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knowledge and bringing back the

legacy of the knowledge world to

the place which has been blessed

by Maa Sharda," she said.

## Harwan, Seat of Ancient Kashmir, Will be on Global Map Soon: MoS Meenakshi Lekhi

#### Nazir Ganaie

Srinagar, June 25: Union Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs and Culture, Meenakshi Lekhi, said on Sunday Kashmir's history is as old as mankind—asserting that the valley's "silent majority is not silent anymore."

Lekhi, in an exclusive chat with Kashmir Observer, said that the government of India (GoI) was making all efforts to revive the socio-cultural landscape of the Kashmir region by bringing all the stakeholders on board. She said that the government was constantly promoting the arts and culture of Jammu and Kashmir.

"In everything, there is some-

thing, some message that PM

Modi does. There is always a

message in his acts. He is very

concerned about Kashmir and

promoting the arts and culture

of Kashmir at the global fo-

The Union Minister revealed

that the Centre was mulling

revamping and bringing back

rums," Lekhi said.

edge globally.

Kashmir has been the host of global summits since ancient times

Kashmir a seat of learning, Sharda Kshaitra

Kashmir's silent majority no more silent

the lost legacy of the 'Harwan Monastery'. She said that the "Harwan, the seat of ancient Harwan monastery is a remind-Kashmir, will be on the global map soon. We all relate to the er of the pivotal role played by Kashmir in the spread of knowl-G-20 today, but let me tell you Kashmir has been the hot and



"It is hard to imagine the importance of the site from its ruins. But this ancient monastery played a pivotal role in Kashmir's history. It is here

that the 4th Buddhist council of the Mahayana (Sarvastivada) school of Buddhism was held sometime in the 1st or 2nd century CE, on the orders of the Kushana emperor Kanishka."

She said that sadly, the significance of the site seems to have been lost somehow in modern times. "It is not known exactly when the Harwan monastery was built; though excavations reveal archaeological remains dating from 1st to 6th century CE. During this period, numerous Buddhist monasteries dotted Kashmir, with the ones at Harwan and Ushkur (Baramulla district) More on P6

since 2020 have been fully relaxed.

were permitted to participate;

59,000 in 2021; and last year there

Saudi authorities have described

this year's event as the "biggest" Hajj

pilgrimage in years, as more than

two million people from over 160

countries were said to have attend-

The event comes as the require-

ment for women to be accompanied

by male guardians was dropped by

This year, the maximum age lim-

it has also been scrapped, mean-

ing thousands of elderly people

will be among those braving Saudi

Arabia's scorching More on P6

Saudi authorities in 2021.

ed the annual religious gathering.

was a cap of one million people.

That year, just 10,000 people

### **Egypt Confers Highest Honour** on PM Modi



Cairo: Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on Sunday conferred with the 'Order of the Nile', Egypt's highest honour, by President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi here.

Instituted in 1915, the 'Order of the Nile' is conferred upon heads of states, crown princes, and vice presidents who offer Egypt or humanity invaluable services. This is the 13th highest state

honour conferred upon Prime Minister Modi. The 'Order of the Nile' is a

pure gold collar consisting of three-square gold units comprising Pharaonic symbols.

The first unit resembles the idea of protecting the state against the evils, the second one resembles prosperity and happiness brought by the Nile and the third one refers to wealth and endurance. The three units are connected to one another by a circular gold flower decorated with turquoise and ruby.

Hanging from the collar is a hexagonal pendant decorated with flowers of the Pharaonic style, and turquoise and ruby gems.

In the middle More on P6



# LG Urges Civil Society For Active Participation In Amarnath Yatra

Interacts With Prominent Members Of PRIs, Civil Society, Business & Religious Leaders

tence", he added.

"These are our ancient

values, our Sanskar and I

have seen its expression

in the collective efforts of

the society in the last three

years to take J&K UT to new

heights of success. We are

ready to welcome pilgrims

and hope they will go back

to their More on P6

THE MEETING ALSO DISCUSSED ARRANGEMENTS for the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha festival and celebration of Prakash Parv of Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji. The LG informed the prominent citizens that a district-wise review was conducted recently

to monitor preparations and ensure all the arrangements for the Eid festival.



#### **Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR, JUNE 25: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Sunday interacted with the prominent members of PRIs, civil society groups, trade, business and spiritual leaders and discussed the preparations and arrangements for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

LG urged the promicitizens for active nent

participation of all sections of society in the 62-day long festivity, starting from 1st July.

"We all have one purpose, one idea, our conscience is one, we are devoted to one message of peace, brotherhood, progress and prosperity of J&K," the Lt Governor said.

"Society has always welcomed the devotees of Baba Amarnath Ji with open arms and has ensured their needs

#### **'Collective Responsibility To Deal** With Drug Menace'

ammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday said it is the collective responsibility of the society to rehabilitate youngsters who have fallen prey to the drug addiction conspiracy hatched by a neighbouring country. The LG was addressing cyclists who took part in the 'Pedal for Peace' event held here.

"A lot of youngsters have become victims of drug addiction due to the conspiracy of our neighbouring country. It is the collective

take them out of the muddle and help them achieve their dreams,' Sinha said. "It is my appeal to you, the

## responsibility of the society to

More on P6

## Largest Hajj Pilgrimage in History Begins

The number of pilgrims this year is expected to break records at more than 2.5 million.

#### Agencies

Makkah: The pilgrimage of Hajj has begun as crowds of Muslims donning white robes circle the Kaaba, the cubed structure at the epicentre of Islam's holiest site, their prayers ringing through the air.

The annual pilgrimage began on Sunday in Makkah, Saudi Arabia with the tawaf, the circling of the Kaaba, in an event that is expected to break attendance records.

largest Hajj pilgrimage in history," said an official at the Saudi

are expected to take part, as corona-



"This year, we will witness the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah. More than 2.5 million Muslims

virus pandemic restrictions in place

are taken care of. This is a beautiful example of peaceful and harmonious co-exis-

### **1500 Spl Invitees To Attend** Security Conclave In Jammu

#### Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Around 1,500 special invitees, including defence experts and retired army officers, are attending a security conclave which will be addressed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh here on Monday, Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina said.

Besides addressing the conclave at Gen Zorawar Singh auditorium on the campus of University of Jammu, Singh will also visit the BJP headquarters at Trikuta Nagar to chair a meeting of senior party leaders to review the prevailing political situation, Raina said.

"Around 1,500 special invitees are attending the security conclave on internal and external security, a non-political event being organized as part of the BJP's ongoing programme to highlight the nine-year achievements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government," Raina told PTI.

He said the defence minister



will brief the gathering of prominent persons about the measures taken by the Modi-led government for strengthening its defence mechanism after coming to power in 2014.

Defence experts, retired decorated army officers, academicians, doctors and think tanks, besides youths, will be attending the conclave which will start at 10.30 am, Raina said.

He said that Singh will discuss the security and other important issues with the participants and also share the strong position of India in More on P6

#### **Pak Deploying Chinese Supplied Cannon On LoC**

#### **Press Trust Of India**

hina has been helping the Pakistan Army build its defence -infrastructure, besides providing Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, setting up communication towers and laying underground cables along the Line of Control, officials said.

This, according to officials, is part of efforts to further shore up China's position as an all-weather friend of Pakistan while ensuring the safety of growing Chinese enclaves in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (PcK) set up on the pretext of securing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) road and hydel projects built in the "occupied territory".

The officials said that the recently developed SH-15, a 155 mm truckmounted howitzer gun, has also been spotted at some places along the Line of Control (LoC) after it was displayed on Pakistan Day last year.

Known as a 'shoot and scoot' artillery weapon, Pakistan had signed a contract with Chinese firm North Industries Group Corporation Limited (Norinco) for the supply of 236 SH-15s and, according to London-based Janes Defence magazine, the first batch was delivered in January 2022.

Though no senior PLA officials were observed at forward posts, unlike earlier in 2014, some intercepts suggested that Chinese troops and engineers were setting up infrastructure along the LoC, including underground bunkers, the officials said.

The Army has officially maintained silence on the issue but has been constantly updating the intelligence agencies, sources said.

The Chinese military's presence, according to experts, is due to Beijing's 46-billion-dollar CPEC under which Gwadar Port in Karachi will be linked to China's Xinjiang province by the Karakoram highway, an area under the illegal occupation of China. More on P6

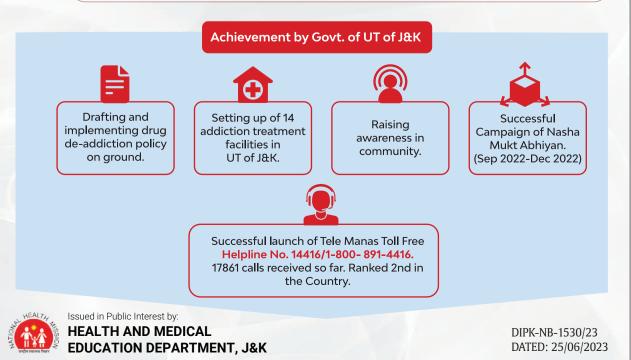
#### THEME OF THE YEAR

Let's Do This

Together

#### People First: Stop Stigma and Discrimination, Strengthen Prevention

- Raise awareness about the importance of treating people who use drugs with respect and empathy.
- Raise awareness about Hepatitis C epidemic & HIV among people who use drugs and expand and strengthen Hepatitis C prevention programmes.
- Promote evidence-based, voluntary services for all people who use drugs.
- Educate about drug use disorders, available treatments and the importance of early intervention and support.
- Offering alternatives to punishment; prioritizing prevention; and leading with compassion.
- Combat stigma and discrimination by promoting language and attitudes that are respectful and non-judgmental.
- Empower young people and communities to prevent drug use and addiction.



#### **Govt Announces Summer Vacation Upto Primary Level From June 26**

SRINAGAR: The authorities here on Sunday preponed summer vacation for pre primary and primary classes of all government and government recognised private educational institutions of Kashmir and ordered that the schools shall now shut for summer break from June 26.

The decision by Directorate of School Education Kashmir comes a day after the government announced 10 days summer vacation for all government and private educational

institutions in Kashmir upto class 12th from July 01 to July 10 of 2023. "In continuation to this Office

Order no. 159-DSEK of 2023, dated 24.06.2023, and considering the consistent rise in temperature, the summer vacations for pre-primary and primary classes of all government and recognized private schools shall commence from 26th June, 2023," the DSEK order read.

Kashmir has been reeling under intense heatwave for the past More on P6



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## AI Could Democratise Nutritional Advice, But Safety And Accuracy Must Come First

#### The Conversation

how people are using artificial intelligence (AI) tools such as ChatGPT, you will quickly find that food requests are popular. More specifically, users are seeking help with menu planning to meet their personal dietary goals.

But how effective is this technology in providing dietary advice? In a consumer poll, over three out of five consumers agreed they would like to eat a healthier diet. Some 73% felt it was important to buy food that has a low environmental impact.

A substandard diet is a leading cause of chronic disease and death around the world. Additionally, a third of all humancaused greenhouse gas emissions are linked to food. Against this background, it's clear that help is required to achieve the transformational shift from goals to behaviour.

However, for the 19.9% of Europeans who live with a self-reported food allergy, every eating decision has to align with protecting themselves from an adverse reaction. This comes at a cost: the average spend on weekly food purchases for those with food hyper-sensitivities is 12-27% higher than for those with no allergies. An extra 40.37 days is required for those with allergies to research and plan their diet.

