

J&K On High Alert Ahead Of Republic-Day, BJJ

Aerial Surveillance, Night Patrolling Part Of Security Measures, Frisking Ops Intensified in Jammu, Srinagar



Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir's security grid has been put on a high alert in the wake of upcoming Republic Day and the ensuing Bharat Jodo Yatra (BJY) while frisking has been intensified in Srinagar, Jammu,

highways, and sensitive areas of the Union Territory (UT). A senior police official said that for the R-Day, security grid has been tightened and forces including police and CRPF have been deployed across the UT and all sorts of arrangements are in place to ensure smooth | [More on P10](#)

Twin Blasts Rock Jammu, Nine Injured

Back To Back Explosions Come Amid High Alert In View Of BJJ, R-Day Celebrations

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Just two days before Congress leader Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra is scheduled to reach Jammu, two back-to-back explosions rocked a busy locality on the outskirts of the city on Saturday,

leaving nine people injured, officials said.

Police suspect that IEDs were used to carry out the twin explosions in an SUV parked in a repair shop and in a vehicle at a nearby junkyard at Transport Nagar area of Narwal. The attack | [More on P10](#)



G-20 Summit In J&K

LG Seeks Active Participation Of Varsities, Schools



Observer News Service

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday sought active participation of Universities and reputed educational institutions in the successful conduct of the ensuing G20 event in Jammu Kashmir.

The LG also asked the universities to conduct seminars and discussions on the G20 conference, an official spokesperson said.

Sinha, he said, made these remarks while chairing the 87th meeting of the University Council of the University of Jammu at Raj Bhavan here on Saturday.

During the meeting, deliberations were held on various agenda items to bring a paradigm shift in overall functioning of the university. Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice

Chancellor, University of Jammu presented the vision document of the University highlighting the new initiatives for building a Culture of Start-ups & Innovation, dissolving boundaries evolving education, promoting Trans-disciplinary & Holistic Education, establishing Skill Incubation Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre, promoting quality research and education for societal relevance & engagement, introducing new academic programmes, transferring knowledge into action, promoting National Integration and sports, Alumni/Student Recognitions, Good Practices and enhancing Global visibility of the University.

The vision document presented by the Vice Chancellor Jammu University outlines the values and aspiration and it will take the | [More on P10](#)

Light Snowfall In Kashmir Delays Flights

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Some areas in Kashmir received intermittent light snowfall amid a decrease in minimum temperatures in most parts of the Valley, officials said on Saturday.

The bad weather also forced closure of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway.

Some areas in the Kashmir Valley, especially the upper reaches, received fresh light snowfall early on Saturday, the officials said.

Pahalgam, the tourist resort town in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, recorded 13 inches of snow | [More on P10](#)

Rajouri Attack Victims Given Job Letters

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Authorities in Rajouri district Saturday handed over appointment letters to the kin of the seven people killed in a deadly militant attack earlier this month.

Five people including two brothers and a father-son duo were killed when militants opened fire at Dhangri village in Rajouri on January 1. Two children lost their lives when an improvised explosive device, left behind by the militants, exploded the next day.

Deputy Commissioner of Rajouri Vikas Kundal visited the bereaved | [More on P10](#)

Bring Culprits To Justice: LG

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday strongly condemned the twin blasts here and called for urgent steps to identify and take action against those responsible. Seven persons were injured when two blasts rocked busy Transport Nagar Narwal. "Such dastardly acts highlight the desperation and | [More on P10](#)

Explosion At Ex-MLA's House In Poonch

An explosion was reported at the house of a former legislator in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said on Saturday. Former Surankote MLA and prominent Gujjar leader Choudhary Mohammad Akram said the incident occurred around 7.30 pm on Friday and his family had a narrow escape as splinters pierced | [More on P10](#)

Digital J&K Unnat J&K

Transparency | Convenience | Speed

Ushering in a New Era of Digital Governance

435 Services online

No more standing in queues

Public Services now just a click away

Single sign-on through 'Meri Pehchaan'

Integrated with

- RAS
- Umang Mobile App
- Digilocker
- SMS/ ePayment Gateway



- No need to visit any office
- Anywhere anytime governance
- 24x7 delivery of services
- Citizens feedback through RAS (Rapid Assessment System)

Information Technology Department
Government of Jammu & Kashmir



Scholarships This Week

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

Scholarship Name 1: Technip Energies India Scholarship Program 2022-23

Description: Technip Energies India invites applications from female students coming from Delhi NCR (Ghaziabad, Noida, Gurugram, Faridabad), Bihar, Assam, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Gujarat and Maharashtra who are currently enrolled in the first-year of B.E./B.Tech. courses.

Eligibility: Open for female students from Delhi NCR (Ghaziabad, Noida, Gurugram, Faridabad), Bihar, Assam, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Applicants must be currently enrolled in the first-year of B.E./B.Tech. (Chemical, Electrical, Civil, and Mechanical Engineering) courses.

Must have scored 70% or more marks in Class 12. Annual family income of the applicant must not be more than INR 4,00,000 from all sources.

- **Prizes & Rewards:** INR 30,000
- **Last Date to Apply:** 31-01-2023
- **Application mode:** Online
- **applications only**
- **Short Url:** www.b4s.in/observer/TSPSS1

Scholarship Name 2: Credit Suisse Scholarship for MBA and MA (Economics) Students 2022

Description: Buddy4Study invites applications from students enrolled in MBA/MA (Economics) courses in selected institutions. The scholarship aims to provide the necessary financial support which can help qualified candidates bridge the gap between the cost of the program fees and their ability to pay the fee.

Eligibility: Applicants must be enrolled in MBA/MA (Economics) programs at one of the designated



institutions.

They must have passed Class 12 or Graduation and scored at least 60% marks or above.

Demonstrate significant financial need, defined as family income less than or equal to INR 500,000 per annum (subject to verification by Buddy4Study)

- **Prizes & Rewards:** Up to 80% of total fees or a fixed sum of up to INR 200,000, whichever is lesser
- **Last Date to Apply:** 31-01-2023
- **Application mode:** Online applications only
- **Short Url:** www.b4s.in/observer/CSE4

Scholarship Name 3: Saksham Scholarship Program for Drivers' Children

Description: Mahindra Finance invites applications for the 'Saksham Scholarship Program for Drivers' Children' from students belonging to Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Telangana. The scholarship is meant to support underprivileged and meritorious children of drivers (all light motor vehicles and small commercial vehicles such as Taxi, Jeep, Car & delivery vans such as Pickup, magic, school van etc) holding a valid driving license who are studying

in Class 1 to postgraduation level

Eligibility: The applicants must be currently studying at Class 1 to postgraduation level in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Telangana. Applicants who are pursuing studies from Class 9 onwards must have scored 60% or more marks in the previous final examination. The annual family income of the applicant from all sources must not be more than INR 4,00,000.

- **Prizes & Rewards:**
- **Scholarship ranging from INR 5,000 to INR 20,000 for 1 year**
- **Last Date to Apply:** 28-02-2023
- **Application mode:** Online applications only
- **Short Url:** www.b4s.in/observer/SKSP1

Scholarship Name 4: DBS Scholarship Program

Description: DBS Bank invites applications from students who are currently enrolled in Class 9 or 10 to support them in continuing their education. The scholarship is meant for children of police personnel (Sub-Inspector and below ranks).

Eligibility: Open for children of police personnel (Sub-Inspector & below ranks) residing in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, or Puducherry. Applicants must be currently enrolled in Class 9 or 10.

- **Prizes & Rewards:** INR 20,000 per year (for up to 3 years)
- **Last Date to Apply:** 05-02-2023
- **Application mode:** Online applications only
- **Short Url:** www.b4s.in/observer/DBS-DS11

'Structure Of 'Live' Virus Successfully Reconstructed, Could Help Reduce Threat Of Anti-Bacterial Resistance In Humans'

Press Trust Of India

A researcher has created the first ever computer reconstruction of a virus, including its complete native genome, according to a study.

Although other researchers have created similar reconstructions, this is the first to replicate the exact chemical and 3D structure of a 'live' virus, the study said.

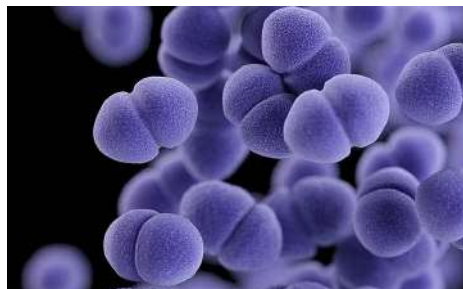
The breakthrough by Dmitry Nerukh, from the Department of Mathematics at Aston University, UK, could lead the way to research into an alternative to antibiotics, reducing the threat of anti-bacterial resistance.

The study is published in the journal Faraday Discussions.

According to the study, the research was conducted using existing data of virus structures measured via cryo-Electron Microscopy (cryo-EM), and computational modelling which took almost three years despite using supercomputers in the UK and Japan.

The breakthrough will open the way

for biologists to investigate biological processes which cannot currently be fully examined because the genome is missing in



the virus model, the study said.

This includes finding out how a bacteriophage, which is a type of virus that infects bacteria, kills a specific disease-causing bacterium, the study said.

At the moment it is not known how this happens, but this new method of creating more accurate models will open up further research into using bacteriophage to kill specific life-threatening bacteria,

the study said.

This could lead to more targeted treatment of illnesses which are currently treated by antibiotics, and therefore help to tackle the increasing threat to humans of antibiotic resistance, the study said.

"Up till now no one else had been able to build a native genome model of an entire virus at such detailed (atomic) level," said Nerukh.

"The ability to study the genome within a virus more clearly is incredibly important. Without the genome it has been impossible to know exactly how a bacteriophage infects a bacterium," said Nerukh.

"This development will now allow help virologists answer questions which previously they couldn't answer," said Nerukh.

"This could lead to targeted treatments to kill bacteria which are dangerous to humans, and to reduce the global problem of antibiotic-resistant bacteria which are over time becoming more and more serious," said Nerukh.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the RC of my vehicle bearing Regd No: JK05A-1902. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Sopore within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Dr Nazir Ahmad Bhat
S/o Late Ab Ahad Bhat
R/o Aloosa Distt. Bandipora
Cell No: 7006562125

BB

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education SUB-OFFICE BANDIPORA

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 12th session Annual 2015 issued by the board of School Education under Below mentioned particulars

Name : Saqib Tariq
S/o: Tariq Ahmad Mir
Roll No: 2615282
Year & Session 2015 Annual



Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is treated as cancelled.

bb

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Board Of School Education
Sub Office Bandipora

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, Jal Shakti Department Mechanical Irrigation Division Anantnag, H/Q Awantipora. CORRIGENDIUM

SUBJECT: MANUFACTURING SUPPLY INSTALLATION TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF 100 HP FASD AT LIFT IRRIGATION SCHEME SEMTHAN DROUGHT
MANUFACTURING SUPPLY INSTALLATION TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF 125 HP CAPACITY FULLY AUTOMATIC STARTER LIFT IRRIGATION SCHEME BANDERPORA

REFERENCE: E NIT NO 50 OF 2022-23 SERIAL- 02 DATED: 04.01.2023

SPECIFICATIONS AT SERIAL 01- (A) (B) (C) & (D)

Please read
L&T/TC/BCH or equivalent make

Instead of
L&T make

SPECIFICATIONS AT SERIAL 01-(E)

Please read
L&T/AE/Rishab or equivalent make

Instead of
L&T make/Minilac make

SPECIFICATIONS AT SERIAL 01 (I)

Please read
L&T/AE/Rishab or equivalent make

Instead of
AE/L&T make

No MIDA/ 4307-10

DIPK-16472/22
DATED: 21-01-2023

sd/=

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Deptt Mech. Irr. Div., Anantnag
H.Q. Awantipora

The Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Office of the Principal Government Girls Higher Secondary School Verinag, (ZONE Verinag)

Email: principalghssvng@gmail.com
NO: GHSS/VNG/MG/001/23

Contact No: 7006266008
Date: 15.01.2023

TENDER EXTENSION NOTICE

Due to poor response against the earlier Tender Notice invited vide this office No. GHSS/VNG/MG/003/22 Dated: 28.12.2022, the Sealed Quotations/Tenders are once again invited from registered and reputed printing agencies for printing of around 500 copies of Annual School Magazine "Sada-i-Jehlum" for the Year 2022. The tenders have to maintain standard and quality of paper as per given specifications:-

1. Size of magazine (23 x 36 cm)
2. Black & White page (80 GSM) Word Format = 85 Pages
3. Coloured page (130 GSM) (Two photographs per page) = 25 pages
4. Title cover (200 GSM)

The sealed quotations should reach this office within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice along with CDR of Rs. 1000. Quotation having any deficiency can be cancelled without prior notice to the concerned firm/agency.

DIPK-16470/22
DATED: 21-01-2023

Principal
GHSS VERINAG

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE BLOCK MEDICAL OFFICER KALAROOSE

AUCTION NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from the interested bidders for auction of damaged/unserviceable items under the office of undersigned within a period of Seven Days. The intending bidder shall have to deposit an Amount of Rs 5000/ (Five Thousand Only) as a token of earnest money in the shape of CDR Pledged to Block Medical Officer Kalaroose.

The detailed list of damaged/unserviceable items can be collected from the office of undersigned during working hour from 10:am to 04: Pm.

No.BMOK: 756-57

DIPK-16462/22
Dated: 21-01-2023

BLOCK MEDICAL OFFICER
KALAROOSE

DC Reviews Progress Of Works Under JJM

Observer News Service

Srinagar: To review the progress of water supply projects taken up under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) to ensure all the household in the district have access to safe and adequate drinking water facilities, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Saturday chaired a meeting of concerned Officers at the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex, here.

At the outset, the DC took a detailed review of the physical and financial progress of works on Aparpora and Poshpathri Water Supply Schemes (WSSs) being implemented under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in Khonmoh block of the district.

While majority of the works have been completed under JJM, DC reviewed the progress of balance undergoing works at few places.

With regard to execution of work on Aparpora Water Supply Scheme being executed at a cost of Rs 3.93 crore, the DC was apprised that pace of work on the project is in full swing and as many as 306 households in habitations of Rather Mohalla, Dar Mohalla, Waripora, Bhat Mohalla, Mir Mohalla, Kokerpora, Joo Mohalla and Ganji Mohalla are being covered under the project in order to provide safe and adequate drinking water.

On the occasion, the DC stressed the concerned Engineers to complete the process of groundwater works allotment by the end of January and start physical work by 15th of February to make the project operational by March 15, 2023 in order to benefit about 2000 souls in the area.

Similarly, the DC was also given first hand appraisal about status and

execution of work on Poshpathri water supply scheme being carried out at a cost of Rs 2 crore.

The DC was informed that Poshpathri WSS is also nearing completion and will benefit 23 households comprising 208 souls under JJM in Poshpathri and Ramzan Mohalla habitations.

The DC asked the concerned Officers and Engineers to accelerate the pace of all works to ensure their time bound completion. He also exhorted the officers to put in coordinated efforts to achieve the target so that people are benefited from the schemes.

Meanwhile, the DC took a review of progress achieved with regard to set parameters and indicators under Jal Jeevan Survekshan (JJS) including Har Ghar Jal certification by Gram Sabhas, Water Quality Testing/Monitoring & Surveillance and Institutional Arrangements. He also took a firsthand appraisal of water quality testing at HHS and PWS source, besides training imparted to women for FTK testing for a sustained surveillance on quality of water by the community itself.

The DC asked them to complete skill training/programmes of the resources including members of Panchayat Raj Institutions through proper handholding. He also laid emphasis on encouraging the local communities to take over the rural water supply system for operation & maintenance.

The DC further asked the concerned Officer to work with added zeal and determination to ensure all pivotal criteria for evaluation of performance in JJS-2023 is maintained to achieve top position in the country under JJS-2023.



Prices Of Fruits Skyrocket In City Markets

Agencies

Srinagar: While the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs department (FCS&CA) department is actively taking action against the mutton dealers for not adhering to the government fixed rates, the exorbitant rates of fruits here have pushed the people to the wall as the authorities concerned have failed to check the market rates of fruits and other eatables, leaving the consumers to lurch at large.

The consumers from Srinagar are lamenting the concerned department's inaction for not ensuring the implementation of set rates on fruits, saying that skyrocketing prices are beyond the reach of a common man.

"Not just the healthy people, the fruits are also meant for most of the patients at homes or at hospitals, but given the high prices of fruits, purchase has become very difficult for a common man," said a group of aggrieved people in Srinagar.

People say that to afford fruits for an average family has become beyond the reach, and that the government announced fruit rates exist only in papers.

Questioning the high prices of fruits, Mohammad Ramzan, a Carpenter by profession said, "If Srinagar-Jammu national highway continues to remain open for vehicular movement for the maximum time this winter, then why the rates of essentials especially the fruits have increased suddenly."

In retail markets, oranges are sold at as high as Rs 250 per dozen, while Pomegranates are sold at a Kilo from Rs 150 to 250, Bananas are sold at the rate of 100 per dozen, and the price of grapes ranges from 150 to 300 per Kilo. Similarly, there are other fruits that are sold in the market at exorbitant rates, making it difficult for common man to purchase.

