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'Till Death Do Us Part': Husbands Sacrificing Kidneys To Save Sick Wives In Kashmir

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Director Sher-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Dr Parvaiz Koul on Thursday said that Kashmir is witnessing a healthy organ donation trend wherein male spouses are coming forward to donate kidneys to save their ailing partners.

Parvaiz said that in the past few years, it has been seen that husbands are coming forward to donate kidneys who suffer from chronic kidney diseases. "Earlier, it was not the case Parvaiz said.

"Females were more sacrificing. They would come forward to donate kidneys for their husbands, brothers and even parents."

"It is a routine for females to come forward for their spouses as potential donors but it is changing, which is encouraging" he said.

Parvaiz further said that the



A VERY WELCOME TREND IS BEING OBSERVED IN KIDNEY TRANSPLANT DONATION in Kashmir.

Increasing number of male spouses are coming forward to donate a kidney for their respective female spouses with renal failure. This healthy trend wasn't seen till recently. Kudos to all donors"

forward to donate organs to

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Dr Koul said that

SKIMS has data evidence to

their ailing wives.

trend should be encouraged not only in Kashmir but in other parts of India as well so that the positive message goes out and other males also come

support his statement. We hold meetings to check

and evaluate the donors and over the years it has come to forth that husbands come forward to donate kidneys, which was not the case earlier." he said He further said before issuing authorizations for organ donations a donor is evaluated 'nicely' and only then an authorization is issued. Dr Koul clarified that it does

not affect the health of the donor and the donor "survives

normally." Earlier, on Wednesday Dr Parvez had put out a tweet as well.

"A very welcome trend is being observed in kidney transplant donation in Kashmir. Încreasing number of male spouses are coming forward to donate a kidney for their respective female spouses with renal failure. This healthy trend wasn't seen till recently. Kudos to all donors" he tweeted.

Netizens welcomed the move, More on P10

Govt Warns Employees Against Non-Submission Of APRs

Observer News Service

Srinagar- The government on Thursday asked all employees to submit details of annual property details between January 1 to 31 and warned against non-submission with action under Prevention of Corruption Act and denial of their Vigilance Clearance.

Sub Section 2 of Section 9 of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Men and Public Servants Declaration of Assets and other Provisions Act, 1983 lays down that it shall be incumbent on the part of every public servant to submit annual returns of the assets held by him and his family members in the month of January every year and shall indicate the reasons for increase, if any, in the assets and source of the same.

"The Jammu and Kashmir Public Servants Declaration of Assets Act and Rules made thereunder provides for imposing a penalty for non-submission of the property returns by the public servants", the government said in a circular. "It is further

provided that if any public servant without any reasonable cause which he shall be required to show, fails to submit the return annually, he shall be guilty of committing criminal misconduct under the Prevention of Corruption Act and shall be punishable under the said Act".

The Act and Rules also lay down that every public servant shall submit annual property returns as per instruction issued by the Government from time to time, in respect of all the assets possessed by him and his family members.

"With a view to make the process of filing of property returns employee friendly, the Government of Jammu & Kashmir has launched online portal for filing of annual property returns (PRS-Portal) by each and every More on P10



A MAN PASSES THROUGH A WOODEN BRIDGE in the interiors of the Dal Lake on Thursday, when Srinagar recorded coldest day of the season at minus 5.5 Degree Celsius freezing water supply lines and parts of the water body: KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Srinagar Shivers As Mercury Falls To Minus 5.5 Deg Celsius

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: 'Chilla-i-Kalan', the 40-day harshest winter period, has made its presence felt in the Kashmir valley with Srinagar recording its coldest night this winter, even as water supply lines and interiors of the Dal Lake froze due to the cold conditions, officials said on Thursday.

The minimum temperature in Srinagar recorded on Wednesday night was minus 5.5 degrees Celsius, which is the lowest so far this season, they said.

The city had recorded minus 4.2 degrees Celsius the previous night. The cold conditions led to freezing of water supply lines in many places across the valley, even as the interior parts of the Dal Lake also developed a thick layer of frost.

The officials said Pahalgam, which serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath vatra, recorded a low of minus 6.8 degrees Celsius and was the coldest recorded place in the valley.

It was also the coldest night of the season so far at the tourist resort.

The famous ski-resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district recorded a low of minus 5.2 degrees Celsius, they said. More on P10



Azad Expels 3 Close Confidants, **Including Tara Chand**

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Ghulam Nabi Azad on Thursday expelled three top leaders - former ministers Tara Chand and Manohar Lal and former legislator Balwan Singh from his Democratic Azad Party (DAP) for anti-party activities.



An order for their expulsion with immediate effect was issued by DAP general secretary R S Chib. "They were expelled for

anti-party activities. The chairman (Azad) was convinced that they were not More on P10

Chand Hits Back, Says I'm Congressman By Birth

• ormer deputy chief minister Tara Chand on Thursday said that he is returning to Congress as "Ghulam Nabi Azad-led Democratic Azad Party is only dividing the secular vote."

Tara Chand, who was deputy CM during NC- Congress regime, said that he is likely to rejoin Congress."I will rejoin the party. I am Congressman by birth, "he said, adding that he is holding consultation More on P10

PM Chairs Review Meeting On Covid Situation Amid Spike In Cases

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a highlevel meeting on Thursday to review the situation related to COVID-19 in the country. Union Health Minister

Mansukh Mandaviya, Home Minister Amit Shah, Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and top officials attended the virtual meeting.

Ahead of the meeting, in a statement in Lok Sabha, Minister Mandaviya asked states to remain alert and create awareness about wearing face masks and using hand sanitisers, especially in view of upcoming festivals and new year celebrations.

Wednesday, On Mandaviya had reviewed the situation and asked people to follow Covid-appropriate



behaviour, including wearing masks in crowded places, and getting vaccinated. Official sources have said random sample testing will be done at airports for

international passengers arriving from China and other countries. There has been a sudden spurt in Covid cases in China and some other countries

Dogra Employees Protest Outside BJP Office In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

over Jammu: Angered Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's remarks about stopping their salaries, Dogra and Kashmiri Pandit employees on Monday intensified their months-long protest demanding a transfer from the Valley in the wake of the targeted killings by terrorists in Kashmir.

In their response to the LG's remark, the employees made it clear to the government that they will not return to Kashmir until their demands for transfer policy and relocation are not addressed.

Any Person From Jammu Will Not Be A Guinea **Pig: BJP**

Dogra employees assembled under the banner of "All Jammubased Reserved Categories Employees Association" at the BJP headquarters office here and staged a sit-in to press on their demand for framing a policy under which they should be transferred from the Valley to their home districts in the Jammu region.

"Let them stop salaries. Unless our demand for framing of transfer policy is made no one will join. Salaries are not more important than life", one of the protesters told reporters here. Expressing her concern over

the LG's remarks, More on P10

Barely a day after Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha remarked that reserved category employees cannot be transferred, BJP on Thursday said that transfer policy will be framed and no one from Jammu be made "guinea pig" in wake of selective killings in Kashmir. "Come what may, More on P10

Five OGWs Held In Kupwara: Police

ve Hizb-ul-Mujahideen associates have been arrested and arms and ammunition recovered from their possession in North Kashmir's Kupwara district, police said on Thursday. "A credible information was received by District Police Kupwara and Army from Military intelligence and other intelligence agencies that a militant module of Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) outfit is active in Kralpora area which is not only helping the militants in providing safe shelter but also other logistics including arms and ammunition", said a police spokesman in a statement issued. "Based on this information, joint team of Police and Army apprehended three militant More on P10

Truck Crushes Man To Death

an Killed After Being Hit By Speedy Truck In North Kashmir's Sumbal Srinagar- A 35-year old man killed in a road accident in Sumbal area of North Kashmir's Bandipora district on Thursday. Quoting an official, news agency KNO reported that a speedy truck hit the man near Sumo stand Sumbal, resulting in serious injuries to him. He said the injured was rushed to CHC Sumbal, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. He identified him as Aijaz Ahmad Khan, a driver by profession, of Markundal Hajin and said the body was handed over to family after completing all legal formalities. Meanwhile, a case More on P10

Man Injured **In Bear Attack**

SHORT

middle-aged man on Thursday was attacked and Linjured by a black bear in South Kashmir's Shopian district. 55-year-old Mohammad Magbool Dar of Nusipora village was attacked by bear in Haaji Check village of the district on Thursday evening, reports said. Dar received injuries in the surprise bear attack and was rushed to district hospital Pulwama for treatment. His condition is said to be stable Meanwhile, reports added that a team of Wildlife department has rushed to the spot to track down the beast. The villagers have also been advised to avoid venturing out unnecessarily.

BSF Shoots Down Drone Along IB

TAKES

drone that entered into India from Pakistan has been shot Adown near the international border in Punjab by the Border Security Force (BSF), an officer said Thursday. The unmanned aerial vehicle was downed by firing at 8 pm on Wednesday near the Harbhajan border post in the Ferozepur sector of Tarn Taran district. BSF troops fired "heavily" taking aim of the drone. It was was recovered lying in a farmland on Thursday morning when a search of the area was conducted, a BSF spokesperson said. The search is continuing to find if the drone dropped any consignment, he said.

10 Day Winter Break In Jammu Schools

he authorities on Thursday announced 10-day winter vacation for schools in summer zone of Jammu division from December 26 According to an order, all schools in summer zone will observer winter vacation from December 26 to January 04. "It is hereby ordered that all Government and recognised Private Schools of Summer zone of Jammu Division shall observe winter vacation from December 26 to January 04," reads the order. It reads all teachers shall remain available on demand for any online guidance of students during vacation period. More on P10

Drug Peddler Held In Baramulla: Police

olice on Thursday claimed to have arrested a drug peddler and recovered psychotropic substances from his possession in North Kashmir's Baramulla district. "A Police party of Police Post Wagoora during patrolling at Mirangund Kreeri intercepted a vehicle (alto car) bearing registration number JK05G-0401 driven by Jatinder Singh son of Rajinder Singh resident of Mirangund Kreeri. During the search, officers recovered psychotropic substance including 1000 tablets of Spasmoproxyvon plus, 480 tablets of Alprazolam and 10 bottles of Daslin CD from his possession. He has been arrested and the vehicle used in the More on P10



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Do Zodiac Signs Correlate To Our Personality Traits?

Press Trust Of India

re you sure astrology isn't a science? Both astrology and astronomy are in the business of making predictions. The theories of astrology claim that the positions of the planets and the stars influence who you are and what happens to you: your job, your personality and your romantic partner. Astrologers make these predictions based on the positions of the planets at the time of your birth.

Astronomy, in contrast, makes predictions about such phenomena as the movements of planets and the expansion of galaxies. Astronomers explain their predictions with such properties as masses, distances and gravitational forces.

As a philosopher and an anthropologist who study what science means to society, we think it is important to separate the question of whether something is a science from the question of whether it is true or false.

Astrology makes scientific claims

Science, in essence, involves making and testing factual claims about the world. Factual claims are true or false descriptions of the world (Joe is 1 metre tall) as opposed to descriptions of how we define things (1 metre is 1,000 milimetres). In this sense, astrologers, like astronomers, make factual claims about the world. To us, that makes astrology sound a lot like a set of scientific beliefs.

For a very long time, until the 17th or 18th century, astronomy and astrology were practised side by side. After all, knowing where the planets were relative to the stars was necessary to make accurate predictions about how their locations influenced human affairs.

That's why astronomers and astrologers populated medical schools and governments, advising people on what the heavens signalled was to come on Earth.

Even famed astronomers Galileo and Kepler practised astrology. Any rule that says they are scientists only if they make one set of factual claims but not when they make another set of factual claims divides these thinkers into two halves that aren't meant to be contradictory. In both cases, they wanted to know how things worked so they could predict how things would go in the future.

Being false vs. being unscientific

But here's the rub: When researchers test the predictions astrology makes about people's lives, those predictions turn out to be no better than guesswork.

There is currently no broadly accepted evidence that galactic forces are capable of influencing the choices people make. The truck parked on the street exerts more gravitational pull on you than Mars does, and the radio waves from your local station far outpower those from Jupiter, for instance.

There is an important difference between being false and being unscientific. Currently, astrological theories are false precisely because they make scientific claims about the world, and those claims turn out to be wrong. Although the predictions astrology makes are false, they are nonetheless a matter of science. That's how we know they are wrong, after all.

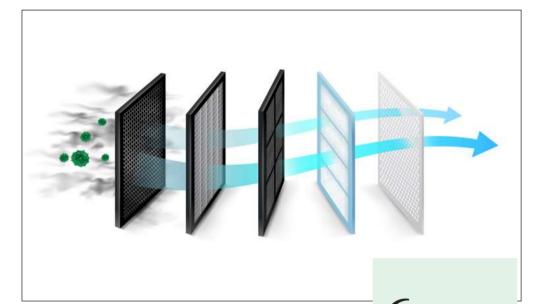
Some people believe they find support for astrological predictions in their own personal experience. They read their horoscope and it seems just right: They did meet

someone interesting or benefit from listening to a close friend's advice. But the predictions are vague enough that they would often be true even if astrology were utterly bogus. That's why it can be difficult to figure out how to assess an astrologer's predictions with precision.

Theories of astronomy, on the other hand, have evolved over the years with advances in technology. They are routinely corrected in response to increasingly precise measurements.

For example, Einstein's theory of general relativity got a boost over Newton's because it predicted the precise migration of Mercury's closest point to the Sun year after year. If astrology had the same ability to make correct predictions with such precision, it might still be a major focus of scientific attention.

IISC-Bangalore Develops 'Green' Tech To Rid Air Filters Of Germs



newly developed air filtering technique that uses ingredients commonly found in green tea can deactivate germs that find refuge inside air filters, the Ministry of Science and Technology said in an official statement.

A research team led by Prof Suryasarathi Bose and Prof Kaushik Chatterjee at Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, has developed a germdestroying air filter that can inactivate germs using ingredients like polyphenols and polycationic polymers commonly found in green tea.

air filters become a breeding ground for captured germs. The growth of these germs clog the pores of the filter, reducing their life.

Re-suspension of these germs can infect people in the vicinity, the statement said. The novel antimicrobial air filters were tested at an NABL

accredited laboratory and were found to be 99.24 per cent effective against SARS-CoV-2 (delta variant).

The technology was trans-ferred to AIRTH, a start-up that is replacing the existing germgrowing air filters with these germ-destroying air filters for commercial purposes, the

The technology was transferred to AIRTH, a start-up that is replacing the existing germgrowing air filters with these germdestroying air filters for commercial purposes, the

novel antimicrobial filters in ACs, central ducts, and air purifiers can play a crucial role in fight against air pollution

and mitigate the spread of air-



'green' ingredients The rupture the microbes through site-specific binding, the statement said. With a prolonged use,

statement said. The air-filtering technique was granted a patent in 2022.

borne pathogens such as several coronaviruses, the statement said. The deployment of these



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KASHMIR OBSERVER[™] Srinagar | Friday | 23-12-2022

In Ongoing Good Governance Week, City **Abuzz With Activities**

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In connection with "Good Governance Week" being celebrated from December 19 to December 25, 2022, activities are going on in full swing across Srinagar District with special focus on disposal of public grievances and highlighting benefits about various Government welfare schemes and public services.

The awareness pro grammes were held on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad at Chief Horticulture Office, Youth Hostel, Chief Education Office, Chief Agriculture Office, Rural Development Office, Medical Zone S R Gunj, Boys Higher Secondary School Gulab Bagh, Assistant Labour Commissioner and other Government Offices.

The Officers/Officials of ALC Office Srinagar visited and are visiting different Offices, Shopping Malls, Companies, Business Units, Public gatherings, NYC's for conducting awareness programs about the Registration of e-SHRAM Cards, Labour Cards and other digitally sponsored Government schemes, so that people can avail benefits from the Schemes and are made aware about the e-Governance.

Similarly, the Youth Ser-

vices & Sports Office organized Drawing Competitions and Cultural programmes regarding celebrations of Good Governance Week at Youth Hostel Wazir Bagh.

On the occasion, the DYS-SO briefed the participants about Good Governance Week and stressed on taking active participation in sports events and distancing themselves from all kinds of drugs.

The Medical Zones of Srinagar District holds various Health awareness camps under Good Governance Week particularly on benefits of schemes to ANC patients, Free transportation, free tests and free drugs. The people were also informed about JSY, JSSK and health check-ups. In addition, they were also given awareness about immunization schedules.

Anaemia Mukt camps were also held in the Medical Zone of S R Gunj, MC Noorbagh which shall continue till December 25, 222.

The Chief Education Office, Srinagar also organized various awareness programmes at CEO Office Bemina, Boys Middle School Gulab Bagh and other Government Schools during which painting competition, online competitions were held regarding Good Governance.



SSCAF Holds Discussion On Projects Taken Up By SSCL

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A Meeting of Srinagar Smart City Advisory Forum (SSCAF) was held in the TRC Meeting Hall, Srinagar on Thursday.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner SMC/ CEO SSCL, Joint Commissioner (Admin) SMC/ACEO SSCL, Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Department, Chief Engineer KPDCL, Chief Engineer SSCL, GM P&UD SSCL, SSP Traffic, Secretary SDA, Deputy Director Tourism, Executive Engineer LCMA, Executive Engineer KPDCL, other officers of SSCL; along with traders' fraternity and members of Civil society.

CEO Srinagar Smart City, Athar Aamir Khan made a presentation on the various projects under Smart City Mission including Pedestrianisation of City, Re-development of Ghanta Ghar, Water Transport, ITMS, city beautification, central business district up-gradation, e-Bicycle sharing, Heritage conservation and Downtown Renewal, Cycle Tracks, Integrated Solid Waste Management, Dal Lake front development, e-Buses, etc.

Detailed discussion was held regarding various projects taken up by SSCL. Thereafter, valuable suggestions, views and inputs were shared by all the participants

which were duly noted by the Srinagar Smart City team including development of Museum cum Art Gallery by SSCL in collaboration with Handicrafts Department; Parking Slots in DownTown area, Traffic lights for pedestrians. etc.

The participants expressed their unending support to SSCL for successful and timely completion of the projects.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to all participants and an acknowledgment for the active support of all the line departments, various organizations, traders' fraternity and members of civil society and hard work of the Srinagar Smart City Limited team.