So, while AI could help many households have healthier diets, the consequences of an error for those with food allergies can be life threatening. With concern also raised for consuming purported healthy ingredients such as coconut oil, it is extremely important that nutrition experts help inform these technological solutions.

#### How can AI help?

Academics in Canada used specific types of AI, known as natural language processing (NLP) and machine learning, to process text on food labels. This is done to accurately categorise food products by their specific nutritional criteria. Such criteria include the Table of



Reference Amounts for food categorisation used by Health Canada – the country's government department for health policy – along with the nutrient profiling system of Food Standards Australia New Zealand, the authority that develops food standards for both Oceanian countries. This work showed that technology could be used to reduce the time needed to manually categorise large numbers of food products.

Commercial offerings using technology in this way already exist. One example is the company Food Maestro. The company I am involved with, Spoon Guru, has been working with global retailers for eight years, helping them facilitate the food search and find features within online grocery shopping platforms using AI systems that are codeveloped with registered nutritionists.

The field of generative AI uses large language models (LLM) and machine learning to not only identify words within text but also to understand their order and context to produce human-like responses to text-based prompts.

Al chatbots such as Chat GPT use this technology to synthesise information, summarise text and answer questions. It can be used to provide tailored menu plans, generate recipe ideas and compile shopping lists.

#### Chatbot test

Early expert reviews using Chat GPT for menu planning and dietary advice have produced mixed results. A study to assess the chatbot's ability to produce dietary plans for those with allergies found that out of 56 diets, it generated an unsafe plan on one occasion, including almond milk within a nut-free dietary plan.

There were other errors too. For example, there were mistakes in the way food quantities and energy values were described and there was repetition of the same foods within menu plans.

In a review of ChatGPT's potential for personalised obesity treatment, the authors raised concerns about patient privacy and security. They also noted a lack of accountability should harmful advice be provided. These models currently do not have to abide by professional standards or codes of ethics.

Dietitians tested ChatGPT's ability to define an ideal diet for those with type 2 diabetes or those undergoing haemodialysis – a treatment for kidney failure. They too found errors. The chatbot responded with foods that would not be optimal for these conditions, without any warnings. Menu plans were again repetitive and the authors raised concerns that such solutions could encourage users not to consult qualified health professionals.

The lack of references to the sources of information used to generate the answers meant they couldn't check if they were of high scientific quality. A cardiologist tested the advice that ChatGPT generated in relation to his specialist area, which was the link between dietary fat and cardiovascular disease. He felt the answers misinterpreted the research studies, repeatedly producing errors and inconsistencies in a tone described as sensible, confident and convincing.

#### **Ethical implications**

Despite clear signs that caution is warranted, some early reviews also noted that AI had strengths and the potential for providing personalised nutrition advice. ChatGPT's responses often aligned with published food-based dietary guidelines. For example, the chatbot included fruit and vegetables in every meal, and incorporated advisory statements, such as "it is important to read labels carefully" and "consult a health professional".

The ethical implications, safety and quality of the technology will need to be more fully understood before it is likely to be used within these professions. However, customers and patients may choose to make regular use of it regardless.

Technology like ChatGPT could be seen as a useful tool for dietitians and registered nutritionists to quickly find information about foods, helping inform their work.

Academics investigating the relationship between food and health could also use AI to save time or develop innovative approaches to their research. This could help increase the impact of their research, increasing its accessibility in a way that benefits society.

Policy makers, regulators and those working in the food industry are very interested in the health and sustainability of food. They are also interested in how advice in this area is communicated to the public.



## **SAD DEMISE**

With profound grief, we inform the demise of **Ghulam Nabi Khan** R/o Shah Jeelan Colony Budshah Nagar Natipora who left for heavenly abode on Saturday 24th of June, 2023 after brief illness. May Almighty Allah grant Jannat-UI-Firdous to the departed soul.

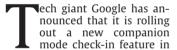


Congregational **Fateha Khawani** shall be held on **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2023** at **9:30 AM** at our ancestral graveyard **Kani Devar**, near **Islamia College, Hawal**. Afterwards **dua e majlis** will continue throughout the day at our residence, Shah Jeelan Colony Budshah Nagar Natipora, Srinagar, *In Sha Allah*.

Bereaved: Bashir A Khan, Shafat Gul Khan, Khalid Gul Khan, Shahnwaz Ahmad Shah, Mir Javed Ahmad \_ Contact: 9149897979 ss \_

## **Google Meet Getting New Companion Mode Check-In Feature**

IANS











the video communication service 'Meet'.

"One of the challenges of joining a virtual meeting from a conference room, is that the people in the room are identified by the name of the conference room rather than as individuals," the tech giant said in a Workspace Updates blogpost on Thursday.

However, with the new feature, if someone joins a meeting from a conference room, they can use companion mode on their personal device to check in to that specific room.

Rather than being represented in a meeting just by the conference room users are in, room check-in helps to make sure that everyone in the meeting can see their name and be aware of their



presence.

Room check-in will be available by default, but admins can turn this feature off for specific Meet hardware devices or specific users.

Meanwhile, earlier this month, the tech giant was rolling out a new viewer mode in the video communication service, which allows users to select "Everyone is a viewer" when creating their Calendar invite.

When using Google Meet for large meetings, designating attendees as "viewers" helps reduce potential meeting distractions, like audio disruptions.

inf

## SAD DEMISE



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With profound grife and sorrow we inform the sad demise of Noora begum wife of late Abdul Rahman panjabi residence Hawal kanidevar near marriage hall who left heavnly abode on saturday 24June 2023 congregational. Fateh khawni will be held on Monday 26 June 2023 at 10.:30am at their ancestral graveyard hawal kanidevar Note ladies are requested not to bring fruit etc with them

> BEREAVED FAMILY 9906833880







### WHY TO USE CRITICAL CARE AMBULANCE

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 Critical care ambulances are equipped with advanced medical equipment and trained medical professionals who can provide early intervention to patients during transit. This early intervention can help to stabilize patients and prevent their condition from deteriorating, thereby reducing the risk of mortality and morbidity.

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 Critical care ambulances can transport patients to hospitals more quickly and safely than private transport, reducing the time between the onset of the medical emergency and the start of treatment. This can be critical in cases of heart attacks, strokes, or traumatic injuries, where every minute counts.

#### **Reduced Complications**

• Patients who receive critical care ambulance services are less likely to experience complications during transit or upon arrival at the hospital. This can result in shorter hospital stays, reduced healthcare costs, and improved patient outcomes.

#### **Better Coordination**

• Critical care ambulance services often work closely with local hospitals and emergency medical services (EMS) to ensure that patients receive the appropriate care and treatment. This coordination can help to reduce the risk of medical errors and ensure that patients receive the best possible care.

#### **Improved Accessibility:**

Critical care ambulance services can help to improve the accessibility of healthcare services in remote or underserved areas. This can help to reduce health disparities and improve the overall health of the population.



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## KASHMIR OBSERVER | Srinagar | Monday | 26-06-2023 👅

## **Preserving Kashmiri Culture & Artistry** Punjab, TN Guv's Attend Vitasta Cultural Festival Closing Ceremony In Srinagar

#### **Observer News Service**

Srinagar: The third and final edition of the esteemed 'Vitasta Cultural Festival' concluded successfully, on Sunday, in the Valley, celebrating culture and various art forms unique to the region of Jammu and Kashmir, and bringing together diverse cultural expressions from various regions of the country.

The grand event concluded on Sunday evening, with a series of cultural programs, including singing, dancing, and various forms of folk art, which took place at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), located on the banks of Dal Lake in Srinagar.

The Governors of Punjab and Tamil Nadu, Banwarilal Purohit and R. N. Ravi were present as chief guests at the closing ceremony.

On Sunday, the concluding event showcased a remarkable variety of captivating cultural programs, featuring one standout performance by Saurabh Jadu & Group. Their enchanting singing mesmerized the audience and left a profound impression.

Adding to these mesmerizing programs, the audience was enthralled by a special presentation of Tigulbandi, which beautifully merged Kashmiri instruments like santoor, rabab, and guitar in a harmonious fusion. Moreover, the program was graced by the captivating qawwali performance of Ustad Shafi Sopori, who is renowned for his exceptional musical prowess. Additionally, the Bollywood orchestra delivered a captivating rendition of songs filmed in the scenic locales of Kashmir, further enhancing the overall experience.

On this occasion, Banwari Lal Purohit, Governor of Punjab and Chairman of the North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala, expressed immense pride in being a part of the ongoing celebration of this festival. Highlighting the significance of this glorious occasion, where diverse cultures from across the country converge in the heavenly land of Kashmir, he said that the festival 'Vitasta' serves as a unifying thread, weaving diverse cultural blooms into a splendid garland.

Purohit extended his heartfelt congratulations to the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, for organizing this grand and folk culture-centric event. Additionally, he lauded the dedicated efforts of Furkan Khan, the diligent director of the North Zone Cultural Centre, for orchestrating this marvelous occasion.

Purohit said, "As the Chairman of the North Zone Cultural Centre. I take immense pride in the trust placed upon us to host this remarkable event. I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Director of the Centre, Furkan Khan, and his dedicated team for the resounding success of this event.

"I am grateful to the Government of India, particularly the Union Ministry of Culture and its officials, for providing us with this valuable opportunity. Additionally, as the Chairman of the North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala, I wholeheartedly express my gratitude to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and the local administration for their unwavering cooperation in organizing this grand cultural extravaganza," he said

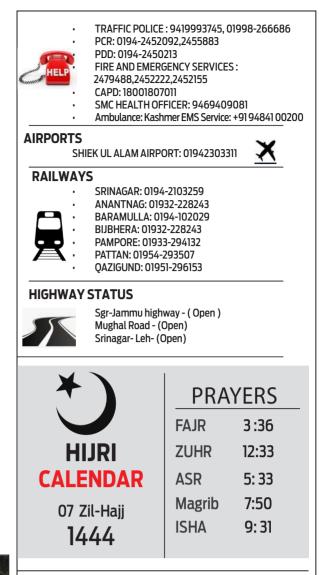
During the event, Governor of Tamil Nadu, RN Ravi of, expressed his thoughts on the significance of Vitasta as a remarkable initiative towards the vision of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' (One India, Great India). He conveyed his immense delight at having attended the inaugural edition of this event when it was held in Tamil Nadu, and he expressed his joy at being present once

again for its conclusion in the enchanting city of Srinagar.

He emphasized the profound spiritual significance of Kashmir, stating that it holds a prominent place as a centre of spirituality. He cited the transformative power of the region, exemplified by historical figures such as Milander, who, even as an invader, underwent a spiritual transformation and became known as Milind.

Governor RN Ravi expressed his belief in the emergence of a new India, where the rich cultural heritage of the nation plays a pivotal role. He enthusiastically announced his commitment to invite artists from Jammu and Kashmir to participate in future cultural festivals held in Tamil Nadu, fostering cultural exchange and collaboration between the two regions.

The event commenced with a warm welcome extended to the esteemed guests, accompanied by the melodious strains of the Wunwan song, a traditional Kashmiri composition. Chief Guest, Mr. BL Purehit, Governor of Punjab, and Guest of Honor, RN Ravi, Governor of Tamil Nadu, were honored with mementos by Uma Nanduri, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Culture.



