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Chasing The Kashmir Dream

Tourists Forge Their Own Snowy Trails, Flock to Sinthan Top



Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Tourists are making a beeline to Sinthan Top as the off-beat destination boasts of being the only place in Kashmir which is snow-clad these days while the rest of the valley battles with dry weather. Sinthan top is a snow-clad mountain peak situated at 12,500 feet connecting Anantnag in south Kashmir to Kishtwar in Jammu

region via Kokernag.

As Kashmir is going through one of its worst dry phases, snow has melted at most places which usually remained

wered under a thick blanket of snow for this time of the year, officials said.

Higher reaches of the valley,

Higher reaches of the valley, which used to look pristine with a white carpet of snow, are looking barren as most of the glaciers have melted up. Similar is the case in Ladakh region, they said. The officials said scores of tourists have returned home from Kashmir dejected without getting a feel of snow. A large number of tourists, who arrived here around the New Year's Eve in the hope of enjoying skiling and other snow-related activities in the 1 More on P6

THERE IS NO SNOW ELSEWHERE IN KASHMIR in THE MONTH OF JANUARY, but my heart filled with joy when I reached Sinthan Top. The weather is very good, Kashmir is truly a paradise."

Avushman Health Insurance Cover Likely To Be Doubled

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The government is working on finalising a pro-posal to double the insur-ance cover under its flagship Ayushman Bharat health scheme to Rs 10 lakh to encancer and transplants that entail more expenditure are

supported by it, official sources said on Wednesday.

An announcement to this effect is likely to be made in the interim Union Budget on February I, the sourcestold PTI.

The Union health ministry is also planning to double the beneficiaries to 100 crore under the Austenman Bhazat under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri | More on P6



nidst the warming weather in Kashmir, a young boy picks ripe oranges in an orchard in Srinagar. In the days of yore, who would we imagined that tropical fruits like lemon and oranges would find a home in the lush Kashmir valley? Yet, unexpectedly, the anging climate patterns have granted the zestful fruits a new territory to flourish. KO Pix Abid Bhat

FOREST FIRE RISKS

Entry In Forests, Wildlife Protected Areas Banned

Srinagar: In response to recent forest fires brought on by the prolonged dry spell in the valley, the Department of Wildlife Protection has pro-hibited unauthorized entry into forest and wildlife pro-tected areas.

The department, in this direction, has issued a notice expressing concerns about po-tential forest fires which may be challenging to manage and could result in harm to the for-est and protected areas.

"Due to the long prevailing dry spell in the Valley, there

have been incidents of forest fires and there is strong apprehension of forest fires which may be hard to control and can cause big damages to the forest and wildlife protected areas in view of the dry vegetation," reads the notice. It said that anyone found within a forest area without proper permission from the department concerned shall be strictly dealt with under the provisions of Wildlife Protection Act.

"Persistent dry weather in Kashmir has led to frequent unauthorized camping in forest areas, I More on P6 ave been incidents of for

Two Injured In Kulgam **Forest Fire**

the ongoing dry spell has triggered a massive bushfire in South Kashmir's Kulgam district while two of the

'Admissions For J&K Students In Pakistani Colleges'

ED Attaches Assets In Terror Funding Case

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Enforcement said it has attached immov able assets and bank de-posits worth Rs 5 crore as part of an investigation against some Jammu and Kashmir-based operatives who operatives who for terrorist ac-tivities and stone pelting.

pelting.
Seven immovable assets and two bank accounts have been provisionally attached under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). They belong to separatist or the period of the prevention of Money Laundering and the period of the prevention of Money Laundering and the period of the per

Fatima Shah, Qazi Yasir, Mohammad Abdullah Shah and Iqbal Mir, the ED said in

and Iqbal Mir, the ED said in a statement.