According to the latest rates issued by the department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs department on 29 December 2022 on their website, the price per Kg of pomegranate is Rs 150 a Kg while the rate of green grapes is set as Rs 120 a Kg and that of Red Grapes rate is set as Rs 270. Similarly, the rate for first-grade oranges is set at Rs 130 and the rate for second-grade oranges is fixed at

Rs 90.

"It is very difficult for me to buy a kilo of Pomegranate or oranges as the price of the fruits is out of reach for me. It is not even easy to purchase other fruits easily as the prices are so high," said Nazir Ahmad, a salesman.

"There is no enforcement of government rates as far as the sale of fruits is concerned in the retail market, a fruit seller makes no scope for any bargain, and says the fruit rates are higher from the Mandi," he said.

Responding to the reports Director of FCS&CA, Dr. Abdul Salam Mir said that their teams are already checking the rates in the market, however, he assured that they will intensify the inspection in the markets to curb illegal profiteering, if any.

"There are already teams constituted across the valley who regularly check the market rates of fruits and other commodities, but since this is coming to our notice, we will intensify the market checking and those who will be found selling fruits or other commodities at high rates, action will follow against them", he said—(KNO)

Training On Business Planning For Agri-Startups Commences At SKUAST

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A weeklong MDP training on the 'Business Planning and Appraisal for Small-Scale Agri-Startups' commenced today at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir Shalimar campus.

The training is being organized by the SKUAST-K's School of Agricultural Economics and Horti Business Management under the university's Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship (SKIIE) Centre and sponsored by the Union Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises for the students, scholars, aspiring entrepreneurs and agri-startup founders.

Renowned economist, Prof Nisar Ali, SKUAST-K's Director Planning and Monitoring, Prof Haroon Rashid Naik and Dean Faculty of Horticulture, Dr Shabir Ahmad Wani were the special guests at the in-

augural function.

Prof Nisar Ali in his remarks emphasized that startups should act on local vast resources in the local environment. He informed participants about the availability of livestock, water, and fruit-based business opportunities in the territory.

Prof Haroon R Naik highlighted the scope of the training programme and the availability of business potential in agri-based activities, including establishing low-capacity CA stores and processing units around production centres. He emphasized AI-based operation within agriculture systems.

Prof Shabir A Wani briefly highlighted the proper approach for starting an economic activity in Kashmir and suggested that participants get guidance from the bankable project available on the websites of Apex institutions including NABARD.

Cultural Unit DIPR Organizes Patriotic Mushaira

Observer News Service



Srinagar: As part of 74th Republic Day celebrations, Cultural Unit Kashmir of Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR) organised a patriotic mushaira titled 'Watan Ke Naam'.

Students from different schools and colleges of Srinagar including Amar Singh College Srinagar, Green Valley Educational Institute Srinagar, JK Police Public School, RP School Malla Bagh, Legends School of Education and Caset Experimental School Srinagar pre-

sented their patriotic poems on the occasion.

Mushaira was aimed to explore poetic talent among students and provide them with a platform where they can showcase their talent.

Speaking at the event, Cultural Officer Kashmir, Burhan Hussain said that the celebration of this occasion helps youth and children of the country to be aware of the significance of unity and integrity of this great nation and provides an opportunity to everyone to be proud of their nation endowed with rich and varied heritage.

FREE
One to one and group mental
health counselling services in
the clinic as well as in online
mode

HEALTHY MINDS

Our team of well qualified and
trained professionals comprises
both child/adolescent as well as
adult psychologists & counsellors
that work under the guidance &
supervision of senior consultant
psychologists.

WE PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL HELP IN OVERCOMING
THE FOLLOWING AND MANY MORE CONDITIONS

■ Anger & Stress management

■ Personal Empowerment

■ Post Traumatic Stress disorder

■ Depression

■ Anxiety Disorder

■ Suicide Prevention and more

CALL FOR FREE CONSULTATION! 10AM - 4PM, Monday - Saturday

9469 807 321 | 9469 811 096 | 9070 130 280

HOUSE NO. 27, LANE NO 16 A, GOGJI BAGH

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


AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

 HIJRI CALENDAR 29 Jumad al-Sani 1444	PRAYERS FAJR 6:07 ZUHR 12:42 ASR 4:12 Magrib 5:53 ISHA 7:17
--	---

This Day In History

- 871 - Battle of Basing: Danish invasion army beats Saxon Ethelred of Wessex
- 1528 - England & France declare war on Emperor Charles V
- 1760 - Battle at Wandewash India: British troops beat French
- 1771 - Spain cedes Falkland Islands to Britain
- 1879 - Battle of Rorke's Drift: British garrison of 150 holds off 3,000-4,000 Zulu warriors. Eleven Victoria Crosses and a number of other decorations were awarded to the defenders.
- 1925 - Albania Republic proclaimed under President Achmed Zogu
- 1931 - Sir Isaac Isaacs is sworn in as the first Australian-born Governor-General of Australia
- 1946 - US President Harry Truman sets up the Central Intelligence Agency
- 1957 - Israeli forces withdraw from Sinai Peninsula
- 1965 - US launches TIROS 9 weather satellite
- 1968 - Apollo Lunar Module is launched to Moon; unmanned lunar module tests made
- 1969 - Orbiting Solar Observatory 5 launched into earth orbit
- 1973 - US, North & South Vietnam & Vietcong sign boundary accord
- 1975 - Landsat 2, an Earth Resources Technology Satellite, launched
- 1990 - President Mikhail Gorbachev sends Red Troops into the Soviet republic of Azerbaijan
- 1991 - Kuwaiti oil facilities are destroyed by Iraqi forces
- 1992 - Space Shuttle STS-42 (Discovery 15) launches into space
- 1997 - Space shuttle Atlantis successfully returns to Earth
- 1998 - STS 89 (Endeavour 12) launches into orbit
- 2003 - Last successful contact with NASA spacecraft Pioneer 10, one of the most distant man-made objects.
- 2002 - Kmart Corp becomes the largest retailer in United States history to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection
- 2006 - Evo Morales is inaugurated as President of Bolivia, becoming the country's first indigenous president
- 2013 - A series of Baghdad car bombings kill 17 people
- 2013 - The Bank of Japan doubles its inflation target to 2% and announces open-ended asset purchases for 2014 in the hope of ending deflation
- 2014 - Water vapour is detected on the dwarf planet Ceres
- 2017 - Chile declares a State of Emergency and requests international assistance as wildfires rage out of control
- 2017 - Jared Kushner is sworn in as Senior Advisor to US President, Donald Trump

From KO Archives

Mufti Says Farooq Playing A Dangerous Game

Srinagar - By his provocative statements the chief minister Farooq Abdullah is trying to sabotage the ongoing unilateral ceasefire and proposed talks for peace and normalcy in the state says Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mufti Mohammed Sayed. Mufti Sayed has termed the contradictory statements of chief minister as mischievous and dangerous. On the one hand these are aimed at provoking the militant organisations to step up their activities and on the other hand to mislead the central government on sensitive issues like extension of unilateral ceasefire and proposed talks, the statement said. PDP chief has further stated that Farooq Abdullah by advising Government of India to wage a war against Pakistanis not only trying to exploit the hardliners in the state but is also playing a dangerous game of exploiting the sentiments of fundamentalists, present in both India and Pakistan.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 22 January, 2001)



Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande visits Eastern Command HQs, reviews situation along LAC

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande on Saturday carried out a comprehensive review of India's military preparedness along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim during a visit to the headquarters of the eastern Army command.

Officials said senior commanders of the Kolkata-headquartered command briefed the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) about various operational matters, including deployment of troops.

Gen Pande's visit to the crucial command came nearly six weeks after a clash between Indian and Chinese troops in an area along the LAC in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh.

The Eastern Command takes care of the LAC in the Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim sectors.

The Army said Gen Pande appreciated the officials and troops for maintaining high standards of professionalism and devotion to duty.

"General Manoj Pande, #COAS visited HQ #Eastern-Command #Kolkata and was briefed on operational preparedness & prevailing security situation. #COAS interacted

with the officers & troops and appreciated them for high standards of professionalism & devotion to duty," the Army tweeted.

There has been a fresh spike in tensions between India and China after troops from the two sides were engaged in the clash along the LAC at Yangtse in the Tawang sector on December 9.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said in Parliament on December 13 that the Chinese troops tried to "unilaterally" change the status quo in the Yangtse area but the Indian Army compelled them to retreat by its firm and resolute response.

On January 12, Gen Pande said the situation along the frontier with China is "stable" but "unpredictable" and Indian troops are adequately deployed to deal with any contingencies.

He also said that there was a slight increase in the number of Chinese troops in their areas across the eastern sector.

"But we are keeping a close watch on the movements and activities there," he said.

Besides eastern Ladakh, the Indian Army has also been focusing on enhancing infrastructure along the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim.

Govt Blocks Access To BBC Documentary On 2002 Gujarat Riots



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Centre has issued directions for blocking multiple YouTube videos and Twitter posts sharing links to the BBC documentary "India: The Modi Question", sources said. The directions were reportedly issued by Apurva Chandra, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Friday using the emergency powers under the IT Rules, 2021. Sources said senior officials of several ministries, including external

affairs, home affairs, and information and broadcasting, examined the documentary and found it to be an attempt to cast aspersions on the authority and credibility of the Supreme Court, sow divisions among various Indian communities, and make unsubstantiated allegations

regarding actions of foreign governments in India. They said the documentary was found to be undermining the sovereignty and integrity of India, and having the potential to adversely impact friendly relations with foreign states as also public order within the country. Orders have also been issued to Twitter for blocking of over 50 tweets containing links of the YouTube videos concerned, they said, adding that social media platforms have complied with the directions.

Earlier, the Ministry of External Affairs had described the BBC documentary as a "propaganda piece" that lacked objectivity and reflected a colonial mindset. The two-part BBC documentary claims it investigated certain aspects relating to the 2002 Gujarat riots when Prime

Minister Narendra Modi was the chief minister of the state. "Let me just make it very clear that we think this is a propaganda piece designed to push a particular discredited narrative. The bias, the lack of objectivity, and frankly a continuing colonial mindset, are blatantly visible," External Affairs Ministry spokesman Arindam Bagchi had said on Thursday responding to questions on the documentary.

On comments made by former British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw on the riots, Bagchi said he seemed to be referring to some internal report of the UK government.

"How do I have access to that? It is a 20-year-old report. Why would I just jump on it now? Just because Jack Straw says it, how do they lend it that much legitimacy?" he wondered.

against him every other day.

However, he claimed, "There is absolutely no case that can disqualify me." Notably, Khan's government was brought down through a vote of no-confidence in April last year.

Also, he had been disqualified by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in Toshakhana reference on October 21, 2022.

In August 2022, National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf sent a reference to the ECP under Articles 62A, 63A, and 223, seeking the PTI chief's disqualification in light of the Toshakhana scam, reported The News International.

The 28-page reference identified 52 gift items of Toshakhana received by Khan,

'Efforts Made To Disqualify Me From Politics': Imran Khan

Agencies

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan alleged that the federal government is determined to drive him out of politics, reported The News International.

He said that they trying their best to disqualify him ahead of the general elections.

Referring to cases registered against him across the country, Khan said Thursday that fervent "efforts are being made to disqualify me from politics," in an interview with the UK-based broadcast.

Khan said, "they are trying their best" to disqualify him ahead of the general elections in the country, adding that "new cases are being registered"

violating the law and rules, taken away at nominal prices and most of the gifts were sold in the market, including some precious watches.

The assessed value of the gifts has been put at more than Rs 140 million. The gifts were received between August 2018 and December 2021.

Meanwhile, on October 11, the FIA booked the PTI chairman in the prohibited funding case as the agency ramps up the investigation into the matter.

In the FIR, the federal agency alleged that the Abraaj Group transferred USD 2.1 million to the PTI account in the branch of a bank situated at Jinnah Avenue in Islamabad, reported The News International.

On August 22, 2022, the ECP, in a unanimous verdict, an-



noted that the PTI received prohibited funding. The case was earlier referred to as the "foreign funding" case, but later the election commission accepted the PTI's plea to refer to it as the "prohibited funding" case.

The commission found that donations were taken from America, Australia, Canada and the UAE.

The PTI received funds from 34 individuals and 351 businesses including companies, the ECP verdict stated.

In addition to this, the federal government had moved the Supreme Court (SC) seeking to initiate contempt proceedings against Imran Khan for violating its May 25 orders, reported The News International.

Moscow-Goa Flight Diverted To Uzbekistan After Bomb Threat Email: Report



Press Trust of India

PANAJI: A Goa-bound chartered flight from Moscow with 240 passengers on board was diverted to Uzbekistan in the early hours of the morning today, after the authorities at the Dabolim airport in the state received an email, which claimed that there was a bomb on the plane, police said.

This is the second such incident on the Moscow-Goa route involving the same airline in less than two weeks.

The flight, operated by Russian airline Azur Air, was scheduled to land at the Dabolim airport in South Goa at 4:15 am, a senior police official told news agency Press Trust of India.

"The flight (AZV2463) was diverted to Uzbekistan after an email was received at 12:30 am by the office of the Dabolim airport director, which said that a bomb was planted on the plane. The flight was diverted before it entered the Indian airspace. It landed at an airport in

Uzbekistan around 4:30 am," he told Press Trust of India.

Apart from passengers, there were seven crew members on board, he said.

On January 9, a Moscow-to-Goa flight had made an emergency landing at Gujarat's Jamnagar airport following a bomb threat. That flight was also operated by Azur Air.

After the threat mail, the Dabolim airport was put on alert and the personnel of Goa Police, Quick Response Team (QRT), Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) and dog squad were deployed at the facility as a precautionary measure. Deputy Superintendent of Police (Vasco) Salim Shaikh said.

"Additional police force was mobilised at the airport," he said.

In the January 9 incident, the Azur Air office in Russia had received the threat mail, while this time it was received by the office of the Dabolim airport director, sources told Press Trust of India.

Over 300 Bureaucrats, Ex-Judges Slam BBC For Modi Documentary

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A group of 302 former judges, ex-bureaucrats and veterans on Saturday slammed a BBC documentary on Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a "motivated charge sheet against our leader, a fellow Indian and a patriot" and a reflection of its "dyed-in-the-wool negativity and unrelenting prejudice".

They claimed it is the archetype of past British imperialism in India setting itself up as both judge and jury to resurrect Hindu-Muslim tensions that were overwhelmingly the creation of the British Raj policy of divide and rule.

The two-part BBC documentary "India: The Modi Question" claims it investigated certain aspects relating to the 2002 Gujarat riots when Modi was the chief minister of the state. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has issued directions for blocking multiple YouTube videos and Twitter posts sharing links to the BBC documentary, according to sources.

This documentary is not a neutral critique and is not about exercising creative



freedom or a divergent, anti-establishment point of view, a statement signed by 13 former judges, 133 ex-bureaucrats, including diplomats, and 156 veterans said.

"Not only is the BBC series, judging from what we have seen of it so far, based on delusional and evidently lopsided reporting, but it presumes to question the very basis of the 75-year-old edifice of India's existence as an independent, democratic nation, a nation which functions according to the will of the people of India," it said.

Former Rajasthan High Court chief justice Anil Deo Singh, former home secretary LC Goyal, former foreign secretary Shashank, former RAW chief Sanjeev Tripathi and former NIA director Yogesh Chander Modi are among the

signatories to the letter. "BBC's 'India: The Modi Question': Delusions of British Imperial Resurrection? Not this time. Not with our leader. Not with India. Never on our watch," it said.

Their statement added, "Regardless of whom you, as an individual Indian, might have voted for, the Prime Minister of India is the Prime Minister of your country, our country. We cannot allow just about anyone to run amok with their deliberate bias, their vacuous reasoning..."

Their statement alleged that the BBC series reeks of motivated distortion that is "as mind-numbingly unsubstantiated as it is nefarious".

This is demonstrated, it said, vividly by its completely sidelining the core fact that the Supreme Court of India has unambiguously ruled out any role of Narendra Modi in the Gujarat riots of 2002, rejecting allegations of complicity and inaction by the then state government headed by him.

The SC had upheld the closure report filed by the Special Investigation Team, appointed by it, after years of investigation.

NEWS MAKERS

Chris Hipkins To Be New Zealand PM After Jacinda Ardern Decides To Quit

Agencies

SYDNEY: New Zealand's former COVID-19 response minister Chris Hipkins will replace Jacinda Ardern as prime minister after receiving the only nomination from fellow MPs, the ruling Labour Party said Saturday.

The 44-year-old senior politician must be formally backed by Labour members of parliament on Sunday to take over as the country's 41st prime minister, following Ardern's shock resignation on Thursday.

The police and education minister will lead his party's uphill battle to win general elections on October 14 as the party lags in opinion polls, criticised by opponents over rising prices, poverty and crime rates.

"The Labour Party caucus will meet at 1pm on Sunday to endorse the nomination and confirm Chris Hipkins as Party Leader," said a statement by senior Labour Party member Dun-



can Webb.

As leader of the governing party, Hipkins will also become prime minister when Ardern steps down.

Ardern, a global figurehead for progressive politics, stunned New Zealand when announcing her abrupt exit from office, less than three years after securing a second term in a landslide election win.

a long time".