Attendants Demand Foot-Over Bridge Near Children's Hospital

Agencies

Srinagar: To reduce the pedestrian-traffic conflict Outside Children Hospital General public, attendants have demanded Construction of Sub Way or foot over-bridge outside the New Children Hospital Bemina, an associated hospital of GMC Srinagar.

As per reports to CNS, Parent's along with their ailing kids are facing trouble while cross-

Due to huge Traffic Movement there are many apprehensions of Traffic

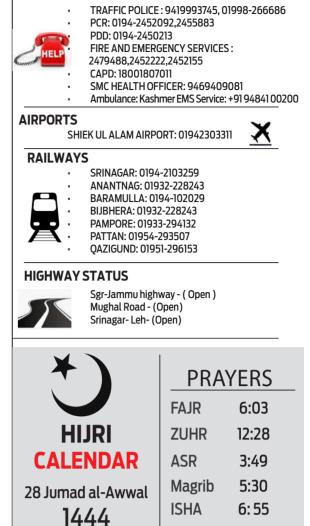
accidents which May Cause Human Damage at any time ing the busy National Highway Outside Hospital due to the lack

of overhead footbridge posing risk to their lives. Attendants say that there

are chances of a road accident outside the hospital road as attendants and patients are crossing the bypass without any footover bridge or Zebra-Crossing.

"Due to huge Traffic Movement there are many apprehensions of Traffic accidents which May Cause Human Damage at any time", one of the attendants added.

Meanwhile, the attendants demanded construction of an overhead bridge outside the valley's lone pediatric tertiary care hospital on priority basis so that there will be no risk of life. (CNS)



This Day In History

962 - Byzantine-Arab Wars: Under the future Emperor Nicephorus Phocas, Byzantine troops stormed city of Aleppo, recovering the tattered tunic of John the Baptist.

1482 - The Peace of Atrecht (now Arras) concluded between Louis XI of France and Maximilian of Austria, ending the War of the Burgundian Succession.

1620 - French huguenots declare war on King Louis XIII.

- 1690 English astronomer John Flamsteed observes Uranus without realizing it's undiscovered.
- 1715 Russian/Prussian troops occupy Stralsund.
- 1728 Prussian Emperor Karel VI signs Treaty of Berlin. 1899 - Tentative Turkish & German treaty on construction of Baghdad railway.
- 1914 World War I: Australian and New Zealand troops arrive in Cairo, Egypt.
- 1915 J Kern/S Greene's musical "Very Good Eddie" premieres in NYC
- 1916 World War I: Battle of Magdhaba Allied forces defeat Turkish forces in Egypt's Sinai peninsula.
- 1917 3 British warships come close to Holland.
- 1919 1st hospital ship built to move wounded naval personnel launched
- 1920 Government of Ireland Act / Home Rule Act passed partitioning Ireland.
- 1933 Train crash in Eastern Paris; 230 die.
- 1938 Discovery of the first modern coelacanth in South Africa.
- 1941 British troops overrun Benghazi, Libya.
- 1941 Japan begins assault on Rangoon, Burma.
- 1942 Allies air attack on Den Helder.

KU Celebrates National Mathematics Day-2022

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Department of Mathematics University of Kashmir celebrated the National Mathematics Day-2022 to mark the birth anniversary of great mathematician, Srinivasa Ramanujan.

The Head, Department of Mathematics, Prof S Pirzada, welcomed the guests and shared his views on the importance of the day, especially in the context of highlighting the vast contributions of S Ramanujan to the fields of number theory and numerical analysis.

During the day-long event, several other speakers highlighted the life, history and

contributions of Ramanujan. These included Prof Nisar Ahamd Rather, Prof M H Gulzar, Prof Tariq Ahmad Chishti, Prof Bashir Ahmad Zargar, Prof Neyaz Ahmad Sheikh, Prof Mukhtar Ahmad Khanday, Prof Mohammad Abdullah Mir, Prof Tariq Ahmad Shikari and Dr Rameez Raja Nagash.

The speakers also emphasised the need to raise awareness on the importance of mathematics to encourage young students to opt for the subject at multiple levels.

They said that students of mathematics can become ambassadors of mathematics and spread awareness in the society about the growing utility of the subject in people's daily lives.

'Know The Nobel Laureate' AMU Professor Talks About Life, Writings Of Annie Ernaux

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The second lecture of the 'Know the Nobel Laureate' lecture series was held at the University of Kashmir on Thursday.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Nilofer Khan inaugurated the lecture session, organised by the Department of English, as part of the lecture series initiated by the Dean of Academic Affairs.

Dr Siddhartha, faculty at the Department of English, Aligarh Muslim University, delivered the lecture on Annie Ernaux, the recipient of Nobel

Prize in Literature (2022). Describing Annie Ernaux as an "interesting and innovative author", Dr Siddhartha talked in detail about different works of the Nobel Laureate who, he said, "manages to innovate new ways of writing and presenting her narrative using the technique of what she herself calls flat-writing"

He said photography has been central to Anne Ernaux's narrative in different works to offer simple snapshots about the happenings around her in a "straightforward manner"

SKUAST Student To Work On Nano-Phosphorous Mgmt At USA

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Ms. Tanzeel Bashir, PhD student of the Division of Plant Biotechnology SKUAST-Kashmir has been selected for the position of Season Research Assistant in the Department of Analytical Chemistry at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven, Connecticut, USA, and shall work on Phosphorous management in plant-soil systems using Nano-scale and conventional phosphorous fertilizers. This position will provide excellent opportunity to gain professional experience helpful for her

PhD research and learn new skills in the broad areas of nutrient management, nanotechnology implications and applications in agriculture and environment, and plant science. The student is currently pursuing Ph.D. Bio-technology on Biochemical and Metagenomic studies for Organic Saffron Production under the mentorship of Dr. Amjad M. Husaini, Associate Professor, Division of Plant Biotechnology in Genome **Engineering and Sustainable** Biotechnology Lab, SKUAST-K. The selection of candidate was done through an online interview held by Dr. Jason C. White, Director CAES.

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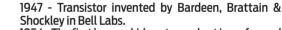
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- 1954 The first human kidney transplant is performed by Dr. Joseph E. Murray at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts.
- 1958 Abdallah Ibrahim forms government of Morocco.
- 1961 Fidel Castro announces Cuba will release 1,113 prisoners from failed 1961 Bay of Pigs Invasion for \$62M worth of food & medical supplies.
- 1964 India & Ceylon hit by cyclone, about 4,850 killed.
- 1968 1st US case of space motion sickness.
- 1972 6.25 Earthquake destroys central Managua Nicaragua, 10,000 die.
- 1982 The United States Environmental Protection Agency announces it has identified dangerous levels of dioxin in the soil of Times Beach, Missouri.
- 1986 Experimental airplane Voyager, piloted by Dick Rutan & Jeana Yeager, complete 1st nonstop, roundthe-world flight without refueling lands
- 1990 Slovenians vote to secede from Yugoslavia. 2002 A MQ-1 Predator is shot down by an Iraqi MiG-
- 25, making it the first time in history that an aircraft and an unmanned drone had engaged in combat. 2003 - PetroChina Chuandongbei natural gas field explosion, Guoqiao, Kai, Chongqing, China, killing at



Observer News Service

least 234.

RINAGAR: A series of ransom by pro-government gunmen in the Sumbal region of north Kashmir sparked off vehement protests to¬day in the area. Thousands of residents demanding action against the gunmen staged a demonstration on the Sumbal Bridge, blocking traffic on the Srinagar-Bandipora highway this morning.

In the latest incident of the kind, gunmen had abducted a student, Ri-yaz Ahmad Rathar of Waskoora, Ganderbal yesterday and sent word to his father, a fruit vendor to pay $\operatorname{Rs} 2$ lakh for his son's release.

Similarly, gunmen are gearing up to extract a hefty amount from the owners of the Showhole floor mill for setting free their employee, Ghulam Muhammad Gojri, kidnapped recently. Sumbal residents said that pro-government gunmen had abducted nearly a dozen traders who frequent the town to reclaim loans. (Kashmir Observer, 23 December, 2000)

NEWS

Omani Delegation In Yemen For Talks As Threat Of **Military Escalation Looms**



Agencies

An official delegation from the Sultanate of Oman landed in the Yemeni capital Sanaa on 21 December as part of Muscat's mediation efforts to reach a political solution to the Saudi-led war that has been raging for nearly eight years.

The Ansarallah resistance group announced the arrival of the Omani delegation on Wednesday. They were accompanied by the head of Sanaa's negotiating team, Mohammed Abdul Salam

No further details were provided about the meeting, which comes nearly three months after a UN-brokered ceasefire between Sanaa and Riyadh ended.

Since then, Oman has been mediating talks between Saudi and Yemeni officials that seek to end a war that has killed nearly 400,000 Yemenis and pushed the rest of the population to the brink of famine.

Nonetheless, on Wednesday, Al Akhbar cited Ansarallah officials as saying that Yemen is headed towards a new military

Press Trust of India

Amruta Fadnavis, wife of Maharashtra Deputy Chief

Minister Devendra Fadnavis,

has called Prime Minister Na-

rendra Modi as the father of

New India, adding the country

has two rashtra pita' (father of

"We have two 'rashtra pita'.

Narendra Modi is the father of

New India and Mahatma Gan-

dhi is the father of the nation

of earlier times," Amruta, a

banker and singer, said during a

Maharashtra minister Yas-

homati Thakur slammed the

Congress leader and former

mock court interview.

the nation).

India Has Two 'Rashtra Pita',

New India: Amruta Fadnavis

Narendra Modi Father Of

escalation

'The understandings between Sanaa and the countries of aggression, through regional and international mediations, have reached a dead end," Ansarallah official Muhammad Taher Anam told the Lebanese outlet, before adding that "the leadership in Sanaa has be-come convinced that there are no real intentions to stop the aggression and lift the siege." Over recent days, ceasefire violations by the Saudi-led coalition have escalated in areas controlled by Ansarallah and the Yemeni Armed Forces, particularly near the Port of Hodeidah. Moreover, spying and attack drones have increased patrols, while at least five UN-approved fuel shipments headed for Hodeidah have been detained by

coalition forces. Intelligence sources revealed to Al Akhbar that the coalition is considering a plan to provide the Saudi-appointed government in the south with drones and combat aircraft operated from Yemeni airports outside Sanaa's control, hoping to avoid retaliation on their own soil.

India Begins To Randomly Test International Visitors For COVID

Agencies

India has begun randomly testing international passengers arriving at its airports for COVID-19, the country's federal health minister has said, citing an increase in cases in neighbouring China. Mansukh Mandaviya an-

nounced the new rule in parliament on Thursday, where he also urged state governments to increase surveillance for any new coronavirus variants and send samples of all positive cases to genome sequencing laboratories.

Local media reports said at least four cases of BF.7 the Omicron subvariant that is driving the current surge in China – have been found in India so far. However, Dr Randeep

Guleria, a pulmonologist and former head of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in capital New Delhi, told Al Jazeera the situation in India is different from China. "Both from lifting the Zero

Covid policy and a large number of people there (in China) who were never been exposed to the virus are now being exposed to BF.7 variant which spreads very rapidly," he said.



"And the vaccine uptake is also not as good as in India. So these factors are probably contributing to the spread there," he added. Guleria said the BF.7 strain of the coronavirus had been in India for at least past two to three months.

"We haven't seen a huge surge yet and the cases have come down. So it is likely that we will not have the type of effect like China," he said, adding that India still needs to be vigilant as the virus can evolve and imitate over the next few months.

Health minister Mandaviya asked the public to wear masks and maintain distancing, social even though there are no official mandates for either.

India relaxed its maskwearing rules earlier this year after coronavirus cases began dropping sharply. It has reported the most CO-VID-19 cases in the world since the pandemic began, but confirmed infections have fallen sharply in the past few months.

According to health ministry data, India currently has about 3,400 active coronavirus cases.

Cases have surged in neighbouring China since it relaxed its harsh restrictions earlier this month following rare public protests. Mandaviya said the Indian government has no plans yet to halt flights from countries where new cases have been reported.

Opposition Boycotts Rajya Sabha Over No Discussion **On China LAC Row**

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Rajya Sabha witnessed acrimonious scenes since the start of the proceedings on Thursday as the Opposition stepped up its attack on the government demanding a discussion on the India-China border conflict and later, boycotted the day's proceedings after the demand was disallowed.

The Opposition also demanded an apology from Leader of the House Piyush Goyal for his remarks on Bihar, which it alleged were an insult to the state and its people. Mr Goyal, however, later said he had no intention of hurting anyone's feelings and withdrew his remarks. He also cited former prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru's remarks made in Parliament on the unauthorised occupation of 38,000 square kilometres of India's land by China and a part of Kashmir taken by Pakistan, alleging that "it has happened

because of their mistakes" Mr Goyal also taunted the Congress by raising the issue of more than ₹1 crore received by the Rajiv Gandhi Founda-

tion from the Chinese embassy and alleged that the opposition party is responsible for the problems that the current government has inherited.

This prompted the entire Opposition to stand together and shout back at the minister.

Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar pleaded with both sides to take their seats and then directed the leader of the House and the leader of opposition to see him in his chamber at 1 pm, to which LoP Mallikarjun Kharge said things should be discussed in the House and not behind closed doors.

Amid the din, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman intervened to recall an earlier incident when Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) member Kiren Rijiju wanted to discuss the China issue in the House but then minister Pranab Mukherjee asked him to see him in his office instead. This saw the Opposition staging

a walkout from the House, boycotting the day's proceedings.

Among the parties that boycotted the proceedings were the Congress, NCP, TMC, DMK, CPI, CPI(M), SP, JMM, RJD, JD(U) and AAP.

Delhi High Court Dismisses Plea Opposing Permission To Sikhs Carrying Kirpans On Flights



NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Thursday dismissed a plea opposing the permission given to Sikhs to carry kirpans while travelling on civilian flights in India.

The plea, filed in a form of public interest litigation (PIL) by lawyer Harsh Vibhore Singhal, challenged the Centre's notification issued on March 4 allowing Sikh passengers to carry kirpans having blade length of no more than six inches and total length of no more than nine inches while travelling anywhere in India.



the government has applied its mind and has come with a policy, we ought not to interfere unless it is so arbitrary." The court had also refused to entertain submissions by certain parties as their applications were not on record. The plaintiff had said that he was not questioning the rights of Sikhs but only wanted the stakeholders to examine the issue

that Mahatma Gandhi is the country's rashtra pita and Modi is the rashtra pita of New India. "We have two rashtra pita; Narendra Modi is the rashtra pita of New India and Mahatma Gandhi is rashtra pita of that

rashtra pita, then who is Mahatma Gandhi. Amruta replied

WHO Chief 'Very Concerned' **Over COVID Situation In China**

Agencies

China could be struggling to keep a tally of COVID-19 infections as the country experiences a big spike in cases, a senior World Health Organization official has said, amid concerns about a lack of data from the country.

Official figures from China have become an unreliable guide as less testing is being done across the country following the recent easing of the strict "zero-COVID" policy.

"In China, what's been reported is relatively low numbers of cases in ICUs, but anecdotally ICUs are filling up,"



missions and intensive care

Vaccines from Germany The WHO said it was ready to work with China to improve the way the country collects data around critical factors such as hospitalisation and death.

China uses a narrow definition of COVID deaths and

rates in the country over the last weeks, adding that it remains to be seen whether enough vaccination can be done in the coming weeks to stave off the effect

of an Omicron wave The WHO would encourage work to import vaccines, but also to find arrangements where vaccines can be produced in as many places as possible, Ryan said.

China has nine domestically developed COVID-19 vaccines approved for use, more than any other country, but they have not been updated to target the highly infectious Omicron variant.

Germany has sent its first batch of BioNTech COVID-19

senior BJP leader's wife over the remarks. People following the BJP and RSS ideology keep trying to kill Gandhiji again and again. They keep doing such things as they are obsessed with changing history by repeating lies and maligning great people like Gandhiji, Thakur said.

In the mock court interview (abhirup nyayalay), Amruta was asked about her calling Modi as rashtra pita last year. The interviewer asked her if Modi is the

(earlier) era," she added.

Amruta's remarks came days after Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari faced flak from Opposition over his remarks about Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. After he was slammed by the Opposition for his comments on the Maratha warrior king, Koshyari had written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah explaining his

stand and clarifying he would

never even imagine insulting

Mike Ryan said on Wednesday. "I wouldn't like to say that China is actively not telling us what's going on. I think they're

WHO's emergencies director

behind the curve." WHO head Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus also said he was "very concerned" about the situation in China.

"WHO is very concerned over the evolving situation in China," Tedros told a weekly news conference, appealing for detailed information on disease severity, hospital ad-

reported no new fatalities for Tuesday, even crossing one off of its overall tally since the pandemic began, now at 5,241 – a fraction of the tolls of many much less populous countries.

The National Health Commission said only deaths caused by pneumonia and respiratory failure in patients who had the virus are classified as COVID deaths.

Ryan noted that there had been a surge in vaccination

vaccines to China to be administered initially to German expatriates, government spokesman Steffen Hebestreit said, the first foreign coronavirus vaccine to be delivered to the country.

"The Chinese government informed Germany today that for the time being German citizens in China may be given the BioNTech vaccines.' he said, adding that "around 20,000 Germans would benefit" from the shipment.

On December 15, the HC re served its order on the plea.

A division bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad had said: "How can we interfere with such a policy decision? We can't interfere. It is a policy decision of the Government of India." The petitioner had claimed that a committee of stakeholders should be constituted to apply its mind to the issue.

At this, the court had said: "Your mind might not be the government's mind. Therefore when

He had said: "I admit that Article 25 allows the carriage of a kirpan. But when you are flying, the regulator must apply its mind. I want a constitution of a committee of stakeholders to examine the issue. If the committee feels that the notification is good, so be it. Not a problem." Defending his argument, he argued that the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security has not formulated the policy but was only following what the government has said.

NEWS MAKERS

such icons.

How "Serpent" Sobhraj, After Delhi Escape, Was Caught In Goa: Reporter Recalls

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Veteran journalist Camil Parkhe, who was among the first to break the news of the arrest of serial killer Charles Sobhraj in Goa by the Mumbai Police back in 1986, recalled how a relaxed and non-newsy late Sunday evening transformed into a hectic night that landed him the "biggest story" of his journalistic career.