The money laundering case stems from Jammu and Kashmir Police FIR and a charge sheet it filed against Akbar Bhat, Fatima Shah, Altaf Ahmad Bhat, Qazi Syed Khalid Andrabi and others on charges of being the shadown of the said o

Each student was charged about Rs | More on P6

Light Rain, Snow From Jan 25 In I&K: MeT

Observer News Service

Srinagar- Weatherman has forecasted light rain and snow at a few places in Jammu and Kashmir from January 25-27.

At a few places in Janinu and Kashmir from January 25-27.

While dry weather was likely to continue till January 24, a meteorological department official said that there is also the possibility of light rain and snow at scattered places from January 28-30.

He said that there is going to be improvement in visibility and maximum temperature during the next 2 days over Jammu Division which is presently witnessing fog during the morning.

Meanwhile, there was some respite from the intense cold wave in Kashmir as night temperatures rose significantly at most places in the valley, the official said. Srinagar city recorded to the control of the cont

ed a minimum temperature of minus 2.4 degrees | More on P6

Iran's Attack in **Pakistan Sparks** Diplomatic Crisis

Agencies

Agencies

Pakistan: Pakistan recalled its ambassador to Tehran on Wednesday, a day after Iran launched airstrikes on Pakistan that it claimed targeted base of a terror group. Islamabad angrily denounced the attack as a "blatant violation" of its airspace and said it killed two children. Tuesday's strike on Pakistan's restive southwestern Baluchistan province imperiled diplomatic relations between the two neighbors, but both sides appeared wary of provoking the other. Iran and nuclear-armed Pakistan have long regarded each other with suspicion over militant attacks. The attack also threatened to further ignite violence in a Middle East unsettled by Israel's ongoing war on Gaza. Iran launched strikes late Monday in Iraq and Syria over a suicide bombing that killed more than 90 people earlier this month. Islamic State claimed responsibility for the bombing. | More on P6

Kashmir Fruit Growers Stare At Losses Amid Prolonged Dry pell

Agencies

Srinagar: Fruit growers in Kashmir stare at losses as experts predict that the prolonged dry spell may lead to early 10wering, impacting the quality and quantity of the fruit.

The continuous dry spell, with no rainfall or snowfall even in January, has raised concerns among fruit growers and farmers in the valley.

Experts who spoke with Kashmir News Observer warned that the lack of soil moisture resulting from the prolonged dry spell could adversely affect the quality and yield of fruits, particularly



Insufficient Chilling Periods

» Pest Vulnerability

apples, in the upcoming season.
Prof Khalid Mushtaq, Head,
Division of Fruit Sciences at
SKUAST Srinagar said, "As of
now, we are in a safe zone and
let's hope for the best."
However, if this dryness continues till February and the temperature rises to 20-25°c, then it could
lead to early flowering that will
impact the fruit set, he warned.
Dr Mushtaq said the fruit
set will be less and will impact the yield as well. He advised against pruning in these
weather conditions, saying it
can affect the trees.
Akhtar Malik, a scientis
at the Kashmir University's
Department | More on P6

LG Released J&K Haj Committee's Coffee Table Book

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha released the Coffee Table Book of Jammu Kashmir Haj Committee "The Spiritual Journey HAJ" at Raj Bhawan. The LG congratulated Jammu and Kashmir Haj Committee and the editorial teamonthe occasion. Sinha said that the pilgrimage to the Holy places during the committee of the committee of

Sinha said that the pilgrim-age to the Holy places during Haj and Umrah is a cherished life-long dream and the Coffee Table Book will considerably improve the ease of travel and provide much-needed informa-tion about services rendered to the respected Hajis.

about services rendered to reespected Hajis. extend my greetings and itations to the Jammu mir Haj Committee for this



Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir: Dr Shujaat Ahmad, Executive Officer J&K Haj Committee; Moulvi Mohammad Ashraf, Member J&K Haj Committee and Irshad Ahmad, Haj Officer

ere present on the o Meanwhile.

noted writer Dr Satish Vimal.