Political commentators have lined up to condemn the social media abuse that was increasingly directed at Ardern before her resignation.

Former New Zealand prime minister Helen Clark said Ardern had "faced a level of hatred and vitriol" that was "unprecedented in our country".

Her successor is widely seen as a safe pair of hands with more than 14 years in parliament.

Political commentator Josie Pagani has described Hipkins as "sensible, likeable, tough and capable". There was no immediate reaction to Hipkins' win from the country's main opposition National Party.

The right-wing ACT Party urged him to "deliver on substance instead of snowing New Zealand with spin", criticising his party's record on the number of welfare recipients, rising food prices and a tight labour market. The Green Party said it looked

forward to working with him to "end poverty, take bold climate action and protect our native wildlife".

Hipkins' appointment also quashed speculation that Justice Minister Kiri Allan, one of Labour's senior Maori MPs, might have become the country's first Maori prime minister.

"Incredibly strong" But Allan praised Hipkins as decisive and said she believed he would be "an incredibly strong prime minister".

Hipkins won plaudits for his near two-year term as the Covid response minister in a country that shut down its borders to keep the coronavirus out, only fully opening in August last year.

He conceded last year that people were fed up with the strict pandemic restrictions, describing the border closures as "tough going". Hipkins describes himself as an "outdoor enthusiast" keen on mountain biking, hiking and swimming.

UK PM Rishi Sunak Gets Fined By Police For Not Wearing Seatbelt



Agencies

LONDON: British police issued Prime Minister Rishi Sunak with a fine on Friday for riding in a car without wearing his seat belt in order to film a clip for social media.

Sunak, who apologised on Thursday for what he called a "brief error of judgement", filmed a video in the back seat of his car while travelling in the north of England, without wearing a seat belt.

"Following the circulation of a video on social media showing an individual failing to wear a seat belt while a passenger in a moving car in Lancashire we have today issued a 42-year-old man from London with a conditional offer of fixed penalty," Lancashire Police said on Twitter.

Political Parties Condemn Twin Blasts In Jammu



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Political parties in Kashmir, including the National Conference, on Saturday condemned the twin bomb blasts in Jammu which left nine people injured.

The back-to-back explosions rocked a busy locality on the outskirts of Jammu city on Saturday, with police suspecting that IEDs were used to carry out the blasts.

The National Conference (NC), while condemning the blasts, called for a proper investigation into the incidents.

"I condemn this act unequivocally and hope that it is properly investigated. I express my sympathies with the families of those injured and pray for their speedy and complete recovery," NC president Farooq Abdullah said.

The party's vice president Omar Abdullah also condemned the blasts and prayed for the speedy recovery of the

injured. People's Conference tweeted, "We condemn the blasts in the Narwal area of Jammu this morning in the strongest and most unequivocal of terms."

"Our prayers for the early recovery of the injured," the party said.

Democratic Azad Party (DAP) chief Ghulam Nabi Azad strongly condemned the blasts and tweeted that the Jammu and Kashmir administration must provide all required medical facilities to the injured and support to their families.

The Apni Party said the government should identify the culprits and they should be punished.

"The twin blasts that took place in Narwal, Jammu, causing injuries to six people is condemnable. The government should identify the culprits and they should be punished," senior vice president, Apni Party, Ghulam Hassan Mir, said on Twitter.

Anti-Encroachment Drive

Anantnag Admin Retrieves 4200 Kanals Of Land In 3 Days



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The District Administration Anantnag has removed encroachment on more than 4200 kanals of state/ kahchari land in the last three days, totaling more than 40000 kanals of land retrieved so far from encroachers in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr Basharat Qayoom said that encroached lands in various tehsils have been identified and the anti-encroachment drive shall continue in full force. He said that focus is on retrieving large chunks of encroached land which can subsequently be utilized for public purposes. He said that nearly 50% of the encroached land stands retrieved and another 50% will be retrieved soon.

Giving details, it was given out that in tehsil Anantnag nearly 1600 kanals of state land and 1550 kanals of Kahcharie land has been retrieved. Similarly, in tehsil Bijbehara, 2887 kanals of state land and nearly 1511 kanals of Kahcharie land have been retrieved till date. The teams of revenue officials, led by Tehsildars are continuously removing encroachments and the remaining encroachments will be re-

moved in the coming days. It is in place to mention that in the last two days, nearly 950 kanals of Kahcharie land and 500 kanals of state land have been retrieved in Anantnag sub division alone.

In Pahalgam sub division, nearly 7300 kanals of state land and around 4000 kanals of kahcharie land have been retrieved. In Kokernag sub division, more than 2100 kanals of state land and nearly 2000 kanals of Kahcharie land have been retrieved. In sub-division Dooru, 5500 kanals of state land and 5400 kanals of Kahcharie land have been retrieved from encroachers.

The DC appealed to people to cooperate with revenue officials in removing encroachments. He said that directions have been passed to revenue teams to ensure that notice boards are displayed on retrieved lands. He said that he has also issued directions for initiating legal action against anybody obstructing the functionaries from performing their duties.

It is worth mentioning here to mention that 305 kanals in tehsil Pahalgam, 389 kanals in tehsil Bijbehara and 336 kanals in Tehsil Kokernag were removed in a single day.

ParikshaPeCharcha

Painting Competition Being Held On 6th Edition

Observer News Service

JAMMU: A painting competition is being organized in KendriyaVidyalaya No-1 under discussion programme on main examination.

On ParikshaPeCharcha, the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, every year gives mantras to the students of the country to reduce exam stress.

This event will be organized on 23rd January, in compliance of the letter from KendriyaVidyalayaSangathan and Ministry of Education, New Delhi.

In the painting competition, 17 schools of high district in which students of central schools, state

government schools and schools will participate.

KendriyaVidyalaya No-1 has been entrusted with the responsibility of organizing this event. Painting competition will be organized on the topic How to reduce exam stress.

School Principal Amit Walter will preside over this program. At the school level, this programme will be coordinated by Hardevinder Kaur and Sandhya Sharma.

It was told by the Principal of the school Walter that the school is excited about the success of this event and all the people associated with it have been fully prepared.

Tour Operator 'Dumps' Pilgrims In Syria, Flees To Kashmir

Syed Mohammad Burhan

SRINAGAR: A group of Kashmiri pilgrims have alleged that a tour operator has left them midway in Syria during a religious pilgrimage to Iran and Iraq.

One of the pilgrims identifying himself as Ali Mohammad alleged that a tour operator Syed Nasir from Harenara Pattan left him and three other pilgrims in Syria and returned to Kashmir.

"We had deposited Rs 1 lakh for a two week pilgrimage. Nasir, however, duped us in an alien land," Ali Mohammad said in a viral video.

He further alleged that the 'dumped' pilgrims, including him have been sleeping empty stomach since their arrival in New Delhi four days ago.

"I can't describe in words

the terrible experience all of us had because of the tour operator," he said.

"We sold all the goods bought during the pilgrimage to make arrangements of our stay in New Delhi," he added.

Ghulam Hassan, another pilgrim levelled similar accusations and alleged harassment at the hands of the tour operator.

"The tour operator told us to get into a plane and promised to meet us in New Delhi. That is the last time we have seen him" a visibly upset Hassan said.

Hassan further said that their tickets "to home" were cancelled by the operator and they were being forced to stay at a rented accommodation.

However, the tour operator Syed Nasir rubbished the

allegations saying the stuck pilgrims could not board the flight as they were late.

"They were staying at a rented accommodation for which I had borne the expenses and they are on their way to Kashmir" Nasir in an audio said.

Nasir charged other tour operators of hatching a conspiracy to defame his travel agency.

The stuck pilgrims have been identified as Ali Mohammad R/O Gund Khawaja Qasim, Ghulam Mohammed R/O Khandaya Terkorbal, Pattan, Mohamad Ishaq Dar R/O Gadhokh Bandipora, Gh Hassan Wani R/O Devara Yetalam Pora, Khatoon Bano R/O Dever Yatalampora, Kulsuma R/O Gadhkhud, Haleema R/O Gadhkhud Dasleepora, Fatima R/O Nowgam, Sumbal.

Lone Urges LG To Identifying Poor, Grant Them Ownership Rights

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: People's Conference president Sajad Gani Lone on Saturday said a policy should be framed to define criteria for identifying the poor and vest them with ownership rights.

He made this statement amidst an eviction drive by the Jammu and Kashmir administration against illegal encroachments on the government land.

In a letter, Lone urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to issue a formal, unambiguous order, which spares the poor and makes a distinction between possession borne out of necessity and possession borne out of the land grab.

"I am taking the liberty of writing to you about the government's drive to retrieve state land and grazing land under the possession of private people. There have been voices across the social and political spectrum to spare the poorer sections of the society," he said.

"We too have tried to raise awareness about the actual composition of the state land and unambiguously advo-



cate that the poor should be spared," Lone said.

He said the possession in the rural areas is borne out of necessity and is a practice which has gone on unhindered for decades.

"And no government ever challenged it because it made JK a unique state, where there is almost negligible homelessness. The vast majority of possession in the rural areas comprises of small land holdings, with a small humble house made by the owners," he said.

These small holdings are scattered and they will be of no use to the government, but they will make a poor family homeless, the letter said.

Referring to Sinha's announcement that the poor will not be touched, Lone said while it was very gracious of the LG, in the absence of a for-

mal order, it is the poor who are being touched.

"I am writing to request you to issue a formal, unambiguous order, which spares the poor and makes a distinction between possession borne out of necessity and possession borne out of land grab," Lone, a former minister, said.

In the absence of a clear order, the PC chief said, reports of bullying and corrupt practices have come to light.

"May I add that possession without ownership papers has all along been susceptible to blackmailing for decades. These poor souls have all along been bullied into paying bribes for not having the ownership papers," he said.

"You have a chance of a lifetime to end all the blackmailing and give these poorest sections of society a chance to live a life of dignity with no fear of bullying or blackmailing," Lone said.

"Let us hope and pray that you are able to seize the opportunity and make history for the poorest sections of the society. If you do so, it would be distinctively remembered as a historical milestone and a supreme act of statesmanship," he added.

Rahul Capable To Be India's PM: Sanjay Raut

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Saturday said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi leading the Bharat Jodo Yatra is capable to be the prime minister of India and no third front will be successful sans the grand old party.

He said the purpose of Gandhi's Yatra from Kanyakumari to Kashmir is to remove the hatred and fear and not to unite the opposition parties under the banner of his party.

"Ideological and political differences apart, he (Gandhi) will show his leadership qualities and will be a big challenge (for the ruling BJP in 2024 general elections). He will make a miracle," the Member of Parliament told reporters here.

Raut, who walked for nearly 13-km alongside Gandhi between Hatli Morh and Chandwal amid rain on Friday, said the BJP has spread a wrong notion about the Congress leader but this Yatra has busted all their myths about him.

"Why not?" he said when asked whether Gandhi is capable of becoming the prime minister of India.

"Not everyone can walk from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, covering a distance of over 3,500 kms. It needs a lot of determination and love for the country. He has shown his concern for the country and I do not see any politics in this Yatra," the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) leader said.

However, he said Gandhi



himself has been saying that he is not willing to be the prime minister but "when people want to see him on the top post, he will be left with no choice".

Rejecting the idea of a third front without the Congress, Raut said the grand old party has a lot of weight and has presence in every nook and corner of the country. "No third front can be successful without Congress, this time it has a low number of MPs but the situation is going to change in 2024. Without the Congress, no front can be successful is a reality and this needs to be taken into account."

"The main purpose of my visit to J and K was to join the Gandhi-led Yatra at the direction of my leader and I had a good experience walking alongside Gandhi. It is not a political Yatra," he said.

Raut, who reached here on January 19 and also visited protesting Kashmiri Pandit and Dogra employees seeking relocation from Kashmir over the past six months following the targeted killings, said he was surprised to find out that J-K is faced with the same issues

which were discussed by him over a decade ago.

"Governments changed and so the politics but whether it is an issue of Kashmiri Pandits refugees, law and order situation, security concerns of the people and terrorism, the questions are still same," he said, slamming the BJP for its "failure to turn Kashmir back into paradise" over the past eight years.

He said four years have passed but there is no assembly election even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government promised large scale investment, creation of jobs for unemployed and return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits.

About the party's strategy for the next assembly elections whenever held in J-K, Raut said his party is open to a grand alliance provided it gets a respectable place. "Otherwise, we will go for polls alone as J-K is full of public issues which have remained unresolved for years."

He said the BJP under Modi is a big party but "If you see barring a few states, it is dependent on other parties or divided its own coalition partners to stay in power."

400 KM Road Length Macadamized In Bandipora In 2 Years



Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: Taking phenomenal leap in the Road connectivity, the District Administration Bandipora has macadamized around 400 kms of road length across the district during the last 2 years, an official spokesperson said Saturday.

The macadamized road includes some 16 long-pending road projects of far-flung areas viz. Gurez, Tulail and Ketson, Chuntimullah, Kudara, etc. besides to metal about 300 kms of road length

The completed road projects include Neeru Sikander, Belpora-ketson, Safaiaab, PTL-Dangithal, Athwatoo-labkachal, Chuntimulla, Darmahama-Guzerbal, Garoora-Bachnar, Garoora-Galkal, kanzalwan -Bagtore, Shirbugh etc. and construction of Bridge at Sultanpora Zalpora.

Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmad while speaking on this achievement informed that there has been focused attention on completion of ongoing road projects especially those of far-flung, border areas of the district and to make the maximum roads all-weather with a view to ensure round the year connectivity.

He further said that all 41 unconnected habitations as of the 2011 survey stand connected this year which is yet another milestone in road connectivity progress of the district. He also appreciated the efforts of

R&B and PMGSY Departments besides other coordinating and assisting departments like Revenue etc. and also the local people and concerned PRIs for achieving the desired targets of Macadamization and improvement of the riding surface of the roads.

Dr. Owais further said that improvement in the road connectivity shall lead to the overall improvement in the standards of living of the people and shall also increase the economic activity in the said areas and shall also have a multiple effect on livelihood options and increased tourist flow to Gurez Valley.

The DC further said that the achievement in a place of peculiar topography like Gurez and having very limited working season, has been possible due to concerted efforts like working in double shifts, Night shifts and also operationalization of first-ever Hotmix plant and continuous supervision and resolution of allied issues by senior officers of the administration.

He said 15 road projects with 290 kms of road length in areas like Hajin and Bandipora have also been approved under NAB-ARD and are presently at various stages of completion and once completed shall further enhance the connectivity. And additionally, many other projects are also in pipeline to further boost the connectivity and to ensure all-weather connectivity to the last and farthest habitation of the district

Crackdown Continues Against Drug Traffickers In Shopian

Notices Issued To 3 More Persons Under NDPS Act 1985 For Declaring Sources Of Movable & Immovable Properties

Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: In continuation to the war against drug trafficking, the District Administration Shopian on Saturday issued notices to three more persons involved in illicit drug trafficking.

These drug traffickers, as per notices issued, have been involved in the illicit trade of drugs with the motive of taking illegal proceeds. They have made investment in acquiring movable and immovable properties from the illegal proceeds from the drug trade.

Taking cognizance of their illegal activities, Additional District Magistrate Shopian has issued notices for declaring sources of their movable and

immovable properties under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotic Substances Act, 1985.

The accused have been asked to attend the ADM office within 30 days. All these 03 persons belong to Zainapora tehsil.

They have been further asked to produce documents indicating their source of income, earnings or assets by means of which they have acquired properties and show why acquired properties may not be declared illegal and seized as per the provisions of the NDPS Act.

Earlier, similar notices were issued to 09 persons, 04 belonging to Shopian tehsil, 02 to Zainapora tehsil, 01 each from Hermal, Chitragam and Barbugh.

5 Gamblers Held In Baramulla

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested five gamblers in twin raids in Delina area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Three gamblers were arrested after a team from police post Shopian carried out a raid on the basis of a specific information, a police spokesperson said. He identified the accused as Ghulam Nabi Bazaz, Naveed Nabi Bhat and Gh Hassan Bhat. Besides playing cards, the spokesperson said, Rs 2,320 cash was recovered from the gamblers.

Similarly, he said, a police party led by IC PP Mirgund raided the gambling site at Rambailgarh and arrested 3 gamblers on the spot.

He identified the accused as Adil Ahmad Khan, and Shahzad Ahmad. The spokesperson said that officers have seized Rs 4,000/- and playing cards from the gamblers.

"Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and investigations have been initiate," he added.

Winter Carnival Arrangements Reviewed In Kupwara

Press Trust Of India

KUPWARA: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatray, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kupwara, Ghulam Nabi Bhat on Saturday convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the arrangements for smooth conduct of Kupwara Winter Carnival 2023, here.

The ADC received feedback from the concerned officers regarding the preparations and directed them to further improve the facilities for the

winter carnival.

He said that the winter carnival is the first of its experience in the district and the people have aspirations for the carnival. He asked the officers to make this carnival more attractive so that more and more tourists could visit and enjoy the beauty of Kupwara district especially Drangyari which is the specified venue for the carnival.

He said the conduct of winter carnival shall boost the tourism activities in a big way which will create livelihood opportunities for the local youth of the district.