## **Bukhari Greets People On Annual Urs of** Shah-e-Hamadan (RA)

#### **Observer News Service**

Srinagar: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Sunday extended greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Urs of Hazrat Ameer-e-Kabeer, Mir Syed Ali Hamadani (RA), and appealed to them to pray for sustained peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

In his message, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said, "On the auspicious occasion of the 658th Urs of Shah-e-Hamadan, I extend my heartiest greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The teachings of Shah-e-Hamadan will forever resonate in our hearts, as his remarkable influence in spreading the Message of Allah in Kashmir, shaping the Valley's culture, and introducing renowned handicraft skills among the people, remains unparallele

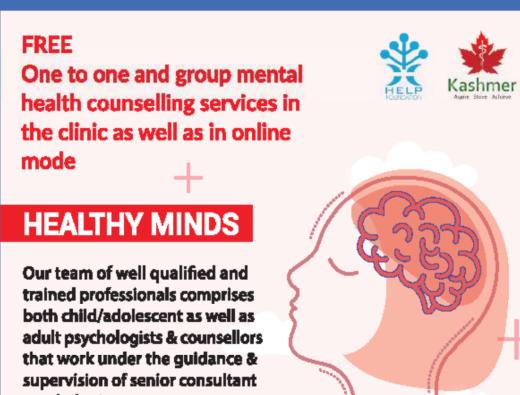
to people to pray for the sustained peace and prosperity of Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of the annual Urs of Shah-e-Hamadan (RA).

The Apni Party president urged the administration to ensure all the facilities at Khanqah-i-Moula, Ziyarat of Hazrat Amir-e-Kabir Shah-e-Hamadan (RA) in Srinagar, and other religious places where devotees of Shah-e-Hamdan would come to offer special prayers.

He said, "The revered shrine at Khanqah-i-Moula in Srinagar holds a significant place of faith for the Muslims of Kashmir, serving as an epicenter for their spiritual devotion. It is imperative for the administration to ensure the provision of essential services, particularly transportation facilities. enabling people to conveniently reach the shrine and participate in congregational prayers."(KNS).



Two elderly men enjoys evening near a lit-up chinar at trendy Polo-View Market at Residency Road in Srinagar amid intense heat. KO Photo, Abid Bhat



### This Day In History

- 363 Roman Emperor Julian is killed during retreat from the Sassanid Empire. General Jovian is proclaimed Emperor by troops on the battlefield.
- 684 St Benedict II begins his reign as Catholic Pope
- 1409 Council of Pisa selects Petros Philargi as 3rd Pope: Alexander V
- 1483 Duke of Gloucester succeeds as King Richard III of England after Parliament declared Edward V illegitimate 1498 - Toothbrush invented in China using boar bristles
- 1630 Swedish troops under Gustaf II Adolf lands at Peenemunde
- 1714- Spain & Netherlands sign peace/trade agreement 1794-Battle of Fleurus: major victory by forces of the First French Republic under General Jean-Baptiste Jourdan over the Coalition Army (Great Britain, Hanover, Dutch Republic, and Habsburgs) first use of reconnaissance balloon
- 1843- Hong Kong proclaimed a British Crown Colony.
- 1879- Ismael Pasha resigns as khedive of Egypt
- 1894- Karl Benz of Germany receives US patent for gasoline-driven auto
- 1900- Japan mobolizes 20,000 troops to help put down the Boxer uprising - but also advance long-term interest in gaining land and power in mainland Asia
- 1900- The Russian Tsar orders that Russian must be the official language of Finland, despite growing unrest within Finland and increasing international concern over

Mr. Bukhari appealed

## **Unidentified Male Body Found In Srinagar**

#### **Observer News Service**

Srinagar: An unidentified male body was found in the Shalteng bund area on the outskirts of Srinagar district

on Sunday, officials said. A male body, officials said was fished out from the river Jhelum at Shalteng Bund and that the concerned locals promptly informed the police about it.

Upon receiving the information, a police team reached the spot and took the body to the hospital for medico-legal formalities, they said.

The dead body was recovered from the river Jhelum, but the identification of the deceased is yet to be ascertained. A case has been registered in this direction and further investigation has been initiated, they added.

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#### Russia's behavior there

- 1902-Aga Khan III is appointed Knight Grand Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire
- 1911- Nieuport sets an aircraft speed record of 83 mph (133 kph)
- 1914-The Indian Relief Act, passes after a protracted period of Passive Resistance led by Gandhi; it abolishes a £3 tax imposed on Indians who had not renewed their indentures and recognizes "the validity of Indian customary marriages"
- 1917- 1st US Expeditionary Force arrive in France during WWI
- 1924- After 8 years of occupation, US troops leave Dominican Republic

#### **From KO Archives**

## 'Malnutrition In J&K Lowest In Country'

#### **Observer News Service**

RINAGAR- Union Minister of State for Women and child Development Mrs. Renuka Choudhary Monday lauded the state government for achieving distinction in the country in bringing down malnutrition level among children in the state.

" In the entire country we are struggling to lower the level of malnutrition which is telling upon the health and lives of children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers, however, it is heartening that in Jammu and Kashmir the level of malnutrition is on a considerable decline", she added

Addressing media persons here this afternoon Mrs. Choudharv said that Union Women and Child Development Ministry has approved additional 1500 anganwari centres for Jammu and Kashmir. She said over 13500 anganwari centres have already been approved for the slate under first two phases.

She announced two projects of aromatic herbs production and mushroom cultivation for the state, saying it would benefit over 8000 women and give host to the efforts of government for empowerment of women. Five hostels for working women have also been approved by the Union Ministry for Jammu and

Kashmir, she said and added that two out of these have already been completed while other three are under execution.

(Kashmir Observer, 26 June, 2007)

Send your write ups and feedback at editpage.ko@gmail.com



# **A Sea Of Difference**

Media coverage of Titanic-touring sub and migrant boat tragedy reveals deep bias

ANAN TELLO

### " There is a potential tragedy unfolding with a submarine that is getting minute-tominute coverage all around the world, and it is understandable because, obviously, we all want and pray that those folks are rescued

ONDON: For much of the past week, international news media audiences had to put up with round-the-clock coverage of an incident whose place in the annals of history is far from assured. For as long as the fate of five people inside Titan, a submersible that was headed to the site of the Titanic shipwreck, remained unknown, major media outlets spared no bulletin slot or expense in getting talking heads to hold forth on the topic.

It did not need an elder statesman of America to point out the scandalous contrast between the intense media coverage of the Titan's doomed journey and the almost cursory attention paid to the deaths of possibly hundreds of people off the coast of Greece just days earlier. Still, when Barack Obama did just that at a public forum in Athens on Thursday, his comments not only struck a responsive chord with the audience but also gave voice to the pent-up frustrations of news consumers worldwide.

"There is a potential tragedy unfolding with a submarine that is getting minute-to-minute coverage all around the world, and it is understandable because, obviously, we all want and pray that those folks are rescued," the former US president said in the Greek capital, where he was attending a conference on child and adolescent mental health initiatives.

"But the fact that that has gotten so much more attention than 700 people who sank — that is an untenable situation."

The disaster he was referring to - described as "one of the worst in recent memory" — unfolded far away from the media's gaze in the Central Mediterranean on Tuesday. A fishing vessel carrying an estimated 750 people from Palestine, Syria, Egypt and Pakistan capsized in international



waters off Pylos in southern Greece. According to the UN Human Rights Office, 78 people are confirmed dead while at least 500 more are missing.

The media conversation concerning the tragedy, however, was quickly drowned out by the noise of technical experts and ocean explorers dissecting live on air the search-and-rescue efforts of multiple Western countries to locate the Titan, which was carrying wealthy marine enthusiasts on a tour of the Titanic wreckage off the coast of Newfoundland in Canada before it vanished on Sunday.

"Sadly, the only reason people are talking about the relative lack of attention to the staggering number of migrants and refugees who die all the time on dangerous journeys

is that timing," Judith Sunderland, associate Europe and Central Asia director at Human Rights Watch, told Arab News. "It happened right after the horrifying shipwreck off the coast of Greece, one of the worst in recent memory.'

Her viewpoint is seconded by Nour Halabi, a University of Aberdeen fellow, who believes that had the Titan not gone missing during the same week that tragedy struck the migrant vessel, Western media outlets' "blasé" attitude might not have been so glaringly evident and 'we would not have been having this discussion.'

The "juxtaposition of the two events" has brought to the public's attention "this contrast of 'worthy

and 'unworthy' victims," Halabi, the author of "Radical Hospitality," which examines media coverage of immigration, told Arab News

While international media outlets went big on close-ups, names and life stories of the five "explorers," as described by the submersible's operator OceanGate, the world got to see at best blurry images of a mass of migrants in distress as their ship capsized, the latest in a long line of tragedies that have turned the Mediterranean Sea into a veritable graveyard of people fleeing poverty and violence in their home countries

Arab News

In 'Dessicated Land - An American in

## **Kashmiris Close The Book**

busy...and in terms of books these days. I have no idea which ones would be good."

Detailing a litany of problems in the J&K library system, Gupta and Singh argue that locals should not shoulder all of the blame.

Lepeska gathers his best work for Kashmir Observer during 2006-7 to explore the reality of daily life in Kashmir then.

#### David Lepeska

two-meter by two-meter slab of pearly white stucco stands alone near the center of a vacant, trash-strewn lot behind a red brick wall across Maulana Azad Road from Regal Chowk. The faux Spanish tile roofing is cracked and falling off, and on one side a golden inscription in black marble reads: "Sri Pratap Singh Library, Foundation Stone, Laid February 27, 2004."

Zahida Bano, Chief Librarian of the current SPS Library, explained what happened.

"Nothing," she deadpanned, chatting outside her office last week. "There was some controversy between the builders and the government, apparently costs were higher than they expected, and construction stopped before it started."

Nearly three years later the stout monument looms over the vast emptiness like an anti-scarecrow, fending off progress and fostering a return to nature. Instead of thrumming with the quest for knowledge the spot festers, silent testament, if any more were needed, to the Valley's intellectual calcification.

"I've been championing, fighting, writing letters and pleading with all and sundry, but nothing is getting done over there," said Agha Ashraf Ali, former J&K Director of Education and Principal of the College of Education. He had prodded local bureaucrats, politicians, and businessmen not only to restart work on the modern SPS venue but also to add an extension to the children's

Kashmir', journalist David When libraries began dying in Kashmir, educated started reading less

> library in the name of his son, the poet Agha Shahid Ali, all to no avail. "Full of large promises and small excuses, they are not interested in books at all," he said.

> In the age of bottomless broadband Internet and 2000-channel satellite television, reading may be on the wane across the globe. But in Kashmir the problem is especially acute, and the stakes particularly high. From Mughals to Dogras to Indians, Kashmiris have for centuries been under one or another oppressive voke; an unwillingness to read could fate them to remain there.

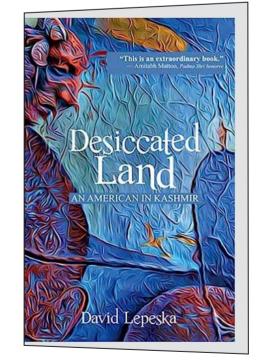
"Without a library there's no university, there's no thought, there's no progress," Agha added. "Libraries and-universities, these things are on the frontier of thought, where you can move forward and ask inconvenient questions; this is an absolutely dead society, afraid of asking questions." Indeed, the saddest truth may not be that the

library has not yet been built, but that locals don't seem to care. The Deputy Director of Libraries admitted the situation had grown dire.

