for such jobs, at least for the time being.

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

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A Perfect Storm In US Foreign Policy

M. K. BHADRAKUMAR

The old adage is that a good foreign policy is the reflection of the national policy. A perfect storm is brewing on the foreign policy front in America triggered by the OPEC decision on Thursday to cut oil production by 2 million barrels a day, which will on the one hand drive up the gas price for the domestic consumer and on the other hand expose the Biden Administration's lop-sided foreign policy priorities.

At its most obvious level, the OPEC decision confirms the belief that Washington has lost its leverage with the cartel of oil-producing countries. This is being attributed to the deterioration of the US' relations with Saudi Arabia during the Biden presidency. But, fundamentally, a contradiction has arisen between the US interests and the interests of the oil producing countries.

Contradictions are nothing new to the geopolitics of oil. The 1970s and 1980s witnessed two major "oil crises." One was man-made while the other was an interplay of historical forces -- the Yom-Kippur War of 1973 and the Iranian Revolution of 1979.

President Nixon asked petrol stations not to sell gasoline from Saturday night through until Monday morning. The crisis affected industry more than the average consumer.

In 1979, the Iranian Revolution hit oil production rates and the world's

oil supply shrunk by 4%. Panic set in, demand for crude oil shot up and price more than doubled.

The Biden Administration tempted Fate by underestimating the importance of oil in modern economic and political terms and ignoring that oil will remain the dominant energy source across the world for the foreseeable future, powering everything from cars and domestic heating to huge industry titans and manufacturing plants.

A smooth transition to green energy over time is largely dependent on the continued availability of plentiful, cheap fossil fuel. But the Biden Administration ignored that those who have oil reserves wield a huge amount of power over our oil-centred energy systems, and those who buy oil are on the contrary, crippled dependent on the market and the diplomatic relations which drive it.

The Western powers are far too naive to think that an energy superpower like Russia can be simply "erased" from the ecosystem. In an "energy war" with Russia, they are doomed to end up as losers.

Historically, Western nations understood the imperative to maintain good diplomatic relations with oil-producing countries. But Biden threw caution into the wind by insulting Saudi Arabia calling it a "Pariah" state. Any improvement in the US-Saudi relations is not to be expected under Biden's watch. The

Saudis distrust American intentions.

The congruence of interests on the part of the OPEC to keep the prices high is essentially because they need the extra income for their expenditure budget and to maintain a healthy investment level in the oil industry. The International Monetary Fund in April projected Saudi Arabia's breakeven oil price -- the oil price at which it would balance its budget -- at \$79.20 a barrel.

The Saudi government does not disclose its assumed breakeven oil price. But a Reuters report suggested that a preferred price level would be around \$90 to \$100 a barrel for Brent crude -- at which level, it won't have a huge impact on the global economy. Of course, over \$100 will be a windfall.

Meanwhile, a "systemic" crisis is brewing. It is only natural that the OPEC views with scepticism the recent moves by the US and the EU to push back Russia's oil exports. The West rationalises these moves as aimed at drastically reducing Russia's income from oil exports (which translates as its resilience to fight the war in Ukraine.) The latest G7 move to put a cap on the prices at which Russia can sell its oil is taking matters to an extreme.

The OPEC regards it as a paradigm shift, as it implicitly challenges the cartel's assumed prerogative to ensure that global oil supply matches demand, where one of the key measures of supply-demand balance

is price. Arguably, the West is de facto setting up a rival cartel of oil-consuming countries to regulate the oil market.

No doubt, the West's move is precedent-setting -- namely, to prescribe for geopolitical reasons the price at which an oil-producing country is entitled to export its oil. If it is Russia today, it can as well be Saudi Arabia or Iraq tomorrow. The G7 decision, if it gets implemented, will erode OPEC's key role regulating the global oil market.

Therefore, the OPEC is proactively pushing back. Its decision to cut down oil production by 2 million barrels per day and keep the oil price above \$90 per barrel makes a mockery of the G7 decision. The OPEC estimates that Washington's options to counter OPEC+ are limited. Unlike in the past energy history, the US does not have a single ally today inside the OPEC+ group.

Due to rising domestic demands for oil and gas, it is entirely conceivable that the US exports of both items may be curtailed. If that happens, Europe will be the worst sufferer. Without doubt, this is a tectonic shift in geopolitics which may probably turn out to be more important than the conflict in Ukraine in the making of the multipolar world order.

This perfect storm in Biden's foreign policy can also impact the midterms in November and deliver a Republican majority in the Senate,

which could set the tempo for the 2024 US presidential election.

The Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov has said that by turning away from Russian energy, Europe has become a captive market for the US oil companies which are now making "crazy money," but the high cost of it is draining away the competitiveness of the European economy.

"Production is collapsing. Deindustrialization is coming. All this will have very, very deplorable consequences for the European continent over probably, at least, the next 10-20 years," Peskov said.

Russia could be the biggest "gainer" of OPEC+ cuts. The expert opinion is that oil prices will move higher from current levels through year-end and next year. That is to say, Russia will not cut any output while the price of oil is set to rise in the coming months! As oil price rises, Russia will not have to cut even a barrel of its production so long as it has a big enough market after December to sell the crude now going to Europe. Again, Russia, for its part, reiterates that it will not supply oil to countries that would join the G7 price cap. It is matching the Biden Administration's non-market instruments.

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 India Punchline

On Birth Anniversary of Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan

WORD OF GOD
AND WORK OF GODReading Sir Sayyid's Stance on Islam's
Conformity with Rationalism and Science

6

Is Islam compatible with science? Or is there conformity between reason and revelation? This was one of the fundamental issues faced, and addressed, by the Muslim modernists of 19th century, including Sir Sayyid. Besides demythologizing the Qur'anic interpretation and calls for renewed *ijtihad*, one of the crucial and significant themes in the writings of Sir Sayyid was to characterize congruence in between the Sacred Text and science and reason



Dr Tauseef Ahmad Parray

Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan (1817-1898) was undoubtedly a multi-dimensional personality: a pioneer of Islamic modernism, educational and political activist, theologian, journalist, and the chief organizer of 19th century Islamic reformist thought in the Sub-Continent. Recognized as the first Indian Muslim to feel the need, and working, for a fresh orientation of Islam, Sir Sayyid called for a bold new theology (*jadid ilm al-kalam*) or reinterpretation of Islam. His contribution mainly falls in the educational and socio-religious reformation.

Back in 1960s, Aziz Ahmad (in his *Islamic Modernism in India and Pakistan*) argued that Sir Sayyid's achievements as a religious thinker in the context of Islamic modernism can be recognized as tackling with two broadly distinct problems: (i) the rationalization of the minutiae of non-essential dogma and (ii) "the liberalization of Islamic law". Regarding latter, Sir Sayyid's work is so dynamic and constructive that it made tremendous impression on modern Islam in general and on Indian Islam in particular. Similarly, Wilfred Cantwell Smith (in his *Modern Islam in India*) remarked that the "ideas which Sir Sayyid was putting forth, and the religion he fashioned, was explicitly and in fact an Islam thoroughly compatible with progress, liberal and humanitarian morality, and its scientific rationalism". This is how Sir Sayyid's thought and contribution, as a socio-religious reformer, was perceived in the 20th century.

Coming straight to the 21st century, Dr Farhan Ahmad Nizami (in his lengthy Forward to Prof. A. R. Kidwai's edited volume, *Sir Syed Ahmad Khan: Muslim Renaissance Man of India*) states that Sir Sayyid was, "one of the architects of a Muslim intellectual renaissance in India hardly imaginable in the mid-nineteenth century", for his efforts and contribution as a "scholar, social reformer, theologian, political thinker, journalist, legislator, cultural historian, pioneer in comparative religious studies, advocate for mass education", and in many other fields. He, and his legacy, remains relevant even today for many reasons, and one of the major reasons, for Nizami, is that "the issues he faced 150 years ago are, for Muslim communities everywhere, as current as they were then, and perhaps even more intractable."

These statements are self-evident regarding the impact, influence and relevance of

Sir Sayyid's scientific and rational thought, both in past and present. In this context and keeping in view the birth anniversary of this great reformer, this article presents an assessment of Sir Sayyid's scientific thought, by highlighting his stance on Islam's conformity with Rationality and Rationalism and his views on Religion-Science compatibility and how his scholarship has been received by the Muslim and non-Muslims.

Sir Sayyid's Stance on the Religion-Science Compatibility: Is Islam compatible with science? Or is there conformity between reason and revelation? This was one of the fundamental issues faced, and addressed, by the Muslim modernists of 19th century, including Sir Sayyid. Besides demythologizing the Qur'anic interpretation and calls for renewed *ijtihad*, one of the crucial and significant themes in the writings of Sir Sayyid was to characterize congruence in between the Sacred Text and science and reason. A staunch believer of Religion-Science compatibility, he considered natural law and divine law to be the same, because, he believed, revelation cannot be opposed to scientific actuality and that an agreement between God's word and work is essential. His object was to remove apparent contradictions between Islamic teachings and science—hence his oft-repeated thesis: 'Islam is nature and nature is Islam'. He, thus, proposed a rule in case of perceived conflict between a law of nature and the Qur'anic verse: the Work (nature) qualifies the Word (verse) of God; i.e., the Qur'an as the word of God cannot be in conflict and contradiction with Nature as the Work of God: "There is no matter in the Qur'an disagreeing with the laws of nature".

He puts forth this thesis as: "it would be highly irrational to maintain that God's work and God's word are different and unrelated to one another. All beings, including humans, are God's work, and religion is His word; the two cannot be in conflict". Thus, he concluded that "Islam is in full accordance with nature" because "Islam is nature and nature is Islam".

Furthermore, Sir Sayyid argued that if we keep in view the principles deducible from the Quran itself, we shall find that there is no contradiction between the modern sciences, on the one hand, and the Quran and Islam, on the other.

He also believed that in secular matters where Islam is silent, Muslims should imitate the western practices. He believed in

religious pluralism and considered it absurd to believe that God's prophets appeared only in Arabia and Palestine to reform a handful of Arabs and Jews, and that other peoples were denied knowledge of the divine. He may be considered, as Riffat Hassan argues (in her chapter on South Asia in Shireen T. Hunter's *Reformist Voices in Islam*) as a pioneer in "Inter-faith Dialogue" as "he worked for greater understanding and goodwill and harmony among Muslim sects and between Muslims and non-Muslims".