Sobhraj is back in news after Nepal's Supreme Court on Wednesday ordered the release of the 78-year-old Frenchman of Indian and Vietnamese parentage who has been in jail there since 2003 on murder charges.

Parkhe on Thursday said he was a crime reporter at The Navhind Times, which used to be published from Panaji, when Sobhraj was arrested on April 6, 1986.

"When I was winding up my work as it was late Sunday evening, I received a call on the office landline from a newspaper reader, who told me that some



frantic activity was going on around Porvorim near Panaji. After that, I called up the police control room. When I asked the police if everything was ok, I got the stock reply - 'No major crime, all is well'. I was relaxed after that," he said.

In the next half an hour, he received another call from the reader, which was more specific. This time, the reader said that the police had caught a big fish near Porvorim. After that, Parkhe along with sports reporter Jovita Lopes decided to go to the spot and see what ex-

actly had happened. "Jovita took out his scooter. Soon, we crossed Pato and Mandovi bridges and in 10 minutes arrived at O'Coqueiro restaurant in Porvorim," he said, adding there they found that the "centre of action" had shifted to Mapusa.

So "without wasting a moment", Parkhe and Lopes went to Mapusa, where they saw a huge crowd at the Hotel Residency, the hotel of the Goa Tourism Development Corporation located

just opposite the bus stand. "The crowd was watching even as a group of stronglybuilt persons made hurried movements from the hotel to the private taxis parked there," he said, adding that the police personnel were in plain clothes and were in a hurry to

leave the place as early as possible. Nobody was interested in speaking, he said. Journalists from other newspapers in Goa had also

landed at the spot. he said. "What we came to know there was that a Mumbai Police team headed by Madhukar Zende nabbed international criminal Charles Sobhraj from O'Coqueiro ho-

tel in Porvorim." he said.

Cop Who Caught "Bikini Killer" **Charles Sobhraj Is Happy With His Release. Here's His Reason**

Press Trust of India

KATHMANDU: A former Nepalese police officer who was instrumental in the high-profile arrest of the notorious French serial killer Charles Sobhraj in

2003 on Thursday said it was the painful childhood memory of the sight of a half-burnt body of a slain American woman in a river here that spurred him to become a detective.

Ganesh KC was 40 and the Deputy Police Superintendent in 2003 when he nabbed Sobhraj from a casino in Kathmandu.

Nepal's Supreme Court on Wednesday ordered the release of Sobhraj, 78, a Frenchman of Indian and Vietnamese parentage, who has been in jail here for close to two decades on murder charges.

For Ganesh, it was the painful childhood memory of the sight of a half-burnt body of American tourist Connie Jo Bronzich that encouraged him to become a seasoned and hardened detective.

"I was barely 12 when I saw people rushing near the Manahara river in Kathmandu to get a glimpse of the dead body of Connie Jo Bronzich, the American backpacker who was killed by Sobhraj," he told PTI.

Bronzich and Canadian friend Laurent Carriere were the two backpackers killed by Sobhraj in 1976.

It was only ironic that 27 years later, Ganesh would be entrusted with the task of hunting down the serial killer.

Ganesh recounted with glee the chain of events that lead to Sobhraj's sensational arrest.

"He (Sobhraj) landed in Kathmandu on the pretext of

filming a documentary. He was spotted near Royale Casino in Durbarmarg and The Himalayan Times newspaper published his photograph. The photograph got Kathmandu Metropolitan Police to launch a manhunt," he recollected.

Although there was no concrete evidence to nail Sobhraj in the twin murder case, the police first arrested him on charges of violating the immigration law, then charged him with the murders on the basis of circumstantial evidence, including his signature in the hotel registry, Ganesh said.

97-Year-Old Former Typist At A Nazi Camp Convicted For The Murder Of 10,505 People

Agencies

A former stenographer and typist at a Nazi concen-tration camp has been convicted for her role in the murder of 10,505 people during the Holocaust. Irmgard Furchner worked at the Stutthof camp located east of the city of Danzig in the territory of the German-annexed Free City of Danzig from 1943 until the end of the Nazi regime in 1945.

Furchner's trial, the final of its kind, happened at the court in Itzehoe, northern Germany, where she was sentenced to a two-year suspended sentence on Tuesday, reported CNN.

However, Furchner was tried before a juvenile court as she was an adolescent, below 21, at the time of the crime. Her sentence will also see her placed on juvenile probation.

According to a court indictment, she was an accessory to murder in more than 11,000 cases. She was convicted of assisting those in charge of the camp in the systematic killing of prisoners between June 1943 and April 1945, according to a court indictment.

Interestingly, Furchner was found absconding for several hours before the trial began in September last year but was caught by local authorities within hours. She was then pictured being wheeled into the court, her face with a white mask and dark glasses. A scarf was pulled low over her eyes.

TV footage showed her being taken into the court in a wheelchair with her face barely visible behind a white mask and scarf pulled low over her eyes.

Though her defence lawyers argued that their client be acquitted as "the evidence hadn't shown beyond doubt that Furchner knew about the systematic killings at the camp," the court found her guilty.



KASHMIR OBSERVER

STATE

Chief Secretary For Intensified Efforts To Clean All Villages



The Commissioner Secre-

tary, RDD asked all the Deputy

Commissioners to complete

the tendering process forth-with. She told them to increase

their numbers with respect to

villages falling in Aspiring, Ris-

ing and Model category. She

stressed on making every vil-

lage ODF+ in coming months

for the same is within target

after the given infrastructure is

On the occasion the Director,

Rural Sanitation gave presen-

tation on the current status of

all the initiatives taken under

Swachh Bharat Mission Gra-

meen in the UT. He gave out

that the door-to-door collec-

tion of waste is going on in ev-

ery village. He further revealed

that Solid Waste Management

(SWM) plan has been formu-

lated for every Panchayat be-

sides bye-laws for advisory

committees, enforcement and

The meeting was informed

that the agency for collection

of Solid Waste has been iden-

tified in all the districts with

allied financial model for its

sustainability. District Sanita-

tion Committees has been con-

stituted also. It was made out

that around 1512 villages had

achieved the ODF+ status al-

ready besides more than 7000

kgs of legacy waste disposed off

in the UT villages with the par-

ticipation of 197838 individuals.

apprised that around 6009

Community Composit Pits, 804

segregation sheds, 42424 Soak

pits/Leach pits, 15607 drain-

age facilities, 1102 Grey Water

Management (GWM) systems

have been created in villages in

addition to 455616 individual

household assets for SWM and

GWM under the Swachh Bharat

Mission Grameen throughout

the length and breadth of J&K.

Member of Drugmulla constit-

uency and expressed his satis-

faction over the conduct of free

and fair election in the district.

The Vice Chairman DDC ex-

pressed his good wishes to the

newly elected DDC member

and said that the council along

with the new entrant will work

together for the development

Amina Majeed also spoke and

expressed her gratitude towards

the District Administration for

conducting peaceful elections

in the district. She expressed

of Kupwara district.

Moreover the meeting was

monitoring.

created in each Panchayat.

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday emphasised upon all the concerned to intensify their efforts to clean all the villages and ensure proper hygiene in all habitations.

The meeting was attended by the Commissioner Secretary, RDD, Deputy Commissioners and Director, Rural Sanitation either physically or virtually.

Dr Mehta impressed upon the officers to follow a simplified model of waste collection from doorsteps of households, creating the material handling facilities and then disposal of the same in a scientific manner.

He advised them to create segregation facilities for a cluster of nearby villages if not feasible for a single village. He told them to sensitize the people about the cleanliness of their surroundings and also penalize those found littering around undesirably.

The Chief Secretary maintained that cleanliness is the foremost task we have and all have to be serious about it. He observed that the job is for everybody to perform beginning from the self to his/her surroundings. He made out that the task of cleanliness of our villages is not a difficult task to accomplish if we all do our bit.

He took appraisal from all the Deputy Commissioners about the status of Door to Door collection of waste in villages, construction of segregation sheds, provision of Composit/ Soak pits, drainage facilities, and disposal of waste in their villages. He also enquired from them about the Plastic Waste Management plans for he remarked that such a waste creates unhygienic conditions mostly in our surroundings.

Amina Majeed Takes Oath As DDC Member Drugmulla

Observer News Service dress welcomed the new DDC

Need To Put In More Efforts For Terror Free J&K: DGP

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh said on Thursday that his force has come a long way and need to put in more efforts to ensure terror free Jammu and Kashmir in which children can continue to take part in any activity without any fear. Addressing a darbar of offi-

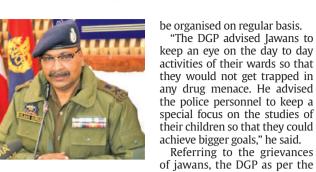
cers and jawans of 4 IRP battalions stationed at Parihaspora Complex in Pattan, Singh congratulated all ranks for their role in maintaining peace across J&K. "I felt great satisfaction dur-

ing the recent Public interaction meetings wherein people are acknowledging the efforts & good work of J&K Police," Singh said, as per a police spokesperson.

People's opinion about JK Police & forces has changed for good now as compared to what it used to be few years back. People of J&K are having a sigh of relief from terror and are not hindering in telling the truth openly," he added.

The DGP, the spokesperson said, expressed satisfaction and pleasure that the dividends of the hardwork of the force are visible. "Police & force is duty bound

to make sure that no one is playing with the law as no one is above the law. It's our responsibility to safeguard the lives and property of the peo-



ple," the Police Chief said. He said that people were doing their business and day to day activities freely because they trust the police. "There are some elements who

are worried as their conspiracies are not making any effect on common people," he added Referring to the observation

of Union Minister of Home Affairs, Amit Shah during an interview with a national television channel, in which he had lauded the anti-terror fight by police, Singh said that it was an honour for the force that its work is being appreciated and acknowledged at higher levels. "We have come a long way

and need to put in more efforts to ensure terror free J&K in which our children can continue to take part in any activity without any fear," he added. The DGP, the spokesper-

son said, advised the officers & jawans to take care of their physical fitness and conduct regular refresher training courses, different sports activities to

Ganderbal Swimmer Roped In To Search Sopore Girl's Body

Agencies

SOPORE: As the body of Sopore teenager continues to remain untraced for 11th straight day, with rescue teams another expert from Ganderbal with his extraordinary skills has started to try his luck.

An official told a local news agency KNO that the search operation to trace the body of a teenage girl, who jumped in the river Jhelum in Sopore town, entered 11th day on Thursday.

The expert swimmer from Kangan area of Ganderbal, Bashir Ahmed Mir (39) travelled 40 kilometres to reach Sopore to join the rescue and search operation team.

Mir, who possesses extraorlinary swimming skills to res-



and claimed that he has saved ficial from the SDRF said, they almost 100 of the people who drowned.

Mir said the Jhelum has been polluted to the larger extent. - Abdul Salaam, a 64-year-old used my techniques but the claims to have saved 18 lives current temperature due to the Chilla-i- Kalan makes it more and have fished out at least 40 bodies from the various water hectic to go deeper", he said. Meanwhile, local fishermen bodies across the Kashmir Valcommunities who were part ley joined the operation, but Salaam's expertise didn't pave of the rescue and search operations have decided to call off anything, citing the flow of Jhethe operation. While as, an oflum near the spot—(KNO)

will continue the operation till any orders from the higher ups.

Earlier, an expert of Pulwama man from Kakapora

Mehbooba Asks Corps **Commander To Intervene In Missing Youth Case**

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday requested the commander of Army's 15 Corps to step into the alleged escape of a youth from Army custody in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district. "A youngster detained by Army on 13th December has al-

ly intervene," Mufti tweeted.

mother alleged.

legedly escaped from their custody & is now missing. Worrybe released next day. When we ing that a civilian goes missing went to the Army camp next in Army custody. Request the day, we were told that he has es-Core (sic) Commander to kindcaped from custody," she added. Dar's relatives held a protest Abdul Rashid Dar, a driver here on Wednesday, demandby profession, was detained by ng to know his whereabouts. the Army on December 15, his A defence spokesman said he will comment on the issue af-

"We were told that he will ter getting details about it.

District Disability Rehabilitation Centre Inaugurated At Bandipora



Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: In a first to provide comprehensive services to specially-abled persons in the district, the District Administration Bandipora has established District Disability Rehabilitation Centre (DDRC) at old Hospital Building Bandipora.

The Centre was today inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmad and shall jointly be run by District Administration and Hope NGO.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the centre is aimed to empower speciallyabled persons and is an initiative to provide comprehensive services to them.

On the occasion, the concerned officers apprised the DC that in the DDRC, services like hearing aids test lab, speech therapy room, visual therapy room, psychologist room, and physiotherapist room like facilities shall be available.

Besides, DDRC will also assist specially-abled persons in registration of Unique Disability ID portal. Dr. Owais said that DDRC will act as a milestone in providing quality rehabilitation services. He urged the concerned to take extra efforts for providing services like awareness generation, early detection and intervention etc.

He also appealed to the concerned to avail benefit from the rehabilitation centre.

The DC appreciated the ef-forts of DPO Bandipora, DSWO and other people associated with DDRC who worked tirelessly to provide better services to them. He also took inspection of various units including Speech therapy unit, Prosthetic and orthotic section, Exercise section, Electrotherapy room and other sections. While interacting with the

officers of the concerned departments the DC asked them to make suitable and attractive environment so that concerned will voluntarily choose to avail the services at DDRC.

rated NGO's Mess of IRP 20th Battalion at Parihaspora, Pattan.

"The DGP advised Jawans to

Referring to the grievances

spokesperson said that it is the

priority of Police Headquar-

ters & all wing headquarters to look after the welfare of

jawans at all levels including

"He assured that all genu-

ine grievances will be looked

at on priority. He said that a

special accommodation facil-

ity is being created in Srinagar

in the PCR complex for the po-

lice personnel. Similar facility

would be created in Jammu

Speaking on the occasion,

the spokesperson said that ADGP Armed SJM Gillani said

that under the leadership of

DGP, the level of infrastructure

of Armed units has changed

for good. He added that armed

units are expecting continuous

generosity in future in terms of

Earlier, the DGP laid founda-

tion stone of a hostel for wards

of Police personnel at PCR Com-

plex Srinagar. He also inaugu-

infrastructural development.

transfer & posting.

also," he added.



KUPWARA: The District Administration Kupwara on Thursday organized an oath taking ceremony for newly elected members for District Development Council (DDC) constituency Drugmulla, here. Chairman DDC Kupwara, Ir-

fan Sultan Panditpori; Deputy Commissioner Kupwara (District Election Officer), Doifode Sagar Dattatray; Vice Chairman DDC, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir; ADDC Kupwara, ADC, JD Planning, besides, DDC Members, BDC Chairpersons and PRIs were present at the event.

On the occasion, the DC administered oath to the newly elected DDC Member, Amina Majeed for assuming the charge of the DDC Constituency Drugmulla. He congratulated the DDC Member for her new assignment.

her satisfaction over assuming the charge as DDC Member Drugmulla and said that participation of women in the democratic process shows the success of women empowerment.

Various DDC Members and BDC Chairpersons also spoke and welcomed the DDC member Drugmulla for assuming the charge of the DDC Constituency.

The Chairman DDC in his ad-

SKUAST-K Student To Work On Nano-**Phosphorous Management In USA**

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Tanzeel Bashir, PhD student of the Division of Plant Biotechnology SKUAST-Kashmir has been selected for the position of Season Research Assistant in the Department of Analytical Chemistry at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven, Connecticut, USA, and shall work on Phosphorous management in plant-soil systems using Nano-scale and conventional phosphorous fertilizers.

This position will provide excellent opportunity to gain professional experience helpful for her PhD research and learn new skills in the broad areas of nutrient management, nanotechnology implications and applications in agriculture and environment, and plant science. The student is currently pur-

suing Ph.D. Biotechnology on **Biochemical and Metagenomic** studies for Organic Saffron Production under the mentorship of Dr. Amjad M. Husaini, Associate Professor, Division of Plant Biotechnology in Genome Engineering and Sustainable Biotechnology Lab, SKUAST-K. The selection of candidate was done through an online interview held by Dr. Jason C. White, Director CAES. Her tenure will last for about

6 months at CAES, New Haven, USA.Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, complimented the student, her mentor and Prof. M Ashraf Bhat, Head of the Division for this collaborative initiative that is expected to improve the international outlook of the university students and help them to benefit from global learning and innovation ecosystems.

cue people from drowning and retrieving missing bodies from the rivers and streams is also a political activist affiliated with the People's Democratic party (PDP) for the years. "I'm doing this social work

in the name of Allah," Mir said

CBC Concludes 3-Day Outreach Campaign In Rajouri

Observer News Service

RAJOURI: The 3 day outreach program namely medium (Integrated Communication & Outreach Programme) ICOP organised by the Central Bureau of Communication(CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Government of India concluded Thursday here. The programme aimed to cre-

ate mass awareness about the Prime Minister's 15 point programme for minorities under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM), was organised by CBC's Field Office Rajouri at PG Degree College Rajouri. This was the first program of

its kind at the district headquarters in which comprehensive mass awareness about various schemes and welfare measures being implemented throughout the country was created. Apart from this, information about the objectives and vision of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav was also provided to participants which included the new initiatives of Swaraj Television Series and Azadi Quest Mobile Games. The information about these initiatives was provided by means of standees, printed Information Education and Communication (IEC) material, pamphlets, brochures, group discussions, face to face communication as well as using traditional performing arts and on spot quiz system. SSP Rajouri, Mohammad Aslam

was the chief guest on the occasion & Joint Director CBC Jammu presided over the function.

In his address, the Chief Guest appreciated CBC for organising the outreach programmes in the district especially in the campus of Degree College to cater to the young population. He said that in the present age, information is a very powerful tool for empowering masses and there is a need to reach out to the people living in the rural areas. He impressed upon the people to avail benefits of different welfare programs being implemented across various sectors by Government of India as well as JK administration. He mentioned various subsidy schemes being run by the local administration for the benefit of the people and informed that a scheme to provide assistance to patients for treatment under Ayushman Bharat is very successful.

A large number of people including Anganwadi workers, students and local people participated in the program and got benefitted from the schemes projected through various means.