"Many people are less interested in reading," acknowledged Kuldeep Singh, who was transferred into his new post from the Social Welfare Department last month. He cited electronic media and an increasing lack of time, particularly among wealthier, more sophisticated Kashmiris. "The educated people are reading less, not more, even though it should be the other way around."

Comparing the latest borrowing estimates with historical data revealed a steep decline. The Directorate of Libraries said SPS Library has averaged 1000 visitors and 350-400 borrowers per month this year. Bano, who works at the site every day, estimated that members borrowed around 70-80 books monthly, or one-fifth the directorate's estimate.

According to Dr. Sangita Gupta and Dr. Gurdev Singh, professors of library science at the University of Jammu and authors of the new report "Public Library System in J&K State", SPS Library loaned out 10,185 books from April



1945 to April 1946. Stretched over a year, the directorate's 2006 estimate would come to much less than half that and Bano's on-site numbers would be just under one-tenth. Yet the population of Srinagar has doubled in the last 60 years, which means book borrowing has dropped as much as 95 percent in that span.

Prodded by such data, Kashmir Observer undertook an informal survey of passersby on Residency Road and found that about one out of every ten local adults had read an entire book in the last six months. Unemployed engineering graduate Javed Dhar, 27, was representative of those polled.

"I'm online all the time and just not very interested in reading," he said, stopping on the way to meet a friend for lunch. "I'm really busy, too

The collection developed in the public li braries so far is... not relevant to the tastes of the public." they wrote. "[Book] selection is done at a higher level, and the requirement of users of the particular library is not taken into consideration. The librarian is not consulted...this leads to less use of library reading material.

"The condition of these libraries is unsatisfactory and very poor," the authors continued, explaining that professional service is absent, the infrastructure nominal, the locations odd and unpopular, and that all the libraries "are lacking the requisite reading facilities; the reading space is insufficient and the requisite furniture is inadequate."

Finally, Gupta and Singh pointed out that, like current Deputy Director Singh, most library officials are appointed from within the state administrative cadre. "In the history of public libraries, no subject expert has been appointed as Director of the Public Libraries and Research in the state,' said their report.

These findings are borne out at SPS Library, which lies tucked away behind the State Museum across from the Jhelum. Although the front reading room is bright, airy, and attractive, in two back rooms thousands of volumes fester in dusty cases surrounded by neglected, brilliantly colored papier-mache walls.

Chief Librarian Bano acknowledged the 1896 building was in need of cleaning and repair, but more than the structure has suffered. A few of the glass-fronted bookcases had been left unlocked, and a recent visitor found that many of the texts inside were fragile and of little use. Upon opening, several pages fell out of a faded, red-bound 1927 hardcover of Dostoyevsky's Poor Folk. A bright green 1950's Penguin Edition of Dickens' Our Mutual Friend was sticky and unwilling.

"I used to check out Carlisle, Rousseau, the lives of Napoleon and all that from SPS, books for my father," Agha recalled. "Now fifty, sixty years after independence, when money has been coming into Kashmir in cataracts, the library has gone to the dogs. You can't find any books at all, anything that has been released in the last few years is not available here.

-This excerpt from David Lepeska's 'Desiccated Land - An American in Kashmir', has been published with permission from Vishwakarma Publications.

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## News

## Surrounded By Mob In **Manipur, Army Frees Militants To Save Locals' Lives**



said.

tion, they said.

result," officials said.

rest in Manipur

state so far.

Tribe (ST) status.

have been the mastermind of the

Dogra ambush tragedy, officials

women surrounded the Army

column and prevented forces

from going ahead with the opera-

"Repeated appeals to the ag-

gressive mob to let the security

forces carry on with operation as

per law did not yield any positive

The Army's decision to leave

was taken, keeping in mind the

need to "avoid any collateral

damage during the ongoing un-

More than 100 people have

lost their lives in the ethnic vio-

lence between Meitei and Kuki

communities in the northeastern

3 after a 'Tribal Solidarity March'

was organised in the hill districts

to protest against the Meitei com-

munity's demand for Scheduled

Meiteis account for about 53

per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal Val-

ley. Tribals -- Nagas and Kukis --

Clashes first broke out on May

The 1,500-strong mob led by

Imphal, Kolkata: After a standoff between a mob led by women and security forces that had cordoned off Itham village in Imphal East where a dozen members of militant group KYKL were hiding, the Army took "a mature decision" to not risk civilian lives and left with seized weapons and ammunition, offi-

cials said on Sunday. The Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL), a Meitei militant group, was involved in a number of attacks, including the ambush of a 6 Dogra unit in 2015, they said.

Acting on specific intelligence, operation was launched in Village Itham (06 km East of Andro) in Imphal East by Security Forces today morning. Specific search after laying cordon was... pic.twitter. com/7ZH9Jp8nOI

The stand-off in Itham went on throughout Saturday, and ended after a "mature decision by the operational commander keeping in view the sensitivity of use of kinetic force against large irate mob led by women and likely casualties due to such action", they added.

Among those holed up in the village was self-styled Lt Col Moirangthem Tamba alias Uttam, a wanted terrorist who may

#### constitute another 40 per cent of the population and reside in the hill districts.

## **Internet Ban In Manipur Extended Till June 30**



## **Russia Coup Attempt Fails, Mercenary Chief Halts** Tank Advance On Moscow

Map data: OSM

as Ukraine pushes ahead with its

large-scale counteroffensive, a

crucial endeavor that could shape

the course of the conflict, includ-

ing further opening the spigot of

before moving north toward Mos-

cow with little resistance, shock-

200 km of Moscow. In this time

we did not spill a single drop of our

fighters' blood," Prigozhin, dressed

in full combat uniform at an undis-

Putin called his actions a "mu-

tiny" and said he would take

"decisive action" to stabilize the

situation. The Russian military

reportedly fired on the Wagner

forces at one point as they made

their way along the highway to-

Top Russian officials and per-

closed location, said in a video.

ing the country and the world. "In 24 hours we got to within

#### Agencies

Moscow: The Wagner paramilitary group halted its march on Moscow on Saturday, after Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko brokered a deal between Russian President Vladimir Putin and the rebels, averting an armed confrontation that threatened to plunge the country into civil war.

Yevgeny Prigozhin, the leader of Russian mercenary group Wagner, told his forces to immediately halt their advance on Moscow and return to their camps as fears of a possible violent power struggle gripped the country.

We are turning our columns around and going back to the field camps according to our plan," Prigozhin said in a short, fiery audio message posted to Telegram on June 24.

In his statement, Prigozhin boasted that his troops – which he claimed numbered 25,000 – had come within 200 kilometers of Moscow without spilling any blood, a possible hint to the Kremlin of his support within elements of the nation's security structures. Earlier, Moscow deployed soldiers in preparation for their arrival and told residents to avoid going out.

The Kremlin later confirmed that it had struck a deal with Prigozhin to end the insurrection, saying the mercenary leader will move to Belarus and have all charges dropped against him while his Wagner group will now come under the direct control of

the Russian military. Belarusian strongman Alyak-

sandr Lukashenka helped mediate the deal, the Kremlin said. The insurrection heralded the

most serious challenge to President Vladimir Putin's more than two-decade hold on power, and though it appears to be over for now, it has left the authoritarian Russian leader weakened and vulnerable, experts say.

In a sign of the gravity of the situation earlier in the day, Putin addressed the nation, saying in televised remarks that he would do "everything to protect the country. He also called the leaders of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkey to inform them of the situation.





AFP

ident Dmitry Medvedev, Russian Orthodox Church head Patriarch Kirill, and Russian State Duma head Vyacheslav Volodin echoed Putin's call for Russian citizens to rally and for Wagner troops to halt the insurrection.

Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov, a close Putin ally who has headed the republic in Russia's North Caucasus region since 2007, said he was going to deploy Chechen troops to "preserve Russia's uni-

The Russian leader said that Prigozhin had "betrayed" his coun-

In a televised address from the Kremlin, Putin said the Wagner rebellion put Russia's very existence under threat.

pared an armed insurrection".

Prigozhin responded promptly to Putin's allegations of betrayal, saying in an audio message that the Russian president was "deeply mistaken" and that he and his forces "are patriots of

## Israeli settlers' rampage against Palestinian villages continues for fifth day

#### Agenceis

KASHMIR OBSERVER

SRINAGAR | MONDAY | 26.06.2023

sraeli settler gangs on Sunday morning burned crops in the Palestinian town of Turmusaya, north of Ramallah, only days after the village was subjected to a rampage that left at least 30 houses and 70 vehicles on fire.

More than 400 settlers stormed the village on Wednesday under the protection of the Israeli army, killing one Palestinian, Omar Jabara Abu Al-Qattin, 25.

Israeli settler attacks on Palestinian villages are increasingly a regular occurrence for West Bank residents. On Saturday, dozens of settlers swept through several West Bank villages attacking Palestinian homes in scenes that have been described as an organised "pogrom".

Several dozen settlers rampaged through the village of Umm Safa, in the occupied West Bank, terrorising Palestinian residents. Video footage of the attack has surfaced online showing roving gangs of settlers firing bullets towards Palestinian houses.

The latest attack marks the fifth consecutive day of vigilante attacks against Palestinian villages in the West Bank. Palestinian media outlet

Arab48 said that at least 10 houses were destroyed in Umm Safa and seven vehicles.

The settlers carried out the attacks with the protection of the Israeli army, according to Palestine TV journalist Mohammed Radhi. Ån off-duty Israeli soldier was one of four suspects detained fol-

lowing the attack on Umm Safa. Following the latest attack, the Israeli military chief Herzi Halevi, the head of the Israeli intelligence at Shin Bet, Ronen Bar, and Israeli Police Commissioner Kobi Shabtai issued a joint statement strongly condemning the recent string of settler attacks on Palestinians in the West Bank, brand-

ing them as "nationalist terrorism in the full sense of the term".

The Israeli military has admitted to having "failed" to stop other settler riots in recent days.

Israeli settlers also attacked the electricity grid, causing a blackout in several Palestinian villages including Umm Safa, Deir Sudan, Ajjoul and Attarah.

Spiralling violence Separately on Saturday, a Palestinian teenager was left bleeding to death after being shot by Israeli forces at a military checkpoint at Qalandia, a village be-

tween Jerusalem and Ramallah. Ishaq Hamdi Ajlouni, 17, was shot and killed by Israeli forces after he opened fire, lightly wounding a security guard.

Violence has engulfed the West Bank this past week following Israel's raids on the Jenin refugee camp on Monday that left seven Palestinians dead.

The raids were followed by an attack on Tuesday by two Palestinian gunmen that left four Israeli settlers dead. Israel continued to ratchet up tensions when on Wednesday it carried out its first drone strike in the West Bank in almost 20 years, leaving three Palestinians dead.

Last year, faced with an increase of armed resistance in the West Bank, Israel publicly initiated the Break the Wave campaign, enabling near-daily military raids across the West Bank and an escalation in Israel's shoot-to-kill policy, resulting in mass arrests and the deadliest year for Palestinians in the occupied territories since the Second Întifada two decades ago.

Since the start of this year, Israeli forces and settlers have killed at least 171 Palestinians, including 26 children. A total of 135 fatalities have been recorded in the West Bank and East Jerusalem and a further 36 in the Gaza Strip. In the same period, Palestinians have killed at least 24 Israelis.