Thus, the ideas put forth by him, and the religion fashioned by him, was, to use Smith's terminology, in fact an Islam thoroughly compatible with progress and the "Western" scientific rationalism. It will not be an exaggeration to call Sir Sayyid as being, undoubtedly, the most rational in his approach and ideas.

Sir Sayyid's 'Rational Interpretation' of Islam and its Scholarly Reception: Various writings, both in past and present, have emphasized and appreciated different areas of Sir Sayyid's thought and activity, social, political, religious, educational and cultural which he made reforms. But almost all agree that his prime achievement was a revival of Muslim morale and prestige in British India, and that to him goes the credit for having re-established the dynamism of the Muslims in India as a socio-political force. Sir Sayyid's socio-religious reforms, of various sorts, which he initiated and introduced, have been highly appreciated, though sometimes criticized (especially by some *Ulama*) as well. In this context, below is presented a brief summary of the views, praise and appreciation of some of the scholars and writers (both Muslims and non-Muslims), revealing both the importance as well as relevance of Sir Sayyid's rational interpretation of Islam and his reformist thought.

For example, Aziz Ahmad regards his efforts as a "dynamic and constructive achievement that made a tremendous impression on modern Islam. In the words of Khaliq Ahmad Nizami, Sir Sayyid was one of the towering personalities in the galaxy of the 19th century Muslims reformers, who zealously worked to bring about a change in the Muslim thought and behavior and in fact contributed many essential elements to the development of modern Indian society. For Trara Chand, he brought "a revolution in Muslim thought" and Bashir Ahmad Dar (in his *Religious Thought of Sayyid Ahmad Khan*) considers Sir Sayyid as "the first man

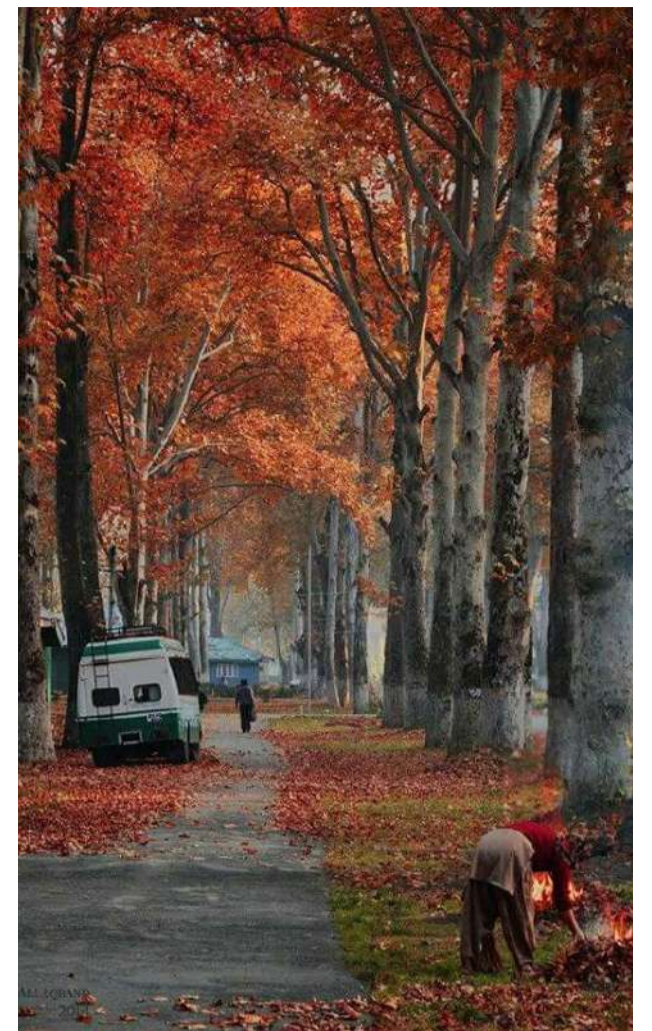
in modern India to realize the necessity for a new interpretation of Islam that was liberal, modern, and progressive.

Similarly, Sir Sayyid's reformist efforts, as summarized by Francis Robinson (in his chapter on South Asia in 5th volume of *The New Cambridge History of Islam*), were "aimed to fashion Muslims who were able to operate with success in the world of Western knowledge and British power". In his opinion, Sayyid Ahmad's achievement was more than just the fashioning of Islamic modernism and creating the key institution of Muslim higher education; he inspired innovation across a broad front designed to help Muslims embrace modernity, which came to be called the Aligarh movement.

It is an undeniable fact that a significant and systematic activity introduced by modernists like Sir Sayyid was an emphasis on the need to reinterpret Islamic law through dynamic legal tools (like *Ijtihad*) and through rational approach.

To cut a long story short, it is not an exaggeration to say that Sir Sayyid was a true heir of Shah Waliullah's reformist legacy and one of the pioneers of Islamic modernism. He emphasized, in high terms, the socio-religious and intellectual reform and is truly recognized as the initiator of a revolution in Muslim thought, who called for a new theology to respond to the modern challenges and change. Emphasizing a rationalist approach to Islam and to religious matters, Sir Sayyid held the view that there is no contradiction between Word of God (Quran) and Work of God (Nature). In keeping with his rationalist attitude, he underscored the importance of *Ijtihad* and a rational interpretation of Islamic religious sources and thought, for he believed that both of these were necessary to make Islam acceptable to the new age, and that Muslims would not understand Islam and others would not appreciate it unless it was presented rationally. He, thus, proved as the pioneering representative of Islamic modernism in South Asia who presented a new orientation of Islam and reacted to the modern age.

Note: Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan's birth anniversary is on the 17th of October, Monday
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The Call of Autumn

Samreen Tak

The fallen leaves you see give a different kind of aroma which makes one feel nostalgic during autumn. These leaves when crushed under feet while walking make one realize the beginning of end itself.

Adding onto the beauty of our Vale, pale fallen leaves urge the outsider to capture the fall and take the baggage back home. Tall trees around, left with nothing and roads with these fallen leaves make one realize how swiftly life changes with changing seasons. Bright sunny days of summer last no longer nor do cold chilly days of winter; hinting at the truth of life: neither happiness nor sorrow lasts. Everything on earth has to witness a rise as well as a downfall, be it the lush green leaves on a tree or beautifully carved human faces nothing remains the same. As they say, change is the law of nature, and I believe fall in the valley provides its best manifestation.

Like death is inevitable, change is also inevitable. No one could or can stop it. Yes, changing with the changing times is a task in itself but how would mankind justify it otherwise?

Change takes place from within, so tell me you don't feel nostalgia while witnessing the fall? Tell me you don't miss the person who you lost long back. Tell me that these autumn leaves do not urge you to feel sorry. Tell me that autumn does not bring peace to your chaotic heart. This is precisely the beauty of autumn, the people who happen to visit the valley witness.

My experiences with autumn and autumn in the valley are no more pleasing, autumn for me brings back all the memories which I have now dumped in a deep pit near the grave of my deceased grandfather. With the arrival of fall, he used to soak his body in bright sunny mornings by doing his favorite pastime of reading the newspaper. I used to wait for him to finish reading so that he could have tea. Evenings are usually chilly in autumn yet my evenings used to warm in his kind embrace. Nothing Lasts forever and rightly so, otherwise, we would never be able to appreciate things, and even humans. Fear of losing is the key here. When nothing is forever, everything on earth is inevitably going to rise as well as fall. Then what's this human pride about?

All this is autumn's lesson. The great Rumi has rightly said, "Everything in the Universe is within you, ask all from yourself" and autumn's is an invitation in this exploration.

Sickness of Firaq



Markandey Katju

Firaq Gorakhpuri was a great Urdu poet, but he was a Professor of English Literature, not of Urdu, in Allahabad University. I had the good fortune of being one of his students.

Once after a long absence he came to take our English class, and on entering said, "Firaq kuch din se beemaar tha", (Firaq was sick for some time). (He had the habit of speaking of himself in the third person).

At this one student immediately got up and said, "Firaq khud-ba-khud ek beemaar hai" (Firaq by itself is a sickness). On hearing this, Firaq went up to the student with a stern countenance and glowering eyes, and said "Barkhurdaar, aap kahaan ke rehne waale hain?" (Where are you from, my young friend?).

The scared student was petrified, and in a trembling voice replied, "Huzoor, main Aligarh ka rehne waale hun" (Sir, I am from Aligarh).

Hearing this, Firaq smiled, patted the student on his shoulders, and said, "Tabhi aap itni achchi Urdu jaante hain" (That is why you know such good Urdu).

P.S.
The word 'Firaq' literally means separation. So what the student meant was that if one is separated from his/her beloved one falls sick.

The anecdote was shared by Indian Jurist, Markandey Katju, on FB

Kashmir Observer in association with **Buddy4Study.com** presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir.

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**KOTAK KANYA
SCHOLARSHIP 2022**

Description: Under the CSR Project on Education & Livelihood of Kotak Mahindra Group Companies, Kotak Education Foundation invites applications for Kotak Kanya Scholarship 2022 from Class 12th passed girl students, who have secured more than 75% and whose annual family income is less than or equivalent to INR 3,20,000.

Eligibility: Meritorious girl students who have secured admission to 1st year graduation programmes in professional courses from institutes of repute (NAAC/NIRF accredited) can apply. Professional courses include professional graduation courses like Engineering, MBBS, Architecture, Design, integrated LLB, etc.

- Applicants must have scored more than 75% marks in their Class 12th board examinations.
- Annual family income must be INR 3,20,000 or less from all sources.

Prizes & Rewards:
Up to INR 1.5 lakh* per year

Disclaimer: Please note, the renewal of the scholarship every year will be at the sole discretion of the Kotak Education Foundation

- Last Date to Apply: **30-11-2022**
- Application mode: **Online applications only**
- Short Url: **www.b4s.in/observer/KKGS12**

» SCHOLARSHIP NAME 3

**HDFC BADHTE KADAM
SCHOLARSHIP 2022-23**

Description: HDFC Badhte Kadam Scholarship aims to provide financial assistance to help students from underprivileged backgrounds and complete their education. Open for students in Class 11-12.