The LG congratulated Dr
Satish Vimal and the team as-

HOW MUCH GAMING IS TOO MUCH?

Video Gamers At Higher Risk Of Irreversible Hearing Loss, Tinnitus, New Research Finds



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Video gamers worldwide might be at a higher risk of irreversible hearing loss or developing a persistent ringing, or tinnitus, in their ears, new research published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) Public Health has found.

Such gamers are known to often expose themselves to high-intensity sound levels and for several hours at a stretch, and researchers have found that the sound levels often near, or exceed, permissible safe limits, which for children is 75 decibels for 40 hours a week.

bels for 40 hours a week.

ers," they wrote. One of the research papers the

In their analysis, the research-ers found that of the five stud-ies that evaluated associa-tions between gaming and self-reported hearing loss or tinnitus, two linked the use of school students' gam-ine centres to more chances of

ing centres to more chances of severe tinnitus and high-frequency

severe tinnitus and high-frequer sound hearing loss in both ears. Other studies in the overall analysis associated video gam-ing with higher odds of self-reported hearing loss se-verity and measured sound levels of five video games through headphones at-tached to the gaming console - these averaged at 88.5, 87.6,

85.6 and 91.2 decibels (dB) for 4 separate shooter games, and 85.6 dB for a racing game. The authors concluded

856 d8 for a racing game.

The authors concluded that the daily level of sound exposure from these video games is close to maximum permissible levels of sound exposure, according to the standards of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) which, in collaboration with the WHO, has described a time-intensity trade-off, known as an exchange rate, for permissible levels and duration of exposure.

For children, the ITU has defined the permissible noise

exposure level as 75 decibels for 40 hours a week with a 3-dB exchange rate, which means that the permis-sible exposure time halves with every 3 dB increase in noise level. The children can therefore they listen to an 83-decibel

safely listen to an 83-decibel sound for around 6,5 hours, 86 dB for around 3.25 hours, 92 dB for 45 minutes, and 98 dB for only 12 minutes a week, the researchers explained.

Acknowledging that the data provided in the review was limited, the researchers said that "some gamers, particularly those who play frequently, and at or above the average sound levels described 1 More on P6 ound levels described | More on P6







The international research team, including researchteam, including researchters from the World Health
Organization (WHO) and
the Medical University
of South Carolina, US, reviewed 14 studies from 9
countries in North America,
Europe, South East Asia, Asia and
Australasia, that included more than
50,000 people in all.
The researchers said that
Trelatively little" attention
has been paid to the effects
of video games, including e
sports, on hearing loss, even
as headphones, earbuds,
and music venues have been and music venues have been acknowledged as sources of

The findings suggest that there may be a need to prioritise interventions, such as initiatives focused on education and awareness of the potential risks of gaming, that can help promote safe listening among gamers," they wrote.

One of the research papers the team analysed estimated that there were more than 3 bil-lion gamers worldwide in 2022, and six papers report-ed that video gaming preva-lence among young people ranged from 20 to 68 per cent, but caid.

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

Poverty, Chronic Inflammation Together Triple Cancer Death Risk: Study

he combined effect of poverty and chronic inflammation could more than double the risk of death from heart disease and triple the mortal-

Poverty has been documented to individually heighten the risk of mental illness, heart disease, hyper-tension, and stroke, in addi-tion to higher mortality and lower life expectancy.

activity, or being exposed to environmental toxins, or having autoimmune disor-ders such as arthritis also is a known risk factor for disease and mortality

However, researchers at the University of Florida said they have shown for the first time that the combined effect of poverty and chronic inflam could reduce health and life expectancy even further, significantly worse than the outcomes expected when

evaluated separately,
"We found that participants with either inflamma-



tion or poverty alone each had about a 50 per cent increased risk in all-cause mortality. In contrast, individuals with both inflam-mation and poverty had a 127 per cent increased heart disease mortality risk and disease mortainty risk and a 196 per cent increased cancer mortality risk," said Frank A. Orlando, an associate professor at the University of Florida and second author

tors - poverty and chronic inflammation - worked

together in a "synergistic" or an interactive manner in heightening the mortality an "additive" manner. "If the effects of inflam-

mation and poverty on mortality were additive, you'd expect a 100 per cent increase in mortality for people where both apply. But since the ob-served 127 per cent and 196 per cent increases are much greater than 100 per cent, we conclude that the combined effect of inflammation and poverty on mortality is syner-gistic," said Orlando.