## **Fake Encounters Nothing But Cold-Blooded Murders: Ex-IPS Officer**

New Delhi: Extra-judicial killings or fake encounter deaths are nothing but cold-blooded murders, whatever be the popular opinions created in a society or community afflicted by problems related to real or perceived lawlessness, says former IPS officer Amod Kanth.



He also says no other period in the annals of India's crimina

ty and protect its statehood." 'Personal Ambition'

lethal Western military aid. Prigozhin's forces swept into Rostov-on-Don in Russia's south in the early morning hours of June 24 where they easily seized key infrastructure before racing in convoy

through the country, transporting tanks and armoured trucks try out of "personal ambition." and smashing through barricades

"We are fighting for the lives and security of our people, for our sovereignty and independence, for the right to remain Russia, a state with a thousandyear history," Putin said, vowing punishment for those who "pre-

the motherland.'

#### sonalities, including former Pres-The armed insurrection, unprecedented in post-Soviet Russia, put other nations on alert, with U.S. President Joe Biden contacting his counterparts in France, Germany, and the United Kingdom. Putin must now contend with the ramifications of the mutiny

## **Relations To "Strategic Partnership"**

were also signed."

del Fattah El-Sisi conferred PM

Modi with the highest state hon-

our of Egypt, the 'Order of Nile. Arindam Bagchi tweeted, "A mark

of abiding friendship between &

ferred with the highest civilian

honour of Egypt, the 'Order of the

Nile', by President @AlsisiOfficial

PM @narendramodi was con-

**India, Egypt Sign Deal To Elevate** 

ward Moscow.

#### Agenceis

Imphal: The Manipur government on Sunday extended the ban on internet services in the state for five more days to prevent any disturbances of peace and public order.

According to an official release, the ban on internet services in the Northeast state, which has been racked by ethnic clashes and violence, has been extended till 3 pm on June 30 to "prevent any disturbances of peace and public order in the jurisdiction of the State of Manipur".

The government release informed further that the ban on mobile internet services in the state was extended due to the "persisting unrest".

Director General of Po-Manipur vide letter lice. No.IC/11(163)/2008-PHQ(Pt) dated 24-06-2023 reported that there are still reports of incidents of violence, attacks and arson of houses and premises including exchange of firing," the release stated.

"There is apprehension that some anti-social elements might use social media extensively for the transmission of images, hate speech and hate video messages inciting the passions of the pub-

lic which might have serious repercussions for the law and offer situation in the State of Manipur," it added. This is the third straight ex-

tension of the ban on internet services in the state. Earlier, on May 3, the Manipur

government suspended mobile internet services in the state, amid the spiralling ethnic violence, and the ban has remained in force ever since.

The government extended the ban on June 11, till June 15, and then again, for five more days, from June 20 to June 25.

Manipur has been in the throes of ethnic violence for a month, in the wake of a directive of the high court asking the state government to consider including the Meitei community in the list of Scheduled Tribes (STs).

The Centre had to deploy paramilitary forces as violence escalated in the Northeast state. Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com

Violence gripped Manipur on May 3 after clashes erupted during a rally organised by the All Tribals Students Union (ATSU) to protest against the demand for the inclusion of Meiteis in the list of Scheduled Tribes (STs).

Cairo: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday held a meeting with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi during which they signed an agreement to elevate the bilateral relationship to a "Strategic Partnership".

Both the leaders discussed ways to further deepen the partnership between the two nations, including in trade, investment, defence, security, renewable energy, cultural and people-topeople ties.

The two sides signed an agreement to elevate the bilateral partnership to a "strategic partnership." In addition, three Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the fields of agriculture, archaeology and antiquities and competition law were also signed between India and Egypt. Ministry of External Affairs official spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted, "PM @narendramodi held a productive meet-

ing with President @AlsisiOfficial in Cairo on 25 June 2023 The leaders discussed ways to further deepen the partnership between the two countries, including in trade & investment, defence & security, renewable energy, cultural and people to people ties.



in Cairo on 25 June 2023.'

An agreement to elevate the bi-PM Modi also visited the Allateral relationship to a "Strategic Partnership" was signed by the Hakim Mosque in Cairo. Taking to leaders. Three MoUs in the fields Twitter, PM Modi said, "Honored of Agriculture, Archaeology & to visit the historic Al-Hakim Antiquities and Competition Law Mosque in Cairo. It's a profound testament to Egypt's rich heri-Earlier, Egyptian President Abtage and culture."

After visiting the Al-Hakim Mosque, PM Modi, who arrived in Cairo on Saturday, went to Heliopolis War Cemetery and paid tribute to the Indian soldiers who made supreme sacrifices during the First World War. PM Modi is on a state visit to Egypt from June 24-25

justice system than this could be more appropriate to discuss the extra-judicial killings or the false encounters resulting in the deaths of alleged criminals.

Mr Kanth has just come out with the second volume of his "Police Diaries" series "Khaki on Broken Wings", in which he untangles some of the most sensational and heinous crimes that dominated national headlines.

For decades, he says, the police have been "indulging in shortcuts" to giving the so-called justice. "Such killings or fake encoun-

ter-deaths are nothing but coldblooded murders, whatever be the popular opinions created in a society or community afflicted by the problems related to a real or perceived lawlessness," he says. In the book, published by Bloomsbury India, Mr Kanth

talks about the loopholes within

the criminal justice system. Among the many stories he narrates is one of mafia lord Romesh Sharma, who terrorised his targets to extort properties worth hundreds of crores and thwarted investigations using his access to powerful people in the political and corporate world.

He also recounts how 'Bikini Killer' Charles Sobhraj managed a sensational escape from the highsecurity Tihar Jail in Delhi, the



complex story behind the fight for justice in the BMW hit-and-run case that left several people dead, and the Jessica Lal murder case.

Mr Kanth says whatever be the compulsions of maintaining security, law and order, or crime control, the police and justice machinery cannot be permitted to give go-by to the laid down legal processes.

"Killing someone, even the hardened and much wanted criminal, while the said person happens to be either in the police or judicial custody or within reasonable control, shall amount to a murder or a culpable homicide not amounting to murder," he says.

"Through my extremely hazardous journey negotiating the path of criminal justice system in the majority of the cases I investigated, I found that the most serious and heinous crimes. even those concerning the terrorists, mafia, and drugs or being supported by the rich and powerful, could be brought to logical conclusions within the framework of law," he told PTI.

He says his book is mostly about cases and situations in which the "truth which is supposed to be the guiding star in the hazardous journey of India's criminal justice system becomes the first casualty".

#### **NEWS MAKERS**

## PM Modi Meets Egypt's Grand Mufti, Discusses **Religious Harmony, Extremism**

#### Agenceis

Cairo: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday met the Grand Mufti of Egypt, Shawky Ibrahim Abdel-Karim Allam, and discussed issues related to promoting social harmony and countering extremism and radicalisation. On a twoday state visit to Egypt, the Prime Minister apprised the Grand Mufti

that India would set up a Centre of Excellence in IT at the Dar-al-Ifta - an Egyptian advisory body for Islamic legal research -under the Ministry of Social Justice of Egypt. "They discussed the strong

cultural & people to people relations between India and Egypt. Discussions also focused on issues related to social and religious harmony in society and countering

extremism and radicalisation," External Affairs Ministry spokesman Arindam Bagchi said. He said the Grand Mufti appreciated the Prime Minister's leadership in fos-

tering inclusivity and pluralism. "I was honoured to meet Prime Minister Modi. It was a very nice and interesting meeting. In fact, he reflects a wise leadership for a big country like India," the Grand Mufti said. He said he had earlier met PM Modi at one of the Sufi conferences in Delhi.

"Between the two meetings, I have noticed that there is a great development in India. It reflects that he is continuously working in India. It also reflects the wise policies being adopted by Prime Minister Modi bringing co-existence between various factions in India," he said.

## PM Modi Visits Egypt's Historic 11th-Century Al-Hakim Mosque In Cairo

Cairo: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday visited Egypt's historic 11th-century Al-Hakim Mosque in Cairo, restored with the help of India's Dawoodi Bohra community. On the second day of his state visit to Egypt, Prime Minister Modi was shown around the mosque whose latest restoration was completed about three months ago.

The mosque mainly performs Friday prayers and all five obligatory prayers. The Prime Minister

was seen appreciating the intricately carved inscriptions on the walls and doorways of the mosque which was built in 1012.

Over a thousand years old, al-Hakim is the fourth oldest mosque in Cairo and the second Fatimid mosque to be built in the city. The mosque covers an area of 13,560 square metres, with the iconic central courtyard occupying 5,000 square metres. The Bohra community, which is settled in India, originated from the Fatimids. They renovated the mosque from 1970 onwards and have been maintaining it since then, he told PTI.

The Prime Minister has a very close attachment to the Bohra community who have also been in Gujarat for many years and it will be an occasion for him to again visit a very important religious site for the Bohra community," India's Ambassador to Egypt Ajit Gupte earlier said.

## News

# **Protesting Wrestlers Rule Out Hitting Roads Again, Say Fight Against Wfi Chief Will Be Just A Legal Battle Now**

#### **Press Trust of India**

**New Delhi:** A day after asserting that they could hit the streets again to resume their agitation against WFI chief. the protesting wrestlers on Sunday said the fight against Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh will be fought in the court and not on roads.

Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia posted identical tweet where they said the government has fulfilled its promise of filing a chargesheet against Singh.

"In this case, the wresters' will

continue till we get justice but it (fight) will be in court and not on road," the statement on twitter read.

"Regarding the reform in WFI, the election process, as promised, has begun. We will wait for fulfilment of promises made by the government regarding the July 11 elections."

A few minutes after posting the statement, Vinesh and Sakshi tweeted that they are taking a break from social media for a few days.

On Saturday, in a live address on social media, the trio of Vinesh, Sakshi and Bajrang had attacked former wrestler and now BJP leader Yogeshwar Dutt for questioning the IOA ad-hoc panel's decision to grant them exemption from Asian Games trials

In that near 40-minute address, the wrestlers had asserted that their fight against Singh will continue and they will deliberate how to continue this fight after evaluating the chargesheet filed against Singh.

"People are asking us why are we silent . The time (to suspend protest) was till June 15. This fight will continue, whether it is on the mat or off

the mat, but the fight for justice will continue," Vinesh had said,

"Till Brij Bhushan is not put behind bars, he doesn't pay for his sins, it will continue. We are waiting for a copy of chargesheet. We will evaluate if it is strong enough for justice. Whether we will sit on road or put our lives at stake, we will decide. That's why we are silent. Our fight has not ended," she had said.

Vinesh also alleged that Dutt was targeting them because of his self

interest.

"You (Dutt) had scared wrestlers

that's why they did not come in the second protest (from April 23). You put pressure on them that they will lose their jobs. People told us that they were with us but they have compulsions that they can't come," Vinesh.

"I will tell you why you are doing this. Brij Bhushan might have offered you the post of WFI President and that's why you have sided with him." After being removed from Jantar

Mantar on May 28, the wrestlers had suspended their protest till June 15 after getting assurance from Sports Minister

Anurag Thakur that a chargesheet will

be filed against Singh by then and none of his family members will be allowed to contest WFI elections.

The wrestlers, who got massive support from farmer leaders, khap panchayats and several other organisation, sat on Jantar Mantar for 38 days before Delhi Police detained them for violating law and order on May 28.