Eligibility: Indian students who are currently studying in Class 11 to undergraduate. Students with Disabilities studying in Class 11-12, pursuing undergraduate courses, diploma/ITI, and vocational courses. Candidates preparing for competitive examinations such as NEET, JEE, CLAT, and NIFT at a recognized coaching institution. Must have obtained at least 60% marks (80% for coaching students) in the previous class or board exams (Note: There is no minimum marks required for Students with Disabilities). Annual family income of the applicants should be below INR 6,00,000 (for Students with Disabilities, it should be below INR 8,00,000), from all sources. Special consideration will be given to girl students and students who are going through any kind of crisis (lost a parent/both parents, terminal illness in family, etc.).

- Prizes & Rewards: **Up to INR 1,00,000**
- Last Date to Apply: **31-10-2022**
- Application mode: **Online applications only**
- Short Url: **www.b4s.in/observer/HTPF12**

Symptomatic Covid Infection Linked With Poor Mental Health: Lancet Study

Press Trust Of India

Having symptoms of COVID-19 infection is associated with poorer mental health and lower life satisfaction, according to a study published in The Lancet Psychiatry journal.

The team, led by researchers at King's College London and University College London (UCL) in the UK, looked at the impact of COVID-19 infection on subsequent mental health and wellbeing.

Data was taken from 11 longitudinal studies between April 2020 and April 2021, in which there were 54,442 participants with and without self-reported COVID-19. Researchers found that rises in psychological distress, depression, anxiety, and lower life satisfaction were associated with prior self-reported COVID-19.

The associations with poorer mental health did not lessen over time after infection, highlighting the potential enduring impacts of the disease and the need for a longer follow-up process from healthcare providers.

Self-reported COVID-19 was consistently associated with psychological distress, regardless of whether people tested positive for antibodies to the virus.

These effects of infection were felt similarly in different groups of gender, ethnic-

ity and socio-economic circumstances.

The study suggests that the infection of COVID-19 might impact mental health most in older people as people with self-reported infection aged 50 years and older showed a stronger association with poorer mental health.

This might reflect that older people are more likely to experience more severe COVID-19 symptoms, greater worry around infection, and increased risk of blood vessel (microvascular) or brain (neurological) changes after infection, the researchers said.

This contrasts to the effect of the pandemic overall on mental health, where previous studies have shown that women and adults aged 25-44 have had the greatest adverse impacts, they said.

"These findings suggest that there were prolonged mental health consequences of COVID-19 infection for some people at the beginning of this pandemic," said study joint first author Ellen Thompson from King's College London.

"Understanding

why this is the case will be key to finding treatment strategies for those affected as well as preventing such effects in future pandemic waves," Thompson said.

The study brings together many of the UK's longitudinal studies to provide a comprehensive overview of the impacts of COVID-19 infection on population mental health.

"Compared to most studies to-date that have focussed on more severe and hospitalised cases, this study demonstrates the impact of infection during a pandemic on overall population mental health and wellbeing," said study senior author Professor Praveetha Patalay from UCL.



COMPARED TO MOST STUDIES TO-DATE THAT HAVE FOCUSED on more severe and hospitalised cases, this study demonstrates the impact of infection during a pandemic on overall population mental health and wellbeing."

Problems Conceiving Are Not Just About Women

The Conversation

For the first time, IVF clinics in Australia and New Zealand have reported data about the scale and range of male fertility problems in couples who have IVF. New data released by the Australia and New Zealand Assisted Reproduction Database (ANZARD) today reveal about one-third of all IVF cycles performed in 2020 included a diagnosis of male infertility.

Although most male fertility problems can't be prevented, there are things men can do to improve sperm quality and the chance of natural conception.

Most male infertility is due to the testes failing to make any or enough normal sperm to allow conception. A low sperm count, sperm not moving normally, or a high proportion of abnormally shaped sperm reduce capacity to fertilise eggs.

In most cases, the cause of male infertility is unexplained. A specific cause can only be pinpointed in about 40 per cent of infertile men.

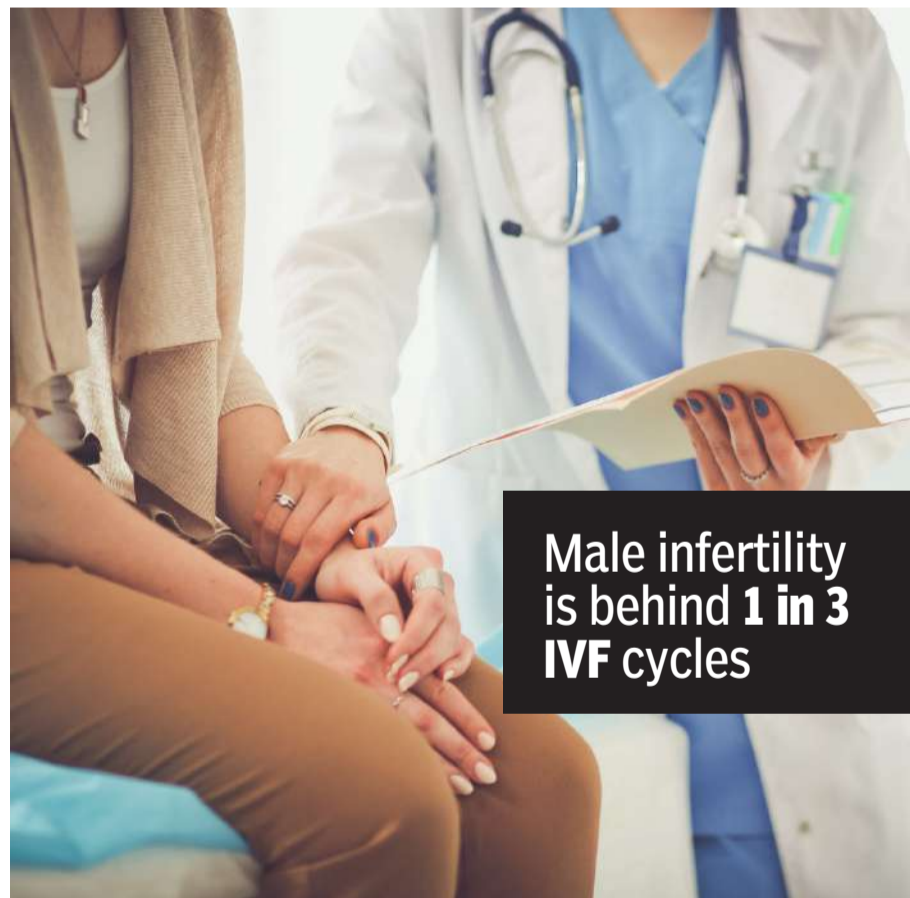
They include genetic abnormalities, past infection, trauma to the testicles, and damage to sperm production for example from cancer treatment. Some men have no sperm in their ejaculate (a condition called azoospermia). This can be due to blocked sperm tubes, which may be a birth defect, or follow vasectomy or other damage.

In a minority of cases, infrequent or poorly timed intercourse, or sexual problems such as erectile dysfunction or ejaculation failure cause the infertility.

The least common problem is deficiency of hormonal signals from the pituitary gland (a gland on the brain which makes, stores and releases hormones). This can be genetic or follow issues such as a pituitary tumour. Treatment with hormone injections aims to restore natural fertility.

Chronic diseases such as obesity or diabetes, environmental exposures (such as chemicals in the workplace) and lifestyle factors (such as smoking and recreational drug use) can contribute to or exacerbate poor sperm quality.

For couples with male factor infertility, intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) is



Male infertility is behind 1 in 3 IVF cycles

CIGARETTE SMOKE CONTAINS THOUSANDS OF HARMFUL CHEMICALS that cause damage to all parts of the body, including sperm. Heavy smokers make fewer sperm than non-smokers. Smoking can increase the number of abnormally shaped sperm and affect the sperm's swimming ability, making it harder for sperm to reach and fertilise the egg.



needed to fertilise the eggs and give them a chance of having a baby.

ICSI follows the same process as IVF, except ICSI involves the direct injection of a single sperm into each egg using technically advanced equipment, as opposed to IVF, where thousands of sperm are added to each egg in the hope one will fertilise it.

The just released ANZARD report shows the chance of a baby for men with male infertility is comparable with other infertility diagnoses. However, studies show that for couples who don't have male factor infertility, ICSI offers no advantage over IVF

in terms of the chance of having a baby.

Although most male infertility is not preventable, there are some things men can do to keep their sperm healthy. It takes about three months for sperm to mature, so making healthy changes at least three months before trying for a baby gives the best chance of conception and having a healthy baby. Here are five things you can do to look after your sperm.

Cigarette smoke contains thousands of harmful chemicals that cause damage to all parts of the body, including sperm. Heavy smokers make fewer sperm than non-smokers. Smoking can increase the number

of abnormally shaped sperm and affect the sperm's swimming ability, making it harder for sperm to reach and fertilise the egg.

Smoking also damages the DNA in sperm, which is transferred to the baby. This can increase the risk of miscarriage and birth defects in a child. One study found heavy smoking (more than 20 cigarettes a day) by fathers at the time of conception increases the child's risk of childhood leukemia.

There is no safe limit for smoking the only way to protect yourself and your unborn baby from harm is to quit. The good news is the effects of smoking on sperm and fertility are reversible, and quitting will increase the chance of conceiving and having a healthy baby.

On average, men who are overweight or obese have lower sperm quality than men who are a healthy weight. Carrying too much weight can also reduce your interest in sex and lead to erection problems.

The good news is, even losing a few kilos can improve sperm quality. Getting support, setting realistic goals and giving yourself enough time to achieve them, learning about nutrition and healthy eating, and exercising regularly increase your chance of losing weight and keeping it off.

Taking androgenic steroids for bodybuilding or competitive sports causes testes to shrink and affects sperm production. And it can have a lasting impact. It takes about two years for sperm to return to normal after stopping steroids.

A man's fertility can also be harmed by other drugs like cannabis, cocaine and heroin, as they reduce testosterone levels and sex drive (libido).

Alcohol is OK in small amounts, but heavy drinking and binge drinking can reduce sperm count and quality. We've all heard about men in their 80s and 90s fathering children, but this is rare and risky.

Although men continue to produce sperm throughout life, which means they can potentially reproduce into old age, men under 40 have a better chance of conceiving than older men.