The Fall of Research Culture

Muhammad Tahir

“
But while Kashmiri scholars in general understand and have tried to highlight where the problem lies as far as the social science research in Kashmir is concerned, those at the leadership positions have shied away from taking necessary measures. Those who have power to do something have sometimes tried to impose their own policies without consultation with the larger academic community

IN the absence of platforms that channelise, highlight and vocalise their concerns, Kashmiris have taken to “democratic” online platforms to flag issues that concern them. Recently, on a Club House discussion on social science research in Kashmir, speakers were of the view that Kashmir, as a society, lacks research culture and hence Kashmiris are not producing good scholarship in social sciences. Only a handful of Kashmiri social science researchers have produced books and published in international journals, and many of them are based in American and European universities, and some in mainland India. One speaker, a PhD scholar based in Jamia Millia Islamia, was of the view that while these scholars have done a good job, they have not moved beyond the theme of the ‘Kashmir conflict’. And even then, they have not built theories that could challenge the euro-centric paradigms and, more importantly, counter the statist theories/perspectives that some Indian scholars have propagated on the Kashmir situation. Another speaker, also a research scholar, raised an equally important issue: that Kashmiri researchers must remain cautious while publishing their findings because their research might end up being (mis) used.

Consensus of the Club House room discussants was that universities have the primary role and responsibility of coming up with socially relevant research that could serve as the guide for public policy and critique of the policies. How our universities have failed in their primary responsibilities were highlighted by citing how they did not care to respond to the economic crisis brought by the back-to-back lockdowns in Kashmir since August 2019. It was not publicly-funded institutions Kashmir University, IUST or CUK but a banker, Ejaz Ayoub, whose research helped the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KCCI) to come up with a loss assessment report in 2019 and 2020. Ayoub also wrote a series of articles on the state of Kashmir economy (between August 2020 and May 2021) for Kashmir Observer.

I think conversations like these, where constructive criticism is shared, are a must for things to improve. Because when we acknowledge a problem, that is the first crucial step towards the redressal of the problem. But while Kashmiri scholars in general understand and have tried to highlight where the problem lies as far as the social science research in Kashmir is concerned, those at the leadership positions have shied away from taking necessary measures. Those who have power to do something have sometimes tried to impose their own policies without consultation with the larger academic community. A senior academic once told me that a bureaucrat who was holding the charge of higher education asked them to implement the existing research



and bring out a monthly journal where all college lecturers would publish their latest research. What the bureaucrat did not understand was that things do not work that way in academia. How possibly can college academic staff implement the existing research? They don't have autonomy to even design the syllabus of the modules they are supposed to teach. They can hardly implement the academic calendar. Teaching load on academic staff (especially contractual college lecturers and assistant professors) is huge, and they can barely spare any time for a rigorous and time-consuming process of academic publication.

One speaker in the Club House discussion shared an interesting anecdote. He talked about how his friend (a historian by training) joined a university in Kashmir as an assistant professor but finding that he was not able to produce any research work in the university's suffocating environment he decided to leave the job. This tells us how the problem is actually systemic. Only when the system gets reformed can we expect better performance and results in social science research from individuals.

Yet, there is another issue. Once getting a permanent position in higher education, most assistant professors tend to take it easy. Job security leads to disinterest in research. It seems that once they become APs, they stop reading. That is to say

that they stop caring about research. But, is research a primary job of an AP? We cannot be sure, because we don't know what roles and responsibilities are delineated in the employment contract of an AP. In Europe or the US, when you join a university (whether tenure-track or contractual) you sign a contract which runs over several pages. There are different components in the contract which clearly spell out your duties and responsibilities. And, they usually balance between teaching and research, and some administrative work. But in Kashmir, things are different, rather unprofessionally run. Those who joined the Cluster University Srinagar in 2020 as contractual lecturers were not even asked to sign the contract. They were in limbo. Can we expect them to know what they were supposed to do except for being an ‘academic arrangement?’ (a rather denigrating term). An employee usually molds himself/herself into the culture of a workplace to fit in. That culture will determine how the employee will behave. If the culture of a workplace is bereft of work ethic, can we expect the employees to be any different?

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 on July 19, 2021

2022 has been an awfully eventful year for Britain. It witnessed the death of its longest serving monarch, the departure of its shortest serving prime minister, the election of its first non-white premier and the onset of the worst economic crisis it faced in over four decades.

Clearly, an ‘Annus Horribilis’ on all fronts – politically, economically and even culturally.

After Boris Johnson and Liz Truss faced the music of the post-COVID aftershock, Rishi Sunak took over, promising to turn things around for the better.

However, what lies ahead for him are two herculean tasks - stabilize a broken economy and unite the most factionalized political party in the UK. But can a rich, Oxford-educated, traditionalist handle such an ultra-sophisticated political task is the question that concerns many.

There is no doubting Sunak's credentials as a minister. He has a great resume, a robust background in finance and a great understanding of the British Economy. One would even assume he is the perfect person for the job, given the economic turbulence UK is under right now. But when you are the third prime minister to take charge in seven weeks, it is only natural that your confidence takes a bit of a nosedive.

Sunak's judgement and leadership had already fallen under the scanner when he appointed Sir Gavin Williamson as a Cabinet Office Minister in October.

Williamson has the dubious history of being expelled twice from the cabinet - once in 2019 following reports that he had leaked sensitive information and then in 2021, due to inappropriate handling of exams during COVID-19.

His selection for a third time raised eyebrows among many, but quite predictably, Williamson fell into another controversy in a week's time and had to abruptly resign in November; exposing Sunak's weak judgement and decision-making skills.

But an error in judgement isn't the only sticky situation he is facing right now.

Inflation:

With the world still enduring the after-effects of COVID-19 and the Russia-Ukraine war, several nations are experiencing an inflationary drift. Sadly, Britain has been one of the hardest hit, with rates exceeding 11% this October. Food prices across the UK have spiked, energy bills and gas prices have

skyrocketed but wages have remained the same, putting many under a terrible cost of living crisis.

If IMF projections are any indication, UK is expected to only grow a meager 0.3% this year. Sunak's longevity in office largely depends on how he tames inflation and injects growth into a slow growing economy.

Strikes, Protests and Social Unrest:

When the living cost goes up drastically, it is only natural that people would demand higher wages. Everyone from Nurses, Teachers, Postal Workers, Railway Staff, Barristers, Civil Servants and Local Government Staff either have or are planning to go on strike for better pay, pensions and working conditions. And the consequences are starting to show.

While the rail strikes in December alone have cost the economy a loss of nearly 1.5 billion pounds, the transport strikes resulted in a flurry of cancellations of planned Christmas functions, the cost of which is pretty hefty as well.

In fact, over 1.1 million working days were lost between June and October this year, the highest ever for a 5-month period since 1990.

Energy Crisis:

The rapid surge in gas and electricity prices is not only strangulating households, but threatening business productivity and putting government policy to test. With the arrival of winter and a subsequent increase in energy requirements, the crisis is only expected to get worse.

While it is fair to argue that pulling out of trade deals with Russia was a strategic choice, managing the consequences is where Britain failed miserably. The result? Domestic gas and electricity prices shot up by 130% and 66% respectively, resulting in businesses and households grasping at straws in desperation.

Will Rishi Sunak Survive The 2023 Ordeal?

Nirmala Abraham

With the ‘bomb cyclone’ wreaking havoc in the US, gas supply from the States may also be interrupted, resulting in a crisis so bad that Households will have to choose between either cooking a meal or heating the house to survive the winter.

Immigration:

Britain, like most European nations, has bore the brunt of providing asylum to illegal immigrants - a scenario that it can no longer lavishly afford. But in the age of compassion and inclusivity, it is interesting to see how Sunak will tactfully deal with this issue.

He recently introduced a 5-step plan for curbing illegal immigration and bringing a cap on the number of refugees allowed, along with announcing a new agreement with Albania - a relatively safer nation, whose asylum claims were all rejected last year by every other European superpower except the UK.

The new law will mean that if you reach Britain illegally, you will first be detained and then returned to a home country or a safe country where your claim could be considered. Once removed in such a way, you will have no right to re-entry, settlement or citizenship in the UK.

Assistance to Ukraine:

Even amidst the crisis in 2022, Britain provided military assistance amounting to 2.6 billion USD to Ukraine, making them the second largest donor after the United States. Judging from Sunak's campaign speeches, the monumental funding process is likely to continue in 2023 as well.

But given the current economic emergency, Sunak would either have to discontinue generously spending on Ukraine or give a serious justification to his people, as to why he is expending such a large chunk of money on helping Ukraine, when his own

nation is in dire straits.

Managing the Intra-Party Dissent:

With the election approaching in less than two years, the conservative party cannot afford to be separated in interest or divided in purpose. It has already lost a fair amount of voters owing to maladministration and controversies during COVID-19. Oddly enough, there are now members within the party who believe that a defeat in 2024 is inevitable and are virtually just ‘doing their time’.

As high as 15 MP's have already confirmed they will not be standing in the next election, and many others are poised to do the same.

Even during the New Year speech, Sunak's tone sounded a tad pessimistic - nearly hinting that the UK may not recover in 2023. Knowing how diplomatic UK leaders generally are in public addresses, there is every chance he is lowballing.

In contrast, Labour Party leader Keir Starmer struck more of a sanguine tone, vowing to set out the ‘case for change’ for a brand new Britain.

Unsurprisingly, the recent polls indicated that the Labour Party is way ahead in popularity - with a whopping lead of 26 points - signifying that if an election were to happen today, the Labour Party would make a clean sweep.

The GB News poll also found that the public has little confidence that Rishi Sunak's cabinet will ease the cost of living burden in 2023.

Even the popularity poll for ‘minister of the year’ had Sunak at the fifth place, trailing behind Former PM Boris Johnson, Defence Secretary Ben Wallace and two other cabinet ministers, indicating just how unpopular he is, even among party fanatics.

That being said, it is too early to write off Mr. Sunak. A few bold decisions may help him turn the boat around, and if he does, he will not only save the British Economy, but help the Tory Party pull off an unlikely win in 2024.

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

Nirmala Abraham is a Management Professor, Columnist and International Affairs Analyst who has published Op-Eds for leading National Newspapers and Digital Media Outlets in India and Abroad

From Classroom to Cupcakes

Teacher Leaves Classroom To Pursue Career In Baking



Syed Mohammad Burhan

“While exciting, the transition from employee to entrepreneur was not an easy one as Rigzin discovered. Being self-taught comes with its own unique set of challenges. Every initial step was a lesson in patience and perseverance

Srinagar: In the short span since its inception, ‘Sweet Treats by Tanya’ has garnered a loyal patronage and popularity amongst its discerning clientele. However, this foray into the world of professional baking is a recent venture for the Srinagar-based baker Tanya Rigzin. The hands that wield the whisk held a chalk not too long ago.

“I started my career as a teacher, I joined an esteemed school in the valley. With my IT background I started off teaching computers and eventually also taught language and phonetics,” she said.

The job served as the perfect platform that allowed Rigzin to blend her educational expertise, keen interest in child education and love for kids.

“While challenging, my role as an educator was deeply rewarding. Grooming my students, molding young minds and guiding them through this important and impressionable phase brought immense satisfaction”, says an evidently content Rigzin.

“There’s nothing more gratifying than contributing to a child’s holistic growth and witnessing him/her bloom into a bright young individual”, she says. “And in return my wonderful students taught me many precious life lessons with the immense love and respect they showered on me”, she recalls.

Belonging from a family deeply rooted in their mother culture, Tanya grew up with immense love for the cultural traditions of the valley, particularly its cuisine. Her keen interest in food was always appreciated with support and encouragement at home.

“During my teaching stint, I would often cook or bake treats for my colleagues. Everyone at work loved my bakes and would often urge and encourage me to consider baking professionally if I ever took the plunge”.

But being a dedicated teacher with a demanding full-time job meant baking remained a hobby and leisure passion for Rigzin.

“As much as I loved my teaching job and despite the immense satisfaction it brought me, a medical condition forced me to resign and end my decade long academic career

to focus on my health”, recounts Ms Rigzin.

In the months that followed, after a long and intensive treatment, Tanya made a full recovery.

“While I regained my health, I missed being at work. I was raring to go and ready for the proverbial second innings”, she tells us.

“My Ikigai moment serendipitously revealed itself to me during this time of introspection and searching for a purpose. Backed by family and with a lot of support and encouragement from colleagues and friends, I launched my independent baking business ‘Sweet Treats By Tanya’. A lockdown baby that was born from a place of immense passion and love”, she proudly shares.

While exciting, the transition



from employee to entrepreneur was not an easy one as Rigzin discovered.

“Being self-taught comes with its own unique set of challenges. Every initial step was a lesson in patience and perseverance. I painstakingly taught myself not only the craft and skill of baking at a professional level but also the nitty-gritties of running a business”, she says.

“I am a one-woman team. Every aspect of the business, from sourcing, baking, packaging, branding and logistics is personally handled by me. While this can be daunting, it also gives me total control on the quality of my product and service”, reveals Ms. Rigzin.

Tanya believes that good produce and ingredients are the building



blocks of a great product.

“I have an uncompromising approach when it comes to sourcing the best ingredients. Whether it is single origin couverture chocolate, freshest seasonal fruits or premium quality base ingredients and flavorings. The attention to detail is evident in every bake that is made at ‘Sweet Treats by Tanya’”, Rigzin informs us.

She has gradually built and developed the menu to what it is today and is constantly looking for newer, better ideas to add to her list of offerings.

“I always wanted my menu to have depth and width when it came to the choices and variations on offer. At Sweet Treats by Tanya I have something for every palate, occasion and mood”, says the baker.

“I have also been mindful of balancing the menu with a mix of savory and sweet options. So where you have a masterfully crafted decadent apple tart, you will also find an indulgent and rustic quiche loaded with chicken and mushrooms”, says Tanya elaborating on her menu.

“I am immensely proud of the variety of cakes on offer at ‘Sweet Treats By Tanya’. The range spans from moreish tea cakes and loaves to decadent ones made to order and highly customized edible wonders to suit every requirement. And while the menu runs deep in variety, it is also flexible to accommodate personal customizations”, says Ms. Rigzin.

Sweet Treat By Tanya designs and delivers customized celebratory cakes for landmark occasions like birthdays and anniversaries.

“Whether it is a customized birthday or anniversary cake with a heartfelt message for a loved one or a specially designed tiered wedding masterpiece, it gives me immense joy to be a part of these special moments and contribute in making lifelong memories for our trusting patrons.”, says a beaming Rigzin.

Besides these sophisticated cre-

ations, Sweet Treats By Tanya also makes fun cakes with exciting themes for kids.

“I enjoy baking cakes with requests to incorporate a favorite cartoon or anime character for kids and youngsters. I use different media and materials like fondant figurines, customized toppers and kid-friendly colors to evoke a sense of wonder in these specially curated cakes”, says the teacher turned entrepreneur.

Their range of cupcakes with pretty frosting, delicious muffins and choco-fudge bonbons are a big hit with the little ones, we are told.

Rigzin is known to make customized baked goodies to accommodate clients with specific needs and preferences. “I believe treats should be inclusive. When patrons approach me with special requests, I take the test of my skills as a challenge and modify recipes to accommodate dietary restrictions or choices. Once a client reached out for a vegan cake for her son with food allergies after being turned down by other businesses in the city. I delivered a cake to fit her exacting requirements without compromising on flavor. While such projects take extra effort, “the beaming smile on her son’s face as he relished the cake was priceless”, says Tanya, recounting one such instance.

“While we cater to our patrons round the year, we have specially curated seasonal menus for Eid, Christmas and other festivals. These festive treats are not only popular with our resident patrons, but I get many requests for special orders by people living outside the valley to give their loved ones here”, Tanya tells us.

Tanya believes cake doesn’t really need an occasion or excuse. And when you decide to create or celebrate one, Sweet Treats By Tanya is a call away to fulfill all your sweet and savory cravings with that special touch and sweetness of love.

The Secret Intelligence of Parenting

How executive functioning leads to secure attachment.

Lou Cozolino | Chloe Drulis | Carly Samuelson

Executive functioning is an umbrella term that refers to our ability to take action on behalf of our thoughts, feelings, motivations, and goals. It’s a buzzword in education and is often thought of as a set of cognitive skills that leads to high SAT scores and promotions in the workplace. While a CEO has to have good executive functioning, there is another, often overlooked population that requires the same exceptional coordination of cognitive, social, and emotional skills: parents.

If you were to ask a mother (or father)—in the midst of juggling her groceries and a crying baby—how she does it, it wouldn’t be out of the ordinary for her to reply with a self-deprecating remark. “I have no idea what I’m doing!” she might say, as she fumbles with the car seat, popping a pacifier into the mouth of her baby at just the right moment. Her gaze lingers on her little one, stroking her cheek until she settles into a state of calm, at which point the mother returns to the conversation. “I’m just taking my cues from her,” she says.