Santosh Sukhadeve, Deputy Commissioner, Kargil, in his address said that the aim of the outreach programs was to communicate with the last person in the last village in order to ensure development at the grassroots level. He informed that apart from Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), LAHDC, Kargil and district administration run various schemes for the people, making a special mention of laptop subsidy scheme for the students. He urged students to avail benefits of various scholarship and skill development programs and advised them to use social media judiciously.

Welcoming the guests, Ghulam Abass, Joint Director, CBC, Regional Office, Jammu said that the onus to avail benefits of the government schemes lies with the citizens. He said that a joint effort by the policy makers, communicators, citizens as well as those responsible for the implementation at the ground level is needed to ensure the welfare schemes serve the intended purposes. He said under PMs 15 point programme for minorities, special attention is given to the states and UTs where a substantial minority population is present. He further said that Governments of India has various schemes for and individual which one can avail right from pre-natal stage to death. He expressed gratitude towards district Administration and College Authorities for their cooperation and support. He advised the students to avail benefits of Govt. schemes and earn besides studies to become Atamnirbhar (self relient). He urged the students to spread the message up to their respective areas.

Regional NCC Training Center To Come Up In Kulgam

Pole Asks DC Kulgam To Identify Land **Bordering Anantnag** District

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole Thursday convened a meeting of officers to review the functioning of NCC, filling of cadet vacancies in Colleges and Schools, and development of Regional Training Centres.

The meeting was attended by Director School Education, Principal SP College, officers of NCC, Sports Council and other concerned departments.

The meeting was informed that all the cadet vacancies quota in Colleges have been completed, while in schools the process of filling the entire junior cadet vacancies quota is in progress.

Speaking on the occasion, Div Com asked concerned officers of NCC to complete the formalities for shifting back 500 vacancies division which had been given to Jammu for time being. He also asked Director School Education to enroll private schools in NCC besides

from Jammu division to Kashmir

underscored creation clusters of schools adjoining to colleges for NCC training and activities. The officers conveyed to the meeting that the calender of NCC activities are implemented in both higher and lower education institutes besides training to ANOs have also been completed.

During the meeting, Div Com asked DC Kulgam to identify a plot of land of more than 100 kanals near adjoining district Anantnag for establishing regional NCC training center.

Pertinently, Div Com had issued directions for identification of 200 kanals of land each in Baramulla, Anantnag and Ganderbal for construction of NCC training camps.

The meeting was informed that the land of two hundred kanals for training camp at Ganderbal has already been identified.

Dir. Info, DIPR Employees Condole **Death Of Abdul Ahad's Father**

Observer News Service

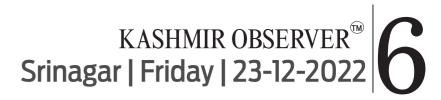
JAMMU: Director Information and Public Relations, Akshay Labroo has condoled the sad demise of Haji Mohammad Sidiq Bhat (father of Abdul Ahad Bhat, Assistant Director, DIPR), who passed away Thursday evening after brief illness. In his condolence message,

the Director Information expressed his deepest condolences with the bereaved officer and his family and prayed for

peace to the departed soul. Meanwhile, the employees of DIPR also condoled the sad demise of Haji Mohammad Sidiq Bhat, father of Abdul Ahad Bhat, Assistant Director DIPR and Mohd Maqbool Bhat, former employee of JDI Kashmir. The officers and employees of the department offered their deepest condolences with the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and courage for the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

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KASHMIR OBSERVER

Friday | 23-12-2022

Fraught Situation

ver 70,000 Chinese troops are reportedly deployed along the Indian-claimed border in eastern Ladakh, and infrastructure is being built inside of Indian lines on the strategic Depsang Plains and other friction points. The Chinese are also reported to have deployed a large number of surveillance drones over the buffer zones created within India-claimed lines to keep a watch on the movements of Indian troops. The Chinese have mobilized more men and machinery to the Galwan Valley and other standoff points, where earlier partial disengagements took place. The Chinese are continuing with their massive infrastructure development in Depsang Plains claimed by India.

Such reports follow the statement by external affairs minister S. Jaishankar on Monday that India had made its biggest-ever LAC deployment to counter the Chinese buildup in Ladakh.Earlier in December, Indian troops foiled a Chinese attempt to transgress the border in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh. The consequent clash injured 15 to 20 Indian soldiers.This has created a fraught situation along the entire stretch of Line of Actual Control, stretching all the way from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh.

The two countries have been engaged in a bitter standoff ever since the Chinese army staged incursions across the Line of actual Control in multiple areas in April-May 2020. The situation came to a head when 20 Indian soldiers lost their lives during a scuffle along the border. Ever since multiple Corps Commander-level talks and a few meetings between the foreign ministers of the two nations yielded little result.

Last year, in a first breakthrough in talks, India and China pulled back their troops from the south bank of Pangong lake area in eastern Ladakh following their agreement for "synchronised and organ-ised disengagement". In September, the two countrie began disengaging from the Gogra-Hotsprings border area in Ladakh after reaching a consensus in the 16th round of India-China Corps Commanderlevel meeting. This momentarily calmed the situation on the border. In October, the outgoing Chinese ambassador Sun Weidong in his farewell speech talked about 'broad prospects' in ties between India and China. He, however, added that both countries should refrain from interfering in the internal matters of the other, while acknowledging that it was natural for the neighbours to have differences. But with the Tawang incident, the situation seems to have gone back to square one. It injected fresh bitterness into the bilateral ties. And now the unprecedented massing of troops along the LAC has added a dangerous new dimension to the situation. This calls for the two countries to seek closer diplomatic engagement to resolve the developing crisis.

OTHER OPINON

official off

Iran: To Veil Or Not To Veil

Sharmine Narwani

The explosion of protests in Iran that began in September were not about the Islamic Republic's "hijab law" specifically, but about the abuses and excesses of the so-called morality police – the Gasht-e-Ershad (also known simply as Ershad, or in English, the 'guidance patrol') – against regular Iranian women who were considered to be immodestly garbed.

Public disgruntlement was triggered by the widely-publicized death of Mahsa Amini, who was apprehended by the Ershad and died while in their custody.

Although subsequent video footage released by Iranian police authorities showed that Amini had collapsed herself – likely due to her personal health history, as her official autopsy indicates, and not from alleged "beatings" – Iranians argued that the stress of it all may have triggered that collapse.

In the weeks ahead, protests morphed into riots, and people were killed, both civilians and security forces. Whether the two sides shot at each other, or other, external provocateurs were at play, is not the subject of this commentary.

The question is more where these recent events will take Iran, and whether public sentiment on the hijab will be addressed by the country's governing bodies – and how.

Iran's very diffused decision-making centers

Iran is by no means the 'caricature dictatorship' often portrayed in western mainstream media. While Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei remains the final authority on strategic matters, it is a privilege he rarely exercises to counter domestic critics.

As opposed as he was to Iranian nuclear talks with western powers, Khamenei fully permitted the government of former President Hassan Rouhani to proceed with its negotiation agenda, in its desire to normalize economic relations and end Iran's then-isolation.

There is probably no figure in Iran who has gone on the record as vehemently as Khamenei, warning that the west is never, ever to be trusted and that Iran's greatest nower lies in its economic self-sufficiency and complete independence from western-dominated global networks. And yet Khamenei sat back and allowed the Rouhani administration to pursue a policy that completely contradicted his deepest national convictions. The Supreme Leader's actions, however, speak to the very real diffusion inherent in Iranian decisionmaking processes today. There is no single authority in the state. Decisions are either made collaboratively or in heated and often very public disputes that play out in the Iranian media, in parliamentary debates, or behind closed doors. In essence, Iran has three main power centers today: First, the Supreme Leader and his various state revolutionary organs that include the army, the police force, the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), and the millions-strong volunteer Basij forces. Second, Iran's government and its state institutions that include the elected president, his cabinet, the country's ministries, and parliament. And third, the hawza (seminary) of Qom, Iran's religious center, which consists of thousands of Shia scholars, authorities, and influencers who impact the interpretation of religion, actions, and behaviors for the Islamic Republic. All three power centers impact state policy in varying ways, and their fortunes have all ebbed and flowed at different times. Within each of these centers exists a vast network of supporters, institutions, media, economic interests, and influential personalities. They, as in other democratic societies, vie for their perspectives to be taken into account and put into action. To imagine for a second that a single person or decision-making

body can issue a directive on an issue as complex and symbolic as the hijab, is to be absolutely clueless about the intricacy, contradictions, and diversity within the Islamic Republic's body politic.

A view from the ground

During a two-week visit to Tehran in late November, I noticed significant differences on the ground than in my many previous visits, which stopped in January 2020 due to Covid travel restrictions.

During my last visit to the Iranian capital in 2020, one would occasionally see Iranian women sitting without their hijabs in restaurants. Today, however, the ladies were walking on streets, in malls, at the airport, in traditional bazaars, universities and parks, both uptown Nonetheless, three months of protests and riots later, the issue of the hijab appears to be coming to a head among the Islamic Republic's competing power centers.

In my personal experience, Iran's security branches like the IRGC – which operate under Khamenei's authority – are the least belligerent on the hijab issue. They are focused on foreign infiltration, sabotage, anti-terror operations, and warfare, not on the nittygritty of daily life and behaviors.

The hijab is a 'symbol' of the Islamic Republic, and symbols – as we have seen in countless hybrid wars conducted in West Asia and beyond – are the first and easiest targets for external provocateurs.

Whether it is changing the colors of the national flag to symbolize opposition, or crafting ditties dark or hidden inside carriages to avoid confrontation with the police who would if necessary use force to unveil them. Even older Christian and Jewish women found the ban on headscarves hard to comply with," writes Maryam Sinaee – ironically, for Saudi-backed publication Iran International, which runs 24/7 propaganda for Iranian oppositionists nowadays.

These matters aside, Iran's security leaders have an unusually strong case to put to the clergy today: 'The hijab, which we respect, has entered the national security realm. Foreign-backed agendas have weaponized the hijab to promote regime-change operations.' This is not a position the clergy can argue given recent events.

It is probably why Iranian authorities are reportedly considering



• The hijab is a 'symbol' of the Islamic Republic, and symbols – as we have seen in countless hybrid wars conducted in West Asia and beyond – are the first and easiest targets for external provocateurs.

and downtown, without the custom- to replace the national anthem, or a host of options to take the threat

Keep the pledge

he United Nations COP15 summit on biodiversity reached a landmark decision in Montreal, Canada, earlier this week, with 195 nations committing to the conservation of 30% of all land and water on the planet by 2030. At a time when forests and oceans are being depleted and polluted at record rates, and species of flora and fauna are being pushed into extinction, bold targets to reverse these trends are welcome — although as always, the devil will lie in the details. Wealthy nations are expected to aim to provide \$200 billion in support for these initiatives by 2030, including a minimum of \$20 billion a year until 2025 and \$30 billion annually after that. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, home to the world's second-largest area of rainforests, had objected to the deal, arguing that the financial commitments from developed countries were not enough. Nor are they legally binding. The DRC was eventually convinced to accept the deal, but its concerns are legitimate: the Global North does not have a good track record in meeting its commitments on financial support for climate and biodiversity initiatives in poorer nations.

Other differences among signatory nations could also trip up the implementation of the COP15 deal. India, for instance, objected to suggestions that each nation must meet the goal of protecting 30% of its water and land. The Union environment minister, Bhupender Yadav, told the Montreal conference that such area-based targets are not acceptable. India also pushed back against a proposal to drastically cut down subsidies for fertilisers, fuel and other ingredients used in the farming, forestry and fishing sectors, arguing that it needed to balance the long-term protection of the planet with the livelihood needs of its population. India's criticism underscores how different nations have different prisms through which they view COP15. To genuinely preserve biodiversity, it is also vital that governments around the world empower the indigenous communities that have over centuries protected water bodies, forests and the planet itself. Research has shown that indigenous peoples - often among the most discriminated communities - remain humankind's best bet to secure nature for the future. Yet, in paying lip service to them, COP15 failed to provide a clear roadmap to strengthen their hands. For too long, the world has stumbled along in the face of an existential climate and biodiversity crisis, pacifying itself with promises. Now it is time to start keeping them.

Telegraph India

ary head-covering.

Here are some random photos taken by myself at different locations in the city:

What is of utmost importance in the current heated discourse on the Iranian hijab is that this 'uncovering' trend did not start in September with the protests. This critical detail goes entirely unmentioned in the western media narrative.

Many Iranian women – in the intervening three years since my last visit – had dropped the headscarf, and the scenes in my photos above have been the norm for years. Did the pandemic help relax the social norms during these years? Nobody I asked had a clear answer. "It just became normal," was a common refrain.

Today, you can see Iranian ladies – young and old – without a hijab, with a headscarf, and with the more traditional floor-length chador walking together on the same streets; everybody doing their own thing and minding their own business.

It is a fascinating development, because by law in Iran, hijab is mandatory. And yet nobody forcibly implements this law until the Ershad pops back onto the scene.

This is important, because the Ershad is not always there, at all times. While they have been a functioning body since 2006, Iranian authorities appear to only mobilize them at specific intervals: perhaps Qom is getting restless over morality issues, or conservatives are vying for influence over reformists, or there are geopolitical tensions on

the country's borders. The point is that the Ershad has never been a constant on the streets of Iran, but usually a result of something happening politically somewhere in the country.

Authorities gather to discuss the hijab

encouraging women to whip off their headscarves and videotape it – these are the low-hanging fruit of hybrid warfare.

In a January 2018 interview by a private Iranian publication that has a closed distribution and whose readers are specifically security officials and 'principalists,' I was asked about the use of these tools in Syria and Iran. My response, with some length-related edits, is below:

The interview was published alongside a photo of me without a hijab. A few weeks later, I received a message from a top Iranian analyst who is reportedly closely affiliated with the IRGC's Quds Force. He sent a screenshot of my comments on the hijab, and asked if I had written this. To my surprise, he told me that he fully agreed with my assessment.

On another occasion, Iranian IRGC-backed publication Javan requested an interview along with a translation of one of my Syria articles for a special-issue magazine on the regional Axis of Resistance. Again, they published a photo of myself without the hijab.

Hijab and the state

Simply put, the hijab isn't a priority issue for Iran's security sector. They have more important fish to fry. But it is a vital subject for the theologians inside and outside Qom.

And perhaps also for the millions of Iranian women who choose to don it, and don't want to be bullied out of it, as were their grandmothers in 1936 when then-monarch Reza Shah Pahlavi outlawed the traditional Islamic head covering.

"With the ban on hijab, many women stayed inside their homes for years or left home only in the off the table, including, potentially, the suspension or dissolution of the Ershad, to be replaced by a general program to teach and advise about Islamic modesty across the country, for both men and women.

The Ershad – established under the administration of former Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad – are off the streets now, and have been for many weeks. And the three main Iranian centers of authority are deep in conversation about how to calm residual tensions and address this social grievance among segments of the population.

Interestingly, this development somewhat mirrors that of arch-rival Saudi Arabia across the Persian Gulf, where the "mutawa," or Saudi religious police, were stripped of their once-unchecked powers and privileges in 2016 by royal decree. Since then, it has become more common to see women publically unveiled and not wearing the traditional black abaya over their regular clothes, despite there never having been a Saudi written law mandating it.

Qom – and many others – will never agree to retract the hijab law. After all, its over-zealous enforcement by the few was what the argument was originally about. Like many laws without teeth that remain on the books of countries everywhere, Iran's hijab law may experience a similar fate.

But while we can expect a gentler Iranian hand in regard to the hijab, it will be also be accompanied by a merciless de-fanging of those who sought to use this symbol of piety to undermine the state.

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 Thw Cradle

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Mindful Fridays

WHAT TOP RESEARCH SAYS ABOUT HOW PSYCHOTHERAPY WORKS?

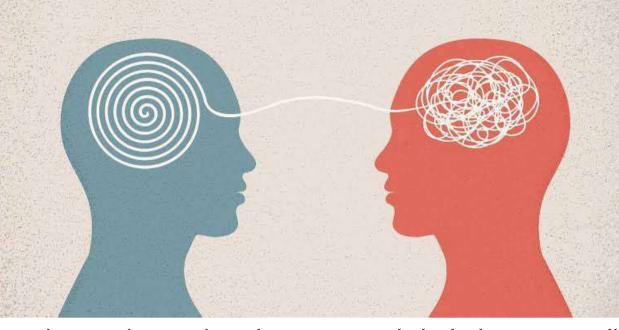
Wasim Kakroo

utcomes of psychotherapy and the way it brings change in a person's attitude and behavior have historically been studied on the psychological and social levels, by assessing changes in symp-toms, psychological functioning, personality, or social functioning. Many clinicians have also held the problematic view that psychotherapy is a treatment for "psychologically based" issues while medication is a treatment for "biologically based" issues. It has been evident over the past few decades that the brain's neural networks are the source of all mental functions. In other words, any alteration to our psychological processes will reflect itself in the ways that the brain's architecture or functions change. However, there is ample evidence that our subjective experiences have an impact on the brain, contradicting simple reductionistic positions that many of the clinicians hold.

Though, it has been very difficult to study human neuroplasticity that I discussed in the previous week's article on neuroplasticity, (i.e., how brain changes its structure based on life experiences), however, animal studies have yielded better results to understand the concept. Various experimental appraoches have been used on animals to detect changes in the brain in response to various experience at the cellular and molecular levels. It is now possible to study changes at the brain systems level (by measuring changes in brain blood flow or metabolisms) and, increasingly, on the molecular level using SPECT and PET in the living human brain thanks to the development of functional neuroimaging, which includes single photon emission CT (SPECT), positron emission tomography (PET), and functional MRI.

What research studies say about the impact of psychotherapy at the brain system level?

The brain changes following psychotherapy for depression, anxiety disorders, and borderline personality disorder have been the subject of innumerous studies to date in the past few decades and the data has been published in various top scientific journals. The first study was released in 1992. In this study, the researchers contrasted fluoxetine treatment with behaviour therapy. Similar changes in the brain were seen with both treatment regimens particularly in the caudate nucleus, a part of brain responsible for various functions such as planning the execution of movement, learning, memory, reward, motivation, emotion, and romantic interaction.



In other words, any alteration to our psychological processes will reflect itself in the ways that the brain's architecture or functions change. However, there is ample evidence that our subjective experiences have an impact on the brain, contradicting simple reductionistic positions that many of the clinicians hold.