It takes longer for partners of older men to conceive, and sperm quality declines with age and this increases the risk of miscarriage and health problems for the baby.

GOOGLE MEET

To Automatically Zoom In On Your Face For More Visibility

SIANS

Tech giant Google has announced a new feature for Meet users to improve visibility by automatically framing the video. Before a user attends a meeting, Meet will automatically frame the video to ensure that everyone is equally visible, the company said in a blogpost.

There are no motion disturbances that could draw attention away from the meeting's subject because the automatic framing only happens once. But the video can be reframed manually at any time. This feature does not have an admin control. By default, this function will be disabled, however, it can be turned on by the user. The new feature is scheduled to roll out on November 2, the company said.

The feature was first announced during the Google Cloud Next 2022.

Earlier, the company had announced a Meet feature that enable users to unmute themselves by holding down the spacebar and to mute themselves again by releasing it.

The company said it will make it easier for users to participate in their meetings by quickly unmuting to say something.

"This feature helps in situations where you forget to mute again after unmuting yourself. This feature is OFF by default and can be enabled in the Google Meet settings," the company said.

The company said it changed how the "Hey Google" voice control works for Google Meet hardware devices.

With this update, the Google Assistant will only be active when a device is not in a meeting and within 10 minutes of an upcoming meeting.

Economic Security Of Small, Marginal Farmers Our Priority: Dulloo

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo Saturday inaugurated Rabi campaign 2022-23 at Maha Kisan Sammelan held at Kuligam here.

Addressing the huge gathering of farmers at the Samellan, Atal Dulloo highlighted the importance of various long term initiatives helping the farmers double their income. He appreciated the role of PRI's for working as a bridge between the department and the farm-

ciency in oil seeds, pulses and other agriculture crops should be the priority.

Dulloo remarked that the department is endeavouring to ensure that more and more farmers are benefited with the departmental schemes so that their socio-economic transformation could be achieved. He said the schemes are formulated in such a way that more and more educated youth are attracted towards the agriculture sector.

While talking about Rabi Campaign, the ACS said that department is taking all the efforts to



ing community in ensuring the successful implementation of department's schemes.

ACS said that the objective of organising this campaign is to review and address the crop performance during the proceedings of crop season and crop wise targets for Rabi season, ensure supply of critical inputs and facilitate adoption of innovative technologies with a view to enhance production and productivity of the crops. He said that the agro-ecological based crop planning and diversification to achieve self suffi-

ensure that maximum area is brought under the cultivation of Rabi crops and farmer's income is increased.

Dulloo further highlighted that in order to ensure the economic security of small and marginal farmers, the department is taking some special initiatives including integrated farming system, special programs for rain fed areas among others. The ACS said that the agriculture mechanization is another focus area and steps are being taken to provide affordable agriculture machinery to farmers.

Director JKEDI Reviews Functioning Of The Institute

Directs To Start Free Counseling Control Rooms At All The Districts of J&K



SRINAGAR- The Director, Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Ajaz Ahmad Bhat on Saturday chaired a review meeting at the Institute's Pampore campus.

During the review meeting, the functioning of the Institute, progress made under different self-employment and entrepreneurship development schemes being implemented by the institute and other related issues were discussed threadbare.

The Director exhorted upon all the Senior Faculty members, Vertical In-Charges and District Nodal Officers to double their efforts in reaching out to

the people. He said that mass awareness in every area of the UT is much required.

Reaching out to tribal and border areas should be the priority, he said and stressed on the need to use social media and other digital platforms to sow the seeds of entrepreneurship in every part of the UT.

He directed all the District Nodal Officers to immediately start free counseling control rooms in their offices and display telephone numbers so that people can reach out and start a profitable venture. In addition to this, two model counseling centers will be established at regional campuses of Pampore and Jammu.



India Ranks 107 On Global Hunger Index 2022, Records Highest Child Wasting Rate

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India ranked 107 out of 121 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2022 with its child wasting rate at 19.3 per cent, being the highest in the world.

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a tool for comprehensively measuring and tracking hunger at global, regional, and national levels.

With a score of 29.1, the level of hunger in India has been labelled "serious".

In Asia, Afghanistan with a rank of 109 is the only country behind India.

Neighbouring countries - Pakistan (99), Bangladesh (84), Nepal (81) and Sri Lanka (64) have all fared better than India.

In 2021, India ranked 101 out of 116 countries while in 2020 the country was placed at 94th position.

South Asia, the region with the world's highest hunger level, has the highest child stunting rate and by far the highest child wasting rate in the world, the report said.

"India's child wasting rate, at 19.3 per cent, is the highest of any country in the world and drives up the region's average owing to India's large

population," it said.

India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan each have child stunting rates between 35 and 38 per cent, with Afghanistan's rate being the highest in the region.

Undernourishment prevalence rose in India from 14.6 per cent in 2018-2020 to 16.3 per cent in 2019-2021. This translates into 224.3 million people in India being undernourished out of the total 828 million people globally.

Child wasting which is a strong predictor of mortality among children under five years of age also worsened from 15.1 per cent in 2012-16 to 19.3 per cent in 2017-21.

India, however, noted improvement in two parameters of child stunting from 38.7 per cent in 2017-21 and child mortality from 4.6 per cent in 2014 to 3.3 per cent in 2020.

The GHI said stunting disparities between districts were particularly pronounced in India.

"The example of India shows the importance of considering the subnational context when designing programs and policies to target child stunting. Researchers investigated the factors that contributed to a decline in stunting in four Indian

states between 2006 and 2016: Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu," it said.

The report said the researchers found that stunting fell mainly in response to improvements in the coverage of health and nutrition interventions, household conditions (such as socioeconomic status and food security), and maternal factors (such as mothers' health and education).

"While improvements in household conditions were the most important factor for each of the four states, the second most important factor varies by state. As the authors conclude, this variability across states indicates the need for contextualized policy and programmatic initiatives to help focus the efforts in the sectors that need the most attention for continued decline in stunting," it said.

The GHI said the world is facing a serious setback in efforts to end hunger with conflict, the climate crisis and the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, compounded by the war in Ukraine are major drivers of hunger.

The report warned that the situation is expected to deteriorate further as global crises overlap.

Tax On Windfall Profit On Crude Oil, Export Of Diesel, ATF Hiked

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government on Saturday hiked windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil by more than a third while doubling the rate on export of diesel and re-introducing the levy on overseas shipment of jet fuel (ATF) in line with rise in international oil prices.

The tax on crude oil produced by firms such as state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) was increased to Rs 11,000 per tonne beginning October 16 from Rs 8,000, a government notification showed.

In the fortnightly revision of windfall tax, the government doubled the rate on export of diesel to Rs 12 per litre from Rs 5

a litre. The levy on jet fuel, which was brought down to nil at the beginning of this month, was re-introduced at Rs 3.50 a litre.

The levy on diesel includes Rs 1.50 per litre road infrastructure cess (RIC), the notification showed.

The hike reverses the reduction in two previous rounds in September.

This follows the rise in international oil prices. The basket of crude oil that India imports has risen to USD 92.91 per barrel in October from an average of USD 90.71 in the previous month. The basket had averaged USD 116.01 in June which was used as a base to introduce the levy for the first time from July 1.

When the levy was first introduced, a windfall tax on

export of petrol alongside diesel and ATF too was levied. But the tax on petrol was scrapped in subsequent fortnightly reviews.

While the windfall profit tax is calculated by taking away any price that producers are getting above a threshold, the levy on fuel exports is based on cracks or margins that refiners earn on overseas shipments. These margins are primarily a difference of international oil price realised and the cost.

The international price of petrol, which was used as reference for the levy of windfall tax on exports, was USD 148.82 per barrel in June but has since declined to USD 91.37 this month. It had averaged USD 93.78 a barrel in September.

FM Sitharaman Urges World Bank To Avoid Unidimensional View Of Subsidies

Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has urged the World Bank to avoid a "unidimensional" view of the subsidies provided by the Indian government and asserted that it is important to differentiate between "distortive subsidies" and "targeted support" to the vulnerable households.

Speaking at an intervention of the World Bank Development Committee's meeting on Friday, Sitharaman said that subsidies have made a definitive contribution in improving India's performance on several key param-

eters, the Indian Government has ensured that access to clean cooking methods has achieved near saturation for women in India. This has made a definitive contribution in improving India's performance on several key parameters of SDG, she said.

During her intervention, she told the Development Committee members that while the quest for energy and food security necessitates non exclusion of fossil fuels from our energy mix, India has set up its first pure hydrogen producing plant as well as its first 2G bioethanol refinery this year.

Going forward, she suggested three clear opportunities for the



World Bank Group.

First, promoting behaviour change to increase energy efficiency and to reduce food losses. Programmes like the Lifestyle for the Environment launched by India on the World Environment Day this June, in which World Bank President David Malpass delivered a wonderful keynote address, can mainstream responsible consumption behaviour, she said.

As an illustration, she said that by providing free LPG connections under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojna over the last six

years, the Indian Government

has ensured that access to clean cooking methods has achieved near saturation for women in India. This has made a definitive contribution in improving India's performance on several key parameters of SDG, she said.

'Youth Of Baramulla Taking Up Fish Farming To Defy Unemployment'

Last Year under PMMSY 18 Trout Units, 01 Carp Unit & 01 Biofloc Unit set up in Baramulla District

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: The youth of Baramulla have defied all odds by carving the niche for themselves through setting up fish farming units to earn for themselves and create jobs for others. Baramulla has been bestowed with famous water bodies having a great potential of fisheries. Angling and fish farming is fast emerging as a potential sector for providing vocation for the rural youth.

The fish farmers in the private sector have increased manifold with hundreds of people getting attracted towards this trade in Baramulla District.

Giving an insight into this new attraction being explored by the local youth to generate income and employment, the Director Fisheries, Irshad Ahmad Shah said that the government has strengthened the fisheries sector to make it a useful instrument of economic growth especially in district Baramulla.

He said a number of devel-

opmental and welfare schemes have been launched for providing assistance to rural unemployed youth for taking up fish culture. Fish farming especially of trout with improvised technology applications is proving to be a bulging economic indicator besides supplementing protein in diet.

The fisheries department is extending technical knowhow in this regard so that they can produce quality products and get remunerative prices and the fish growers all over the district are employing these latest technical knowledge in fish culture to boom the production.