It turns out, taking cues from your infant is truly the gold standard of parenting in the first year. The past two decades of neuroscience research have shown that while a child needs basic necessities to survive, they also need emotional care and support if they are going to thrive. The importance of affection and comfort is not just a sweet sentiment, it is central to our sense of well-being. The field of attachment shows how a sense of safety with our caregivers shapes our ability to regulate our emotions and manage the natural anxiety of

life (Schore, 2005). Many psychological disorders are correlated with a lack of attachment security, highlighting how attachment has the power to either set us up for optimal development or severely set us back (Set et al., 2019). So, how does one create secure attachment with their child? We think the answer might be good executive functioning.

While the mother at the grocery store might feel as if she doesn’t know what she’s doing, she’s actually engaging in a highly complex mental process. Taking cues from your infant is a lot more nuanced and precise than it might seem. There are many factors that must converge in order to effectively soothe one’s baby in the midst of a chaotic moment. A mother’s ability to intuit her child’s needs and to execute them quickly and effectively reveals a dynamic intelligence that hinges on excellent executive functioning.

In her influential attachment research, Mary Ainsworth studied mother-child interactions which revealed patterns in the mother’s behavior toward the child that lead to either attachment security, or one of the various forms of non-secure attachment (avoidant, ambivalent, and the later discovered disorganized category). The main parental characteristics that lead to secure attachment were summarized by Ainsworth in the following four measures of her Maternal Sensitivity Scales. In the outline below, we conceptualize how each scale represents the coordination of several executive functions—a useful tool for parents and clinicians, alike.

Sensitivity vs. insensitivity to a baby’s signals

A sensitive parent enlists multiple executive functions in order to be aware of their child’s sig-

nals, accurately interpret them, and respond appropriately and promptly. They have an ability to manage their own emotional states and cope with them without transferring those feelings onto the child or taking on their child’s emotions as their own. From a cognitive standpoint, sensitivity also includes the ability of the parent to recognize that their child’s tantrum about having to leave the park, while not serious to the adult, is very real to the child. This includes having realistic expectations of the child’s developmental stage and abilities and supporting them accordingly. This is a delicate balance considering the anxiety and overwhelm that often accompanies parenting, and it requires social awareness and empathy for the child.

Cooperation vs. interference with baby’s behavior

A cooperative parent views her baby as an autonomous person, whose wishes and activities have validity of their own. When their baby is involved in play or activities of their choice, the parent consciously limits interruption. Cognitively, this requires executive functions such as delayed gratification, putting their baby’s needs first, and creating strategies to use when interruptions are necessary. In order to do this, the parent must also have the ability to manage their anxiety around their own schedule and desire for control when it is in conflict with the wishes of their child. This level of cooperation must also be grounded in a strong sense of social intelligence and emotional regulation on the part of the parent.

Physical and psychological availability vs. ignoring and neglecting

An available parent is one that is accessible

and emotionally attentive to their child such that they are always, at least peripherally, on the parent’s mind when in their care. The parent is never too absorbed in their own thoughts, feelings, or activities to shift attention to their child when necessary. In order for this to happen, a parent must be flexible in their attention and alert to the child’s whereabouts and needs. Other important executive functions required for this level of attunement include having a selective filter to tune into the child’s sounds, signals, and bodily cues. Like a good CEO, an available parent is strategic in the way that they manage competing needs and responsibilities while remaining present.

Acceptance vs. rejection of the baby’s needs

An accepting parent is able to balance conflicting feelings about parenthood, both positive and negative. They do not harbor resentment for the ways that their lives have been turned upside down and accept the responsibility wholeheartedly. The parent is able to tolerate frustration about the baby’s behavior without taking it personally. They support the child’s individual sense of self, encouraging them to fully express themselves even if it’s triggering. They are not reactive to the child’s behavior because they have coping skills to help them process difficult emotions in the moment. When there is a rupture, they move swiftly through frustration to repair the bond. They use reflection and an inner equilibrium to extend compassion and adjust to the child’s developmental capacity.

The article was originally published by Psychology Today

'Hybrid Immunity Offers More Protection Against Severe Covid Than Infection Alone'

Press Trust Of India

Individuals with hybrid immunity had the highest magnitude and durability of protection, and may be able to extend the period before booster vaccinations are needed compared to individuals who have never been infected, according to a new study.

Hybrid immunity refers to immunity developed through a combination of SARS-CoV-2 infection and vaccination.

The effectiveness of hybrid immunity against hospital admission or severe disease was 97.4 per cent at 12 months with primary series vaccination and 95.3 per cent at 6 months with the first booster vaccination after the most recent infection or vaccination, the study said.

The effectiveness of previous infection against hospital admission or severe disease was 74.6 per cent at 12 months. The effectiveness of previous infection against reinfection waned to 24.7 per cent at 12 months, the study said.

The study, published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases, reported that all estimates of protection waned within months against reinfection but remained high and sustained for hospital admission or severe disease.

Eleven studies reporting the protective effectiveness of previous SARS-CoV-2 infection and 15 studies reporting the protective effectiveness of hybrid immunity were included, the study said.

Against reinfection, the effectiveness of hybrid immunity following primary series vaccination waned to 41.8 per cent at 12 months, while the effectiveness of hybrid immunity following first booster vaccination waned to 46.5 per cent at 6 months, the study said.

Estimates of vaccine effectiveness, i.e., vaccinated vs unvaccinated, against the omicron variant were obtained from the dataset of a systematic review and meta-regression involving 19 studies of both primary series and booster vaccination, of which 18

were primary series studies and 12 were first booster studies.

The scientists applied their meta-regression model to the dataset to project the trends of waning vaccine effectiveness, in parallel with trends for previous infection and hybrid immunity generated from data procured in our systematic review, the study said.

The scientists searched MEDLINE (Ovid), Embase (Ovid), Web of Science (Core Collection), ClinicalTrials.gov, the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (Ovid), WHO COVID-19 database, and Europe PubMed Central (limited to pre-prints) from Jan 1, 2020, to June 1, 2022, the study said.

The studies that were included examined protection against reinfection with the omicron variant, in which the exposure group was people with previous infection with any SARS-CoV-2 variant or hybrid immunity and the control group was immunonaive individuals, previously infected individuals, or previously vaccinated individuals, the study said.

Infection due to the omicron variant was determined by genomic sequencing or inferred on the basis of time periods when the variants were predominant according to the Global Initiative on Sharing Avian Influenza Data (GISAID) EpiFlu database, the study said.

Restricting the spread of SARS-CoV-2 infection and preventing severe COVID-19 remains a priority at the global scale.

Immunological protection from SARS-CoV-2 can be induced from previous infection or vaccination.

However, estimating the magnitude and durability of this protection in the population has become a challenge because of the surge in the omicron (B.1.1.529) variant, which has resulted in many individuals with hybrid immunity, varying rates and timings of past infection and vaccination, multiple types of vaccination and numbers of doses, and variants of concern that can escape pre-existing immunity, the study said.



Study Identifies Neighbourhood Characteristics That Promote Walking And Cycling

ANI

How people perceive their own neighbourhoods may have a lot to do with whether they choose to walk and cycle, according to a global study of nearly 40,000 adults.

Simon Fraser University health sciences professor Scott Lear says those most likely to walk more than 150 minutes a week for commuting or leisure purposes reported their neighbourhoods had more desirable features.

The likelihood of cycling and walking was associated with land use mix-diversity (amenities such as stores or parks within a

20-minute walk), street connectivity (number of three and four-way intersections) and safety from crime.

"Cycling and walking are two excellent ways to weave exercise into daily life and meet those fitness goals outlined in many New Year's resolutions," says Lear, who was part of an international team whose research, published in Cities, spanned 21 countries. "We sought to understand how factors in the built environment can either promote or discourage a person from engaging in these forms of physical activity."

Study participants were between the ages of 35-70 living in

more than 350 urban communities from low, middle and high-income countries as classified by the World Bank.

"Levels of physical inactivity are rising globally and in high-income countries such as Canada, over 70 per cent of adults are physically inactive," says Lear. "One in four adults do not meet the globally recommended activity level of at least 150 minutes per week of moderate-intensity aerobic physical activity and this trend has negative consequences for our health." The team observed a greater likelihood of cycling with high land use mix and aesthetics levels.

New Protein Target Found Which Pancreatic Cancer Cells Leverage To Resist Therapy: Study

Press Trust Of India

Scientists have found a new protein target, leveraged by pancreatic cancer cells usually to suppress tumours, but here instead to help them evade therapy and, thus, grow more quickly, according to a new study.

Scientists revealed that this is another way in which the most-resistant pancreatic cancer cells defy treatment, the study said.

The international team of researchers was led by University of California San Diego School of Medicine and the Sanford Consortium for Regenerative Medicine, the study said.

Previous research has shown that pancreatic cancer treatment resistance is caused by differing responses to conventional agents, fuelled by the heterogeneity, or diversity, of tumour cells - and in particular, stem cell characteristics that

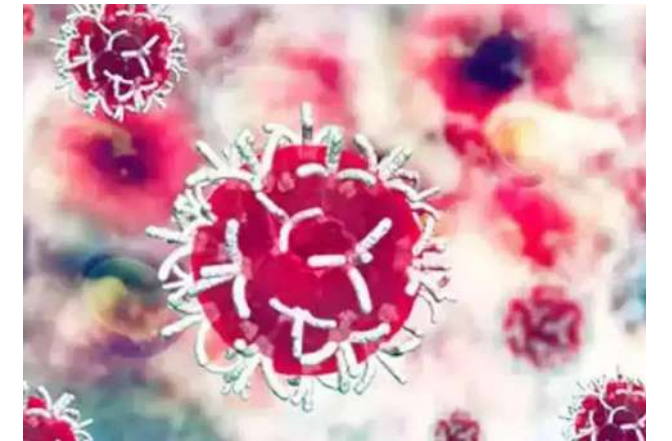
10 per cent, the study said.

"Pancreatic cancer stem cells, which are aggressive cancer cells that can resist conventional therapies and drive tumour relapse, rely upon epigenetic regulation to protect themselves and promote survival and growth," said Reya, Columbia University.

"We wanted to identify the underlying tools and mechanisms that cancer stem cells use to better understand treatment resistance - and perhaps how they might be circumvented," said Reya.

According to the study, Reya and colleagues zeroed in on SMARCD3, a member of the SWI/SNF family of proteins that regulate chromatin, a mixture of DNA and proteins that form chromosomes and are required for stem cell function in development.

But while SWI-SNF subunits often act as tumour suppressors, the researchers found that



encourage therapy resistance.

In this study, senior author Tannishtha Reya and colleagues investigated how shifting epigenomics, or the multitude of proteins that tell the genome what to do, rather than genomic changes might be driving resistance. Genomic changes are changes specific to the genes themselves.

The paper is published in the journal Nature Communications.

Pancreatic cancer is the third deadliest cancer in the United States, after lung and colorectal, though far less common. It is also among the hardest to effectively treat, with pancreatic cancer stem cells quickly developing resistance to conventional and targeted treatments, such as chemotherapy and emerging immunotherapies.

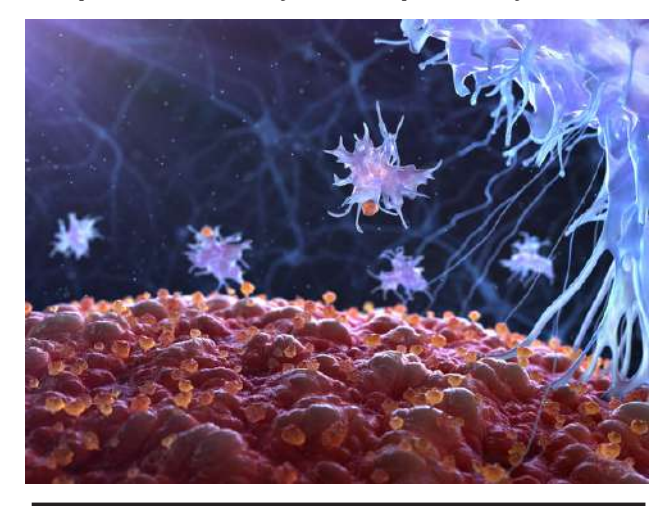
As a result, the 5-year survival rate for people diagnosed with pancreatic cancer is just

SMARCD3 was amplified in cancer, notably abundant in pancreatic cancer stem cells and upregulated or increased in the human disease, the study said.

And when researchers deleted SMARCD3 in models of pancreatic cancer, the loss of the protein reduced the growth of tumours and improved survival, especially in the context of chemotherapy, the study said.

"Importantly, we found that SMARCD3 helps control lipid and fatty acid metabolism, which are associated with therapy resistance and poor prognosis in cancer," said Reya.

"Our data suggest that therapy resistant pancreatic cancer cells depend upon SMARCD3 to help ensure a metabolic landscape in which they can avoid anti-cancer treatments and grow aggressively. That makes SMARCD3 an exciting new target for potential therapies," said Reya.



“IMPORTANTLY, WE FOUND THAT SMARCD3 helps control lipid and fatty acid metabolism, which are associated with therapy resistance and poor prognosis in cancer.”

Netflix To Soon Roll Out Paid Password Sharing

IANs

Streaming giant Netflix has announced that it will roll out its paid password sharing "more broadly" "later in" the first quarter (Q1) of this year.

"While our terms of use limit use of Netflix to a household, we recognise this is a change for members who share their account more broadly," the company said in its earnings reports on Thursday.

"As we roll out paid sharing, members in many countries will also have the option to pay extra if they want to share Netflix with people they don't live with," it added.

After launching the paid password sharing, the streaming giant expects some "cancel reaction in each market" but it will eventually result in "improved overall revenue."

The company also announced that Reed Hastings has stepped down as Netflix's co-CEO and will now serve as an executive chairman, and Greg Peters has stepped up from COO to become Ted Sarandos's co-CEO.



Meanwhile, last month, it was reported that Netflix was planning to put an end to its password sharing feature in early 2023.

The company had long been aware that password sharing is a problem that negatively affects its earnings, but the rise in subscriptions in 2020 led the streaming giant to avoid addressing the issue. Because of the revenue downfall last year and the platform's first subscriber loss in 10 years, Hastings decided that it was time to take action on the issue.

In October last year, the streaming giant had announced the "Profile Transfer" feature to prevent password sharing that had been rolled out to all members globally.

Instagram Users Can Now Pause Notifications With 'Quiet Mode'



IANs

Meta has introduced a new "Quiet mode" on Instagram, which will allow users to pause notifications whenever they want to take a break from the social networking platform.

Once the new mode is enabled, users will not receive any notifications and their profile's activity status will change to let people know, the company said in a blogpost on Thursday.

Moreover, the platform will automatically send an auto-reply when someone sends users a direct message (DM).

Users can easily customise their Quiet mode hours to fit

their schedule and once the feature is turned off, the platform will show them a quick summary of notifications so they can catch up on what they missed.

"Anyone can use Quiet mode, but we'll prompt teens to do so when they spend a specific amount of time on Instagram late at night," the company said.

The new mode is available to users in the US, the UK, Ireland, Canada, Australia and New Zealand and will roll out to more countries soon.

The company also introduced new features that will allow users to tell the platform what content they don't want to be recommended to them.

Users can now choose to hide multiple pieces of content in the Explore page that they are not interested in and the platform will try to avoid showing them that type of content.

Moreover, the platform has also expanded its feature that allowed users to hide comments and DMs containing specific words.

Users can now add a word or list of words, emojis or hashtags that they want to avoid, like "fitness" or "recipes".

"In addition to providing teens with more ways to manage their time and experiences on Instagram, we want to help parents be more aware of the choices their teens make," Meta said.

Despite being geographically distant from Kashmir how Kashmiris in West maintain cultural, social, and emotional linkages with their homeland. Tune-in to latest KO podcast

KASHMIR OBSERVER



KO PODCAST

Uration Incident: AI Pilots' Body Mulls Legal Course Against Suspension Of Pilot

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Air India pilots' body IPG is considering legal recourse and other options, regarding aviation regulator DGCA suspending the licence of the pilot-in-command of the flight where a passenger allegedly urinated on a female co-passenger onboard last November.

A senior member of the Indian Pilots Guild (IPG), which represents the airline's pilots who fly wide-body planes, said it will take up the issue of suspension of the pilot concerned strongly.

The urination incident happened onboard New York-Delhi flight on November 26, 2022 and it came to the notice of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) only on January 4.

For various violations, DGCA, on Friday, imposed a fine of Rs 30 lakh on Air India, Rs 3 lakh penalty on the airline's director of in-flight services and suspended the licence of the pilot-in-command for three months.

"We are considering all options, including taking legal action for the pilot's licence suspension. We are talking to our lawyers on the issue and will soon take a call," the IPG member told PTI on the condition of anonymity.

The member claimed that the pilot concerned had acted



very maturely. "It has all been reported to the company at that time. If after all of this you still think that the pilot has not acted, then we need to understand what you are talking about and why you find him at fault." The member also alleged that there is a lot of "pressure to find a scapegoat in the entire case.

There was no immediate comment from Air India.

According to reports, Air India's senior management was informed about the urination incident hours after the flight landed on November 26.

The incident of passenger misbehaviour occurred on AI-102 flight from New York to Delhi on November 26 last year, wherein a male passenger conducted himself in a disorderly manner and allegedly relieved himself on a female passenger, according to DGCA.

The watchdog had issued show cause notices to Air India's Accountable Manager, Director in-flight services, all the pilots and cabin crew members of that flight as to why enforcement action should not be taken against them for dereliction of their regulatory obligations.