They first came to Jantar Mantar on January 18 and suspended their threeday sit-in after Thakur promised to probe their allegations of sexual harassment and intimidation against 66-yearold Singh, who is a six-time BJP MP.

**Monsoon Arrives In Delhi** 

2 Days Early, Brings Mercury Down To 29 Degrees Celsius

## **NGT-Appointed Committee On Yamuna Identifies** New Thrust Areas For Rejuvenating River

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: The NGT-appointed committee on Yamuna has identified new thrust areas, including prevention of dumping of waste from bridges across the river, for the rejuvenation of the water body, Raj Niwas officials said on Sunday.

These have been identified apart from the existing eight action points.

The latest action points evolved on the basis of the experiences till then and were presented to the fourth meeting of the high level committee (HLC) held in April this year for review.

Delinking of sewerage lines and storm water drains developed due to faulty inter-connections, prevention of dumping of waste from bridges across the Yamuna and de-silting of sewer lines below 1,000 mm diameter which run up to approximately 442.63 kilometres in the city, in addition to the 200 km of trunkperipheral sewer lines which are above 1m diameter, are some of the New Action Plans envisaged.

These will go along with the eight previously identified tasks that the HLC has been monitoring and implementing.



The New Action Plans were explained during the fifth HLC meeting which took place recently. Under the delinking of sewerage system and storm water drainage, there will be full capacity utilisation of storm water drainage.

During the fifth meeting, the HLC was informed that the total number of natural storm water drains stands at 210 in Delhi, and the Irrigation and Flood Control Department (I&FCD) was asked to submit an agencywise list of storm water drains which have got connected to

The HLC was also informed that the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has prepared a list of 539 points of faulty inter-connections from storm water drains in the first phase. Out of these, 309 storm water drains are still connected

to DJB's sewerage system. Out of these 309 drains, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) accounts for 286 drains, Works Department Public (PWD) 19, and the Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (DSIIDC) accounts for three drains

committee The NGT

instructed that drain owning agencies (DOAs) will submit timelines for disconnection of faulty inter-connections during the next meeting of the HLC.

As part of prevention of dumping of waste from bridges across the Yamuna, 10 bridges will be covered. These bridges are maintained by various agencies looking after the supply of wire mesh/net and adhering to timeline repair of broken wire mesh/net.

These include Wazirabad Barrage Road Bridge, Inter-State Bus Terminus (ISBT) near Kashmere Gate, Old Iron

Railway Bridge, Geeta Colony Road Bridge, Signature Road Bridge, ITO Road Bridge, Railway Bridge Downstream of ITO, Nizamuddin Road Bridge, DND Flyway Road Bridge and Okhla Barrage Road Bridge.

As part of de-silting of sewer lines below 1,000 mm diameter, in addition to 200 kms of trunkperipheral sewer lines, 442.63 kilometres of de-silting of sewer lines below one mm diameter will take place by December. Till May 2023, about 26.08 kilometres of cumulative length of de-silting of drains has already taken place.

The HLC has been reviewing the progress of work and the Action Taken Report (ATR) with regards to directions issued under eight specific heads aimed at specific targets.

These include 100 per cent treatment of sewage, trapping of all drains, construction of sewerage networks in unauthorised colonies and JJ clusters, industrial effluent management through CETPs, septage management, restoration and rejuvenation of Yamuna floodplains, utilization of treated waste water, and environmental management plan of Najafgarh Jheel, officials added.

#### Press Trust of India New Delhi: The monsoon arrived in the national capital on Sunday, two days before its scheduled onset, bringing respite to Delhiites from scorching heat, even as a woman died due

to electrocution amid rainfall. The rains which started early morning brought the maximum temperature down to 29 degrees Celsius, eight notches below normal. the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. The Safdarjung Observatory, Delhi's primary weather station, logged 48.3 mm rainfall in the 24 hours ending at 8.30 am on Sunday, it said. The rainfall also led to wa-

terlogging and traffic congestion in some parts of the city. On Sunday, the southwest monsoon covered both Delhi and Mumbai together for the first time since June 21, 1961, the IMD said. While it hit the national capital two days before schedule, its entry into the financial capital is two weeks late, the Met office said.

'It is the first time since June 21, 1961, that the monsoon arrived in Delhi and Mumbai at the same time," said DS Pai, a senior scientist at the IMD.

Meanwhile, the Safdarjung Observatory recorded 2.4 mm rainfall, Palam 7.1 mm, Lodhi Road 1.7 mm, Ridge 7.4 mm and Ayanagar recorded 4 mm rainfall between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm on Sunday. The Met office termed the monsoon activity over Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi as "vigorous".

According to the IMD, monsoon activity is considered "vigorous" if the recorded rainfall is more than four times the normal or it is fairly widespread. In a related incident, a 34-year-old woman died of electrocution after accidentally coming in contact with a live wire at the New Delhi railway station complex on Sunday morning amid rainfall which also led to waterlogging there.

According to traffic police, due to rain, a branch of a tree fell on the road in Plaza Market, Vasundhra Enclave leading to obstruction in traffic movement for a brief period.

According to data shared by the central control room of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, due to the monsoon, several trees were uprooted in Janakpuri, Swaroop Nagar and Trilokpuri, while waterlogging was reported from Timarpur in Civil Lines, Janakpuri, Firni Road, Friends Colony, and Railway Colony.

#### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### Harwan, Seat

being the most prominent. Even the present Pari Mahal, near Srinagar, was once the site of one such Monastery."

She said that the government was mulling revamping the Harwan which not only acted as a seat of learning but also played an important role in

Stating that she was overwhelmed seeing the position of women in the Kashmir region, she said that "Kashmir has treated their women with dignity," she said. "Women in power and position can bring change. Kashmir has a huge tradition of women empower-

of the pendant, there is a protruding symbol representing the Nile that brings together the North (represented by the Papyrus) and the South (represented by the Lotus).

Over the past nine years, the Prime Minister has been conferred the Companion of the Order of Logobu, the highest civilian award of Papua New Guinea; the Companion of the Order of Fiji; the Ebakl Award by the Republic of Palau; the Order of the Druk Gyalp, the highest civilian decoration by Bhutan. Modi has also been conferred with the Legion of Merit by the US Government; the King Hamad Order of the Renaissance by Bahrain; the Order of the Distinguished Rule of Nishan Izzuddin, the highest honour of the Maldives: the Order of St. Andrew award, the highest civilian honour of Russia.

in the peaceful and smooth conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

Responding to the demands and issues projected during the interaction, the Lt Governor assured that the appropriate steps will be taken to meet the developmental needs of the people

Mina is prepared for the pilgrims, with food supplies brought in and security forces deployed.

This year's Hajj is a challenge, taking place in the nearly 45-degree-Celsius heat, the date for the pilgrimage dependent on the lunar calendar. Saudi authorities said more

Leepa Valley located in PcK, preparatory to building an all-weather road that will serve as an alternative route to reach the Karakoram highway.

It may be mentioned here that a Chinese telecom company took over Pakistan's telecom company in 2007 and formed China Mobile

the promotion and preservation of Kashmir's socio-cultural ethos.

"We all relate to G-20 today, Kashmir has been the host of global summits since ancient times," she said, adding that tourism has great potential to change the ground situation.

"The tourism potential of the valley is to be explored on a larger scale. Nowadays, you see how many tourists walk freely on the roads, and go to places, far off places, I must say. Kashmir Valley tourism is the biggest path toward change and development," Lekhi said, adding "Tourist arrival is a path of change and development in the region. The more tourist influx, the more tourists arrive in the valley, and the people of this region will be able to get opportunities to make a better livelihood. It will help people to head towards prosperity," she said.

The MoS also said that frontier districts, and border tourism among border villages have a great potential to be developed as tourism destinations.

#### 'Kashmir a well-known Sharda Kshetra'

She said "The speciality of India is the "culture of living together" with every one and this Vitasta Mahotsav is the ambassador of spreading this speciality of Kashmir to the whole of India and the world. Through the Vitasta Mahotsav, Kashmir becomes an allencompassing ideology and culture. It is this place only where music and knowledge developed and reached their peaks, that's why Adi Shankar called it Sharda Kshetra and established Sharda Peeth here."

Commenting on what she termed as fanatics of the Kashmir region, Lekhi said that "Kashmir has a cultural legacy. It is a cultural history as old as mankind. The kind of times Kashmir has been witnessing in between had taken away the glory from this place. In Punjabi we say, Yehan Khap laganay walay log Zaida they .... (In Kashmir, the majority of people would create a mess.) I must tell you Kashmir's silent majority is no more silent now."

'Women in power and position can bring change'

ment which you probably don't know. There were thirteen women rulers."

She said that in a region like Kashmir, "it is only women who can ensure safe and secure childhood, adulthood and safe life in Kashmir.'

The Union Minister said that women in power and position can bring change on the ground.

"Kashmir has a huge tradition of women empowerment which you probably don't know. There were thirteen women rulers. There were women rulers, women saints, and women artists, ours was a cosmopolitan safe place, where knowledgeable people would love to come. This place (Kashmir) has had the blessing of Maa Sharda. I am really happy about Kashmir and Kashmiris honouring their women this way," the MoS Lekhi said, adding "Kashmir was a seat of learning, Sharda Kshaitra. I was fortunate to have offered prayers at Maa Sharda Devi Temple in Teetwal in Kupwara. Sharda Peeth was the ancient and foremost centre of knowledge in the Indian subcontinent where scholars used to come from around the world I also paid obeisance & sought divine blessings of Waheguru Ji at the holy Gurdwara in Teetwal which been reopened after 75 years."

#### Creative activities must go on...

She said that the Government was constantly working on promoting and involving artists on larger platforms. The only thing is that the youth of Kashmir has to be kept away from the drugs and other menaces prevalent in the society," she said.

"The PM really gifts Mrs Biden a diamond wrapped and boxed in a papier mache box, this was only done to encourage our artists.

Pertinently, the Union MoS was accompanying Union Minister for Home Affairs and Corporate Affairs, Amit Shah, for an inaugural ceremony of a 3-day long Vitasta festival held at SKICC Srinagar. The festival, according to the organizers, focuses on the folk beliefs associated with the Vitasta (Jhelum) river, which has been considered very sacred since Vedic times.

#### **Egypt Confers**

#### LG Urges Civil

respective states as brand ambassadors of J&K," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor highlighted the significant role of members of civil society groups, elected representatives, spiritual leaders and all the stakeholders in bringing the people together on the path of peace, progress and prosperity.

"Let us all walk together, let our thoughts and resolve be one, and work together for the progress of the society with one mind and with the spirit of oneness." he said.

Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra provides social, economic and spiritual opportunity to the people. Under the intellectual leadership of prominent citizens of society, people get a chance to discuss new ideas and reforms, the Lt Governor added.

Every citizen of J&K UT is a stakeholder of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. All the suggestions and inputs are welcomed to make the pilgrimage more memorable for the devotees, he further added.

The meeting also discussed arrangements for the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha festival and celebration of Prakash Parv of Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji. The Lt Governor informed the prominent citizens that a district-wise review was conducted recently to monitor preparations and ensure all the arrangements for Eid festival.

Junaid Azim Mattu, Mayor SMC; Dr Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson, J&K Waqf Board; DDC Chairpersons, civil society members, representatives of various organizations, religious heads, community leaders shared their valuable suggestions and assured support and cooperation to the administration

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; RK Goyal, ACS Home; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, CEO, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board; Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, senior officials of Police and Civil Administration were also present during the meeting.