He said the experts interact with the fish growers regularly to boost fish farming in the district. "During last year the department under the Centrally sponsored schemes (CSS) / Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampadha Yojna (PMMSY) has constructed 18 No's of Trout Units, 01 No of Carp Unit and 01 No of Biofloc Unit in the District", said the Director.

SHORT TAKES

Training Programme On 11th Agri Census Organised At B'la

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: A training programme on the 11th Agricultural Census with reference year 2021-22 was organized in district Baramulla by the Office of Financial Commissioner Revenue in collaboration with District Administration Baramulla.

Among others, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad and various Revenue Officers/Officials consisting of Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars, Girdawars and Patwaris of district Baramulla participated.

At the outset, Dr. Syed Sehrish Asgar, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, welcomed all the Participants and highlighted the importance of the scheme.

Abdul Hamid Chaudary, Joint Director Planning and Mohammad Farooq Shah Deputy Director Planning along with their technical team explained all the technicalities of the Scheme with the help of PowerPoint Presentation.

The training focused mainly on the collection of data on the number of Agricultural Operational Holders, its land utilization, Tenancy status and irrigation facilities available etc.

DC Gbl inaugurates Axis Bank Branch, ATM

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: Axis Bank, India's third largest private Bank Saturday inaugurated its New Branch and ATM at Beehama Duderhama in Ganderbal district.

The Ganderbal branch was inaugurated by Deputy commissioner Ganderbal, Shyam-bir in the presence of Additional District Development Commissioner, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani, Regional Branch Banking Head-NorthAxis Bank, Sattar Ali; Circle Head Panchkula, Axis Bank, Vinod Kumar, and Cluster Head Kashmir Axis bank, M Moin Sheikh, Liabilities sales head Kashmir Cluster, Lukbir Singh; Senior Manager Govt. coverage group Axis bank, Aamir Masoodi and branch head Ganderbal Axis Bank, Tanveer Ahmad.

The branch will cater to all basic banking transactions, offering the entire spectrum of banking products and financial services covering Retail and Institutional Businesses.

On the occasion the DC complimented the Regional Branch Banking Head-North Axis Bank and other officials for opening the outlet of banking and financial services in the town that would be helpful to make finance and other banking services easy, accessible and affordable for the people.

Unseasonal Rains Have Damaged Crops: Agri Min

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Saturday said unseasonal rains have damaged crops and the government is waiting for inputs from states to assess the extent of damage.

"Definitely, crops have been damaged due to the unseasonal rains. The survey is underway and we are waiting for reports from the states to assess the extent of damage," Tomar told reporters.

Farmers are dependent on monsoon, which is unpredictable, he said, adding that despite all measures in place, cultivators are at the mercy of nature.

The state governments have State Disaster Relief Funds which they can use for providing compensation to farmers. More funds from the National Disaster Relief Fund will be released after the due process of assessing the extent of damage, he said.

The minimum support price (MSP) of rabi crops will be announced very soon, he added.

Sowing of rabi crops, especially oilseeds and pulses, has begun across the country and about 7.34 lakh hectares have been covered so far, according to agriculture ministry data released on Friday.

Amul Gold, Buffalo Milk Prices Rise By Rs 2 Per Litre

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: GCMMF, which sells milk under the Amul brand, has hiked the prices of Amul Gold and buffalo milk by Rs 2 per litre each across all markets except Gujarat.

"Prices have been increased by Rs 2 per litre for Amul Gold and buffalo milk due to increase in fat prices," Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) managing director R S Sodhi told PTI.

Prices have been raised for all markets except Gujarat, he added.

The Cooperative had last increased the milk prices on August 17 by Rs 2 per litre citing rise in milk procurement cost.

GCMMF passes on almost 80 paise of every rupee paid by consumers for milk and milk products to the milk producers.

Apart from Gujarat, GCMMF mainly sells milk in Delhi-NCR, West Bengal and Mumbai. GCMMF sells more than 150 lakh litres of milk per day and out of the total quantity, Delhi-NCR accounts for nearly 40 lakh litres per day.

H&H Dept Organises Awareness/ Exhibition Camp

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: Handicrafts and Handloom department Saturday organised a day long Awareness cum Exhibition camp at Dawar, Gurez.

The Camp was inaugurated by Assistant Handicrafts Training Officer Gurez. Senior craft instructors, Mushtaq Ahmad, Showkat Ahmad, Sarpanchs, ward members besides large number of artisans attended the camp.

On the occasion AHTO Gurez said the objective of organising the camp was to make artisans aware of the various welfare programs and schemes of the department and to provide guidance support for the registration of artisans to avail benefits under the various schemes of the department.

He appealed the artisan fraternity to come forward and get themselves registered with the department so that benefits are availed by them without any difficulty and they are helped to stand on their own.

On the occasion 60 artisans registration cards were distributed among the artisans.

HDFC Bank Posts 22.30% Jump In Q2, Consolidated Net At Rs 11,125 Crore

Srinagar: HDFC Bank on Saturday reported a 22.30% jump in its consolidated net profit for the September quarter at Rs11,125.21 crore. The bank had reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 9,096.19 crore in the year-ago period.

On a standalone basis, the largest private sector bank's net profit rose by over 20% to Rs 10,605.78 crore as against Rs 8,834.31 crore in the year-ago period and Rs 9,196 crore in the preceding June quarter.

For the reporting quarter, its total income rose to Rs 46,182 crore from Rs 38,754 crore in the year-ago period, while the expenditure, excluding provisions and contingencies, climbed to Rs 28,790 crore from Rs 22,947 crore, the bank said.

The overall share of gross non-performing assets improved to 1.23% of the book as against 1.35% in the year-ago period and 1.28% three months ago.

Total balance sheet size as of September 30, 2022 was Rs 2,227,893 crore as against Rs 1,844,845 crore as of September 30, 2021, a growth of 20.8%.

Total Deposits showed a healthy growth and were at Rs 1,673,408 crore as of September 30, 2022, an increase of 19.0%

over September 30, 2021. CASA deposits grew by 15.4% with savings account deposits at Rs 529,745 crore and current account deposits at Rs 229,951 crore. Time deposits were at Rs 913,712 crore, an increase of 22.1% over the corresponding quarter of the previous year, resulting in CASA deposits comprising 45.4% of total deposits as of September 30, 2022.

Total advances as of September 30, 2022 were Rs 1,479,873 crore, an increase of 23.4% over September 30, 2021. Gross of transfers through inter-bank participation certificates and bills rediscounted, total advances grew by around 25.8% over September 30, 2021. Domestic retail loans grew by 21.4%, commercial and rural banking loans grew by 31.3% and corporate and other wholesale loans grew by 27.0%. Overseas advances constituted 3.1% of total advances.

As of September 30, 2022, the Bank's distribution network was at 6,499 branches and 18,868 ATMs / Cash Deposit & Withdrawal Machines (CDMs) across 3,226 cities / towns as against 5,686 branches and 16,642 ATMs / CDMs across 2,929 cities / towns as of September 30, 2021.

Deaths Linked To Cough Syrups: Govt Panel Says Info Shared By WHO So Far Inadequate To Determine Aetiology

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The committee set up by the government to examine reports potentially linking the death of 66 children in The Gambia to four made-in-India cough syrups has observed that the clinical information shared by the World Health Organization so far is inadequate to determine the aetiology. This was conveyed to the WHO by Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) V G Somani on Saturday.

Rutendo Kuwana from the WHO on October 13 had written to the DCGI seeking to know the progress with the investigation of the manufacturer of the four cough syrups – the Sonipat-based Maiden Pharmaceuticals. In an email response, Dr Somani on Saturday said the Union Ministry of Health has constituted a committee of technical experts to examine and analyse the details of the adverse event reports and all related details shared by or to be shared by WHO and to recommend follow up action.

Somani said the four-member committee chaired by Dr Y K Gupta, Vice Chairperson, Standing National Committee on Medicines, in its first meeting has examined the reports and communications so far

received from WHO and has made several observations.

Mentioning the observations, Dr Somani said, "The clinical features and the treatment received by the children as shared by WHO so far are inadequate to determine the aetiology."

The details of initial illness, sign and symptoms, duration of anura in the cases, results of laboratory investigations conducted including various markers and parameters, specific investigations for diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol on critical samples of the patients, treatment received before and after hospitalization at the tertiary hospital in Gambia, treatment received before and after acute kidney injury was suspected and reasons thereof, names and brands of the drug formulations used in the treatment before and after hospitalization, their manufacturers, their expiry other relevant information in each of the cases, are necessary, he said.

Dr Somani further said in case, verbal autopsy was conducted, a detailed report may be shared by WHO.

Dr Somani has sought details on the number of stool samples collected and analysed and the number of children with a similar

clinical presentation to acute kidney injury from whom the biological samples were collected.

He also sought the details of the product samples collected and tested (with their compositions, manufacturers) which were reported to be negative for EG and DEG, the details of cases who received these products.

"You are therefore requested to share the report on causal relations along with above details, as observed by the said Technical Committee at the earliest for further examination and follow up action at our level," he wrote.

The DCGI further informed that the investigation of the manufacturer in question has progressed.

"The manufacturing site has been inspected, test reports of sampled products from the laboratory are awaited and all the manufacturing activities of the manufacturer in question have been stopped," he said.

The Union Health Ministry on Wednesday formed the four-member panel of experts to examine the details and adverse event reports received from the WHO on the deaths of 66 children in Gambia being linked potentially to the four cough syrups made by the Sonipat unit of Maiden Pharmaceuticals.

350 Students of JKUT Given Scholarship Benefits: Nizamia Consultancy

Srinagar: Nizamia consultancy is providing educational scholarship to the meritorious students of JKUT. Giving detailed information about the benefits & other plans and terms of NEG, PRO Zizamia Consultancy Zahid Iqbal announced that

Currently, Nizamia Consultancy is providing scholarship to 350 students, who are already taking benefits of the scholarship plan being given by Nizamia Consultancy, where NEG is guaranteeing to provide eligible students 50% of their hostel support and 100% tuition fee, to avail the benefits of scholarship, it is a prerequisite for all the students to deposit a security fee which is refundable following certain terms and conditions.