Telangana Secures ₹21,000 Crore Investments During World Economic Forum



Press Trust Of India

HYDERABAD: Telangana has attracted investments worth ₹21,000 crore across various sectors during the recently concluded annual World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting at Davos in Switzerland, an official release said on Saturday.

A delegation led by Telangana IT and Industries Minister K T Rama Rao has successfully concluded its trip to Davos and the minister's efforts to bring investments to the state have yielded fruitful results, it said.

"All the meetings at the WEF were highly productive and we were able to attract ₹21,000 crore at the meet," K T Rama Rao said.

Presenting the growth story of Telangana and pitching for investments, the minister participated in meetings with leaders of top global organisations, attended round tables and spoke at panel discussions in which he shared his thoughts on a wide array of subjects in the four-day trip.

In addition to this, the minister also interacted with the Indian

community in Zurich and highlighted the progress of Telangana to the NRIs in Switzerland.

When the global economy is on the brink of recession, Telangana managed to bag some big-ticket investments. The Telangana delegation was successful in showcasing the state as a global investment destination and gateway to India, the release further said.

Sharing his experience of the visit, Mr Rama Rao observed that the WEF is the right platform to introduce Telangana, which has exceptional industrial policies and infrastructure, and said that Telangana is strengthening its ties with companies on the WEF platform.

Rama Rao said bringing huge investments to the state and thereby creating employment is the driving force. "I believe that all the new investments and meetings regarding prospective investments will yield favourable outcomes," he added.

On the occasion, the state minister thanked officials from the IT and Industries Department and other departments who were involved in making this trip successful.

'J&K Apiculture Sector Buzzes With Anticipation Of Big Boost To Beekeeping'

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The J&K Apiculture sector is eagerly awaiting the launch of a mega project, approved by the UT administration, aimed at promoting apiculture with investment of Rs 47 crore in next three years.

The prestigious project is expected to significantly increase honey production in the UT.

Efforts are underway to introduce apitherapy to a wider audience. The sector is projected to grow from its current annual output of Rs 69 crore to Rs 682 crore within five years, resulting in gainful employment for 8122 persons and creation of 82 private sector enterprises.

The project, which is being carried out by the Agriculture Production Department, has been allocated a budget of Rs 46.65 crore with an avowed objective of increasing honey production three-fold, the bee population by 333 percent and crop production of cross-pollinated crops by 20-25 percent.

"Beekeeping is an important source of income and livelihood for many rural youth, landless farmers, and small and medium-size farmers in J&K. The honeybees not only produce honey but also play a crucial role in pollinating thousands of flowering plants, thereby contributing to food security", Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department Atal Dulloo said.

The decline in pollinating bees poses a danger to the natural en-



vironment and agricultural sustainability, and the biodiversity of the Himalayan region can be restored through bee activity.

The "Promotion of beekeeping in UT of J&K" project is one of 29 projects approved by the J&K administration and recommended by the UT Level Apex Committee for the holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors.

For this purpose, a committee has been constituted under Dr. Mangala Rai, Former DG ICAR, which comprises other experts in agriculture, planning, statistics and the administration.

The major constraints faced by the beekeeping industry in J&K included degradation and deforestation, the use of pesticides, lack of infrastructure, lack of standard migration practices, traceability, and changes in the blooming patterns of crucial forage plants. The project aims at addressing these issues by increasing the number of colonies through cluster formation, encouraging bee-preneurship and bee-startups, besides de-

veloping infrastructure for post-harvest management, value addition, and marketing.

After implementation of the project, the number of bee colonies is expected to increase from 143 to 3.085 lakh, the number of beekeepers from 4526 to 7396, and honey production from 23050 to 66100 quintals. In addition to honey production, income from bee by-products such as royal jelly, bee venom, pollen, and wax worth Rs. 474 Crore per annum will also be realised. An amount of Rs. 4.4 Cr has been allocated for research and development.

The Agriculture Production Department will implement the project in collaboration with SKUAST-J&K, which will lead to holistic development of apiculture, generate employment opportunities, provide livelihood sources and create entrepreneurship opportunities for landless, small and medium-sized farmers resulting in an overall improvement in their socio-economic conditions.



Director H&H Kashmir Inaugurates Exhibition At Arts Emporium Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Director Handicrafts & Handloom (H&H) Kashmir, Mahmood Ahmad Shah Saturday inaugurated the Papier Machie exhibition at Government Arts Emporium, Srinagar.

The exhibition was organised by the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir in association with J&K Handicrafts and Handloom Corporation wherein the master pieces of Papier Machie by Hakeem Manzoor, a master craftsman, are on display.

Manzoor excels the unique skill that is exclusive to the region and is an integral part of the cultural heritage and vernacular traditions of Kashmir. He has taken the art of Papier Machie to the next level by forming panels for interior decoration, ceiling decoration for the shrines, painting on apparels and decorating the musical instruments.

On the occasion, the Director H&H Kashmir said that the de-

partment has taken the initiative of 'Know Your Artisan' to give the much required recognition to the artisans of the valley.

The Kashmir handicrafts are renowned worldwide however the artisans have never received the ovation they deserve therefore the department is in continuous process of highlighting the artisans under the Know Your Artisan initiative. Such exhibitions pave the way for the artisans to receive global attention by showcasing the unique and distinct art and craft of the valley, he said.

He further said that the department is in close contact with the educational institutions for introduction of Kashmiri crafts as part of the vocational courses.

It is worth mentioning here that the department has hosted several groups of students from different educational institutions to make them aware of the intrinsic crafts at the Craft Museum, Craft Development Institute and Indian Institute of Carpet Technology Srinagar.

Travel Industry Has Potential To Solely Employ A Large Amount Of Human Capital: Bengal Minister

Agencies

KOLKATA: Travel industry has the potential to solely employ a large amount of human capital, stated West Bengal Tourism Minister Babul Supriyo.

Commenting on Bengal tourism during the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC)-organised Travel India 2023 conference and Expo on travel and tourism here on Thursday, Supriyo said, "After the Covid hiatus, people have taken up the opportunity to jump back to the industry. This is because of passion attached with the industry. There should be more activity to work collectively with both private and public sectors. This initiative will attract more tourists to Bengal."

"I would rather want tourists to come to Bengal for a successful resurgence of tourism in our state. We shall also try to collaborate with schools to make students experience, learn and cherish the beauty of Bengal," he stated.

Delivering the welcoming address, Director General, Indian Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Rajeev Singh, said, "Travel and tourism industry has seen a rapid growth after the pandemic. It is eventually connecting us with the global culture, creating employability and helping the self-help groups to be visible in



the global sector. This has been possible because of the Udaan initiative by the government. Many countries have faced immense challenges in this sector but tourism has the capability to employ man power at a huge rate. The government is working on various standards to bolster our country's travel and tourism industry."

Commenting on the theme of the session, Chairman, ICC Tourism Export Committee, Chandermani, said, "This is the flagship event of the Indian Chamber of Commerce that focuses on the policy of stakeholders in the travel and tourism industry to make a social impact. The objective of 'Travel India 2023' is to look into the opportunities and challenges faced by this industry. Tourism is growing and India is reforming at all sectors at a market size of Rs. 28, 000 crore."

Director Fisheries Reviews Fish Availability During Maha Shivratri

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Director Fisheries, Mohammad Farooq Dar, Saturday chaired a departmental meeting to finalise arrangements for fish availability during the upcoming holy festival of Mahashivratri falling on 18th February, 2023.

Director instructed the officers to ensure adequate supply of quality and hygienic fish during the period of festival and organise special Fish sale camps on 16th and 17th February 2023 at all the migrant camps in Jammu division and areas having Kashmiri Pandit community and other key locations in Kashmir division.

He asked for ensuring wide publicity of sale locations/spots for special fish sale counters. He also instructed the officers to keep a provision for live fish with proper transportation at the doorstep of Kashmiri Pandit community. He directed the officers that all measures should be kept



in place to make available the fish under hygienic condition at government rates. The officers were also directed to make available the fish at all the Government farms/Departmental fish sale centres during the festival period.

Director asked the District Officers to facilitate the fish farmers to install their stalls at Migrant camps during the festival period for sale of their produce.

The officers were directed to ascertain the demand well in advance in their respective areas besides monitoring the availability and distribution of fish.

During the meeting, special monitoring teams both

in respect of Jammu and Kashmir divisions were also constituted to monitor and coordinate the fish sale during the festival period.

It was decided that adequate quantity of Trout fish shall be made available during the festival at Fish Market Narwal, Jammu after ascertaining the demand by the concerned officer.

The meeting was attended by Manzoor Ahmed Wani, Joint Director Fisheries Central, Mohammad Ashraf Derzi, Joint Director Fisheries Chenab Valley, Abdul Majid Tak, Joint Director Fisheries South Kashmir and District Officers while Kashmir based officers participated online.

SHORT TAKES

FTA Negotiations With India 'Well Advanced': UK

LONDON: Negotiations between Britain and India for an ambitious Free Trade Agreement (FTA) are "well advanced", with the next round of talks set to commence very soon, a UK Foreign Office minister told peers in a debate in Parliament here, asserting that a strong deal could boost the country's economy.

Lord Tariq Ahmad, the UK Foreign Office Minister for South Asia, also said Britain's relationship with India is central to its foreign policy and as one of the world's biggest economies it is a key partner.

Ahmad was responding to the debate entitled "The Importance of the Relationship Between the United Kingdom and India" in the House of Lords on Thursday, tabled by British Indian peer Baroness Sandy Verma.

He confirmed that negotiations for a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) are "well advanced", with the next round of negotiations set to commence very soon. "It is true that, as we set up and strengthen this relationship, the United Kingdom's relationship with India is central to UK foreign policy," said Ahmad.

"As one of the world's biggest and fastest-growing economies, India is a key partner to the UK. We are also looking at lowering non-tariff barriers on medical devices to benefit British exporters, and are well advanced in our negotiations for an ambitious and balanced free trade agreement," he said. PTI

'Foreign Shipping Lines May Stop Services For Pak'

ISLAMABAD: Shipping agents have warned the cash-strapped Pakistan government that all exports could come to a halt as foreign shipping lines are considering stopping their services for the country after banks stopped remitting freight charges to them due to a lack of dollar availability, according to a media report on Saturday.

Apart from bordering countries, almost all the international logistics from Pakistan are catered by sea and any disruption could create serious issues for the country's international trade, Pakistan Ship's Agents Association (PSAA) chairman Abdul Rauf warned Finance Minister Ishaq Dar through a letter.

"If the international trade is stopped the economic situation will worsen," the association warned, adding that the foreign shipping lines are already considering winding up their services in Pakistan due to reduced cargo volumes.

The PSAA chairman also wrote letters to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Governor Jameel Ahmed, Commerce Minister Syed Naveed Namar, and Maritime Affairs Minister Faisal Sabzwari, the Dawn newspaper reported.

Rauf requested the ministries and departments concerned to intervene to ensure continuity in Pakistan's seaborne trade by allowing outward remittance of surplus freight amounts to respective foreign shipping lines forthwith. PTI

'Japan Offers Huge Biz Opportunities For Indian Apparel Exporters'

NEW DELHI: Japan offers huge business opportunities for Indian apparel exporters and the industry should explore that market, AEPC said on Saturday.

Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) said it is organising the first edition of Up-nex India 2023, starting with a Reverse Buyer Seller Meet with Japan.

The fair will be held in Gurugram during February 10-11. Over 50 Japanese buyers and traders have confirmed their participation, it added.

Naren Goenka, Chairman, AEPC, said in light of the fact that Japan is the fourth largest garment importer in the world, with its apparel imports being stable even during pandemic times and Indian apparel having duty-free access under the Indo-Japan trade agreement as against 9 per cent for Turkey and 9.5 per cent for China, it makes business sense for Indian readymade garment manufacturers and exporters to participate in this opportunity. With total garment imports of Japan of USD 23 billion, against India's exports of USD 0.22 billion, a strong Indian garment industry with its unique offerings has a huge scope for Japanese trading companies to source from India, it added. PTI

Forex Reserves Zoom By USD 10.417 Bn To USD 572 Bn

MUMBAI: India's forex reserves zoomed by USD 10.417 billion to USD 572 billion as on January 13, making it one of the biggest weekly jumps in the kitty in recent times.

In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had dropped by USD 1.268 billion to USD 561.583 billion.

In October 2021, the country's forex kitty reached an all-time high of USD 645 billion. The reserves have been declining as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments.

In October 2022, the reserves had swelled by USD 14.721 billion during a week.

For the reporting week, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by USD 9.078 billion to USD 505.519 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI on Friday.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

The gold reserves continued to rise, jumping by USD 1.106 billion to USD 42.89 billion, the RBI said. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up by USD 147 million to USD 18.364 billion, the apex bank said. PTI

PMEGP Expo 2023 Begins At Jammu

JAMMU: Member Khadi Village Industries Commission, North Zone, Nagendra Raghuvanshi Saturday inaugurated UT Level exhibition, PMEGP Expo-2023, here at Jammu Haat.

The event is being participated by artisans and craftsmen from Jammu and Kashmir and other states with a varied range of unique and indigenous products of their respective regions.

During the inaugural session, a short film highlighting success stories and benefits of Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme was screened. Under the scheme, beneficiaries can avail loans for setting up their business enterprise with a subsidy of upto 35 percent on the loan amount.

Addressing the visitors and artisans at the inaugural ceremony, Nagendra Raghuvanshi said that the government is working under a well knit strategy to facilitate traditional crafts and trades by providing employment generation opportunities besides financial support and marketing to the artisans. It is vital that we support our skilled craftsmen to ensure that we become an Atmanirbhar nation, he maintained.

"The government strives hard to provide assistance to such workers who are committed to improve their livelihoods through their skills. The exhibition is also aimed at to showcase the products of these skilled workers to the public and provide them with recognition and respect for their work", he asserted. ONS

Prayagraj University VC booked for 'illegal' religious conversion



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Fatehpur: A case has been registered against 10 named people, including a Vice Chancellor, and 50 others unidentified people for alleged illegal religious conversion of a man, police said on Saturday. Police filed the case responding to a complaint filed by one Sarvendra Vikram Singh, a resident of Sultanpur district, who said he had come to Fatehpur for some work on January 25, 2021, Circle officer (City) Veer Singh said. He later met a man named Ramchandra in Sujrahi village, who told him that that Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences (SHUATS), Prayagraj,

was giving money on adopting Christianity, and it will also bear the running expenses for his family. Ramchandra took Sarvendra to the Indian Press Church in Deviganj, where he met a priest, who told him about the money offer and also a job upon conversion. After this, Sarvendra went with the priest to Naini in Prayagraj where underwent the conversion, the CO said. SHUATS Vice Chancellor RB Lal is among the 10 people named in the FIR, he said. "Sarvendra had adopted Christianity from Hinduism. Subsequently, he again converted back to Hinduism, and then lodged a police complaint, after realising his mistake," the CO said.

Drunk IAF Officer Arrested For Making Hoax Bomb Call To Delay Train Departure



Agenceis

New Delhi: An Indian Air Force officer was on Saturday arrested for allegedly making a hoax bomb call to delay the departure of Mumbai Rajdhani Express from New Delhi Railway Station, police said. The PCR command room informed police regarding the call at 4.48 pm, they said, adding that the train was scheduled to leave for Mumbai at 4.55 pm. The Bomb Disposal Squad of the railways and the central district were called. The Railway Protection Force also joined the operation, but no explosive substances were found, police said. "The mobile number was tracked and it was found that Sunil Sangwan (35), a Sergeant in the Indian Air Force, made the call," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Railways) Hareesh H P said. A police officer said an FIR under relevant IPC sections and the Indian Railway Act was registered against Sangwan and he was later arrested. According to police, Sangwan was scheduled to board the train

to go to his place of posting at Airforce Station in Santacruz, Mumbai. He got late and drunk dialled the railways to delay the departure of the train from Delhi. "The caller was traced from coach B-9 seat number-1. His identity was established through his Indian Air Force Id card. The mobile handset which he used to make the PCR call has also been recovered," the DCP said. "The caller was subjected to a medical examination which confirmed he was drunk. Legal action, as per law, is being taken against him," he added

Nepal Plane Crash: Relatives Of 4 Indians Yet To Receive Dead Bodies

AGENCEIS

Kathmandu, Jan 21 (PTI) The relatives of four Indians who died in a plane crash in Nepal are still waiting to receive the dead bodies of their family members despite spending their third day at a hospital here on Saturday. Nepalese authorities on Tuesday started handing over to family members the bodies of those killed after Yeti Airlines' aircraft with 72 people crashed minutes before landing in a river gorge in the resort city of Pokhara on Sunday. Fifty-three Nepalese passengers and 15 foreign nationals, including 5 Indians, and four crew members were on board the aircraft when it crashed. The five Indians, all reportedly from Uttar Pradesh, have been identified as Abhisekh Kushwaha, 25, Bishal Sharma, 22, Anil Kumar Rajbhar, 27, Sonu Jaiswal, 35, and Sanjaya Jaiswal. The body of Sanjaya Jaiswal was handed over to his family on Friday and taken back home. However, the relatives of four other Indian nationals have been waiting for three days to receive the dead bodies of their kin. Sonu Jaiswal's father Rajendra Prasad Jaiswal was among the relatives waiting at Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital to receive the bodies. One of the relatives said they want to take back all four bodies of the Indians in a single consignment. The body of Bishal Sharma was identified on Saturday, the hospital sources said. The hospital completed postmortem on 49 dead bodies on Friday. Twenty-two dead bodies of Nepali nationals have been handed over to their families in Pokhara. While a total of 12 dead bodies, including one of an Indian national, were handed over to their family members on Friday, on Saturday, the hospital authorities handed over 15 more dead bodies to the

relatives. According to a doctor involved in identifying the bodies, the signs provided by the family members were not sufficient to identify the dead bodies. "We will try to verify the fingerprints of the dead bodies on Sunday," the doctor said. The Nepal Army said on Saturday it continued the search operation at the Seti River gorge and the surrounding areas on Saturday to find the remaining one body. Meanwhile, a team of the European Union (EU) team that was planning to visit Nepal to undertake an 'on-site evaluation' of aviation safety has postponed its trip. According to a statement issued by the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN), the planned visit of the EU's technical team has been postponed for the time being. In a joint statement issued on Friday, Director-General of the CAAN Pradeep Adhikari and EU's Ambassador to Nepal Nona Deprez said that the scheduled visit of the on-site evaluation team to Nepal has been put off. "Given the current context, related to the terrible accident and in mutual agreement, the EU and CAAN have reached the conclusion that it would be in our best interest to postpone a planned on-site assessment visit mandated by the EU Air Safety committee for the time being," the statement said. "The primary focus for CAAN at this time is on dealing with the aftermath of the accident. The European Union will continue to assist CAAN in its efforts to improve the aviation safety situation in Nepal," it said. Earlier in October last year, a team of the EU undertook a study on the aviation safety of Nepal and concluded that notable progress had been made in the country's air safety.