From the office of the Aquib Hussain Bhat Advocate J&K High Court, Srinagar
Office Chamber Lawyers Building District Court Complex
Moominabad, Batmaloo Srinagar.

I. MS. I. HAP-ECLA AGNAR INC. 0501007.23717.

Wick Late Abdul (Qayoom Tholia 2. ZAHOOR AHMAD THOLIA AGNAR No. 343420889418 S/cot Late Abdul (Qayoom Tholia 3. Mu/ZAFFAR AHMAD THOLIA AGNAR No. 358343032108 S/cot Late Abdul (Qayoom Tholia Ali residents of, Nageen Bagh, Hazratbal Sinnagar.

Public at Large

CAVEAT PETITION
The caveators have developed reasonable apprehension that
the non-caveators may file SUIT/WRIT or any other proceeding
against the caveators before he holde court and may obtain order
in ex-parte by concealing of material facts. It would be fair and
just if the caveators are given opportunity of being theard by the
Hombie court before passing any order.

If a dupb Hussain Bhat Advocate
If it is the caveators are given opportunity or the process of the court before passing any order.

searchers analysed data from adults aged 40 and older, enrolled between 1999 and 2002 in the National Health and Nutrition Examina-tion Survey (NHANES), and followed them up until 31 December 2019, They combined the NHANES data with records from the National Death Index, to calculate mortality rates over a period of 15 years after enrollment,

The findings highlighted the need for routine chronic inflammation screenings in socially disadvantaged people - already a medically vulner-- already a medically vulner-able group - to limit what are, in many cases, preventable deaths, according to lead author Arch Mainous III, a professor in the department of health services research.

management and policy at the University of Florida. "We need to translate the basic science on chronic inflammation to the doctor's office through the creation of screening guidelines so physicians can identify chronic inflammation in their patients and work to treat the underlying causes," said Mainous, "It is time to move

beyond documenting the health problems that inflammation can cause, to trying to fix these prob-lems," said Mainous.

From the office of Advocate Ghulam Jeelani Kukiloo

iullah Mistary S/O Abdul Maiid Mistary R/O H.M.T Srinagar, Vs Public at Large

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

The caveators will have apprehension that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap-peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Horbie Court and on the ground of idiotrated facts/miserpesentation and cooked story and may seed in obtaining some relet/forder at their back/in exparte against the caveators and insuch eventuality the caveators will be put inirepa-able loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'bie court before passing any order.



University of Kashmir

RESULT NOTIFICATION DOCTOR OFPHILOSOPHY

Janan Ahmad Parray 5/o Gh. Nabi Parray bearing University Registration No. 46136-A-2011, who porsued integrated Ph.D Programme on Whole Time basis in the discipline of Political Science, Department of Political Science, School of Social Sciences submitted thesis titled "Durbar-Move in Jammu & Kashmir and its Impacts" under the Supervision of Dr. Aljaz Advarf Wari, Associater Professor; Department of Political Science, University of Kashmir, Srinagar is declared qualified for the award of Ph. D degree on 22-12-2023.