Also Mr. Iqbal has made it clear that 100 out of 350 Students who have applied for scholarship, will not be able to get the benefit of the scholarship, because such students fail to present themselves for documents verification process held in Delhi. In spite of the fact, that all the required information about this event was given to students 2 months prior to when it was held.

Nizamia consultancy already ensured that it is mandatory for all the students to present in

this event along with their documents for further proceedings.

Also update was given on daily basis to all the students and their Parents regarding the schedule, venue and timing of event through whatsapp text and calls on daily basis. In spite of providing all the necessary info about the event, the children who did not reach the Delhi event for document verification will not be given the benefit this time and they can take advantage next time by attending the event.

The Nizamia Consultancy also cleared that all the terms and conditions related to scholarship plans were already given to the students in the brochure and also a bond was signed between students and Nizamia group

Where conditions to avail the scholarship benefit was clearly mentioned. Where both the Parties have signed as well.

The scholarship of none has not been cancelled by Nizamia Consultancy, but due to pending document verification, this time they will not be able to get the benefit this time but next time when the programme will be scheduled for document verification all the students who has applied come with all required documentation.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Father of 2

an orchard in Chowdari Gund, Shopian. He was immediately shifted to a hospital for treatment where he succumbed. Area cordoned off. Search in progress," the Kashmir Zone Police wrote on Twitter.

DIG Sujit Kumar said the initial investigation has revealed that one terrorist fired upon Bhat.

"There was security, our guard, for this cluster. We are looking at the reason (for the lapse). He had gone out on a scooter and just returned to his home," he added.

Kumar said in case of any lapse, action will be taken against the security guards and the in-charge officials in the area. Investigations are underway and more details will be made public once things become clear, the police officer said.

Deputy Commissioner of Shopian Sachin Kumar Vaishya said Bhat's body will be taken to Jammu where the last rites will be performed. "All arrangements are being made. We are extending help to the family."

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and political leaders condemned the killing.

"Attack on Puran Krishan Bhat by terrorists in Shopian is a dastardly act of cowardice. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. I assure the people that the perpetrators and those aiding and abetting terrorists will be severely punished," Sinha tweeted.

The National Conference condemned the "brazen and cowardly attack" and expressed "heartfelt commiserations" with Bhat's family.

The party's vice president, Omar Abdullah, termed the attack reprehensible. "I unequivocally condemn this attack..." he said in a tweet.

The PDP said while the Kashmiri Pandits have been protesting for the last five months demanding their relocation after Rahul Bhat was shot dead in May, the "LG administration in their hubris kept turning a blind eye to their plight".

"Today yet another Kashmiri Pandit, Puran Krishan, was shot dead in Shopian. Thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved family," the party said.

Democratic Azad Party chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad also condemned the attack. Pained beyond words to hear the news about militant attack on Kashmiri Pandit P K Bhat in Shopian, J&K today. I strongly condemn this heinous act of violence. My thoughts are with the family of Puran Krishan Bhat. May the departed soul rest in peace, he wrote on Twitter.

CPI(M) leader MY Tarigami said the government must ensure foolproof security for the minorities in Kashmir Valley. "Pained beyond words by the despicable attack which snuffed out the life of Puran Krishan Bhat. There does not seem any letup in the killing of innocent people. The government must ensure foolproof security to the minorities," he tweeted.

BJP General Secretary (organisation) Ashok Koul also condemned the "barbaric" killing and offered his condolences to the family.

In a statement, he said "these anti-national elements will never be successful. These things will not be tolerated anymore as these attacks are aimed to disturb the peace in the region."

Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari said, "Unequivocally condemn the attack.... This is a dastardly act of cowardice."

The Peoples Conference said there can never be a justification for attacks like these.

Reacting to the killing of Bhat, Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) working president Ramban Bhalla said it as a grave failure of the Union Home Ministry which directly deals with the law and order situation in the Union Territory.

Bhalla, who chaired a meeting of senior leaders here, called for urgent and effective measures to save innocent lives in Kashmir.

The party condemns the killing, which is in line with a series of such shocking incidents. It reflects that the situation in Kashmir is very grim, contrary to the claims of normalcy by the central and J-K administration, the party said in a statement.

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Bhalla and other party leaders demanded that the culprits should be identified and dealt with sternly

Home Minister Amit Shah should speak about the series of incidents of selective and targeted killings, especially of the minority community in the recent past, Bhalla said.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) also condemned the incident and said the bloodbath is going on unabated in Kashmir and the BJP government as well as the LG administration are busy in spreading claims of normalcy through numerical figures and is treating loss of precious human lives as a number game.

Things are not well in any context as people are not even safe in their lawns and orchards where gunmen appear from nowhere, fire volley of bullets, take innocent human lives and then escape from the scene, AAP state spokesperson Nawab Nasir said in a statement.

He said the loss of every single human life irrespective of caste, color, creed and religion is painful and the society should stand against it to condemn the inhumane act.

The Hurriyat Conference led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq also expressed shock and grief over the killing.

In a statement, the Hurriyat said every single life lost in this manner is very painful and sad. It extended condolences to the bereaved family and expressed solidarity with them in their hour of great sorrow.

Angry KPs Block

The Pandits, employed under the Prime Minister's employment package, have been protesting at relief commissioners office in Jammu over the past five months following the killing of their colleague Rahul Bhat in Kashmir last May.

As the news of the latest killing of Kashmiri Pandit broke out, they came out of the protest site and marched towards the main road and blocked the highway, amid high pitch sloganeering to denounce the target killings by militants and the alleged failure of the government to deal with the situation.

"Our worst fears have once again come true with the latest killing. We have already fled the valley otherwise we feel many of us have been done to death," one of the protesters, Nikhil Kaul said.

He said they have been saying that the situation in the valley is not safe for them but "this government remained unmoved and paid no heed to their pleas for relocation."

Yogesh Pandit, another protester,

said the administration is trying to pressure them to rejoin their duties by issuing "death warrants" in the form of making biometric attendance mandatory and stopping their salaries.

"The killing of Bhat exposed the government claims about the improved security situation in the valley. We will not return till the situation becomes normal in true sense," he said.

Pandit said they have tried to reach the government through memorandums and protests for their relocation from the valley following the series of targeted killings over the past one year.

"This government is deaf, dumb and blind," the agitated Pandit said, asking what was their fault for which they are being brutally killed by militants.

Rashtriya Bajrang Dal activists also joined the protesters and set ablaze an effigy of Pakistan to condemn the frequent target killings by militants in the valley.

'Bhat Frequently

also houses a large migrant pandit township.

Bhat's wife and the two children were in a state of shock as relatives and neighbours, who rushed there, were seen consoling them.

The news of his death came as a shock for us. They are brutes who do not want any Indian nationalist in the Valley, a relative of Bhat said.

The government must do something to stop such killings. What wrong did he do to anyone? a neighbour said.

The mortal remains of Bhat will reach here late Saturday night and the cremation will take place on Sunday, officials said.

Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, Additional Director General of Police, Jammu zone, Mukesh Singh, Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, Avny Lavasa and other senior officers rushed to the residence of Bhat to express their condolences with the family.

All possible assistance will be provided to the family, Kumar told reporters.

Govt Sacks

not hesitate in taking stern actions against these anti national elements," he added.

Those fired for anti-national activities included Manager of Baramulla Central Cooperative Bank Ltd Afaq Ahmad Wani, Constable in Auxiliary wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police Tanveer Saleem Dar, village-level worker Syed Iftikhar Andrabi, orderly-cum-chowkidar in Jal Shakti Department at Baramulla, Irshad Ahmad Khan and assistant lineman in Public Health Engineering sub-division, Handwara, Abdul Momin Peer.

Divulging more details, the spokesperson said, that Tanveer Saleem Dar, has always subscribed to the secessionist and radical ideology and has been found involved in a number of terror activities and an active courier of the militant outfits.

Syed Iftikhar Andrabi, he said, has worked as OGW for LeT and Hizbul Mujahidin and had developed close links with POK based terrorists and got involved in Narco terror financing.

"He can be described as a double agent as he maintained very close relations with Indian Law Enforcement agencies. He is also figuring in case FIR No. 183/2020, PS Handwara which has been transferred to NIA," he added.

About Irshad Ahmad Khan, the spokesperson said, he has been found

involved in helping terrorists in carrying out terror activities besides involved in facilitating terrorists to move out of India.

Afaq Ahmad Wani, he said, has been part of a Narco Terror module and involved in Case FIR No. 183/2020 U/S 8/21, NDPS Act, Police Station Handwara.

"A large amount of cash and Heroin has been recovered from his possession. He is involved in sale, purchase, transportation, warehousing and possession of narcotic drug Heroin," he added.

The spokesperson said that Abdul Momin Peer was also involved in narco terror financing and has been part of the distribution network. He said that a huge recovery of Heroin has been made from his possession.

Peer, he said, has visited Pakistan in 2016 & 2017 with the aim of developing an understanding of the broader objectives of terror-separatist campaigns.

Efforts On To

"All surveillance equipment was reviewed and enhanced and more equipment is being deployed within a month. Night domination strategies are also in place. Infiltration will be impossible (this winter)," Sastry said.

He added that there had been many infiltration attempts this year but each one was foiled.

"(Several) infiltrators were shot dead, while many others were forced to flee by alert jawans," Sastry said, adding "the BSF is fully capable of dealing with the threat of infiltration and will ensure zero infiltration."

On repeated attempts by Pakistan to smuggle weapons and narcotics into Indian territory using drones, he said it was a challenge and the BSF had taken several measures to counter the threat.

"The BSF is successful in (tackling) all challenges on the borders. The drone is a new problem and various measures have been taken to effectively deal with the threat," he said, adding that anti-drone systems with the capability to detect and jam the unmanned flying objects were being deployed.

Conventional strategies are also in place to ensure that the drones are not able to drop its payload, Sastry said.

The officer added that the force had also introduced drones in the training manual of new recruits and briefed jawans manning the last border post about the threat.

"The research-based new types of weapons, surveillance and new communication systems are being utilised to secure the borders," he said.

The officer said the civil administration was alive to the problems of border residents and were doing everything possible to make their lives comfortable.

"The BSF plays (the role of) a bridge between the civil administration and the border residents. We help them with civic action programmes and always remain available for them to address any issue," he said. Sastry added that underground bunkers damaged during the monsoon were being repaired.