Woman Duped Of Rs 7 Lakh By Fraudster Posing As Courier Company Executive

AGENCEIS

Gurugram: A woman was allegedly duped of around Rs 7 lakh by a fraudster posing as a courier company executive on the pretext of rejecting an international parcel carrying narcotics, police said on Saturday. The victim, Prachi Dhoke, in her complaint said that she received a call from a person posing as a courier company's customer service executive. He told her that an



international parcel, in her name, containing two passports, five ATM cards, 300g weed and a laptop has been rejected, police said citing the complaint.

When Dhoke told the person that the parcel was not sent by her, the caller urged her to file a complaint with the police as her Aadhar card has been misused, they said.

Following this, the caller transferred the call to a person posing as an official of Mumbai Police who told her that her ID is being misused for international smuggling and money laundering in Mumbai, Dhoke said in her complaint. "They asked me to help them in the investigation saying that they will give me a certificate that I am not involved in the matter," she said. The fraudsters asked the woman to transfer Rs 95,499 on the pretext of investigation with the

RBI, police said. The victim transferred a total of Rs 6,93,437.50 in four transactions after the accused asked her for more money in the name of security deposit and investigation, they said citing Dhoke's complaint. An FIR has been registered against unknown people under sections 419 (cheating by impersonation), 420 (cheating) of the Indian Penal Code at cybercrime, east police station on Friday, said the investigating officer Inspector Surender Singh.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K On High

passage of all official functions of January 26. "This time around, we have a double challenge—one of R-Day and another of BJK. Extra deployments have been made wherever necessary and all security agencies have been directed to maintain a highest level of alertness to foil the evil designs," the official said, wishing not to be named. BJK led by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has already entered Jammu and is scheduled to reach Srinagar on January 30. He said that all vigil is being maintained on the highways, sensitive areas and in all major cities and towns. "In Jammu city, deployment has been made for both R-day and the BJK while similar arrangements have been put in place in Srinagar district," the officer said. Eye-witnesses told a local news agency KNO that in Jammu city, police and paramilitary CRPF men have launched massive frisking operations while a close watch is being maintained on the suspects. In Srinagar, police including the women police and CRPF have started intense frisking operations with commuters travelling on four-wheelers and two-wheelers being frisked thoroughly. "I was travelling from Pantha Chowk to Sonwar and was stopped by CRPF men. I was asked to show the I-D card. The CRPF men also took my photograph and when I asked why he took the snap, he replied that he had to show it to his superior," said Showkat Ahmed, a resident of Pantha Chowk. Police sources said that as part of the heightened security grid for peaceful conduct of R-Day and BJK, all the CCTVs have been made functional in Srinagar and in all districts of Kashmir and movement of vehicles, pedestrians is being closely watched from the respective control rooms of police. A police source said that it was likely to go for aerial surveillance through drones in Srinagar and Jammu on January 26 to maintain aerial vigil. "We may use drones a day ahead of R-Day," he said. "Night patrolling is also being conducted in several areas of Kashmir and Jammu." Many other commuters and auto-drivers said that they were stopped at multiple points from Dalgate to Lal Chowk and thoroughly frisked. The main R-Day function will be held at Jammu where LG Manoj Sinha will unfurl the tri-colour. In Srinagar, LG's advisor, Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar will take the salute of the parade and also hoist the national flag. Pertinently, LG Sinha told reporters at Zewan, Srinagar on January 20, that elaborate security arrangements have been made to facilitate BJK. Earlier, DGP Dilbagh Singh had stated that all security measures were in place for the smooth conduct of all official functions on R-Day eve across the UT—(KNO)

the upcoming Republic Day celebrations. Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha strongly condemned the incident and directed agencies to take urgent steps to nab the culprits. "A blast occurred in an old, parked Bolero (Sports Utility Vehicle) around 11 am resulting in injuries to five people who were standing nearby. They were evacuated to hospital and their condition is stable." Additional Director General of Police, Mukesh Singh told reporters near the scene of the explosion. He said the whole area was immediately cleared of the people but in the meantime another blast occurred 50 metres away, causing minor injuries to one more person who was also shifted to hospital. "Further investigation is on," the officer said. However, a total of nine persons were brought with splinter injuries to Government Medical College (GMC) hospital following the blasts. "We have received nine patients with one having abdominal injuries and two others fractured legs. The condition of all of them is stable," a doctor at the hospital said. The Bharat Jodo Yatra entered J-K's Kathua district on Thursday evening via Punjab and is camping in Chadwal, about 70 km from here. After a day's break on Saturday, the yatra, which commenced from Kanyakumari on September 7, is scheduled to resume from Hiranagar on Sunday and reach Jammu on January 23. An official identified the injured as Suhail Iqbal, Vishav Partap, Vinod Kumar, Arjun Kumar, Amit Kumar, Rajesh Kumar and Aneesh all residents of Jammu - and Sushil Kumar of Doda. Early this month, two cousins - aged four and 16 - were killed when an improvised explosive device (IED) went off in Dangri village in Jammu's Rajouri area, 14 hours after terrorists had shot dead four people there. The terrorists, locals had claimed, had planted the IED on the day of the shooting and it was missed during the scanning by police and security officials who had cordoned off the area. The officials on Saturday said the whole area was cordoned off by joint teams of police and CRPF immediately after the first explosion which was followed by another blast 15 minutes later. A thorough sanitisation operation was carried out and forensic experts, bomb disposal squad and sniffer dogs were also pressed into service to look for clues, they said. Jaswinder Singh, an eyewitness, said the first blast occurred in a vehicle that was at a workshop for repair. About 15 minutes later, another explosion took place in the area littered with damaged parts and garbage, said Singh, president of the Motor Spare Parts Association. Raj Kumar said he was working on another vehicle when the blast ripped apart another parked vehicle. "We initially thought that the petrol tank of some vehicle exploded but the blast was so

powerful that it blew up the vehicle," he said. An official spokesman said senior police officials have briefed the Lt Governor. Congress MP and AICC incharge of Jammu and Kashmir Rajani Patil strongly condemned the twin blasts. The CPI and AAP alleged that the incident reflected the "failure" of the BJP's policy in the Union Territory. "Jammu blasts reveal once again the failure of BJP's J-K Policy. Abrogation of Art.370 and demonitisation adventures misfired. Terrorism is on the increase," CPI MP Binoy Viswam said on Twitter. The BJP's policy of "communal hatred badly affected the country's unity," he alleged. "The day the BJP government took over, the situation in J-K is getting from bad to worse. Terrorism is increasing with each passing day and is returning to 1990s," chairman of Jammu and Kashmir AAP state coordination committee Harsh Dev Singh alleged. "They were stating that not a bird was killed after the abrogation of Article 370 but the reality is that innocent men, women and children are getting killed. The BJP has to give answers not only to J-K but to the entire nation," he told reporters. **Bring Culprits** cowardice of those responsible for the attacks. Take immediate and firm action. No efforts should be spared to bring the perpetrators to justice," the Lt Governor told the security officials. An official spokesman said senior police officials briefed Sinha about the blasts and on the state of investigation. The Lt Governor called for urgent steps to identify and take action against those responsible. He offered heartfelt sympathies to those injured in the incident and also announced a relief of Rs 50,000 each to them, the spokesman said. Sinha said the administration would ensure the best possible treatment to the injured and extend every help required by their families. **Explosion At** the ceiling of several rooms of his house in Lassana village. "I was not home at the time of the incident. Later, I came to know that there was a powerful explosion, followed by some shots that were fired. Police and Army officials visited my house immediately after the incident and they are ascertaining the details," Akram told PTI in Jammu. Akram, who resigned from the Congress in solidarity with former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad last year but later distanced himself from Azad's Democratic Azad Party, demanded a thorough probe into the incident. A police official said empty cartridges of a 12-bore gun were found from the scene of the incident. "We came to know about a blast near the house of the former MLA and immediately

rushed to the scene. A halogen light was found damaged and empty cartridges of a 12-bore gun were found on the spot," he said, adding that further investigation is on. **LG Seeks Active** Jammu University to greater heights and realize the ultimate goal of academic excellence," the LG said. Emphasizing on outcome assessment and increasing graduate employability, the LG also called for a study based on the vision document's objective to assess the impact on economic growth and social progress. "We are moving ahead with new resolve in education sector. We have high expectations from the Higher Education Council in developing a roadmap to restore the ancient glory of Jammu Kashmir in the education sector and using knowledge to enhance its growth and development," he added. The LG, who is the Chancellor of the University, also reviewed the measures taken for effective implementation of National Education Policy-2020. He directed the University administration to ensure that the reservation policy of the UT Government is fully implemented. Sinha also invited valuable suggestions from the members of the council for effective and result-oriented execution of the vision document. A threadbare discussion was held on Digital & Green Initiatives; reforms in examinations; promotion of Regional Languages, Culture, Art & Heritage; Capacity Building of Faculty; strengthening Industry Academia Society Interface; promoting Experiential Learning; Curriculum Development as per requirement of the market; hand-holding in Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and future requirements of the University, the spokesperson said. He said that empowering women by way of establishing the 'Non-Collegiate Women's Education Board' to promote capacity building, literacy and employment among the young girls/women and developing University of Jammu as a vibrant & thriving hub of cultural & co-curricular activities were also discussed. "The Council further held discussion on a common admission portal for all the universities of the J&K UT; sharing of human resources between universities; 360 degree feedback system; identifying gaps in implementation of NEP-2020; creation of digital database of universities; sharing of resources; adherence to the biometric attendance; Nasha Mukti Abhiyaan etc.," the spokesperson added. **Light Snowfall** in the last 24 hours, followed by eight inches in Kokernag, six inches in Qazigund and four inches in Shopian, they said. There was very light snowfall in Srinagar, Ganderbal and some other areas in the plains. Some other areas in Jammu and Kashmir received intermittent rainfall.

The inclement weather also hit air traffic to and from the Valley with many flights being delayed. The Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, the only all-weather road connecting the Valley with the rest of the country, was closed for traffic due to shooting stones at Panthyal, the officials said. Traffic will be restored once the road is cleared, they said. Barring Srinagar and Qazigund, minimum temperatures went down everywhere else on Friday night. In Srinagar, the mercury settled at 0.2 degrees Celsius from minus 0.1 degrees the night before. Qazigund, the gateway to the Valley, registered a low of minus 0.4 degrees Celsius. Kokernag in south Kashmir recorded a low of minus 3.9 degrees Celsius while the minimum temperature in Kupwara settled at minus 2.8 degrees. Pahalgam, which serves as a base camp for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 3.8 degrees Celsius. The minimum temperature in Gulmarg in Baramulla district was minus 8.4 degrees Celsius. The famous ski-resort town was the coldest place in Jammu and Kashmir. The Met office has forecast wet weather in Jammu and Kashmir till Thursday due to western disturbances. There are chances of light rain or snow at fairly widespread places of the Union Territory on Saturday. It predicted a much higher intensity of precipitation from Monday to Wednesday, with the possibility of moderate snow in the plains of Kashmir, moderate to heavy snow over the middle and higher reaches and rain in Jammu. Light rain or snow could occur at isolated places on Thursday. Kashmir is currently in the grip of 'Chillai Kalan', the 40-day harshest weather period when chances of snowfall are maximum and most frequent. Chillai Kalan begins on December 21 and ends on January 30. The cold wave continues even after that with the 20-day 'Chillai Khurd' and the 10-day-long 'Chillai Bachha' following it. **Rajouri Attack** families and presented appointment letters to the kin, an official said. The appointments were sanctioned and announced by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha. According to a spokesperson, the deputy commissioner handed over the appointment letters to Saroj Bala, Neeta Devi, Vanush Sharma, Prinka Sharma, Shub Sharma and Neeta Devi. While Bala is the lone survivor in her family after losing her both sons, Devi lost her husband and father-in-law in the terror attack. Expressing his condolences to the bereaved families, Kundal said although the loss of their loved ones can never be replaced, the district administration will support them in this difficult time and provide them with any assistance they may need.

Pacers Lead India To Series Win Over Kiwis

Press Trust of India

RAIPUR: India's relentless pace attack ran through a fragile New Zealand batting line-up as the hosts cantered to an eight-wicket win in the second ODI to seal the three-match series here on Saturday.

The Mohammed Shami-led attack produced an incisive effort to bowl out New Zealand for a meagre 108 before India knocked off the runs in 20.1 overs. Rohit Sharma hit a sublime 50 off 51 balls while Shubman Gill remained unbeaten on 40 off 53 deliveries.

It was an emphatic win but the sea of fans that had flocked to the remotely located Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Stadium for Raipur's first international game was left wanting for more due to the early finish.

Shami (3/18) and Mohammed Siraj (1/10) made life tough for the batters with their high-quality seam bowling reducing New Zealand to a dismal 15 for five after Rohit opted to bowl. The odd ball stopping made the New Zealand batters' job tougher though the Indian openers made batting look easy in the evening.

The third and final ODI will be

played in Indore on Tuesday.

New Zealand opener Finn Allen was the first to depart after missing a full ball that came back in late to clip the pads and shatter the stumps. Siraj then got one to seam away from good length inducing an outside edge from number three Henry Nicholls with Gill doing the rest in the slips.

Two brilliant return catches from Shami and Hardik Pandya (2/16) put New Zealand in further trouble. Shami got one to shape away and Daryl Mitchell, in his attempt to flick it on the on-side, ended up mistiming it back to the bowler.

Hardik's one-handed catch to get rid of Devon Conway in the 10th over was sensational. Shardul Thakur (1/26) got himself into the wicket column in the following over by drawing a thick edge from Tom Latham's bat. It was a loose shot from the New Zealand skipper, ending with an easy catch to Gill in the slips.

New Zealand were in dire straits but all hope was not lost with last match's centurion Michael Bracewell (22) and the equally dangerous Glenn Phillips (36) in the middle.

Bracewell made his intent clear



by stepping out to whack Shami over cover. After getting hit for consecutive fours in the 19th over, Shami bowled a sharp bouncer and Bracewell went for the pull

only to edge it back to the keeper. Mitchell Santner (27), who scored a fifty in Hyderabad, joined Phillips and the duo took the team past 100 with a 47-run stand for

the seventh wicket. However, both were dismissed in a space of six balls to end New Zealand's hopes of a recovery.

While Santner played a well-

disguised slower ball from Hardik on to the stumps, Phillips gave a regulation catch to Suryakumar Yadav at deep midwicket off a long hop from Washington Sundar (2/7).

Kuldeep Yadav (1/29) trapped number 11 Blair Tuckner in front to end the New Zealand innings in 34.3 overs.

India were clinical in the run chase with Rohit enthraling the crowd with his trademark pull shots. One of them went for a six, the first maximum of the game, as he hooked Lockie Ferguson over fine-leg.

Fresh from a double hundred in Hyderabad, Gill too came up with some exquisite strokes, including a cracking cover drive off Ferguson.

The New Zealand pacers failed to get as much seam movement as their Indian counterparts, making the task easier for the batters.

Rohit completed his fifty with a single in the 13th over before Shipley had him leg before wicket with a ball that kept low.

Virat Kohli received the loudest cheer from the crowd as usual but could only last nine balls as Santner got the better of him for the second time in as many games.

I Am Happy With How I Am Going: Rohit

Press Trust of India

RAIPUR: Indian captain Rohit Sharma is not worried about the lack of big hundreds in recent times, saying he is quite content with his batting.