Secrecy No. F (Ph.D./Political Science/Sec/KU/2023)

Dt.11.01.2024

Dt. 11.01.2024



University of Kashmir Srinagar, J&K, India-190006 NAAC ACCREDITED GRADE 'A+'

RESULT NOTIFICATION DOCTOR OFPHILOSOPHY

Qurat UI. Ain D/o Ab Rahim Bhat bearing University Registration No. 6904-681-2011 who pursued Integrated Ph.D. Programme on Whole Time basis in the discipline of Political Science, Department of Political Science, School of Social Sciences Submitted thesis titled "India's West Asia Policy. A Study of India-Saudi Arabia Relations Since 2016" u Supervision of Prof Gull Mohd Wani, Professor at Der Political Science, University of Kashmir, Sringar is qualified for the award of Ph.D. degree on 28-12-2023.

Sd/- Inam Ur Rauf Malik

Joint Controller of Examinations Control

Secrecy No.F (Ph.D./Political Science/Sec/KU/2023)

University of Kashmir Srinagar, J&K, India-190006 NAAC ACCREDITED GRADE 'A+

Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat S/o Gulzar Ahmad Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat S/o Gutzar Ahmad Bhat bearing Linversity Registration No. 3800-818-2011 who pursued integrated Ph.D. Programme on Whole Time basks in the discipline of Political Science, Department of Political Science, School of Social Sciences. Submitted thesis titled "Cross-border Regilgous Dissirant in Indis-Pakistra Relations: Process and Potential" under the Supervision of Prof Gull Mohd Warr, Porfessor at Department of Political Science, University of Kashmir, Srinagar is declared qualified for the award of Ph.D. degrees or 23,23,25

of Kashmir, Srinagar is degree on 22-12-2023.

Sd/-Inam-Ur-Rauf Malik Sd/- Dr. Majid Zaman Joint Controller of Examinations Controller of Examinations

Secrecy No.F (Ph.D./Political Science/Sec/KU/2023)

Dt. 11.01.2024

ity risk due to cancer over a 15-year period, new research in the US has found.

Further, chronic inflam-mation brought about by lifestyle factors like poor diet or lack of physical

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

SUB-OFFICE BANDIPORA

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original Migration certificate of class 12th session Annual Private Bi-Annual 2020-21 issued by the

board of School Educaton under Below

original marks card is teated as cancelled

Year & Session : Annual Private Bi-Annual 2020-21

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Migration certificate . Anybody (if) having any objection may file the some before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the

Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written in my J&K Bank Account details as Zamin Ah Bhat while my correct name is Zamin Zahoor which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard her/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Branch Manager Jamma and Kashmir Bank Singhora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be Zamin Zahow.

Board Of School Education Sub Office Bandipora

e: Junaid Ahmad Da S/o: Mohammad Abdullah Dar Roll No: 32609403

of the study published in the journal Frontiers in Medicine. The team further found that both the risk fac-

risk, rather than merely in

participants with

either inflammation

or poverty alone each had about a 50 per

cent increased risk in

all-cause mortality. In

with both inflammation

contrast, individuals

and poverty had a 127

heart disease mortality

cent increased cancer

per cent increased

risk and a 196 per

mortality risk

(Caveators) (Non-caveators)

For the study, the re-

I. MST. HAFEEZA Adhar No. 806067235772

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education

New Campus Bernina Srinagar

New Campus Bernina Srinagar

(Class-10th) under Roll No: B197962 year-2017

(Class-11th) under Roll No: B197962 year-2018

through the Jammu and Kashrini Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/paern/Doard, my Father's Name has be wrongly writtes as Muzaffar Ahmad Tall while his correct names i Muzaffar Ahmad Tall who, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmil Board of School Education. New Campus Bernina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Anne: Shuberan Muzaffar F/M. Muzaffar Ahmad Tell M/N: Shameeran Muzaffar Ahmad Tell M/N: Shameeran Muzaffar Board Shame Shuberan Muzaffar Board Shame Shuberan Muzaffar Pink Muzaffar Ahmad Tell M/N: Shameeran Muzaffar Board Shame Shuberan Busaffar Board Shame Shuberan Buzaffar Buzaffa

NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

That I have applied for issuance of DOB certificate before the Honorable Tehsidar Handwara/ Register Births and deaths in favor of My daughter namely Nyza Wessenn D/O Wissens Sharnas Dar R/O Bandsy Mchalla, Handwara who was born on 25/11/2021. If anyone have any objections, he/she may le the same to the office of Register of Births and D e a t hs/Tehsil office Handwara within a period of seven days. No objections will be entertained after the said period.