#### **'Collective** Responsibility

youth, to lead this campaign against drug addiction," he said.

"I am proud of the new generation of Jammu and Kashmir which is leading this change to peace and development. No power can stop you from touching new heights of development if you are determined to excel," Sinha added.

He also said that the Jammu and Kashmir Police were making efforts to harness the talent and skills of the youth through its civic action programme.

"There is no doubt that the efforts have started to bear fruit. In 2020, there were 516 cyclists in the 'Pedal for Peace', today there were 2,500," Sinha said.

He said youngsters of Jammu and Kashmir are becoming a shining example of progress in the country.

"The way they are channelising their energies to transform the Union territory in various fields, the entire country is feeling proud of them. Our girls are creating new records in various fields. I was at the IUST convocation yesterday. Sixty-three per cent of the gold medallists were girls," the LG added. (PTI)

#### Largest Hajj

grees Celsius.

of my life," Abdelazim, a 65-year-old Egyptian who saved for 20 years to pay the \$6000 cost he needed to attend, told the AFP news agency at the site.

32.000 health workers and thousands of ambulances are on standby to treat cases of heatstroke, dehydration and exhaustion.

The Islamic ritual is obligatory for every able-bodied Muslim adult who has the financial means to take part, forming one of the five pillars of the religion.

The physically and emotionally challenging experience is meant to cleanse followers of sin and bring them closer to God.

This year, Hajj is held between June 26 and July 1, with the celebration of Eid al-Azha taking place on June 28.

While an expensive ritual, the journey of Hajj often inspires hope for many, even if they hail from parts of the world besieged by war, poverty or occupation. Many save what little money they have for years, to be able to afford it.

Four groups of pilgrims left Gaza last week. Meanwhile, pilgrims from northwestern Syria streamed through border crossings with Turkey. And Yemenis boarded the first direct flight to Saudi Arabia since 2016 for the pilgrimage.

Hajj pilgrimage is one of the pillars of Islam that Muslims who enjoy financial self-sufficiency are religiously obliged to perform at least once in their lifetime.

This year, the Iran has doubled its quota of Hajj pilgrims. A total of 87,550 Iranian pilgrims from 21 airports across the country have reportedly taken part in this year's Hajj.

#### **1500 Spl Invitees**

defence and other matters concerning the nation's security and safety of the citizens residing along the borders.

The BJP leader said all necessary arrangements have been finalised for the visit of the defence minister.

According to Raina, after addressing the conclave, the minister will chair a meeting of senior BJP leaders at the party headquarters at Trikuta Nagar to review the prevailing political situation and also discuss the organisational matters.

#### Pak Deploying

The officials suggested that Chinese experts were digging tunnels in the Pakistan (CMPak), which is a 100% owned subsidiary of China Mobile Communications Corporation.

In August last year, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), while renewing the mobile licence of CMPak (Zong) for PcK, allowed expansion of the Next Generation Mobile Services (NGMS) in the region.

India has strongly objected to the presence of Chinese in Gilgit and Baltistan regions in the past, and officials said the Army was completely prepared to frustrate any moves from across the border.

India and Pakistan have been observing a ceasefire since February 25, 2021.

Srikanth Kondapalli, professor of Chinese studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University who is part of a think-tank on Indian policy towards China, feels that arms transfers to Pakistan are part of a design to secure China's interests in the region.

He said that arms transfers are in line with China's stated stand of being Pakistan's "all-weather" friend and to check India by pursuing an overall regional dominance policy.

"China initiated the Economic Corridor (CPEC) in 2014 in violation of India's sovereignty concerns in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir.

"In addition to expansion of the Karakoram Highway, China has sent an estimated 36,000 'security guards' into PcK to protect its hydro-electricity projects and other infrastructure projects from terror attacks," he said.

Kondapali said that China had also been constructing "well-off society" villages in PoK.

"Modern warfare also requires 24/7 surveillance and China has supplied 10 CH-4A drones, specifically designed for high-altitude missions over land and sea that can fire from 5.000 metres away. These are in addition to 48 Wing Loong-II drones, used as a surveillance and aerial reconnaissance and precision strike platform, to Pakistan since 2018," he said.

#### **Govt Announces**

fortnight and parents have been urging authorities to declare summer vacations for the educational institutions.

heat that is projected to reach 44 de-

"I am living the most beautiful davs

On Sunday evening, the pilgrims will begin making their way to Mina, about 8km (5 miles) from Makkah's al-Masjid al-Haram, or the Grand Mosque, before they gather at Mount Arafat, where Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) is believed to have delivered his final sermon.

sewer lines.

## STATE

### J&K Leaders Seek Probe Into Masjid **Sloganeering Allegations**

#### **Army Accused Of Forcing Worshippers** To Raise Slogans In Pulwama

#### Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Several Jammu and Kashmir political leaders, including three former chief ministers, have demanded a probe into reports alleging that some army personnel forced a group of worshippers inside a mosque to raise religious slogans in Pulwama district.

Both the army and the police are tight-lipped on the matter but sources in both the establishments said an internal investigation is on to ascertain the facts about the alleged incident during pre-dawn prayers at Zadoora village in the south Kashmir district on Saturday.

National Conference vice president and former chief minister Omar Abdullah tweeted that "reports of security force personnel entering a mosque in Zadoora in Pulwama are deeply distressing. It's bad enough they entered but then forcing people to chant" religious slogans as reported by the locals there is unacceptable.

"I hope @rajnathsingh ji (defence minister) will issue instructions for these reports to be investigated in a timely & transparent manner," he said.

PDP president and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti, in her reaction to the incident through a tweet, said, "Shocked to hear about army troops from 50 RR storming into a mosque at Pulwama & forcing Muslims inside to chant"

"Such a move when @ AmitShah (Home Minister) is here & that too ahead of (Amarnath) yatra is simply an act of provocation," she said and demanded an immediate probe into the incident.

Progressive Democratic Azad Party chairman and former chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad also condemned the alleged

## Missing Reasi Man Found Beaten To Death By Son, Others

Station.

#### Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A 19-year-old youth was arrested for allegedly being involved in the killing of his father who was reported missing in March, a senior police officer said on Sunday.

Three neonle including

incident and urged the government to investigate the matter.

"I strongly condemn reports of the alleged Pulwama mosque incident. At this point these are allegations but we must immediately get to the bottom of this matter," he said in a statement here.

"Such things are neither in our culture, nor allowed under the law," he said, urging the government to investigate the incident and take strictest action against those responsible. Jammu and Kashmir Apni

Party president and former minister Altaf Bukhari said he was anguished to learn about the incident.

...the act is highly condemnable and unacceptable to us all," he said, urging the Centre to order an inquiry into the incident on top priority.

The officers involved in the act be strictly dealt with as such acts can potentially undo the peaceful atmosphere prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

People's Conference president and former minister Sajjad Lone said, "The incident at Zadoora Pulwama is highly condemnable. And at the same time very very scary. The drift seems to have gone too far.

"Hoping against hope that the administration will do what it takes to ensure that such incidents never take place again. What a sad state of affairs though," Lone wrote on his Twitter handle.

Senior CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami demanded that the matter be probed in a transparent and swift manner.

"This is unacceptable and unbecoming of any disciplined army. The incident must be probed in a transparent and swift manner. Those found guilty should be punished," he said.

# **Kashmir's Florence Nightingale Champions Self Care, Mental**

passion and goes beyond the

conditions" who needed medi-

cal help and guidance. This

inspired her to volunteer for

the Covid-19 inoculation drive

launched by TCI Foundation.

employee of the TCI Founda-

tion, said Jan's recognition is

a huge matter of pride for all

the healthcare workers in the

city. She hailed her for "bril-

liant work" in volunteering

duty, Jan used to join us to

"After finishing her daily

and her academic field.

Dr Madeeha, a former

to her patients.

#### Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Firdousa Jan, who was recently bestowed the Florence Nightingale award by President Droupadi Murmu, believes that to become good caregivers, nurses need to take care of their own men-

tal and physical well-being. "Who will nurse the nurses? For a patient, there is a

nurse, but there is no nurse for the nurses. So a nurse has to take care of her own mental and physical health before she is able to give care to the patients. They have to manage their stress and have to

be physically fit to face all the challenges," Jan said. Jan was one of the 15 nurses selected across India for the Florence Nightingale Award this year. She was conferred the award on June 22 at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi for her efforts in

raising awareness about Covid-19 vaccination among the slum dwellers here. The 45-year-old nurse

works at a government hospital and is pursuing PhD in mental health nursing. on March 30 lodged a missing Apart from serving her

Amarnath Yatra

tenure in postoperative, palliative and geriatric care, she myths regarding the Covid-19 counselled oncology patients vaccine, especially in areas with a very low literacy rate," after her work hours and has written 16 research papers Madeeha said. and articles on nursing and "Jan's experience and issues related to the field.

knowledge even motivated Having lost her father the young TCI volunteers to when she was only three go that extra mile", the doctor months old and her mother added when she had just started the Sharing her feelings on re-

ceiving the award, Jan said, "I nursing job, Jan is full of comget satisfaction with the kind call of duty while giving care words and prayers that the patients and their relatives When she went on a field say for us. These things matter visit with her niece during more than any worldly recogthe Covid-19 pandemic who nition or wealth. However, I took up nursing following in would like to thank the Minisher footsteps, Jan came across try of Health for having chosen people living in "subhuman me for the award," she said.

The Florence Nightingale Award recipient said her best reward was the immense joy her two children got on learning their mother was selected for the honour.

Sharing her thoughts on the future of nursing, Jan said, "The nursing profession is expanding rapidly. Today, a nurse does not merely give an injection or check a patient's vitals, but does it all, from first aid to handling advanced technology.

## **Modi's Commitment To Democracy Has Healed Wounds**

#### Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Union minister Jitendra Singh on Sunday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to democracy has healed the wounds of the Emergency which he described as a "black spot" in the history of independent India.

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Srinagar | Monday | 26-06-2023

**Of Emergency: Singh** 

Singh said Prime Minister Modi will always be remembered for laying the strong foundation of India's democracy as it was made possible during his period that each benefit of democracy reached the last person in the queue without any discrimination. Addressing a meeting of

intellectuals to mark the completion of nine years of the Narendra Modi government, he said India's moment has arrived and "it is India's decade and India's century".

Quoting the prime minister, Singh said, the Emergency imposed in 1975 trampled and suppressed democracy, but democracy is in India's DNA and that is why the nation could come out unscathed from that darkest period of post-independence times.

"India is indeed the mother of democracies. Democracy runs in the spirit and veins of

a common Indian," he said. The senior BJP leader said Prime Minister Modi's commitment to democracy has healed the wounds of the Emergency which was a "black spot" in the history of independent India.

The Emergency was declared on this day in 1975 by then prime minister Indira Gandhi.



derstand the meaning and significance of true democracy. its value and the sacrifices given by "our seniors to save and sustain it".

Hailing the commitment of leaders and the common masses in resisting the imposition of Emergency, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office said the leaders of Jana Sangh supported the pro-democracy movement led by Jayaprakash Narayan and rose against the draconian measures taken by the government.

"Jana Sangh followed the mantra of 'nation first, self last' in true spirit and as a party dissolved itself to join the JP movement," he recalled.

Referring to Winston Churchill's statement that India would not survive as a democracy even for half a century after gaining freedom, Singh said had the British premier been alive today, he would have regretted his statement seeing India growing as a vibrant democracy under Narendra Modi and leading the world in every sphere.