During his address to the news recruits, the senior officer appreciated their display of self-confidence, skill and coordination and applauded them for choosing the BSF. He also exhorted them to serve the nation with courage and enthusiasm.

He also congratulated the Inspector General (Subsidiary Training Centre)

and the instructional teams for successfully achieving the objective of moulding raw village youths into well-trained 'Seema Prahari' by instilling them with confidence and turning them into disciplined jawans.

Over 24 weeks, the recruits were trained to gain proficiency in handling different weapons, firing skills and border management, a BSF spokesperson said.

PM To Unveil 2

75 DBUs in as many districts of the country to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence.

The DBUs are being set up to ensure that the benefits of digital banking reach every nook and corner of the country. Eleven banks in the public sector, 12 in the private sector and one Small Finance Bank are participating in the endeavour.

DBUs will provide a variety of digital banking facilities to people such as opening a savings account, account balance check, printing passbook, funds transfer, fixed deposit investments, loan applications, application for credit or debit cards, and bill and tax payments among others.

Modi Govt

the BJP in the November 12 assembly polls.

Made Efforts To

journey of youth and giving back to the society through education.

Highlighting the need to understand the important historical and political developments that took place in J&K since independence, the LG, as per the spokesperson said that under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, we have made committed efforts to break the barriers hindering the development of J&K, said the Lt Governor.

"Equality, progressiveness, empowerment of all, good governance, transparent & accountable administration, improved infrastructure & connectivity, modern & affordable healthcare & educational services, industrial growth, a strong grass root democratic setup and the 'People First' principle of governance has reduced the developmental gap of seven decades," Sinha said.

"Our deep and abiding commitment for upliftment of deprived section of society has translated the dream of social equity and justice into reality. The social and economic transformation in the last three years has opened up the enormous possibilities of growth," he added.

The LG, as per the spokesperson said that during the first-hand appraisal of the situation in the aftermath of the flash flood at Shri Amarnath ji holy cave, he had in-depth discussions with the engineers and environmental experts about the road to Sangam.

"This road to Sangam top near the Holy Cave, will be approved this year to provide smooth passage to the pilgrims and to make the yatra more hassle-free in the coming 4 to 5 years," Sinha said.

The LG, the spokesperson said, also shared the government's vision to give a push to the tourist sector of Jammu region and strengthen the connectivity to the tourism potential areas of the division.

"Culture is another area we are giving special impetus. A range of activities and programmes

are being held to promote the rich heritage and culture of the UT of J&K," Sinha said.

"Small factors are contributing to the socio-economic growth of J&K. Reduction of VAT on ATF from 26.5% to 1% has been proved to be a game changer for civil aviation," he added.

Ram Bahadur Rai, President, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) Trust; Dr. Mahesh Chandra Sharma, former MP and President of Ekatma Manav Pratishthan; Prof. Jawahar Lal Kaul, Chairman, Center for Jammu and Kashmir Studies and eminent personalities from all walks of life attended the book release event.

18 Kg IED Destroyed

"Search parties were immediately deployed and an area of 300-metre radius was cordoned off. The IED was detected at about 08.35 am," he said.

A bomb disposal squad neutralised the IED, which was found in close proximity of the Bandipora-Sopore road, without any collateral damage, he said.

The Bandipora-Sopore highway is an important line of communication for civil traffic as well as for the army and CAPF convoys.

"#Chinarwarriors & @JmukmrPolice averted a major terror attack today by recovering & in-situ destroying an 18kg #IED at Astandoo, #Bandipora. #IndianArmy stands by its commitment to keep #Kashmir terror free," Chinar Corps of the army wrote on Twitter.

5 Drug Peddlers

a resident of Yarikha Khansahib, Mohammad Altaf Latoo, a resident of Dafpora Nasrullahpora, Ghulam Qadir Malik, a resident of Shunglipora Khag, and Aadil Ahmad Pandith, a resident of Mazhama Magam.

The accused were involved in 12 cases registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in various police stations of the central Kashmir district, the spokesperson said.

The cases were duly processed and after obtaining sanctions from the competent authority, the arrested drug peddlers were booked under the PSA and lodged in the Kot-Balwal Jail in Jammu.

Youth Missing

proceedings under the law have been initiated.

CORRECTION

The name of my Son has been wrongly recorded in Birth Certificate as MOHAMMAD EBAAD BHAT instead of MUHAMMAD EBAAD BHAT. Now, the same is to be corrected. If anybody has any objection he may file the same in Office of the Registrar Births and Deaths (SHO Chadoora) within 7 days of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained.

Wasim Firdous Bhat
F/o Muhammad Ebaad Bhat
R/o Kralpora, Chadoora Budgam

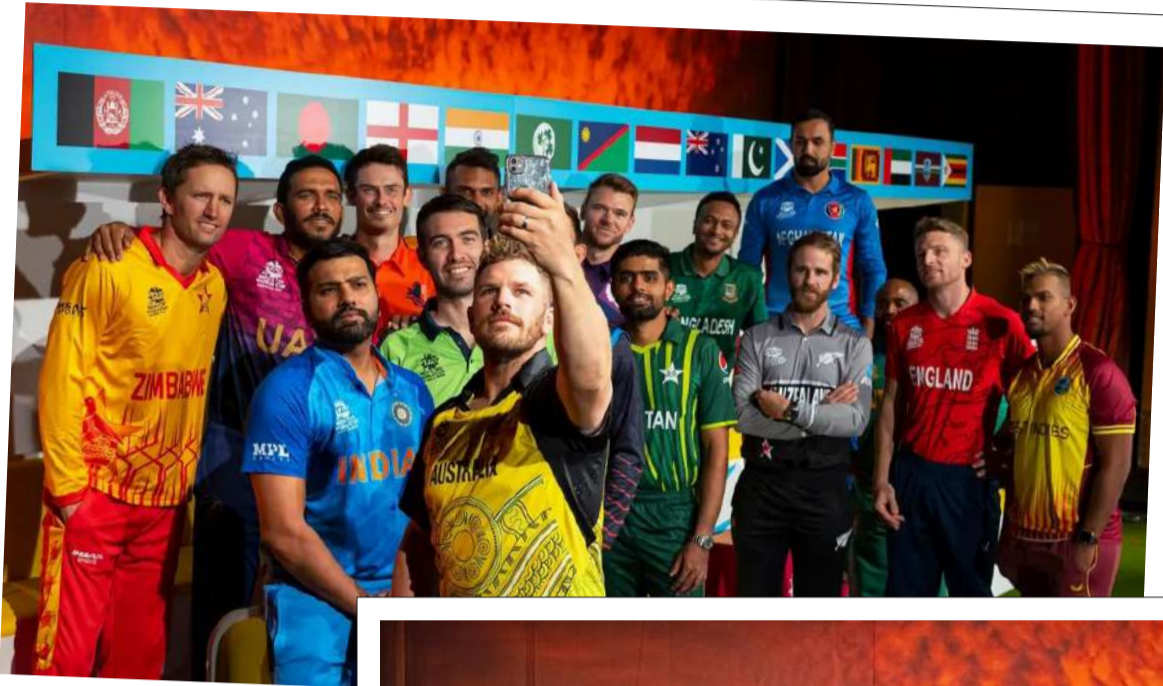
HSRP (NUMBER PLATE) LOST

I have lost HSRP (Number Plate) of my Motorbike Glamour (Hero Motor Corp) No: JK04C-5304 while travelling from Rangreth to Sanatnagar. I intend to apply for its duplicate. Anybody having objection may convey it to the ARTO Budgam Kashmir within seven days.

NAZIR AHMAD S/O: GHULAM RASOOL WANI
R/O WAWOOSA RANGRETH BUDGAM

ICC T20 WORLD CUP

The Captains' Meet & Greet



SELFIE TIME! Captains of the participating teams got together to click a picture at the Plaza Ballroom in Melbourne on Saturday, October 15. The T20 World Cup is all set to begin from today, Sunday, October 16 with Group Stage matches between Sri Lanka and Namibia, while UAE take on Netherlands.

ARCH RIVALS! Rohit Sharma and Babar Azam are all smiles as they pose for a photo. The Asian heavyweights will face each other on Sunday, October 23 in the Super 12 stage of the competition.



ALL 16 CAPTAINS pose with ICC T20 World Cup Trophy.

WHAT THE CAPTAINS SAID: TEAM NEWS & MORE



ROHIT SHARMA (India captain): "We spoke to a lot of the specialists about his (Jasprit Bumrah) injuries, but we did not get a decent response. This World Cup is important, but his career is more important. He is only 27-28, there is a lot of cricket in front of him."



Aaron Finch (Australia captain): "In terms of the overall picture, you need a bit of luck in a T20 World Cup as well - the format lends itself to one individual performance knocking teams out or changing the course of a tournament. So you have to accept that and you hope that you're on the right side of it."



Kane Williamson (New Zealand captain): "Everybody has different tags and rankings that go up and down throughout the year, and I suppose they end up with different names. But you come here in tournament sport on any day, anything can happen, especially looking across all these teams with match winners throughout."

together as a team."



Dasun Shanaka (Sri Lanka captain): "After a very good Asia Cup, we are very confident. The environment is really good. We are well-focused on our batting. As it is the early summer, the conditions will be somewhat different, so we are really focusing on that."



Babar Azam (Pakistan captain): "Shaheen and Fakhar (Zaman) have come back. We have six days for the first match, so we will utilise these warm-up matches. Shaheen is fully fit and dedicated to give his 100 percent. So, we are looking forward to seeing him play."



Jos Buttler (England captain): "Many of us have travelled and played in Australia and know the conditions, but of course, no-one is going to know the conditions or be as accustomed to them as the Australian team. They are also reigning champions, so you have to pick them out probably as favourites for the tournaments."



Temba Bavuma (South Africa captain): "To be honest, I think the guys are in good spirits. We've obviously just come from India where we didn't have the best of series, but I think there's still a lot of confidence that we can take throughout our season and the performances that we've put



CP Rizwan (UAE captain): "It's always an honour to lead your country and it's even more special to lead in a World Cup. I have always dreamt of playing in a World Cup, so getting an opportunity to do that representing your country is special."

India Beat Sri Lanka To Win Women's Asia Cup

Press Trust of India

SYLHET: India maintained their dominance in the Women's Asia Cup with an eight-wicket demolition of a self-destructing Sri Lanka in the final here on Saturday for their seventh title in eight editions.