When these system level studies are combined, they suggest that patients with major depressive disorder (MDD), obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), panic disorder, social anxiety disorder, specific phobias, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and borderline personality disorder (BPD) may experience changes in brain function as a result of various psychotherapy modalities such as cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT), dialectic behaviour therapy (DBT), psychodynamic psychotherapy, and interpersonal psychotherapy.

Similar brain changes following psychotherapy and medication have been documented in the majority of these studies. However, some recent investigations have also demonstrated considerable variations between various therapy approaches. In the study by Goldapple and colleagues, the response to CBT treatment in patients with MDD was linked to increases in metabolism in the various areas of the brain such as hippocampus and dorsal cingulate and decreases in the other areas of brain such as dorsal, ventral, and medial frontal cortex. This pattern was notably different from the paroxetine (an SSRI, used to treat depression and other emotional disorders)induced pattern, which involved metabolic increases in the prefrontal regions and decreases in the hippocampus and subgenual cingulate. In one study by Karlsson and colleagues, notable differences between short-term psychodynamic psychotherapy and fluoxetine among individuals with Major Depressive Disorder was found.

How mechanisms of psychotherapy lead to alterations in the brain?

Some of these research studies have made it feasible to build models that explain the mechanics behind the changes that result from the various psychotherapies, in addition to just reporting the findings on brain alterations as a result of psychotherapy. rior cingulate cortex, dorsal anterior cingulate cortex, ventral and dorsal subregions of the medial prefrontal cortex, posterior cingulate cortex, precuneus, insular cortex, amygdala, and ventrolateral prefrontal cortex are the brain regions that contribute to these functions and it can be deduced from this correlation that psychotherapy affects these brain regions in a positive way.

these brain regions in a positive way. For instance, the effectiveness of cognitive therapy for individuals with Major Depressive Disorder may be due to an increase in the function of prefrontal cortex, which is involved in reflective and rational thinking, whereas antidepressant medicines work more directly on the amygdala, which is involved in regulation of various emotions.

It seems that psychodynamic psychotherapy (one of the types of psychotherapy) may also work, at least partially, via similar is supported by the results of a study by Beutel and colleagues, which show that symptomatic patients with panic disorder have both a frontal deactivation and an amygdala-hippocampal hyperactivation. Following psychotherapy treatment, the amygdala-hippocampus hyperactivity and frontal inactivation returned to normal and their panic attacks and anxiety levels decreased.

Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) is characterised by affective hyperarousal, which is also the core focus of Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT). This would imply that DBT helps the brain regions involved in affective hyperarousal to become less active in response to emotional stimuli. In fact, Schnell and Herpertz's investigation confirmed this conclusion, indicating that DBT reduces the hemodynamic response to negative stimuli in the brain regions such as left insula, temporal and posterior cingulate cortices, and right anterior cingulate.

How psychotherapy helps to bring changes at molecular levels?

Studies were done to study the effect of psychotherapy at molecular level and they found that learning from the experience could influence gene expression by altering the strength of synaptic connections between nerve cells and thus causing morphological changes in neurons (causing neuroplasticity).

Patients with Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) were randomised to receive either short-term psychodynamic psychotherapy or fluoxetine (an antidepressant) in a Finnish study. The patients underwent a PET brain scan before therapy and again four months later. In the two publications that were published, the researchers reported that, according to standard symptom ratings, the clinical outcomes in both therapy groups (i.e., psychotherapy as well as pharmacotherapy group) were comparable, implying that both the treatment approaches were almost equally potent.

In conclusion, I intend to bring it to the attention of my readers that psychotherapy as a treatment option has been tested through hard science and thus should be accepted as seriously as they accept medication as a treatment option and that combining both the treatment options together can give them better and long lasting results with lesser rates of relapse.

The author is a licensed clinical psycholo-

Various psychotherapies aim to improve patient's capacity for problem-solving, selfrepresentation, and emotional control. The dorsolateral prefrontal cortex, ventral antemechanisms as is proponded regarding the impact of CBT on brain functioning and that includes a more effective ("top-down") regulation of hyperexcitable limbic regions by prefrontal control systems. This concept gist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar) and works as a consultant clinical psychologist at Centre for Mental Health Services (CMHS) at Rambagh Srinagar. He can be reached at 8825067196

SEASONAL DEPRESSION Small Things You Can Do Every Day To Cope

Jo Adetunji

Many of us tend to feel sad or not like our usual self as autumn and winter approach. But for some, these feelings persist until spring arrives.

Known as seasonal affective disorder (or Sad), it's a type of depression that occurs only during specific seasons. Alongside persistent low mood, some people may find they feel more lethargic than usual, have difficulty getting up in the morning and crave more carbs than normal.

If you're someone who has Sad (or think you might), here are a few things you can do to improve your mood during the colder months.

What to do every day

Since Sad happens during seasons when the days are shorter and we get less sunlight, it's thought to be caused by a disruption of our body clocks (also known as circadianrhythm disturbance). We all have a "master clock" in the brain that uses daylight to control all of our body's processes – from hunger to when we feel ready for bed.

Circadian rhythm disturbance has been linked to sleep disturbances, changes in mood and our eating patterns and metabolism, all of which are affected by Sad.

This is why getting outside and into natural daylight can be so important for people who have Sad.

In the morning, aim to get outside for at



least a few minutes. Since light sends direct signals to your master body clock to tell it it's time to wake up, morning light will help you feel more alert throughout the day. It may also help you fall asleep earlier in the evening.

At lunch, try again to get outside and get more natural light exposure. But if you can't get outside or it's overcast, you may want to try bright-light therapy. This exposes people to bright fluorescent light using a special lamp or mask. Research shows that 30 minutes of bright light therapy daily can help reduce symptoms of Sad.

If you find it difficult to convince yourself to get away from your desk at lunchtime, try to organise some activities to do that may help you get outside. For example, try to organise a daily lunchtime group walk with your colleagues or neighbours. Alongside getting you out into the daylight, exercising in a group can also boost positive emotions and connectedness, which is good for wellbeing and mental health.

Another activity you could try during your lunchtime walk is the "three good things in nature" task. The aim of this activity is to boost mindfulness and appreciation of nature by taking note of at least three things from the natural environment while you're on your daily walk. Not only will this get you outside, it may also help improve your mood and wellbeing. In the evenings, aim to set aside time to do things you enjoy. This may help to improve your mood and may ease some symptoms of Sad. Other things you can do during winter months to improve your mood include:

Practise humour

Introducing more humour into your life may help balance out your negative emotions and could even improve sleep quality, mood and reduce symptoms of depression.

In the evening, take ten minutes to think of some funny things that happened during the day. Or think of a challenging situation you faced and instead try to think about how you'd deal with it in a funny way in the future. Making the time to watch something funny on TV three or four times a week may also help to boost your mood.

Find a hobby

Start a new hobby or pick up one you haven't practised for a while. Engaging in a hobby will keep your mind less idle and more engaged, leaving you with less time to ruminate, if that's something you tend to do. Perhaps try learning to knit. This is associated with increased mindfulness, calmness and a boost of positive emotions. Mastering new recipes may also be a great way of boosting wellbeing.

It doesn't matter what hobby you choose, as long as it stretches your skills and helps you get into a state of flow. This is the feeling of "losing yourself" in what you're doing and is a major component in experiencing subjective happiness. You might not feel better while you are doing your hobby (as it requires concentration), but as soon as you complete your task, you will experience a sense of accomplishment and a boost of positive emotions.

Keep your body clock in rhythm

Since Sad is thought to be caused by circadian-rhythm disturbance, keeping your circadian rhythm in time may help to reduce symptoms of Sad.

Sleep plays a big role in keeping your body clock in check. So in the evenings, try to avoid too much bright light as this will delay your sleep. You should also try to keep similar times for going to sleep and waking up both during the week and on weekends. Alongside proper sleep, eating your meals at regular times may also help to keep your body clock in time.

While it may be normal to feel a dip in your mood after the clocks first change, if you're finding that symptoms are lingering for many weeks or are having a big effect on your life, you may want to speak to your doctor. In the meantime, remember that even just a few small changes every day may help keep Sad symptoms at bay.

By arrangements with The Conversation

LIFE & TIMES

The Gaping Problem At The Heart Of Scientific Research

360info.org

he COVID-19 pandemic exposed many flaws in the way our societies function.

Among the less obvious is the gaping problem at the heart of scientific research. In March 2020, scientists were scrambling to understand what the new virus was, how it affected patients, and how it could be treated.

Scientists usually publish research findings in scholarly journals many of which charge high subscription fees.

As hospitals in Italy were overwhelmed and the world looked on in fear, vital new information about the virus was locked away behind paywalls.

National science agencies from nations including the UK, Australia, Italy, the United States and Brazil called for publishers to make coronavirus research immediately and freely accessible, which in the most part they did.

But the very need for these groups to call for research to be made available in the middle of a global emergency demonstrates the failure of the current publishing system. Making research immediately free to read, which, when combined with the use of an open publishing licence, is known as open access' is a hot topic in science.

Global health bodies know how important open research is, especially in times of emergency, which is why they have repeatedly called for research to be made open.

The latest plaintive request came in August 2022 from the US White House Office of Science and Technology Policy for mpox research to be made open. Previous global calls were in 2016 for Zika and in 2018 for Ebola.

The consequences of lack of access to research can be dire.

In 2015 a group of African researchers claimed that an earlier Ebola outbreak could have been prevented if research on it had been published openly.

The past 12 months have seen a flurry of changes in open access globally and from January 2023, the high profile journal Science will allow published research to be immediately placed in publicly-accessible repositories at no cost to scientists.

In August 2022, the Office of Science and



• The latest plaintive request came in August 2022 from the US White House Office of Science and Technology Policy for mpox research to be made open. Previous global calls were in 2016 for Zika and in 2018 for Ebola.

Technology Policy issued a memorandum to all US research funding agencies that by 1 January 2026 they must make all the research they fund immediately publicly available, along with the data behind that research.

Though the language of the memorandum has been criticised for not specifying how the research is to be made open, it clearly articulates the why and when.

And make no mistake: this memorandum has teeth, coming as it does from the White House.How each federal agency interprets the memorandum will be watched not just in the US but elsewhere, especially as it will provide examples of a diversity of approaches to open access.

In the accompanying press release, the White House lays out why open access is important: This policy will likely yield significant benefits on a number of key priorities for the American people, from environmental justice to cancer breakthroughs, and from game-changing clean energy technologies to protecting civil liberties in an automated world.

The benefits of open research extend be-

yond simply increasing the readership and use of research among academics.

Open access is just one part of a global movement of open science that in 2021 led to UNESCO, the United Nations education, science and cultural organisation, to issue

the Open Science Recommendation'. This is a world-leading initiative that sets international standards for open science built on values such as equity, diversity, collective benefit, quality and integrity.

The recommendation lays out why open science is important, including increasing

return on investment, improving the effectiveness and productivity of scientific systems, pushing back against misinformation and disinformation, and addressing existing systemic inequalities to produce and access research.

Crucially, the recommendation is not just a piece of text to be written and forgotten, but rather it has been accompanied by a programme of implementation actions and will include a monitoring process to hold signatories to account.

The UNESCO recommendation, like the Office of Science and Technology Policy memorandum, does not prescribe any particular pathway to open access and we will therefore see a diversity of routes to open access. Such proliferation has advantages.

Provided some core principles are adhered to (such as the use of open licences), allowing experimentation to flourish will allow each country, or even each funder, publisher or individual institution, to determine what open initiatives align with their values.

Allowing a diversity of approaches also recognises the reality that open access and open science are not static concepts and that they will evolve over time as culture and technology change.

A diversity of approaches also guards against a small number of commercial publishing houses dominating.

Some examples of open science initiatives announced recently illustrate this diversity: Australia's National Health and Medical Research Council will now require immediate open access published under a Creative Commons CC-BY licence; New Zealand's Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment will require open access within six months of publishing.

Many publishers are now negotiating nation-wide deals that bundle reading and open access publishing together.

The Confederation of Open Access Repositories has made the case for more diversity in publishing, including through university repositories.

As 2023 unfolds, it seems that the benefits of open access have been proved beyond doubt.

The next emergency in front of us, climate change, is much more complex, and there too are calls for open access.

Smoking Raises Risk Of Midlife Memory Loss, Confusion

ANI

According to a new study.

recent former smokers, and those who had quit years earlier. The analysis included 136,018

Study Finds How Long Covid Causes Smell Loss For Months, Even Years

Press Trust of India

Scientists have uncovered details about the reason behind loss of smell continuing as part of long Covid symptoms, according to a new study. The reason some people fail to recover their sense of smell after COVID-19 is linked to an ongoing immune assault on olfactory gered by similar biological mechanisms.

"One of the first symptoms that has typically been associated with COVID-19 infection is loss of smell," said senior author Bradley Goldstein, Duke University.

"Fortunately, many people who have an altered sense of smell during the acute phase of viral infection will recover smell within the next one to two weeks, but some do not," caid Coldetoin absence of detectable SARS-CoV-2 levels, the study said.

Additionally, the number of olfactory sensory neurons were diminished, possibly due to damage of the delicate tissue from the ongoing inflammation, the study said.

"The findings are striking," said Goldstein. "It's almost resembling a sort of autoimmune-like process in the nose."

middle-aged smokers are considerably more likely than nonsmokers to experience memory loss and confusion, and the chance of cognitive decline is lower for those who have quit smoking recently. The research by The Ohio

The research by The Ohio State University is the first to examine the relationship between smoking and cognitive decline using a one-question self-assessment asking people if they've experienced worsening or more frequent memory loss and/or confusion.

The findings build on previous research that established relationships between smoking and Alzheimer's Disease and other forms of dementia, and could point to an opportunity to identify signs of trouble earlier in life, said Jenna Rajczyk, lead author of the study, which appears in the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease.

It's also one more piece of evidence that quitting smoking is good not just for respiratory and cardiovascular reasons - but to preserve neurological health, said Rajczyk, a PhD student in Ohio State's College of Public Health, and senior author Jeffrey Wing, assistant professor of epidemiology.

"The association we saw was most significant in the 45-59 age group, suggesting that quitting at that stage of life may have a benefit for cognitive health," Wing said. A similar difference wasn't found in the oldest group in the study, which could mean that quitting earlier affords people greater benefits, he said.

Data for the study came from the national 2019 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

Survey and allowed the research team to compare subjective cognitive decline (SCD) measures for current smokers, people 45 and older, and about 11% reported SCD.

The prevalence of SCD among smokers in the study was almost 1.9 times that of nonsmokers. The prevalence among those who had quit less than 10 years ago was 1.5 times that of nonsmokers. Those who quit more than a decade before the survey had an SCD prevalence just slightly above the nonsmoking group.

"These findings could imply that the time since smoking cessation does matter, and may be linked to cognitive outcomes," Rajczyk said.

The simplicity of SCD, a relatively new measure, could lend itself to wider applications, she said.

"This is a simple assessment that could be easily done routinely, and at younger ages than we typically start to see cognitive declines that rise to the level of a diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease or dementia," Rajczyk said, adding, "It's not an intensive battery of questions. It's more a personal reflection of your cognitive status to determine if you're feeling like you're not as sharp as you once were."

Many people don't have access to more in-depth screenings, or to specialists -- making potential applications for measuring SCD even greater, she said.

Wing said it's important to note that these self-reported experiences don't amount to a diagnosis, nor do they confirm independently that a person is experiencing decline out of the normal aging process. But, he said, they could be a low-cost, simple tool to consider employing more broadly.

Amy Ferketich, a professor of epidemiology at Ohio State, also worked on the study. nerve cells and an associated decline in the number of those cells, a team of scientists from Duke University, US, report.

Olfactory nerve cells are associated with our ability to distinguish scents and smells.

The findings, published in the journal Science Translational Medicine, provide an important insight into a vexing problem that has plagued millions who have not fully recovered their sense of smell after COVID-19, the study said.

While focusing on the loss smell, the findings also shed light on the possible underlying causes of other long COVID-19 symptoms - including generalized fatigue, shortness of breath, and brain fog - that might be trig-

"We need to better understand why this subset of people will go on to have persistent smell loss for months to years after being infected with SARS-CoV-2," said Goldstein.

In the study, Goldstein and colleagues at Duke, Harvard and the University of California-San Diego analyzed olfactory epithelial samples collected from 24 biopsies, including nine patients suffering from long-term smell loss following COVID-19.

This biopsy-based approach revealed widespread infiltration of T-cells engaged in an inflammatory response in the olfactory epithelium, the tissue in the nose where smell nerve cells are located. This unique inflammation process persisted despite the Goldstein said learning what sites are damaged and what cell types are involved is a key step toward beginning to design treatments. He said the researchers were encouraged that neurons appeared to maintain some ability to repair even after the longterm immune onslaught.

"We are hopeful that modulating the abnormal immune response or repair processes within the nose of these patients could help to at least partially restore a sense of smell," said Goldstein, noting that this work was currently underway in his lab.

He said the findings from this study could also inform additional research into other long-COVID-19 symptoms that might be undergoing similar inflammatory processes.

Scientists Find Hearing Loss Connection In Autism Spectrum Study

Press Trust Of India

Scientists have discovered hearing impairment in a preclinical model of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), according to a new study. The researchers observed mild hearing loss and defects in auditory nerve function. Closer examination of the nerve tissue revealed abnormal supportive cells called glia, aging-like degeneration, and inflammation, it said.

Many patients with ASD show increased sensitivity to sound. While many scientists in the past have looked to the brain for an underlying cause, the team at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), the US, took a different approach by studying the peripheral hearing system.

The findings from this study, published in the Journal of Neuroscience, highlight the importance of considering sensory organs and their interactions with the brain in understanding ASD, said the study. "Hearing impairment may



have an impact on the higher-level auditory system and, eventually, cognitive function," said Hainan Lang, senior author of the study.

Previous studies of agingrelated hearing loss showed that the brain can increase its response to make up for reduced auditory signals from the inner ear. Lang wanted to find out if this increase, called central gain, could contribute to abnormal brain response to sound in ASD. However, a significant obstacle lay in her path. "We didn't have a clinically relevant model to directly test this important fundamental question," said Lang.