NOTICE

Issued through Father Waseem Shamas S/O Shamas ud din dar R/O Banday Mohalla, Handwara

I Nisar Ahmad Shah S/o Syed Hafiz Ullah Shah R/o 77, Lane 3, Umar Colony B, Lal Bazar, Srinagar-190023 want to correct my name in Adhaar bearing Aadhar no:- 4945 8697 5736 from Syed Nisar Ahmad Shah to Nisar Ahmad Shah. I want to re-issue for the same. Regard this, if anybody is having any objection may file the same to the Concerned Adhaar centre within a week at the most, after that no claim should entertained.

public that I want to change the name of from Nabiha Shabir to ny daughter my daughter from Nabina Shabir to rarheen in all the documents including ichool and municipal records. I anybody is having any kind of objection an contact the concern office within a period of seven (7) days from the publical

otice after which no objection will be entertained.

Shabir Ahmad Ahanger Dalkawpora, Rainawari, Srinagar, Kashmir (M): 91-7006274146

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & Style "M/S Dreamwave Tour and Travels" Situated at Dhobiwan Kunzer

Public Notice

Public Notice

Wargons Bangil Intend to apply in the Department of Toutism for registration of my proposed traced under the Department of Toutism for registration of my proposed traced under the time & 4 style of "MiX". December 2011 and Travelses "Student at Dhobbloman Kunzer KAS-9888 under bouts trade as 1978/88/2/091-2.

KAS-9888 under bouts trade as 1978/88/2/091-2.

Commission of the Commission of th

ميرخا ندان كوصدمه

یِنجراعتِها کی وَ کھے ساتھ وی جاتی ہے کہ تبلہ بیگیم زوجہ حاجی غلام محی الدین میر مرحوم ساکنه بس شاپ سعیده کدل رعناداری سرینگر مورید 16 جنوری 2024ء مطابق، رجب ١٣٣٥ء بروزمنظواركواس دارفاني سرحات ر تحيين الله تعالى مرحومه كو جنت الفردوس نصيب فرمائيس مرحومه كي اجماعی فاتحه خوانی مورعه 19 جنوری 2024ء مطابق کرجب ٢٣٥١ه بروز جمعتد السارك بوقت 2.30 بج أن كر آبائي مقبره واقع مله كهاه الدرون سرك فزوك بيرون كالقى ورواز وسريكرين انجام دى جائ كى ـ سوگوارال

9419059977.7006969004

نوٹ:مستوارات ہے گذارش ہے کہ ووایئے ساتھ میوہ وغیرہ نہ لا تھی۔

University of Kashmir, Srinagar

Notice

The candidate whose particulars are given below has reported to the University that he / she has lost his/her University Certificate/s and has applied for issuance of duplicate certificate/s:
Name: Zakiya Awan

Paretnage:- Barkat Ullah Awan Residence:- Kudara Bandipora Registration No: 52731-W-2008 Certificate/s lost:- 2nd Year Roll No/s:- 9522

Zamin Zahoor S/o Zahoor Ah Bhat R/o Singhpora Patta

0/5:- 9522 on/ Year : Annual 2009

Session/Tear: Annua 2009

Before University will consider issuance of Duplicate Certificate/s in favour of the candidate, any person having any objection shall report to the undersigned within one week from the date of issuance of this notice. The original certificate/s issued to the candidate be treated as cancelled certificate/s issued to the candidate be trea No: F(Duplicate/ MC-6th Sem/PA /KU/24

Robust Fire Safety Measures In Place At Dal Lake

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Fire & Emergency Services Department said it has put robust safety measures in place to effectively respond to any potential fire incident at Dal Lake.