The scorer of three double centuries in ODIs, Rohit last made a hundred in the format way back in January 2020 as his conversation rate from fifty to a century dipped drastically. However, in the second ODI against New Zealand here on Saturday the opener struck

"I'm not too worried about it," Rohit said at the presentation ceremony.

"I am happy with my batting. I have kept my approach quite similar. I am happy with how I am going. I know a big score is around the corner."

With the 50-over World Cup slated later this year at home, he said the team wants to do all sorts of things (experimentation) before entering the marquee event. The Mohammed Shami-led attack produced an incisive effort to bowl out New Zealand for a



a sublime 51 off 50 balls, with seven fours and two sixes, to power India to a series-clinching eight-wicket victory.

"I'm trying to change my game a bit now, have been trying to take the bowlers on and I think that's important, to try to put the pressure back. I know the big scores haven't come, but

meagre 108 before India knocked off the runs in 20.1 overs.

"I thought these last five games, the bowlers have really stepped up. Whatever we have asked of them, they have delivered. Especially doing this in India. You can expect these performances away from India, but they have real skills."

Two Kashmiri Kids Win Gold At Pencak Silat Nationals



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Two children from Kashmir Valley, Asgar Ali Dar, 7, from Chattergam Malik Gund Budgam and Khateeba Arshid, 6, from Eidgah, Srinagar, have bagged gold medals in the recently held National Pencak Silat Championship in Maharashtra.

Asgar Ali and Khateeba said that they are very much happy over winning gold medal at the national level.

They both claimed that they are interested in martial arts and want to represent India at International level.

Akhter Hussain Dar, father of Asgar, told KNO that his son loves martial arts and has been learning different art forms from last two years.

Asgar is learning different art forms at local stadium where trainer is training them and

wants to go to international level besides that his aim is to become a police officer as well.

Humaira Jan, mother of Khateeba told KNO that her daughter has been getting training at Indoor Sports Stadium in Elahibagh, Srinagar from last two years.

She said Khateeba is very much interested in learning different art forms and has been practising since last two years and her goal is to reach international level and bring laurels for Kashmir.

Notably, the National Championship was held at Indoor Sports Complex, Swami Ramanand Teerth University Nanded Maharashtra, from January 13 to 16. Around 1400 players from 34 States participated in the event.

J&K teams emerged as overall champions with 29 Gold, 38 Silver and 35 bronze medals. (KNO)

ICC Proposes 6-Team T20 Contests In 2028 Olympics In LA



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The International Cricket Council is still hopeful of the sport's inclusion in Los Angeles 2028 Olympics and has "recommended" six-team T20 events for both men and women to the Games' organising committee.

A final decision on the inclusion of cricket will be taken by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) around October after the organisers finalise the list of new sports by March, stated a report in ESPNcricinfo.

These will then be ratified at the IOC's session in Mumbai, which is expected to take place around October this year, it added.

In a strategic move, BCCI secretary Jay Shah has been added to the ICC's Olympics working group headed by ICC chairman Greg Barclay, and which also includes Indra Nooyi (independent director) and Paraag Marathe (former USA Cricket president).

Shah was included "keeping in mind India's ambition" to host the Olympics in 2036.

"And the ICC believes Shah's

involvement could lend an important and potentially influential push in its negotiations with the IOC for cricket to be included at sport's biggest global event," the report said.

The proposal for a six-team event was made to ensure a more cost efficient Olympics which is part of their Olympic Agenda, it added.

Cricket along with eight other sports -- baseball/softball, flag football, lacrosse, break dancing, karate, kickboxing, squash and motorsport -- are competing to make the LA 28 roster.

Wrestlers Call Off Protest After Sharan Asked To Step Aside As WFI President

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The aggrieved grapplers called off their protest late on Friday night after getting assurances from the government that their grievances would be addressed, the first step of which was the stepping aside of under-fire Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

The wrestlers, including Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik and Ravi Dahiya, decided to end their protest after a breakthrough was achieved during a marathon second round of talks with Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur.

The government decided to form an oversight committee which will investigate the allegations of sexual harassment of women wrestlers by the WFI president. The committee, members of which will be named on Saturday, will also oversee the day-to-day affairs of the federation.

Making the announcement, Thakur said the committee will submit its report in one month's time.

Talking to media, Bajrang Punia said they never wanted to take the protest route but they were "pushed to limit".

medallist said, adding that 2023 was a crucial year for them as the Asian Games and Olympic Qualifiers are approaching.

Neither the sports minister nor the wrestlers took questions from media.

The wrestlers had earlier in the day said that they would lodge multiple FIRs against the



WFI chief, but did not do so eventually.

It can be termed a considerable, if not major, victory for the agitating wrestlers, who had said that they would continue their 'dharna' until the WFI president is sacked and the federation is disbanded.

However, under the IOA constitution a National Sports Federation (NSF) can't be dissolved unless it has violated the IOA rules and regulations, or has been de-recognised by the world body of the sport.

It must be mentioned that the wrestlers have not yet provided strong evidence that suggests sexual harassment of women wrestlers.

Earlier in the day the wrestlers reached out to the Indian

Olympic Association (IOA) demanding a probe.

In their letter, addressed to IOA president PT Usha, the wrestlers alleged financial misappropriation (of funds) on part of the WFI and claimed that the coaches and sports science staff at the national camp are "absolutely incompetent".

The wrestlers also reiterated their demand that the WFI be disbanded and its president sacked.

"A new committee should be formed to run the affairs of WFI in consultation with the wrestlers," they wrote in their fourth and last demand.

Responding to it, the IOA formed a seven-member committee, headed by M C Mary Kom, to probe the charges.

The IOA panel includes wrestler Yogeshwar Dutt, archer Dola Banerjee and Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLFF) president and IOA treasurer Sahdev Yadav. The committee also has two advocates -- Talish Ray and Shlok Chandra -- besides former shuttler and IOA joint secretary Alaknanda Ashok, who is its vice chairperson.

The decision was taken during the IOA's emergency Executive Council meeting, which was attended by the likes of Olympic champion shooter Abhinav Bindra, Olympic bronze medalist Yogeshwar, along with IOA president PT Usha and joint secretary Kalyan Chaubey.

Most of the committee members are affiliated to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party.

Liverpool & Chelsea Draw 0-0 To Hit CL Hopes

Agencies

LIVERPOOL: A season of frustration continued for Liverpool and Chelsea after a 0-0 draw at Anfield on Saturday did little to help either team's hopes of securing Champions League qualification next season.

A game that was short on chances and quality underlined why both teams are struggling in midtable in the Premier League and face a challenge to break into the top four.

Benoit Badiashile and substitute Carney Chukwuemeka had opportunities to score in each half for Chelsea, but neither

and his 250th in charge of the Merseyside club. The draw at least ended a two-game losing streak for his team.

Chelsea fans got a first look at new signing Mykhailo Mudryk, who showed some promising moments when coming on as a second-half substitute.

Chelsea had the better chances to take all three points but did not make them count.

Kai Havertz thought he had put the Londoners ahead within minutes of kickoff when firing in a rebound after Thiago Silva struck the post. The away team's celebrations were cut short, however, when VAR adjudged



was clinical enough to make Liverpool pay.

It is now three league games without a win for Liverpool in what was Jurgen Klopp's 1,000th game in management

the German to be offside. Badiashile later forced a save from Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson when failing to get enough power on a header from around six yards out. (AP)

Juventus Hit With 15-Point Penalty For False Accounting

Agencies

ROME: Italy's most storied soccer club, Juventus, was hit with a massive 15-point penalty for false accounting Friday following an appeal hearing at the Italian soccer federation.

The punishment could eliminate the club's chances of playing in Europe next season. A record 36-time Italian champion, Juventus was third in Serie A and the penalty drops the Bianconeri to a mid-table position -- 25 points behind leader Napoli and 12 points from the Champions League places.

Juventus said it will appeal the decision to Italy's highest sports court within the Italian Olympic Committee.

Also, former Juventus president Andrea Agnelli and former club CEO Maurizio Arrivabene were each banned for two years from soccer activities and more bans were handed out for nine other members of Juve's staff or former board, which resigned en masse in November following an investigation by Turin public prosecutors into alleged false bookkeeping.

The longest ban of 2 1/2 years was handed out to former Juventus sporting director and current Tottenham managing director Fabio Paratici, while current Juventus sporting director Federico Cherubini was

given 16 months and former Juventus player turned board member Pavel Nedved was given eight months.

The bans prohibit those individuals from engaging in soccer activities in Italy, "with the request that the ban be extended to UEFA and FIFA activities."

Juventus has denied wrongdoing and was initially cleared by the sports court in April. But an appeal was made after the federation collected papers from the Turin prosecutors.

At the start of the pandemic, Juventus said 23 players agreed to reduce their salary for four months to help the club through the crisis. But prosecutors claim the players gave up only one month's salary.

Turin prosecutors have also apparently discovered more alleged secret payments to former player Cristiano Ronaldo that were not reported by Juventus.

In September, Juventus reported a record loss of 254.3 million euros (\$276 million) for the 2021-22 financial year. It was the fifth consecutive year that Juventus reported a loss, and it was 44.4 million euros (\$48 million) more than in 2020-21.

A preliminary hearing for the investigation by Turin prosecutors is scheduled for March. Juventus hosts Atalanta in the league on Sunday. (AP)



"Netaji Was Leftist; BJP And RSS Don't Reflect His Attitude": Daughter

Agenceis

Kolkata: Amidst the fanfare over Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's plans to celebrate Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary in the city on January 23, his daughter Anita Bose-Pfaff has said that it is being done to "partially exploit" her father's legacy.

RSS's ideology and the nationalist leader's ideas of secularism and inclusiveness are "poles apart and do not coincide", she said.

As far as ideology is concerned, the Congress has a lot more in common with Netaji than any other party in the country, Ms Bose-Pfaff said.

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat will address a public programme at Shahid Minar ground in the city to commemorate Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary.

Ms Bose-Pfaff said the BJP and RSS do not reflect the idea of respecting all religions as preached by Netaji, who was a devout Hindu but believed in respecting other faiths. He was in favour of a productive cooperation between members of different religions, she said.

"RSS and BJP do not necessarily reflect this attitude. If you want to put a simple label, they are rightists, and Netaji was a leftist," she told PTI over phone from Germany, where she lives.

"From what I hear about the RSS ideology, I would agree that it and Netaji's ideology are poles apart. The two value systems do not coincide. It will certainly be good if the RSS felt it wanted to embrace Netaji's ideals and ideas. Many different groups want to celebrate Netaji's birthday in different ways, and a number of them necessarily agree with his ideas," Ms Bose-Pfaff said.

She agreed that the fanfare over the celebration of her father's birth anniversary is to "partially exploit his legacy".

Asked whether Netaji was a critic of the RSS, she said, "I don't know any quote (of Netaji) which I can give you. He may have

made critical statements about RSS members. I know what his (Netaji's) views are and about RSS. The two value systems do not coincide. RSS and Netaji's ideology of secularism do not coincide with each other," she said.

Speaking on the recent pomp and fanfare over Netaji's birth anniversary celebrations, she lauded the BJP-led government at the Centre for taking a "lot of initiatives" to honour him.

"This has two aspects. After Independence, the official Congress stand on Netaji was reserved and not shared by all Congressmen. It wanted to keep the narrative that it was only the civil disobedience movement that led to the country's freedom. But after Netaji files were declassified, we came to know that Indian National Army (INA) played a very key role in it," she said.

On the second aspect, Ms Pfaff wondered whether BJP would have honoured Netaji if he had held divergent views from that of the present-day government. "The BJP has made a lot of effort to honour Netaji. With any politician, you have first to allow them to look at his/her interest. If Netaji was alive today and held a different view from that of the government, then the BJP would not have honoured him. So (in this case) it is their interest that is served," she said.

The Trinamool Congress and BJP had locked horns to appropriate Netaji's legacy on his 125th birth anniversary ahead of the assembly polls in 2021. In 2015, the West Bengal government released 64 files on the leader held by the home department. The Narendra Modi government at the Centre released 100 files on him the next year.

After Independence, the Centre had formed three inquiry commissions to unravel the mystery of Netaji's disappearance.

Two of them – the Shah Nawaz Commission, and the Khosla Commission – were formed by the Congress governments and concluded that Bose died in an air crash on August 18, 1945, soon after taking off from Taihoku airport in Taiwan.

Amid Tension With China, Air Force's Massive Exercise Near LAC In Northeast



Agenceis

New Delhi: The Indian Air Force will carry out Exercise 'Pralay' involving all its major air bases in the northeast including the recently moved drone squadrons amid the ongoing standoff with China, informed officials.

The massive air exercise planned to be held in the next few days also comes at a time when the Indian Air Force has deployed and activated the S-400 air defence squadron in the area which can take on any

enemy aircraft or missile from a distance of up to 400 km.

According to officials, the exercise would see major combat assets of the Air Force including the Rafale and Sukhoi Su-30 fighter jets activated along with the transport and other aircraft.

The Air Force recently moved a squadron of drones from other bases to the northeast to augment its capabilities of monitoring adversary activities along the Sikkim and the Siliguri Corridor sector.

The Chinese have also been

increasing their activities along the Doklam area and are under the constant watch of Indian security agencies, as per officials.

This is the second such command-level exercise carried out by the Air Force in recent months. The Indian Air Force's Eastern Command in Shillong has the entire northeast air space to look after along the China border and frequently scrambles its fighters the moment the Chinese try to fly too close to the LAC or move in a direction towards Indian locations there.

Thousand 'Bad Apples' Placed Outside London Police Headquarter As A Sign Of Protest



Agenceis

London: London police were confronted by the sight of 1,071 plastic rotten apples outside their headquarters on Friday, in a display seeking to mark the high number of staff facing investigation for sex offences or domestic abuse.

Refuge, a British domestic abuse charity, placed the imitation red and green apples outside the Metropolitan Police's New Scotland Yard building in central London, alongside a sign saying: "1071 bad apples. How many more?"

The demonstration comes days after a serving London police officer admitted to 24 counts of rape in a campaign of abuse against women - news that appalled the nation and shone a light on the issue of falling public confidence in law enforcement.

In an effort to regain public

trust, the Met police said on Tuesday it was investigating sexual and domestic abuse cases involving 1,071 officers and staff, and that hundreds were likely to be sacked as a result.

"This is not one bad apple; this is a systemic problem across policing," Refuge CEO Ruth Davison said. "How have these perpetrators of abuse been allowed to enter and remain in positions of power for so long?"

"What happens next must change the culture of policing for good. A force which breeds violent misogyny is not a force which can even begin to protect women and girls."

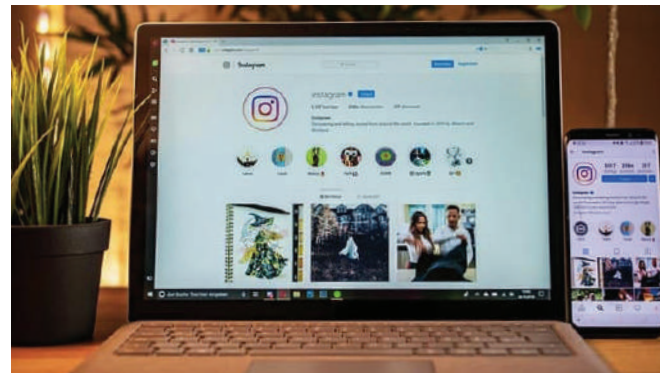
The Met, which has faced a string of scandals in recent years revealing a culture of corruption, racism and misogyny, is Britain's biggest police force with more than 43,000 staff and responsibility for issues such as

Centre Issues New Rules For Influencers, Up To ₹50 Lakh Fine If Not Followed

Agenceis

New Delhi: The government on Friday made it mandatory for social media influencers to disclose all "material" interest such as gifts, hotel accommodation, equity, discounts and awards when endorsing any products, services or scheme, failing which strict legal action, including ban on endorsements can be taken.

The disclosures should be in simple and clear language, should be of duration that is hard to miss, must be run with endorsements, including live streams and should be platform agnostic.



The regulations are part of continuing efforts to curb misleading advertisements as well protect the interests of consumers amid the expanding social influencer market which is projected to be grow 20

per cent annually to reach 2,800 crore by 2025.

The new guidelines named 'Endorsement Know Hows - for celebrities, influencers and virtual media influencers (Avatar or computer generated character) on social media platforms' has been issued by the Department of Consumer Affairs.

In case of violation, the penalty prescribed for misleading advertisement under the Consumer Protection Act 2019 will be applicable.

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) can impose penalty of up to 10 lakh

on manufacturers, advertisers and endorsers. For subsequent offences, penalty of up to 50 lakh can be imposed.

The CCPA can prohibit endorser of a misleading ad from making any endorsement for up to 1 year and for subsequent contravention, prohibition can extend up to 3 years.

Launching these guidelines at a press conference, Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh said the guidelines have been issued under the ambit of the CCPA that provides framework for the protection of consumers against unfair trade practices and misleading advertisements.

Quick eats for busy people

Bun Maska
& Chai

Chicken Crispy

Burger

JK BANK LAWNS, NEAR GHAT 6, BOULEVARD-SRINAGAR