The preclinical model that would allow Lang to test her hypothesis was developed in the lab of Christopher Cowan, Ph.D., chair of Neuroscience at MUSC. Mice in this model have only one working copy of a gene called MEF2C.

Cowan's group had studied MEF2C in the past for its role in brain development and found that it was important for regulating circuit formation in the brain. They became especially interested in creating a preclinical model when a group of patients with ASD-like symptoms were identified with MEF2C mutations.

Cowan's models also show ASD-like behaviours, including increased activity, repetitive behavior, and communication deficits.

Lang and team first measured the response of the brain to auditory signals, using a modified version of a test that is commonly used to screen newborn infants for hearing loss. Mild hearing loss was observed in the mice with only one working copy of MEF2C while hearing remained normal in those with two working copies.

To investigate this loss further, the researchers measured the activity of the auditory nerve, which carries signals from the inner ear to the brain. They found reduced activity in this nerve in mice with only one copy of MEF2C.

BUSINESS

KASHMIR OBSERVER Srinagar | Friday | 23-12-2022

Budget 2023: Widen Tax Base, Do Away With Cess, Surcharges, Say Experts



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Widening of the tax base, doing away with cess and surcharge, improvement in compliance and moderation in tax for emerging sectors are some of the suggestions submitted to the Finance Ministry ahead of the Budget by Think Change Forum (TCF)

Experts are of the opinion that there is a need to grow tax revenues for the government to drive economic growth and make investments in developmental activities, TCF, the think tank said in a statement.

Towards this end, poor compliance was identified as a weak link in achieving targeted collections leading to complex issues like overtaxing, complicated tax structures, rising litigation, among others.

Experts during the deliberation stressed on better compliance processes to be put in place backed by technological support which in turn will enable tax widening and need for strategies to strengthen tax collections from Tier 2 towns and cities to widen the tax net.

Participating in the debate, former chairman of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) PC Jha said "enforcement agencies are working hard to check the illicit trade, but tax evaders are ahead of curve and using innovative techniques to smuggle goods into our country. There is a need to deploy modern technology, install more scanners at ports and use artificial intelligence to address the counterfeiting issue." "Goods with higher profit margins like gold, tobacco and alcohol which are highly taxed, lead to tax eva-

sion and smuggling. As per a recent study, the estimated tax loss to the government in two highly regulated and taxed industries, tobacco products, and alcoholic beverages is over ₹28,500 crore, he said. Capacity enhancement pro-

grammes of enforcement agencies and the use of cutting-edge technologies will certainly create a sense of fear amongst those who wish to indulge in smuggling and tax evasion activities and curb the illicit trade, he added.

Govt Examining SC Order On Employees' Pension Scheme: Union Minister Press Trust Of India

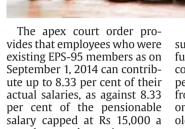
NEW DELHI: The government on Thursday said it is examining a Supreme Court judgement which upheld Employees' Pension (Amendment) Scheme, 2014 and allowed employees to opt for enhanced pension coverage alongside their employers in

four months' time. "Yes, sir. The directions of the Supreme Court in the judgment are under examination," Minister of State for Labour & Employment Rameswar Teli said in a written reply to Rajya Sabha. Teli was replying to a ques-

tion on whether the government is aware about the Supreme Court verdict of November 4 on EPF pension scheme and by when it will implement the verdict and instruct the EPFO (Employees Provident Fund Organisation) to take actions for giving higher pension.

În another written reply, Teli said the court judgement has legal, financial, actuarial and logistical implications. The scheme has provided for

an extension of four months' time for eligible employees to opt for enhanced pension.



month, towards pension. It had also struck down the requirement in the 2014 amendments mandating employer contribution of 1.16 per cent of the salary exceeding Rs

15,000 per month. This will facilitate the subscribers to contribute higher to the scheme and get enhanced benefits accordingly

There are more than six crore subscribers of the retirement fund body. A large number of contributing members of the pension scheme would benefit from opting for contribution on wages higher than threshold of Rs 15,000 per month.

The minster also said EPFO has a corpus of Rs 18,64,136 crore. This amount consists of Rs 11,37,096.72 crore in Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952; Rs 6,89,210.72 crore in Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 and Rs 37,828.56 crore in Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance Scheme, 1976, as on March 31, 2022.

Grievance Redressal Mechanism Of E-Commerce Players Not Up To Mark: Govt

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The grievance redressal mechanism of many big e-commerce players is not up to the mark as the number of complaints received by the National Consumer Helpline has risen sharply over the last four years, Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh

ised by the Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI), Singh said the number of complaints registered on the National Consumer Helpline (NCH) has gone up to 90,000 in Novem-

same month last year



getting weaker and weaker, not kept pace with the adthat's where the role of this vancements of the economy. ministry becomes important," he added. tives of the ministry, the Sec-

The Secretary shared that retary said the government ber compared to 40,000 in the in his various interactions will soon come out with with corporates across the guidelines for social media

sector, including edutech,

cab aggregators, food deliv-

ery platforms, online gaming

platforms and e-commerce

companies, he has conveyed

that they cannot "take con-

sumers for a ride." The cor-

The NCH provides services



Advisor Bhatnagar Reviews Performance Of SIDCO/SICOP

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar today chaired a meeting to review to review the performance of SICOP and SIDCO at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Prashant Goyal; Secretary in Industries and Commerce, Smita Sethi; Raman Kumar Kesar; General Managers and other senior representatives of both Corporations.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on operational and financial aspects of both these corporations besides the ways and means were also discussed by which an ecosystem for accelerated development of the industrial sector can be established across Jammu and Kashmir. Speaking during the meeting, Advisor Bhatnagar impressed upon the management of the both Corporations that modern and effective methods should be employed to make the units

of corporation more vibrant and

financially viable so that they

can effectively contribute to the

economy of J&K as well as gen-

erate employment opportunities for budding entrepreneurs. The Advisor asked the officers to devise a comprehensive mechanism for promotion of industrial sector in the Union Territory so that the new entrepreneurs are

given a well established ecosystem for establishing new units. He impressed upon the officers that the process of establishing new industrial estates should be expedited and funds for the same should be properly utilised.

Advisor Bhatnagar further emphasized upon the officers that the Roads and other utilities in the existing industrial estates should be upgraded. He called upon them that the roads and other facilities in the newly designated industrial estates should be developed on priority so that the new allotments to industrial unit holders are operationalised early The Advisor further directed the officers to appoint Nodal Officers for each Industrial Estate who will work in tandem with essential departments like PDD. PHE, R&B and others for providing necessary services. He also called upon the officers that a Plan of Action for each Industrial Estate should be prepared.

Principal Secy SDD Chairs Meeting On Promotion Of **Start Ups Through SBDUs**

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department (SDD), Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon, today chaired a meeting regarding promotion of startups by SDD through establishment of Small Business Development Units (SB-DUs) and incubation centers in Polytechnics and ITIs of J&K.

Professor B S Sahai, Director, IIM Jammu, Director, Skill Development Department, Sudershan Kumar, Mission Director, Leena Padha, Principals/ Superinten-

and infrastructure for the office and incubation centers and funds amounting Rs 10 lakh shall be provided to each SBDU under Skill Development Mission, J&K. Principal Secretary said that SBDUs in each district will deliver professional, high quality and technical assistance to budding entrepreneurs and existing small businesses. Dr Samoon added that SBDUs stakeholders meet shall be organised by the department in January.

Prof Sahai, while speaking on the occasion, said that these SB-



DoT Forms 4 Task Forces To Boost Domestic Telecom Mfg, Remove Hurdles

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Department of Telecom (DoT) has formed four task forces to recommend to the government measures that will boost the domestic telecom manufacturing ecosystem and remove the bottlenecks, an official memorandum said

The development follows a round table between Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and 42 chiefs of telecom gear makers early this month where he identified the need for creating a task force to resolve issues that the companies raised before him.

Under one of the tas



jay Nayak will study the present ecosystem and recommend to the government potential 4-5 chip developments under scheme like Telecom Technology Development Fund, Semicon Policy and policy intervention required for reducing dependence on imports. The third task force will do

said on Thursday. Addressing an event organ-

the DoT has sought recommen- a study on the time taken in dation for a phased manufacturing programme for telecom gear manufacturing to boost domestic component supply chain ecosystem as well as attract global players. This task force will be co-chaired by state-run research arm C-DoT CEO RK Upadhyay, the memorandum dated December 20 said.

In 2016, the government notified a phased manufacturing programme for developing the mobile phone manufacturing ecosystem in the country.

The task force under chairmanship of Tejas Networks CEO San-

custom clearance and air cargo movement, infrastructure available and suggest measures for improving lead time and reduce inventory in production and sales, setting up Free Trade Warehousing Zones at key airports etc to resolve logistics issues.

Another task force set up under chairmanship of telecom gear makers body VOICE director general RK Bhatnagar will identify new opportunities for development and manufacturing of 5G products in the country that will be required under Digital India, data centres, railway modernisation etc.

"Four years back, the num-

ber of complaints pertaining to e-commerce transactions was 8 per cent of the total complaints. Last month, it was 48 per cent of the total complaints," he said.

"That means that grievance porates have been asked to self-regulate, he added. redressal system of many of the big e-commerce companies is not working up to the mark," he added. Singh noted that the power the future, he said. equation between the con-

Singh, however, acknowlsumer and seller has suddenly changed. "Consumer is enforcement framework has

influencers, making it mandatory for them to disclose if they have taken money to endorse products.

Talking about other initia-

He also said the consumer interest watchdog CCPA is investigating complaints relating to pricing by cab aggregators like Ola and Uber.

Expressing concern over in 10 languages at present, 5.27 lakh cases pending in which will increase to 22 in consumer courts at district, state and national levels, Singh said the government is edged that the regulation and making efforts to address this problem.

dents of Polytechnics and ITIs DUs will provide one-stop busifrom Jammu and Srinagar besides faculty of IIM Jammu attended the meeting.

Dr Samoon, while addressing the meeting, said that Skill Development Department shall provide requisite space in 20 Polytechnics and ITIs for setting up of SBDUs and incubation cenwill help in designing the space ecosystem of startups in J&K.

ness solutions and help small businesses access capital, develop and exchange new technologies, improve business planning, financial management, marketing and increased productivity and innovation. He said that selected

SBDUs will provide the hand holding and capacity building ters. Besides, IIM Jammu team training to faculty to create an

Organic Certification Program For Saffron Growers Held

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) today organised a National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) awareness drive for organic certification of Saffron, GI tagged and ODOP products of Pulwama district in collaboration with Invest India (One District One Product) team, DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry at Sanat Ghar Bemina, here.

The workshop was organised with a vision to provide training and certification to farmers who are already pursuing organic farming but do not have the necessary certification for their products' authenticity.

JKTPO has taken many initiatives for promotion of ODOP in Jammu and Kashmir. This includes conduction of Buyer-Seller meets, participation in national and international trade fairs/ Exhibitions and Capacity building programs. This drive will increase the export potential of saffron as organic certified products have a huge international market.

As part of the capacity building initiative by ODOP team, Invest India, DPIIT, GoI, organised Organic Certification training and workshop for Saffron farmers, as many such workshops are to be conducted across the country where the farmers will be provided the training for organic certification and eligible farmers will be registered under National Programme on Organic Production. ONS

PNB Official Booked For Rs 168 Cr Fraud

NEW DELHI: The CBI has registered an FIR against an officer of Punjab National Bank (PNB), now suspended, for allegedly cheating the staterun lender to the tune of Rs 168.59 crore through 34 fake bank guarantees, officials said Thursday.

Nearly four years after LoU (letter of undertaking) scam allegedly perpetrated by uncle-nephew duo of Mehul Choksi and Nirav Modi bled the PNB to the tune of about Rs 13.000 crore, bank official Priya Ranjan Kumar followed similar modus operandi to issue 34 fake bank guarantees without making any entries in its core banking system Finacle, according to the CBI FIR.

"As per the interim investigation report dated November 27, 2022, it emerges that the fraud has been perpetrated by the bank staff in collusion with some unknown persons through illegal and unauthorized usage of the bank's systems. Further, the aforesaid fake bank guarantee has no record in the Finacle system of the bank," the FIR alleged.

The new scam came to light when Kohima branch of Canara Bank sent intimation to Parliament Street branch of the PNB on November 18 for the invocation of Rs 5.70 crore bank guarantee purportedly issued by the latter.

The guarantee was signed by two PNB employees, including the then branch manager Priya Ranjan Kumar, now suspended, and A Venkatesan who had already resigned from service when scam came to light, the CBI said. PTI

Principal Secy I&C Chairs 2nd, 3rd AGM Of JKTPO

SHORT TAKES

JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce (I&C), Prashant Goyal, Thursday chaired 2nd and 3rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) for the financial year ended 31st March, 2020 and 2021 respectively here.

General Manager, India Trade Promotion Organization, S R Sahoo, Executive Director, Export Promotion Council of Handicrafts, R K Verma and Pawan on behalf of Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) being shareholders of the company attended the meeting online besides Directors of the company also participated.

Managing Director, JKTPO, Khalid Jahangir, presented 2nd and 3rd annual reports for the financial year ended 31st March, 2020 and 2021 including the Audited Annual Accounts for financial year ended 31st March, 2020 and 2021 of the company before the share-holders for adoption. The 2nd and 3rd Annual Reports for the financial year ended 31st March, 2020 and 2021 were unanimously adopted by the shareholders of the company.

In addition, Principal Secretary also directed the JKTPO to work on the revenue model of the organization besides exerting on the proposal of establishing a Trade Centre in Jammu and Kashmir in consultation with the Stakeholders of JKTPO viz. ITPO, EPCH and CEPC. ONS

Sebi Tweaks Buyback **Rules Of Companies**

MUMBAI: The Securities and Exchange Board of India has tweaked its SEBI Regulations 2018 rules on buyback of shares by companies.

Among the amendments, companies can now use 75 per cent of the proceeds of the buyback undertaken through the stock exchange route from the existing minimum of 50 per cent.

The Sebi has said the regulator has brought amendments to SEBI (Buy-back of Securities) Regulations, 2018, after considering the various suggestions received from stakeholders.

Some of the amendments brought in were buyback done through stock exchanges route to be phased out in a gradual manner and increasing minimum utilisation of the amount earmarked for buyback through stock exchange route from existing 50 per cent to 75 per cent, according to a the regulator's statement released on Tuesday.

Other two amendments are creation of a separate window on stock exchanges for undertaking buyback till the time buyback through stock exchange is permitted and buyback through tender offer route.

The timeline for completion of buybacks through tender offers has been reduced by 18 days, Sebi said. Sebi has also accepted the recommendations of the working group on improving governance standards at exchanges - new rules include increased accountability of directors, stricter investment policy and data sharing. ANI

Jio Acquires 100% Stake In Reliance Infratel

NEW DELHI: Reliance Projects and Property Management Services, a subsidiary of telecom major Jio, has completed 100 per cent stake acquisition in Reliance Infratel for about Rs 3,725 crore, Reliance Industries Limited said on Thursday.

Billionaire Mukesh Dhirubhai Ambaniled Jio placed a bid of Rs 3,720 crore in November 2019 to acquire the tower and fibre assets of the debt-ridden subsidiary of his younger brother Anil Ambani-managed firm Reliance Communications.

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) gave approval to Reliance Projects and Property Management Services (RPPMSL) for the acquisition of Reliance Infratel (RITL) in November.

RIL, in a regulatory filing, said RITL on Thursday allotted to RPPMSL 50 lakh equity shares of Rs 10 each for cash aggregating to Rs 5 crore; and 372 crore zero coupon optionally fully convertible debentures of Rs 10 each, for cash aggregating to Rs 3,720 crore.

"The existing paid-up equity share capital of RITL has been cancelled. Upon such cancellation RPPMSL holds 100 per cent equity share capital of RITL," the filing said.

Reliance had deposited Rs 3,720 crore in an SBI escrow account to acquire the mobile tower and fibre assets of Reliance Infratel. PTI



J&K On Anvil Of Historic Economic Resurgence: Rana

Observer News Service

Jammu: Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana Thursday expressed happiness over growing realization among the intending entrepreneurs about massive industrialization in Jammu and Kashmir, saying this cannot be a distant dream anymore with the roll out of New Industrial Policy and strategies put in place for investment in the Union Territory.

"It really sounds soothing to know about the urge among startups to grow and make their contribution in the growth story of their place and the country", Rana said while interacting with the functionaries of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries at the Chamber House.

Rana, who is also the BJP Prabhari Cooperative, Transport and Traders & Industries Cell of the BJP, visited the Chamber House on the invitation of the President Chamber of Commerce & Industry along with the Conveners and Co-Conveners of the Cells and had a healthy discourse over the schemes rolled out by the Centre and the UT administration for giving fillip to industry and promoting the avenues for trade and commerce. He said Jammu is the most thronged destination of pilgrims and tourists and has immense potential to grow in different vocations. Inclination and urge among enterprising people to diversify and intensify their



commercial activities will go a long way in their economic emancipation and empowerment, he said, adding that such initiatives can also help in generating employment.

Referring to the New Industrial Policy, Rana said it takes care of the existing industrialists and startups. Industrialization holds promise for growth and employment generation. He hoped that the stakeholders will avail of all benefits from the schemes available under one-roof.

He said the BJP is committed to holistic development of Jammu and Kashmir, adding that several path breaking measures have been taken in this regard in the recent past. Similarly, every sector of the economy is getting priority attention with focus on enabling youth to be job providers rather than job seekers.

The Chamber of Commerce and Industries raised several issues and called for addressing these at the apex level.

Rana said that all the points raised during the interaction will be taken up at appropriate levels for earnest appropriate action.

Bank, said "We are happy to

inaugurate one more branch in

Kashmir which is a constantly

evolving market. This would be

a step ahead to support Bank's

focus to aid financial accelera-

tion that the country presently

is on. The new branch aims to

deepen relationships and attract

new customers, thus strength-

ening IndusInd Bank's client

base across the region. As we

expand our reach to serve the

local populace, we look forward

PM-KUSUM, ROOFTOP SOLAR SCHEMES

Saurabh Bhagat Inaugurates Awareness Program At Kulgam

Observer News Service

Kulgam: The Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA), Department of Science & Technology, conducted an awareness programme to sensitize the farmers regarding use of solar energy for powering of irrigation pumps under PM-KUSUM scheme and Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Power Plants for residential sector.

Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology, Saurabh Bhagat, inaugurated the event. Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din

Bhat, Chief Executive Officer, JAKEDA, Dr. P.R.Dhar, officers from Horticulture, JAKEDA, Agriculture, I&K Bank and other line departments attended the programme. Commissioner Secretary apprised the officers and the farm-

ers of various benefits/incentives being extended by the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy under PM-KUSUM and Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Power Plant scheme. He said the scheme allows the farmers to install subsidized Solar Powered Pumps up to 10 HP capacity for irrigation purpose with a choice of AC/DC Surface and Submersible Pumps. The Ministry provides a

subsidy of 50% of the cost of the pump, 30% of the cost is being provided by the UT government



and the beneficiary/farmer has to bear only 20% cost of the pump, he informed.

Saurabh Bhagat informed about the Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Scheme under which a collective subsidy of 65% shall be provided to the Domestic Consumers of DISCOMs for installation of Rooftop Solar Plants for offsetting their electricity bills under Net-Metering mechanism.

Commissioner Secretary asked the District Development Commissioner to identify a village which could be developed as a Model Village with most of its energy needs to be met from Solar Energy.

Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir Thursday chaired 8th DMC meeting to review the progress of Center Sector scheme for formation and promotion of FPOs.

KASHMIR OBSERVER[®]

SRINAGAR | FRIDAY | 23.12.2022

Observer News Service

Ganderbal: The Deputy

DC Ganderbal Chairs

At the outset, brief discus-sion was held on various aspects including deliberation on submission on ground level progress report of FPOs by implementing agencies viz NABARD, NAFED and SFAC, cold storage, market linkages, farmer mobilization and progress on new FPOs.

The CBBOs presented the process to the DC and also informed about the future course of action through a powerpoint presentation. It was informed that the

membership of the Zazna Farmer Producer Company Limited has increased to 220 members from 160 members and membership of Kirmaniya Fed Fruit Producer Company Limited Batwina has also mobilized 40 more members increasing the membership to 140.

It was also informed that the Kirmaniya Fed Fruit Producer Company Batwina has adopted digital payment by a UPI for business transactions. The said FPO is also planning to start value addition to the products through a packaging for which they are planning to get new machinery.

DMC Meeting; Reviews Progress Of FPOs FPO members shall be given mushroom units on priority and stalls within the rural

> haats shall be provided to FPO. Regarding the new FPO in Lar and Shairpathri blocks, the DMC was informed that farmers are being mobilized and 20 farmers have agreed and paid the membership fee for the same. On the occasion, the baseline study, diagnostic study and SWOT analysis was presented to the DMC by CBBO for the FPOs of both the blocks.

> The DC directed the Chief Horticulture Officer to provide the list of intervention the department has done for increasing the production of the crop to the implement-ing agency and CBBO. It was also recommended to form the new FPOs under J&K Cooperatives Act 1999.

Regarding the cold storages, it was decided that the district level committee shall be framed to identify the location and capacity needed.

The DC directed experts of all CBBOs to provide consultation services to the FPO members on a regular basis and also provide the training to the board of directors of FPOs regarding the general business and equity grant. He also directed them to diversify the market linkages and sell the FPO products on e-commerce platforms. The meeting was attended by DDM, NABARD; CAO, CHO, Deputy Registrar Cooperative, representatives of CBBOs and other members of the Committee.

It was also proposed by the committee members that

IndusInd Bank Inaugurates New Branch In Srinagar DC Ganderbal Chairs DMC Meeting; Reviews Progress Of FPOs

Observer News Service

Ganderbal: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir Thursday chaired 8th DMC meeting to review the progress of Center Sector scheme for formation and promotion of FPOs.

At the outset, brief discussion was held on various aspects including deliberation on submission on ground level progress report of FPOs by implementing agencies viz NABARD, NAFED and SFAC, cold storage, market linkages, farmer mobilization

and progress on new FPOs. The CBBOs presented the process to the DC and also informed about the future course of action through a

powerpoint presentation. It was informed that the membership of the Zazna Farmer Producer Company Limited has increased to 220 members from 160 members and membership of Kirmaniya Fed Fruit Producer Company Limited Batwina has also mobilized 40 more members increasing the membership to 140.

DC Kupwara Inaugurates **SNTBFC** Drive

Observer News Service

The Deputy Kupwara: Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Doifode Sagar Dattatray Thursday inaugurated the Sub National TB Free Certification (SNTBFC) drive at D.C Office, here. Chief Medical Officer Kupwara, Bashir Ahmad; Block Medical Officers besides, paramedical staff and ASHA workers were present at the occasion.

On the occasion, it was informed that under Sub National TB Free Certification,

a door to door household survey shall be conducted in all 10 medical blocks of the district to identify the patients with symptoms of Tuberculosis.

It was also informed that the survey shall be carried out by the volunteers with the help of GPS based mobile app. The survey will start today and will last for 25 days.

It was further informed that the district Kupwara has applied for TB Free status through the Central Tuberculosis Division.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Commenting on the recent to bringing a whole new world branch expansion in Srinaga, of convenience and flexibility to Soumitra Sen, Head – Consumer customers." Banking & Marketing, IndusInd The increase in the num-

ber of new branches will allow more number of customers to avail IndusInd Bank's unique customer propositions along with full range of services from Saving & Current Accounts, Wealth Management solutions and Credit cards. Additionally, Bank's innovative facilities such as "My Account, My Number", "Choice Money ATM' and 'Cash on Mobile' among others would also be available to the customers from day one.

amount, beneficiary share, con-He exhorted upon the Jammu tact numbers of district nodal and Kashmir Bank officers to persons were distributed among make easy financing available the farmers and the officers.

to the prospective beneficiaries through Kissan Credit Cards. Pertinently, the farmers can

also set up Grid Connected Solar Power Plants in the capacity range of 0.5 MW to 2.0 MW on Barron Land banks for sale of power to DISCOMs and make an average annual earning of Rs 40 lakh per MW. For development of 1 MW Solar Plant Project, 4 acre of land are required approximately.

Later, pamphlets containing

all the related information of

Solar Pumps under PM-KUSUM scheme and Rooftop Solar

Scheme like prices, subsidy

IndusInd Bank has

set up a branch in Karan Nagar

Srinagar. IndusInd Bank now has

seven branches in Srinagar and

overall twenty-nine branches in

The new branch was inau-

gurated by PK Pole, Divisional

Commissioner, Kashmir in the

presence of Branch Banking

Head, Zonal Head and Regional

Head of IndusInd Bank. The new

branch is located on Ground

Floor, Municipality road, Nar Singh Garh, Karan Nagar,

Jammu and Kashmir.

'Till Death Do Us

Agenceis

Srinagar:

Srinagar.

calling the trend encouraging and overwhelming.

Senior Journalist Yusuf Jameel commented "Real 'made-for-each-other' couples. May they continue to sing to each other and make each other laugh"

Cardiologist Dr Upendra Koul commented "Very good news. Made for each other"

Professor A H Shera wrote "This is a healthy trend. It appears organ donation is becoming a mass movement and people are going to support it more and more in future"

A twitter user Narinder Happa wrote "An extremely healthy trend, needs to be encouraged on all forums and media platforms. And also a comprehensive record of donors as well as recipients should be kept available for the concerned researchers for investigations and time to time modifications, if needed.

Govt Warns

J&K Government Employee, as mandated under the Jammu and Kashmir Public Servants Declaration of Assets Act and Rules made thereunder and also as per the provisions of the Employees Conduct Rules, every year ending 31st December, by or before 31st January of the next calendar year," the circular said.

The PRS-Portal is accessible on http://prs. jk.gov.in and the employees can file their annual property returns on the portal from 1st of January and the facility automatically gets closed on 31st of January every year. "The nonsubmission of property returns by the employees shall invite action against them under the Prevention of Corruption Act, besides, shall result in denial of their Vigilance Clearance." Accordingly, government advised the employees working under the Jammu and Kashmir

Government to file their property returns for the year 2022, on the PRS-Portal, from 1st of January upto 31st of January, 2023

"Further, it is enjoined upon all the DDOS to ensure registration of those employees, who have not yet registered on the PRS Portal," it said, adding, "Besides, ensuring filing of property details by their cent percent employees, within the specified time. The portal will automatically."

Srinagar Shivers

The minimum in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at minus 5.1 degrees Celsius, while Qazigund, the gateway town to the valley, recorded minus 4.4 degrees Celsius, and Kokernag recorded a low of minus 3.3 degrees Celsius.

The meteorological department has forecast mostly dry weather in Jammu and Kashmir till December 24

There is possibility of rain or light snowfall in some parts of Kashmir around Christmas, it said.

The 'Chilla-i-Kalan' is the 40-day harshest winter period when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably leading to freezing of water bodies as well as the water supply lines in several parts of the valley.

The chances of snowfall are the most frequent and maximum during this period and most areas, especially in the higher reaches, receive heavy snowfall.

While 'Chillai-Kalan' begins on December 21, it will end on January 30. The cold wave continues even after that in Kashmir with a 20-daylong 'Chillai-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-daylong 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold).

Azad Expels 3

required in party as they were involved in anti-party activities," Chib told PTI.

DAP chairman Azad has made several appointments in the party over the past two days nearly three months after its launch in Jammu.

Chand Hits Back

with his workers.

He said they were expelled from the group at the time when they were thinking of rejoining the party.

"Most of the people would leave the party. Where is the party? It is almost non-existent and only a few people are calling shots in it," he said.

He said that Ghulam Nabi Azad-led DAP is only dividing the secular vote.

Tara Chand and two leaders were expelled by the DAP on Thursday for their involvement in anti-party activities.

This is a serious setback to Azad-led DAP which has failed to rope in leaders from parties other than Congress.

Former MLA Surankote Choudhary Muhammad Akram has already distanced himself from Azad-led DAP-(KNO)

Dogra Employees

she said he as a constitutional head violated the law to frame the committee to give recommendations on transfer policy in a time-bound manner, but now he is saying that they are employees of Kashmir valley.

The Dogras and Kashmiri Pandits employees returned to Jammu following the killing of their colleague Rajni Bala. A resident of Samba district. Bala was shot dead by terrorists at a school in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on May 31.

Lashing at BJP, the protestors said that they should come out of their rooms and join our struggle as they had promised us that a transfer policy will be put in place to address their demand.

Sinha on Wednesday asserted all necessary measures have been taken for the safety of minority community employees including Kashmiri Pandits serving in the Valley and sent out a "loud and clear" message to those protesting for transfer -- no salary for sitting at home

"We have cleared their (protesting employees') salaries till August 31, but it cannot be done that they will be paid their salaries by sitting at their homes. This is a loud and clear message to them and they should listen and understand it," LG told reporters at a press conference here.

The PM package employees who have also been on a strike in the valley for the past seven months following the killing of their colleague Rahul Bhat on May 12 have intensified the agitation by holding protests.

Bhat, a clerk, was shot dead inside the tehsildar's office in Chadoora tehsil of Budgam district.

Chanting slogans and carrying placards, the protesters said the government should accede to the demands of the protesting PM package employees and temporarily transfer them to Jammu till the security situation in the Valley improves

The protestors said the spate of targeted killings in Kashmir has created fear and uncertainty among the minorities serving in the Valley.

"We are demanding relocation in wake of threats to our lives. Hit-lists are issued every week. On the other side, the government is stopping salaries in a bid to force us to join duties in absence of security and get killed. We will not join," a protestor said.

The spate of targeted killings in Kashmir started in May this year. Scores of Kashmiri Pandits, who were employed under the prime minister's package in 2012, have been staging protests since the killing of Rahul Bhat.

Any Person From Jammu

transfer policy will be framed. We will make

it happen or else will leave," senior BJP leader Devender Rana told protesting employees outside the BJP headquarters here.

Referring to the protesting reserved category employees who are also camping in Jammu and demanding their relocation, Lt Governor Sinha on Wednesday said, "They should also keep in mind that they are Kashmir division employees and cannot be transferred to Jammu.'

Flanked by BJP leaders including former deputy chief minister and Jammu Mayor, Kavinder Gupta, Rana said, "We promise you (Kashmiri Pandits) that transfer policy will be framed. BJP stands with you. Don't think you are week".

In a strong remark, BJP leaders said that no person from Jammu will be made "guinea pigs."

"Any person from Jammu will not be a guinea pig. It is not a matter of policy, but it is a matter of responsibility. We cannot step back on this responsibility," Rana said.

Former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta also said that the demand of the protesting employees will be fulfilled.

Lt Governor Sinha on Wednesday asserted all necessary measures have been taken for the safety of minority community employees including Kashmiri Pandits serving in the Valley, and sent out a "loud and clear" message to those protesting for transfer - no salary for sitting at home.

Sinha had made the remark amid the ongoing protest by migrant Kashmiri Pandit employees and Jammu-based reserved category employees who left the Valley for Jammu in May following the targeted killings of their two colleagues Rahul Bhat and Rajni Bhalla. The protesting employees have been seeking relocation outside Kashmir.

He said the J & K administration has full svmpathy with them and is ready to provide them security or any other assistance.

He also said that the chief secretary has framed a committee to look into their demand. "And I assure them that if there is any chance, we will frame a policy accordingly.'

Five OGWs Held

associates namely Ab Rouf Malik Son of Gh Mohammad Malik and Altaf Ahmad Payer Son of Gh Qadir Payer both residents of Dardsun Kralpora and Riyaz Ahmad Lone Son of Mohammad Yousuf Lone of Kralpora", reads the statement adding "During questioning the trio disclosed about two hideouts constructed for militants of HM outfit on the instructions of a Pakistan based handler Farooq Ahmad Pir @Nadeem Usmani of Kakroosa Kupwara presently based in POK where some arms and ammunition has also been concealed.'

"Both the two hideouts have been unearthed on the disclosure and identification of arrested trio. 01 AK rifle, 02 AK Magazines, 119 AK Ammunition, 01 Pistol, 01 Pistol Mag, 04 Pistol Rounds, 06 Hand Grenades, 01 IED, 02 Detonators, 02 wire bundles and one water tank of approximately 100 liters capacity has been recovered from the hideouts.'

The trio, the statement reads, also received cash amounting to rupees 6 lacs in June 2022 which was meant to procure material for construction of hideouts and procuring of arms and ammunition with rupees 64000 out of this 6 lacs also been recovered.

'Two more militant associates including Ab Majeed Beigh Son of Ghulam Mohammad Beigh resident of Humhama Budgam and another from Bandipora who have been actively supporting the trio in their activities have also been detained for investigation", the statement reads

"The militant associates were also being handled by one more militant handler Fayaz Geelani of Budgam presently based in POK."

'The arrested group in addition to providing logistic support, arms and ammunition and other facilities for the commission of militant activities was also tasked to select targets for militants in the valley and also radicalize more youth to join militant ranks."

"Case FIR No. 98/2022 under relevant sections of UA(P) Act has been registered in Police Station Kralpora and investigation taken up", the statement reads adding "more arrests and recoveries cannot be ruled out in the case."

Truck Crushed

under relevant sections of laws has been registered by the concerned police station and investigation has been taken up.

10 Day Winter

"Any default on part of the Head of the Schools and Teaching staff in observance of the above schedule shall attract action under Rules," it reads

Drug Peddler

commission of crime has also been seized," a police spokesman said.

Subsequently, police said that a case under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Kreeri and investigation has been initiated.

SPORTS

Real Kashmir Suffer 3rd Successive Loss In I-League

Agencies

MUMBAI: Mumbai Kenkre FC recorded a remarkable 2-1 victory against Real Kashmir FC in their I-League 2022-23 fixture here at the Cooperage Stadium in Mumbai on Thursday.

Jestin George gave away side the lead early in the first half but it was short-lived as Aman Gaikwad levelled the score quickly. In the dying moments, Ahmed Faiz Khan scored from the spot for the Mumbaikars as they recorded their first home win of the seathe ground as it looped over the keeper and nestled in the net. A moment of brilliance from Gaikwad gave them the equalizer in the 24th minute. Real Kashmir goalkeeper Subhasish Roy Chowdhury was forced into a hasty clearance and as the ball was won high up the field, it fell to Gaikwad and he thundered it into the roof of the net with a powerful half-volley.

Clear-cut chances were hard to come by, but Real Kashmir looked likelier to score. Substitute Samuel Kynshi fired wide from the



son and lifted themselves out of the relegation zone ahead of the winter break

The start of the first half was onesided as Real Kashmir dominated proceedings and created a number of scoring chances. Their Ghanaian forward Nuhu Seidu was in the thick of things, having a header saved in the 11th minute and testing keeper Padam Chettri again a minute later with a powerful volley.

Fellow Ghanaian Ibrahim Nurudeen was inches away from scoring the opener as he hit the post from 15 yards. However, the pressure paid off three minutes later as the Snow Leopards finally took the lead. George opened the scoring from Girik Khosla's corner kick, heading the ball into

edge of the penalty area in the 76th minute and Nuhu could only find the side netting from close

range two minutes after. Outtara was clumsily brought down in the penalty area by George and the referee duly pointed to the spot. Khan stepped up to take the spot-kick and made no mistake in dispatching it home, giving the hosts the lead for the first time in the game.

Despite Real Kashmir putting pressure during the lengthy eight minutes of stoppage time, Mumbai Kenkre managed to see the game out without a hitch, ensuring that they bag three crucial points while condemning the visitors to their third successive defeat. (ANI)



India In Driver's Seat As Bangladesh Bowled Out For 227

Press Trust of India

MIRPUR: Umesh Yadav's incisive spells with the old ball and Ravichandran Ashwin's controlled effort put India in complete command as Bangladesh were bowled out for a below-par 227 on the opening day of the second Test here on Thursday.

At stumps, India reached 19 for no loss with skipper KL Rahul batting on 3 off 30 balls in company of Shubman Gill (14 batting, 20 balls). Some of the balls bowled by Bangladeshi spinners were turning square and the decision to drop last

Test's player of the match

Kuldeep Yadav is looking a controversial one.