The Nehru Park Fire Station houses a fleet of nine fire boats, including two specifically designated for rescue operations, a se-

two specifically designated for rescue operations, a senior official from the F&ES Department said here.

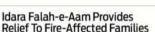
"We assure the public that our existing mechanisms are more than adequate to tackle any fire incident at the world-famous Del Lake," he said, adding that only minor areas for improvement are needed. improvement are needed.
Additionally, the Ni-

geen Fire Station also features two dedicated fire boats, he added.

The official said all boats are equipped with fire fighting essentials. "Out of the 11 boats, nine are turn-out boats equipped with fire pumps. The equipment onboard these boats includes fire pumps, engines capable

these boats includes fire pumps, engines capable of spraying water with high volume and other essential fire fighting tools." he informed.

A houseboat owner on Dal Lake said, "Our house-boats thrive on the beauty of Dal Lake, and knowing that there are enhanced fire safety measures in place adds an extra layer of confidence for both locals and visitors alike."



Srinagar: A delegation from Idara Falah-e-Aam, comprising its Chairman, General Secre-tary, Chief Organizer, and Finance Secretary, visited Lati Mohalia, Mir Behri Dal, to assess the damages caused by a tragic fire inci-dent recently.

dent recently.

The fire incident damaged several residential structures in the area, leaving many families shelter-less amid intense.

shelter-less arriad intense cold wave.

Chairman Idara Falah-e-Aarn, Abrar Hussain expressed sympathies with the fire affected families, acknowledging the hardships they are facing in the aftermath of the tragic incident.

The delegation provided on-the-spot as-

sistance, including cash and essential items to the affected families, based on the resources available to Idara Falish-Aam.

The chairman has appealed for donations to the Idara, highlighting that such contributions play a vital role in addressing issues like the recent fire incident and ensuring timely and effective relief for affected families. Idara Falish & Aam remains committed to its

Idara Falah & Aam remains committed to its mission of aiding com-munities in times of distress and those wish to chip in the cause can donate to Idara Falah e Aam Waqf on Account No 0100040100029050, J&K Bank, Branch Alamgari Ba zar, IFSC: JAKA0ALMGRI



Gurpurab Celebrated With Religious Fervour In Kashmir

Srinagar: Hundreds of devotees thronged Gurdwara Chatti Pad-shahi in Srinagar to celebrate the auspicious occasion of Guru Gobind Singh Ji's birthday on

Gobind Singh Ji's birthday on Wednesday.
On the auspicious occasion, the devotees held special prayers for the snowfall and rain amidst the prolonged dry spell in the Kashmi valley.
The atmosphere at the Gurdwara was filled with joy and spiritual fervour as devotees from different places came together to celebrate the birth amitversary of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the tenth Sikh Guru.

Guru commong of the Sikh Guru.

The faithful engaged in prayers and hymns, the devotees sought blessings for prosperity, peace and unity in Jammu and Kashmir.

The distinctive aspect of this

celebration was the collective flection, hope for snowfall and a wet spell, prayed i phenomena deeply associated in Kashr

flection, adding that they also prayed for snow and a wet spell in Kashmir.

Div Com, DC Greets Sikhs On Prakash Parv

rinagar: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bisthuri along with IGP Kashmir, V K Birdt and Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Dr Bilal Mohi-ud-Din today visited Chatti Padshahl Gurudwarra Rainawari on the occasion of 359th Prakash Parv of tenth guru of Sikhlism, Shri Garu Cobind Singh ji.

On the occasion, Div Com and other officers greeted followers of Sikhism and devotes who had visited in lurge numbers to Gurudwara to celebrate the birthday of Sikh Guru.

Addressing the devotees, Div Com prayed for communal harmony, brotherhood, peace and prosperity of the region and country.