### **Traffic Dept Asked To Ensure** Smooth Vehicular Movement On **Banihal Highway**

#### Press Trust Of India

Jammu: With commuters complaining about massive jams on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway over the past fortnight, authorities in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday directed the department concerned to formulate a plan for smooth vehicular movement on vital roads, of-

ficials said. The National

more than 12 hours to complete their journey from

person report at Reasi Police have arrested

Police Singh's son Vikas Thakur, and his two associates, Sushil Chander and Vipan Kumar. aged 28 and 24. Hunt is on for the fourth accused, Seeta **Well-Being For Nurses** counsel the people who had

the victim's son, have been arrested in connection with the murder, Reasi Senior Superintendent of Police Amit Gupta said.

According to police sources, Paramjeet Singh was allegedly abducted and taken to a house where he was tied with ropes, gagged, and beaten to death by his son and his associates

They then took his body in a car and buried it in a field near Serla Bhaga village on March 27.

The SSP said a decomposed body of Paramjeet Singh, who lived in Reasi's Tote-Bhomag village, was exhumed at the instance of the people arrested in presence of a magistrate on Saturday.

Singh's brother Dalip had

#### Three people, including the victim's son, have been arrested in connection with the murder. Reasi Senior Superintendent of **Police Amit Gupta** said.

#### Ram, police said.

The body of the victim has been taken to Government Medical College hospital, Jammu, for post mortem, police said.

#### Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: With the Amarnath Yatra to commence in a few days. Director General of Central Reserve Police Force S L Thaosen Sunday reviewed the security arrangements at the Baltal base camp and several halting stations en route to the holy cave shrine.

"The success of this monumental event hinges upon our collective commitment and unparalleled coordination," Thaosen said. The annual pilgrimage to

the Amarnath shrine, located at a height of 3,880 metres in south Kashmir Himalayas, will begin on July 1 and continue till August 31.

**CRPF Chief Reviews Security At Baltal Camp** 

"The DG CRPF visited the camps located at Baltal, Domail, Sarbal and Neelgrath to review the operational and administrative preparedness of the CRPF deployed for the Amarnath Yatra 2023," a CRPF spokesperson said.

The inspection of the camps was conducted to assess the arrangements for the yatra along with ensuring a safe atmosphere for the hundreds of thousands of devoted pilgrims who embark on this sacred pilgrimage, the spokesperson said.

Emphasising a zero-error policy, every aspect of security planning was scrutinised to mitigate any potential risks

and ensure a seamless, secure and pleasant experience for the pilgrims, he added.

Apart from taking stock of the CRPF's operational readiness for the yatra, the DG also reviewed the disaster management preparedness, the spokesperson said.

He assessed the force's contingency drills to ensure the force's timely response in the face of any unforeseen mishap or natural calamity, such as the cloud burst last year.

At least 13 people were killed when a cloudburst near the Amarnath shrine triggered flash floods on July 8, 2022, damaging 25 tents and three community kitchens.

Authority of India (NHAI) and construction companies were also asked to maintain the highway and station adequate machinery at all vulnerable places to clear roads without any delay, they said.

The directions were passed by Jammu Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar who visited Ramban along the highway to review the arrangements for the annual Amarnath Yatra which is scheduled to commence next month.

Kumar, who also inspected progress of the ongoing four-laning works on the highway, visited Yatri Niwas Chanderkote and also inspected community kitchen sites along the highway besides inspected national

Jammu to Srinagar owing to massive and frequent traffic jams between Nashri tunnel and Banihal.

highway works, an official

only all-weather road link-

ing Kashmir with rest of

the country, was closed for

traffic on Friday for neces-

sary repair and maintenance

work as part of the efforts to

ensure smooth flow of traffic.

way claimed it took them

Travellers on the high-

The 250-km highway, the

spokesman said.

The spokesman said the divisional commissioner directed officers of NHAI to complete the maintenance work to provide safe passage to commuters.

He stressed on expeditious maintenance of the highway, traffic regulation, lane enforcement and surface maintenance.

The Divisional Commissioner also chaired a meeting and emphasized upon the stakeholder departments to synergize efforts to make adequate arrangements well in advance for smooth conduct of the Yatra, the spokesman said.

## **DC Kulgam Inspects Progress Of Several Dev Projects**

#### **Observer News Service**

Kulgam: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat on Sunday visited Liroo area of the district where he took stock of the physical progress made on the construction of residential quarters here

It was informed that 06 residential quarters for Officers are under execution of JKPCC, with an estimated cost of about 14.47 crore rupees

It was intimated that out of 06 blocks, work on 05 blocks is complete while 45 percent of work stands completed on block 06.

While taking stock

of progress made on construction of 2 BHK residential accommodation for PRIs at Kulgam, concerned from R&B informed that that 70 percent work has been completed in these quarters.

It was also shared that the project cost of these PRI residential quarters is 5.25 crore.

The DC directed the concerned executing agency to expedite the construction work so that these are immediately put to use.

Besides, DC also took stock of work on NH-444 near Liroo Kulgam.

The DC was accompanied by ADC Viqar Ahmed Giri, ACR Mir Imtiyaz-ul-Aziz and other officers and officials.

## **Annual Bani Chinj Mela Kickstarts** With Great Pomp & Show

#### **Observer News Service**

Kathua: The 3-day annual Bani Chinj Mela kickstarted with cultural fervor at Bani which witnessed huge participation of locals.

The event was orgainsed by the Sub-Divisional Administration Bani in collaboration with JKAACL and Pahari Cultural Forum Bani.

District Development Council Chairperson Kathua, Col( Retd) Mahan Singh was the Chief Guest.

DDC member Bani, Reeta Thakur and SDM Bani, Satish Sharma were also present.

The Mela was organised with the theme "Say No to Drugs, Yes to Life".

On the inaugural day, a colorful Music and Dance programme was organised under the overall guidance of Secretary JKAACL Bharat Singh.

While speaking on the occasion Chief Guest Mahan Singh said "I was awestruck to see the presentations by every artist and urged the Academy authorities to make this event an annual happening so that the Art and Culture of Bani can be preserved".

SDM Bani in his address said Bani Chinj Mela is becoming a famous event where wrestlers and Cultural troupes from different parts of the UT and neighbouring states turn up with great enthusiasm. He appreciated troupes of JKAACL for their scintillating cultural performances. He said such events help in preserving local Culture and artforms besides giving good opportunities to the artists to inspire young generations.

The programme started with the vibrant dogri dance "Thanda Pani Pinnde ne pahari Lok" by Natya roots Dance group Jammu. Followed the presentations of Subash Chander and party Kud dance, Yudishter Gupta and party dogri folk song.

The programme was concluded with the awestruck performance of Dogri folk Geetru which is a traditional narrative song-dance form in which the lead singer also performs some dance steps and at times also uses the theatrical devices as well.

#### Two-Day Cricket **Event For The Visually Impaired Concludes**

#### **Observer News Service**

Srinagar: The J&K Cricket Association for Blind in association with J&K Handicapped Association organized a cricket tournament at Bakshi Stadium Srinagar.

The two-day event, sponsored by J&K Sports Council concluded Sunday.

A version of cricket designed for players who are blind or partially sighted and conceived by two blind factory workers in Melbourne as "blind cricket" in 1922 using a tin can filled with rocks. Soon after, in 1922, the Victorian Blind Cricket Association was established, and the first sports facility and clubhouse for blind cricket were constructed in Kooyong, Melbourne, in 1928.

NEWS MAKERS

## OUTPOST

### SRINAGAR | MONDAY | 26.06.2023

## Woman swallows 59 capsules containing cocaine worth Rs 11 crore; caught at Delhi airport



#### Agenceis

New Delhi: A woman from Guinea-Bissau has been arrested for smuggling in cocaine worth Rs 11 crore at the international airport here, a statement issued on Sunday by the customs said.

The passenger was intercepted after her arrival from Ethiopia's Addis Ababa on June

#### 18, it said.

During investigation, it was found that she had swallowed 59 capsules containing the narcotic. The passenger was taken to a local hospital where she was made to regurgitate the capsules, leading to recovery of 724 grams of cocaine. The woman has been arrest-

ed and cocaine has been seized, the agency said.

## **56-Year-Old Millionaire** Fails China's Toughest Exam For 27th Time

#### Agenceis

China: After failing to achieve a high enough score on China's dreaded college entry exam for the 27th time, 56-year-old Liang Shi is beginning to wonder if he will ever make it to his dream university.

Mr Shi, a self-made million-aire, has taken the gruelling "gaokao" exam dozens of times over the past four decades, hoping to earn a place at top-tier Sichuan University and fulfil his ambition of becoming "an intellectual". By most measures, Liang has had a successful life -- he worked

his way up from a menial job on a factory floor to establishing his own construction materials business, making millions of yuan in the process, but his university dreams have so far eluded him.

In his quest for a prestigious higher education, he has put in 12-hour study days, abstained from drinking and playing mahjong, and endured the media mocking him as the "gaokao holdout", as well as online suspicion that it is all a publicity stunt.

But despite months of living like "an ascetic monk", this year Liang was 34 points short of the provincial baseline for getting into any university. "Before I got the result, I had a



feeling that I wouldn't be able to get a high enough score to enter an elite university," he told AFP. "But I didn't expect to not

make it into the ordinary ones." Shortly before 10 pm Friday

-- along with hundreds of thousands of high-school students across southwestern Sichuan province -- the grey-haired businessman carefully typed in his exam identification information and nervously waited to find out how he'd done.

Several local media reporters live streaming the scene were also avidly checking for updates -- and from their disappointed expressions, Liang knew before he even saw the screen himself that the result was not ideal.



"It's all done for again this year," he said to himself. "It's very regrettable.'

In the past, Liang's repeated misses failed to deter him.

Every time he fell short, he vowed to try again the next year. Now, for the first time in decades, he is wondering if his hard

hope for improvement, there is no point doing it again. I really did work very hard every day," he said tiredly.

"It's hard to say whether I will keep on preparing for the gao-kao next year," he admitted.

able to him.

## **US Airport** Worker Gets Sucked **Into Plane Engine, Dies**

#### Agenceis

Washington: US regulators said Sunday they are investigating an incident in which a Texas airport worker was killed after being sucked into a passenger plane engine.

A Delta flight had arrived in San Antonio, Texas from Los Angeles on Friday night and was taxiing to the gate with one engine on "when a worker was ingested into that engine," the National Trans-portation Safety Board (NTSB) told AFP in a statement.

"The NTSB is continuing to gather information about the event," it said. The worker was employed by

Unifi Aviation, a company the airline giant contracts with for ground crew operations, according to local media. Delta told San An-

tonio broadcaster KENS 5 that the

work will ever lead to anything. "If I truly can't see much

But a life without gaokao preparation is almost unthink-

#### company was "deeply saddened" by Friday night's events and that it is "cooperating with authorities as they begin their investigation." Unifi Aviation told the broadcaster the incident was "a tragic

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accident." "From our initial investiga-tion, this incident was unrelated to Unifi's operational processes, safety procedures and policies,' the company said.

On Wednesday, regional carrier Piedmont Airlines was fined \$15,625 by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), another regulatory body, for the death of a ground crew worker last year in a similar incident.

"Proper training and enforcement of safety procedures could have prevented this tragedy," an OSHA official said.

Piedmont is a subsidiary of carrier American Airlines.





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