Sri Lanka, who were playing their first tournament final in 14 years, imploded after opting to bat on a slow and turning pitch. They could only manage 65 for nine which India knocked off in 8.3 overs. Smriti Mandhana struck a sublime 51 not out off 25 balls.

It was a procession after Sri Lankan skipper Chamari Athapaththu got run out in the third over following a mix up with Anushka Sanjeevani who too got run out six balls later.

Renuka, who has been in top form since the Commonwealth Games in August, sent back Hasini Perera on the very first ball she faced. The left-hander checked her shot only to be caught at cover, leaving Sri Lanka at nine for four.

The Sri Lankans were in dire need of a partnership but Kavisha Dilhari's fall made it 16 for five as she was bowled while trying to

play an incoming delivery from Renuka across the line.

Rajeshwari Gayakwad got her first wicket after Nilakshi de Silva played on to her stumps while trying to cut a ball close to her body. At 32 for eight, being bowled out for a sub-50 total was very much on the cards, but Ranaweera saved them from that ignominy with an unbeaten 18 off 22 balls.

The Indians bowled with discipline but poor shot selection contributed more to Sri Lanka's steep slide. After a memorable win over Pakistan in the semifinals, it seemed the occasion got the better of Sri Lanka.

India lost Shafali Verma and Jemimah Rodrigues cheaply in the run chase. However, both the batters did well in the tournament, with Shafali getting back to form and Jemimah making a successful comeback from injury.

The elegant Mandhana played some exquisite strokes on way to completing the formality alongside skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (11 not out off 14). Smriti's effort included three sixes and six boundaries. Fittingly, she sealed the win with a maximum off Oshadi Ranasinghe.

IND vs PAK: Captains Reveal Personal Talk

Agencies

MELBOURNE: While players from both teams share a cordial relationship with each other and of late have looked rather relaxed before the big game, the fans on either side of the border contribute massively in building hype around the fixture.

Both Rohit and his Pakistani counterpart Babar Azam too looked extremely relaxed at the captains' media interaction here. It was not a surprise that out of the 16 captains, most questions were reserved for Rohit and Babar.

They were also asked about what they usually end up talking about when they meet during tournaments.

"We don't even talk about cricket," revealed Babar. "Rohit bhai is elder than me. I try to learn about the game from him. He has achieved a lot and I try to pick whatever I can from him," said the humble Pakistan skipper.

With his response, Rohit



lightened up the mood in the hall. "Babar is absolutely right. We understand the importance of the game but there is no point talking about it and creating that pressure within yourself. Whenever we meet, we ask about each other's families. I have met

all his teammates. "Even our former players told us what all they talk. It is usually about 'how their families are, how their life is, what new car they have bought or going to buy'. It is mainly that," said Rohit drawing a smile from Babar. (PTI)

6TH SENIOR ASIAN PENCAK SILAT CHAMPIONSHIP International Athletes Praise Kashmir & Its Hospitality

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 6th Senior Asian Pencak Silat Championship, an international event that is underway at Srinagar's Sheri Kashmir Indoor Stadium has brought together 150 athletes from 12 countries, who are stationed here next few days.

The national and international players who travel to different places often offer their verdicts during and after their stay regarding the place and its hospitality besides cuisine etc. Similarly, a few players from Malaysia and Indonesia were in awe of not only the venue, and place of stay but also the traditional food.

Abdul Malik from Indonesia is in high spirits after winning the fight in weight class B-50-55 against his counterpart from Malaysia by 24/20. Malik believes that the venue has added to his motivation and thus helped in the triumph.

Visiting J&K for the first time, Malik feels more events should be organized in Kashmir as the place

has had a soothing effect on him. Meanwhile, another athlete Mohammad Iqbal was elated after vanquishing his Indian competitor. Iqbal won his game by a huge margin and qualified for the semi-final of the Tunggal in the individual artistic category. Being a foodie and a chance traveller, Iqbal has been to many places around the world but he feels that Kashmiri cuisine is unique. Iqbal says that the food served in Kashmir is blended with a lot of warmth and love and that enhances its taste.

Another Malaysian athlete, Izzul Irfan was all set to play against his Indonesian counterpart. He also shared his experiences so far. The mood of the Izzul could be gauged from the radiance on his face. He feels that there is something heavenly in Kashmir, though he also comes from a very scenic place. Izzul wants to teach the art of Pencak Silat to young athletes of J&K and shortly wishes to visit this place again.

5.3 Billion Cell Phones To Be Dumped In 2022: Report

Agenceis

LONDON: Roughly 5.3 billion mobile or smartphones will drop out of use this year, and only a small number of them will be disposed off properly, according to a report.

Brussels-based Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Forum conducted surveys to understand why so many households and businesses fail to bring electronic gadgets in for repair or recycling.

The surveys show that, of the 8,775 European households across five European Union countries — Portugal, Netherlands, Italy, Romania and Slovenia — and a separate UK survey, the average household contains 74 e-products such as phones, tablets, laptops, electric tools, hair dryers, toasters and other appliances (excluding lamps).

Of those 74 average total e-products, 13 are being hoarded — 9 of them unused but working and 4 broken.

Stacked flat atop one another at an average depth of 9 mm that many disused phones would rise roughly 50,000 km — 120 times higher than the International Space Station; one-eighth of the way to the Moon, according to a statement.

Further, despite their valuable gold, copper, silver, palladium and other recyclable components, experts expect a majority will disappear into drawers, closets, cupboards or garages, or be tossed into waste bins bound for landfills or incineration.



The top five hoarded small electrical and electronic equipments in Europe are small consumer electronics and accessories (headphones, remote controls, etc.), small household equipment (clocks, irons, etc.).

These also include small information technology equipment (external hard drives, routers, keyboards, mice, etc.), mobile and smart-phones and small equipment for food preparation (toasters, food processing, grills, etc.).

"We focussed this year on small e-waste items because it is very easy for them to accumulate unused and unnoticed in households, or to be tossed into the ordinary garbage bin," said Pascal Leroy, Director General of the WEEE Forum, the organisation behind International E-Waste Day.

"People tend not to realise that all these seemingly insignificant items have a lot of value, and together at a global level represent massive volumes," Leroy said.

The report says LED lamps rank top of the list of products most likely to be trashed.

Will Continue To Explore Ways To Bring Back Kohinoor From UK: Centre

The 108-carat Kohinoor gem was given to Queen Victoria in 1849 by Maharajah Duleep Singh.

New Delhi: India indicated on Friday that it will continue to explore ways to bring back the Kohinoor, one of the largest diamonds in the world, from the United Kingdom.

The death of Britain's longest-reigning monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, reignited the demand in India to bring back the Kohinoor.

Asked about the demand, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi referred to the government's response on the issue in Parliament a few years ago.



"My understanding is that the government of India responded to it in Parliament a few years ago. We have said that we have been raising this matter from time to time with the UK gov-

ernment and we will continue to explore ways and means for obtaining a satisfactory resolution of the matter," he said.

The 108-carat Kohinoor gem was given to Queen Victoria in 1849 by Maharajah Duleep Singh.

It was worn by the Queen Mother on her crown in 1937. There were speculative reports in the British media about the possibility of Camilla wearing the Kohinoor diamond when she is crowned Queen Consort at a ceremony on May 6 next year.

Following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, a significant number of Twitter users in India demanded the return of the Kohinoor to India.

In Digital India, E-sevas Are The New Custom In Temples

Press Trust of India

MANGALURU: Living in a world where we do everything online, temples in the Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka have also forayed into the world of online exchanges, allowing devotees to make online offerings or e-sevas.

Many of the temples in Karnataka are owned and managed by the endowment department of the state government, which has introduced various online services to enable devotees to offer their prayers and offerings online.

This enables the devotees to offer seva at the temple-deity of their choice without visiting the temples, a proposition gaining popularity among people with limitations of distant travels.

Many of the devotees, though not the devout, choose the easier way of e-sevas now by avoiding queues at the temples for offering poojas.

And they get the prasadam from the temples at their doorstep through e-seva offerings.

The modern-day devotee chooses to offer prayers silently and perform an e-seva to please the gods and goddesses of one's choice from a distance.

The e-sevas and e-kanikke (donations) are available at all the 'A' category temples of the endowment department in the state, especially in Dakshina Kannada district known for many famous shrines.

Mangaladevi temple in Mangaluru has joined the list by going online with an e-hundi (collection box) facility.

Heir To Dutch Throne Forced To Stay Home Amid Security Fears

Agenceis

THE HAGUE: The teenage heir to the Dutch throne has been forced to give up on Amsterdam's student life and live instead at her parents' palace, the latest indication of just how much of a threat organized crime poses to Dutch society.

A visibly emotional Maxima said at the end of a state visit to Sweden on Thursday that the 18-year-old princess "doesn't live in Amsterdam and can't really go out." She said that despite the security concerns, the princess is

continuing her studies.

The Queen's words offered a rare insight into the sense of unease felt by the royal house. It's also indicative of the fear shared by the Dutch and others across Europe that criminal gangs involved in the lucrative drug trade are fanning.

The Dutch justice minister last week hosted a meeting at which six nations pledged to step up cooperation in the fight against organized crime.

That meeting came after security around Belgium's justice minister, Vincent Van Quicken-



borne, was beefed up following the arrest of four Dutchmen in the Netherlands on suspicion of

a plot to kidnap him.

Belgium and the Netherlands are home to the ports of Antwerp and Rotterdam, two key hubs for networks trafficking huge amounts of cocaine into Europe.

Another example underscoring the gravity of the gang threat was a move by Dutch prosecutors this week to add terrorism to charges that a suspect faces in the slaying of popular crime reporter Peter R. de Vries who was gunned down last year.

Prosecutors said the suspect posted on social media a grisly video he recorded of De Vries after he

was shot in a downtown Amsterdam street to amplify the impact.

Amalia, 18, is studying Politics, Psychology, Law and Economics at Amsterdam University and was supposed to be living in a house with other students in the heart of the city's historic canal network. Instead, she is still at home in nearby The Hague, her mother said. "She doesn't have a student life," Maxima said.

Prime Minister Mark Rutte, who reportedly also has had his personal security beefed up amid threats, called it "terrible news" for Amalia.

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