When Bangladesh batted, Umesh (4/25 in 15 overs) led the Indian pace attack manfully while Ashwin (4/71 in 21.5 overs) closed in on a career-haul of 450 wickets (447 currently) on a day when Jaydev Unadkat's (2/50 in 16 overs) return to Test fold after 12 long years did stir up fair amount of debate about some selection calls taken by

this team management. However, Unadkat could term himself lucky as last game's hero Kuldeep (8 wickets and 40 runs) was unceremoniously dumped by the team management

IPL Auction: Curran, Stokes, Green

comprising the two Rahuls -head coach Dravid and skip-

per Kannaur Lokesh (KL). The pitch was termed to be a confusing one by skipper Rahul at the toss which prompted them to pick an extra seam bowler in Unadkat.

The decision didn't backfire because of the inferior quality of Bangladesh batting line-up more than anything else.

Former skipper Mominul Haque (84, 157 balls) was the only batter who showed admirable patience for more than four hours but he hardly enjoyed any support from the other end.

Ramiz Raja Sacked As PCB Chairman, Replaced By Sethi

Reuters

Normer Pakistan captain Ramiz Raja has been sacked as chairman of the country's cricket board (PCB) after the 3-0 test series whitewash by England, his interim replacement Najam Sethi said on Thursday. Raja, who played more than 250 international matches from 1984 to 1997, had taken over from Ehsan Mani who stepped down from the

role in 2021. "The cricket regime headed by Ramiz Raja is no more. The 2014 PCB constitution stands restored," Sethi, who previously served as the head of the PCB, said on Twitter. The Dawn newspaper said on Wednesday that Sethi will head a new 14-member committee that includes former Pakistan cricketers Shahid Afridi and Sana Mir for the next four months until elections are held. 'The Management Commit-

tee will work tirelessly to revive first-class cricket. Thousands of cricketers will be employed again. The famine in cricket will come to an end," Sethi said.

"Thank you all cricket enthusiasts for welcoming change in PCB affairs. Please wish our team good luck going forward. There is a lot of work to be done and some undone.' Raja enjoyed a fairly success-

ful stint, convincing Australia to tour Pakistan earlier this year



for the first time since 1998 after New Zealand and England cancelled tours in 2021, citing security concerns. But England returned to Pakistan this year and sealed their first series win in the Asian nation since 2000-2001, winning tests in Rawalpindi, Multan and Karachi.

Major international teams had been reluctant to travel to Pakistan due to security concerns since six policemen and two civilians were killed in a 2009 attack on a bus which was carrying the Sri Lanka cricket team in Lahore. Raja's exit was only a matter of time after former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, who had appointed him last year, was ousted in April after losing a confidence vote in parliament.

The Pakistan PM is the patron of the PCB. After his retirement, Raja became a cricket commentator. The 60-year-old was also PCB chief executive from 2003 to 2004.

Pakistan reached the final of the Twenty20 World Cup in Australia this year, where they lost to England. They will play a home test series against New Zealand starting on Dec. 26 in Karachi.

Dubai Capitals Sign England's Joe Root For ILT20

Agencies

ormer England Test captain Joe Root has been signed by the Dubai Capitals team to play in the International League T20, the franchise announced on Thursday. Root will be making his only second appearance in the international league.

Root, England's leading Test batter, has not played in a T20I since 2019, but he has made no secret of his desire to continue developing his game in the shortest format. He is on the list for Friday's Indian Premier League (IPL) auction.

Root is still an important part of England's ODI squad, but he has been given some time off before the Test team's tour of New Zealand in February. Root fell out of contention

due to the rise of Dawid Maup for bidding. The venue of lan, who plays a similar anchor the auction is not the usual role in the top order and helped England reach the World T20 Bengaluru as Kochi gets to host



The Dubai Capitals announced earlier this week that they had signed former India internationals Robin Uthappa and Yusuf Pathan, as well as current players Rovman Powell, Fabian Allen, and Sikandar Raza. as well as another Englishman in Dan Lawrence.

Making its debut in January 2023, the inaugural ILT20, which has received multi-year ICC approval, will be played in a 34-match format across the UAE's exemplary, world-class Cricket facilities in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah.

Franchise teams, comprising 84 International and 24 UAE-based players, include Abu



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir men's cricket team was completely outclassed by Gujarat in their Ranji Trophy match at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

After scoring just 135 runs in the first innings, the J&K side was bundled out for 183 on Thursday, leaving Gujarat with 11 runs to win the match in three days. Gujarat's Siddharth Desai, who took 6 wickets in the first innings, helped himself to another 8 in the second to decimate J&K's hopes of a comeback. Henan Nazir 43 (91) and Vivrant Sharma 41



(50) were the top scorers for J&K. Gujarat, who scored 307 in the first innings, reached the 11-run target in 2.5 overs, losing 1 wicket in the process. This is J&K's second consecutive loss in the Ranji Trophy. They will next face Vidarbha on December 27.

Set For Windfall Press Trust of India KOCHI: Intense bidding is expected to be the order of the

day when 10 teams jostle to grab their preferred players from a limited pool of cricket-ers, including the likes of Ben Stokes, Sam Curran and Mayank Agarwal, in the mini IPL

auction here on Friday. The player pool for the auc-tion has been pruned to 405 with a maximum of 87 slots, including 30 overseas, to be filled by the teams.

Former South Africa allounder Chris Morris has been



ding and end up with a million dollar deal. He is only 24 and teams will



Srinagar Girls Lift U-19 Inter-District Table Tennis C'ship

Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: The Provincial Level Inter-District Table Tennis Competitions for Girls U-17 and U-19 organised by the DYSSO Shopian concluded on Thursday at Bismillah Hotel Shirmal.

District Srinagar clinched the Under-19 Table Tennis Provincial level Championship, the 2nd and the 3rd position was grabbed by the Anantnag and Pulwama districts respectively. Similarly, in the Under-17

Provincial Level Table Tennis Championship, first position was secured by the District Pulwama; the 2nd position was sealed by Anantnag and the 3rd by Kupwara.

The function was attended by the District Youth Services & Sports Officer Shopian, Syed Noor Ul Haq and the Activity Incharge DYSSO Shopian Riyaz Ahmad Wachkoo.

The DYSSO Shopian distributed the trophies and medals among the student players.

A total of 12 teams including

four girls teams of South Kash-

mir participated in the tourna-

ment during which 22 matches

During the culmination cere-

mony, the Deputy Commissioner Kulgam Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din

Bhat along with SSP Kulgam Dr. G.

were played.

3-Day Volleyball C'ship Concludes At Kulgam

Observer News Service

KULGAM: The three-day long Volleyball Championship organised by Volleyball Association J&K in collaboration with J&K Sports Council as part of Good Governance week initiative concluded on Thursday at Badroo, Kulgam.



the biggest beneficiary of the mini IPL auction till date. In 2021, he became the most expensive player in auction history when Rajasthan Royals shelled out Rs 16.25 crore for his services. Morris is now happily retired.

All-rounder Curran, who was named the Player of the 2022 T20 World Cup, is expected to attract intense bidlook at him as a long-term investment. Back in 2019, Punjab Kings made him an IPL millionaire before he moved to Chennai Super Kings who would be looking to buy him back. Curran, who missed the 2022 season as he was recov-

ering from a back injury, has set his base price at Rs 2 crore. The all-rounders have been listed in the second set to come

the keenly followed event.

Curran's English teammates including Test skipper Stokes and Harry Brook are also likely to land fat pay cheques. Stokes has set his base price at Rs 2 crore and Brook at Rs 1.5 crore.

New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson will be another big name with a base price of Rs 2 crore.

Argentina Only No. 2 In New FIFA Rankings Led By Brazil



places to No. 7.

the semifinals.

ify for the World Cup.

at No. 8 despite failing to qual-

Morocco is the best-placed

Press Trust of India

ZURICH: Winning the World Cup was not enough to lift Argentina atop the FIFA world rankings with Brazil keeping the No. 1 position on Thursday. Brazil was eliminated in the

quarterfinals by Croatia but built enough rankings points from results over recent years that feed into FIFA's calculation.

Argentina moved up one place to No. 2 and beaten finalist France also rose one to No. 3. Belgium is still at No. 4, a fall of

the best of the CONCACAF retwo places, despite winning only one game in Qatar and failing to gion teams, rising three places advance from the group stage. after advancing to the round of England and the Nether-16. Mexico is No. 15.

lands, both beaten quarterfi-Japan leads the Asian confederation teams at No. 20, nalists, stay at Nos. 5 and 6 respectively. Croatia climbed five up four places, and Australia rises 11 places to No. 27. Both European champion Italy is reached the round of 16.

Cameroon, which beat Brazil in the group stage, rose 10 places to be No. 33.

Qatar dropped 10 places to African nation at No. 11, up 11 laces, for its historic run to No. 60 after losing all three games as the home team at the The United States at No. 13 is World Cup.

final in 2016, scoring an audacious 83 off 44 in a record run chase against South Africa during the group stage. His most recent T20I was against Pakistan in Cardiff ahead of the 2019 50-over World Cup.

Dhabi Knight Riders (Kolkata Knight Riders), Desert Vipers (Lancer Capital), Dubai Capitals (GMR), Gulf Giants (Adani Sportsline), MI Emirates (Reliance Industries), and Sharjah Warriors (Capri Global). (ANI)

Rashford Can Become Manchester United's New Talisman

Reuters

MANCHESTER: In Manchester United's first competitive match since their acrimonious split with Cristiano Ronaldo, Marcus Rashford delivered a thrilling performance and sensational goal against Burnley to show he can be their top striker for years to come.

Fresh from scoring three times for England at the World Cup, Rashford put in a tireless display on the right of United's attack and sealed their passage into the League Cup quarter-finals with one of his finest goals on Wednesday. Picking the ball up deep in United's half, Rashford burst down the right wing and took on two defenders before firing into the far bottom corner in another demonstration that the 25-year-old is back to his best after a miserable previous campaign.

The striker's confidence appeared to be badly knocked after he missed a penalty in England's shootout defeat by Italy in last year's European Championship final and Ronaldo's surprise return to United also had an impact on Rashford's form. He started only 18 of United's 49 matches in all competitions while scoring only five goals as they ended the season without a trophy and their lowest points total since the Premier League began in 1992. He was also dropped by England.

But as Ronaldo became marginalised this term under new



boss Erik ten Hag, leading to his contract being terminated last month, Rashford rediscovered his former influence, starting 16 of 22 matches in all competitions and scoring nine goals. He was recalled by England manager Gareth Southgate for the World Cup and scored against Iran and twice versus Wales, although was only a late substitute in the quarter-final defeat by France.

Rashford said he had already put England's exit behind him, saying after the win over Burnley: "There is no time to feel sorry for yourself. You need to pick up results and thankfully we did that." Ten Hag, mean-while, praised Rashford for his performance.

"I think he invested a lot with runs behind the defending line and he scored a great goal on the dribble; a great finish. I think he is in great form and I hope he can keep his focus," said the Dutchman. "His performances are improving a lot from game to game, he's a continued threat and does a lot of defending work. I hope and expect him to keep going with his performance level.

OUTPOST

SRINAGAR | FRIDAY | 23.12.2022

"No Request Received": Centre On Use Of Ganga Water In Covid Treatment

Agenceis

New Delhi: The Central government today clarified that it has not received any request from National Mission for Clean Ganga to conduct research on the use of Ganga river water as a cure for the COVID-19 virus.

According to the Ministry of Jal Shakti, in a written reply in Lok Sabha today, Minister of State for Jal Shakti Prahlad Singh Patel said, "Government has not received any request from National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) to conduct research on the use of Ganga river water as a cure to the Covid-19 virus."

"However, NMCG had sent two proposals viz., 'Ganga Sediments could immunize against COVID-19' and 'Treatment of COVID-19 by Ganga Jal' on April 28, 2020, to the Indian Council of Medical Research for examination at their end," the Ministry said in a statement.

The Ministry said that the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has informed that based on water quality monitoring of river Ganga being carried out during the Covid-19 period and studies conducted by them, State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and other agencies to assess the impact of lockdown on the water quality of river Ganga and its tributaries, it has been observed that no definite trend exists in different water quality parameters observed for various stretches of river Ganga and its tributaries.

"However, varying degrees of improvement in a few water quality parameters have been observed as per CPCB and SPCB reports which may be attributed to various factors such as increased availability of fresh water due to rainfall in the river catchment, no industrial effluent discharge and reduced human activity such as restriction on bathing, ritual disposal, restricted tourism, solid waste, mass washing of clothes etc during the lockdown, it was



ensured that all the sewage treatment plants (STPs) continue to function without any interruption. Guidelines were issued to follow all safety precautions while continuing the operation of STPs.

The various interventions for the abatement of pollution of rivers have been continued.

"Financial assistance is being provided to States for setting up of sewage infrastructure and other pollution abatement activities under Namami Gange and National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) of Ministry of Jal Shakti as well as AMRUT & Smart Cities Mission of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs."

It further said that the state governments have formulated river action plans to restore the water quality of polluted river stretches for intercepting, diverting and treatment of municipal wastewater from urban centres.

"Regulation of Industrial Pollution is implemented through various provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 under Consent mechanism by the respective State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) and Pollution Control Committees (PCC)," it said.

Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring Systems (OCEMS) are installed by 17- categories of industries and Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) being established on industrial units in the country through the directives issued by CPCB for getting realtime information on the effluent quality and non-complying units were identified and actions were taken against these units," it added.

Create Hand Washing Facilities, Impart Hygiene Education: Centre To States Over Covid



Agenceis

New Delhi: Centre has asked the states and UTs to create hand washing facilities with the provision of soap, and train teachers to impart hygiene education to students in all the schools across the country. Ministry of Education in a

statement said that States/UTs have been asked to fast-track the provision of stand-alone piped water supply solutions and simple, sustainable solar solutions

"In a joint advisory issued by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education; Ministry of Jal Shakti; NITI Aayog; Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, it is mentioned that the rejuvenation of basic infrastructure including improved sanitation facilities and provision of safe drinking water and maintaining the overall cleanliness in the Government schools has long been a priority of the Government. Some of the programmes being implemented in mission modes like Swachh Bharat Mission- Grameen (SBM-G) and Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) are going a long way in improving the living standards of the people," Ministry said. Ministry further added that the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) has transformed rural India by manifesting into a Jan Andolan for sanitation. Under Phase -ll of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), the focus is on Open Defecation Free (ODF) sustainability and solid and liquid waste management. Following the saturation approach, the objective is to ensure that no one is left behind from access to improved including the Schools.

It is further mentioned that under ODF Plus, it is also to be ensured that all schools in villages have arrangements for the management of bio-degradable waste and grey water. It is important to ensure that all the toilets in the schools are in proper functioning condition. However, some of them may require retrofitting from single pits to twin pits. This may be done as part of the ongoing campaign of retrofitting from single pits to twin pits. The Unified District Infor-

The Onlined District mildmation System for Education (UDISE) Report 2021-22 suggests some gaps in toilets and hand washing facilities. The Centre has asked states that all these gaps need to be filled by following the saturation approach.

Further, hand washing facilities with the provision of soap

may be created in all the schools. It is also essential that hygiene education is imparted to the children on all aspects of hygiene. For this purpose, at least one teacher in each school must be trained in hygiene education who in turn should train the children through interesting activities and community projects that emphasize hygienic behaviour. A chapter on Swachhta has been included in supplementary material at the primary level developed by NCERT to inculcate good hygiene practices in the schools.

The advisory also mentioned that under Jal Jeevan Mission, making provision for safe tap wa-ter supply in schools, Anganwadi centres, and Ashram Shalas is a top priority of the Government for ensuring the good health and well-being of our children. This critical intervention was launched in a campaign mode on October 2, 2020, aimed at bringing focus to the public health dimension of young children through the assured supply of safe drinking water, especially during times of pandemic. So far, as per UDISE+ 2021-22 data, out of around 10.22 lakh Government schools, a functional drinking water facility has been provided in 9.83 lakh [96% approx.) government schools.

KASHMIR OBSERVER12g Facilities,
cation:People Made To Deposit
Black Clothes Before Meeting
Odisha Chief Minister

Agenceis

Balasore: People who attended Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's public meeting in Odisha's Balasore on Thursday were asked by the police to deposit their black clothes before entering the venue.

The women had to leave behind their black shawls, sweaters and even dupattas at designated counters set up at different entry points to the meeting venue. Men had to deposit their black coats, sweaters and helmets.

When asked about the reason, a state armed police official said that according to Intelligence reports there was possibility of black flag demonstration at the venue.

The order was resented by many who attended the meeting. "It is shocking and insulting to be asked to deposit black clothes worn by women outside the meeting venue. We are all supporters of Naveen Patnaik," said Sabita Behera, a resident of Balasore town.

Sixty-year-old Raghunath Sahu expressed unhappiness when the security personnel asked him to remove his black coloured coat



before entering the venue.

Meanwhile, the local police took several BJP leaders including Balasore town president Umakanta Mohapatra was detained as preventive measure before Patnaik's arrival to the town.

In another incident, a physically challenged youth jumped in front of the chief minister's carcade during his visit to Balasore.

The youth had suddenly rushed towards Mr Patnaik's motorcade breaking the security cordon soon after Mr Patnaik reached the city. Security personnel deployed at the site swiftly moved in and whisked him away.

While the youth's motive is yet to be ascertained, he was heard demanding a house under the state government's housing scheme and a job.

Delhi HC restrains sale of Dil Afza on lawsuit by Rooh Afza

Agenceis

The Delhi High Court has restrained the manufacture and sale of sweet beverage concentrate 'Sharbat Dil Afza' during the pendency of a lawsuit for alleged trademark infringement by Hamdard Dawakhana which sells 'Rooh Afza'.

A bench of justices Vibhu Bakhru and Amit Mahajan said that prima facie, 'Rooh Afza' served as the source identifier for Hamdard for over a century and has acquired immense goodwill and it was essential to ensure that the competitors keep a safe distance from the mark. The court's order came on an appeal by Hamdard (appellant) against a single judge's order refusing to pass an interim order to restrain 'Dil Afza' manufacture Sadar Laboratories (respondent) from allegedly indulging in trademark infringement.

"It is not difficult to conceive that a person who looks at the label of 'DIL AFZA' may recall the label of 'ROOH AFZA' as the word 'AFZA' is common and the meaning of the words 'ROOH' and 'DIL', when translated in English, are commonly used in conjunction," said the court in its order dated December 21.



Chai Ka Chaska With Bun Maska

JK Bank Lawns, Opp Ghat 6 Boulevard, Srinagar