They paid obeisance there, ex-tending wishes to everyone on the occasion of Gurpurab.

with the winter season in Kash-mir, which will also relieve the dry spell. The devotee said celebrating Guru Gobind Singh Ji's birthday is a moment of great joy and re-A local said. "In the prayers.

Old City Traders Aghast Over Lack Of Parking Facility

Sringgar: Lack of parking facil ity in the old city has resulted in frequent traffic jams in the overcrowded city, causing trad

overcrowded city, causing trad-ers to incur huge losses.

The aggrieved traders ap-pealed to the authorities to im-pose a ban on parking of vehi-cles on the roads in the old city

and take legal action against anyone found to be in violation of the orders. "We suffer huge business losses as a result of the lack of

losses as a result of the lack of designated parking spaces in the overcrowded marketplaces. The motorists without giving a damn to the traffic rules park their ve-hicles in the middle of the roads, causing huge traffic jams in the

area," said Nazir Ahmad Shah, president, Shehr-e-Khaas Traders Coordination Committee. The land was designated by the government as a parking area twelve years ago, but no concrete measures were taken turn it into parking area till date, Shah added. He said that a trader's delegation last year held a meeting

with the officials in this direction, but despite assurances, no concrete efforts were made to make them heave a sigh of relief.

"Commuters are finding it extremely difficult to manoeuvre this crowded location because there are no dedicated parking spaces. Tourists visiting the old city have been ling the old city have been let down by the absence of basic

conveniences such as a parking facility." he added. The traders have appealed to the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir. Vijay Kumar Bidhuri and Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar personally to look into the matter and direct the department concerned to ensure a dedicated parking facility in the old city for the larger interest of the people.

DC Reviews Implementation Of Social Welfare Schemes

Srinagar: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar. Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired. Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired and Officers meeting at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, here to review the implementation of welfare measures for under privileged, vul. enrable, down trodden and weaker sections of society and process of extension of benefits of various Government schemes by the Social Welfare Department. Welfare Department.
At the outset, the DC took a com-

At the outset, the DC took a comprehensive review of beneficiary oriented schemes.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC called upon the Officers and other functionaries of the Social Welfare Department to work in a holistic and pro-active approach with utmost coordination among all wings of the Department to ensure efficient and effective implementation of all Social Security and Beneficiary-Oriented schemes in the District.

He also asked the Officers for laying a special focus on cent percent coverage under all Social Welfare schemes.

schemes. The DC envisioned a plan for The DC envisioned a pian for the development of common cen-tres for the children suffering from Autism, Muscular Dystrophy and Braille teaching centres for blind children under a single roof in the district. He stressed on saturating the cases under Motorized Tricycles and Proothetic Aids

The DC said this is a collective consibility of all of us to make

sure that no eligible beneficiary is left behind. He stressed upon the Officers to take comprehensive measures to reach out to all eligi-ble beneficiaries, besides making the welfare schemes easily acces-sible to the people so that all eligi-ble beneficiaries of the Districts of the welfare schemes of the Districts of the welfare schemes.

welfare schemes.

During the meeting, the District
Social Welfare Officer gave a de-tailed PowerPoint presentation and apprised the DC about the function-

apprised the DC about the functioning of the Department and implementation of schemes. He informed that under SAS-CM (SAKSHAM) 75 beneficiaries were provided Pension and 41 were given scholarships.
He also presented figures of beneficiaries under National Foundation for Communal Harmont (NECH). Marriage Assistance scheme, Prosthetic Aid, Morcized Tricycles, Hearing Aid, Wheel chair, Tricycles,

chair, Tricycles. The DC was also informed about awareness programmes conducted under National Plan for Drug Benand Reduction, Na-sha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan and rehabilitation of Old Age persons, Abhedanand home and protec-tion and development under Juve-rula-Justice

tion and development under Juve-nile Justice.
Programme Officer ICDS,
Mushtaq Ahmad Rather: Chief
Planning Officer, Mohammad Yas-een Lose; District Social Welfars
een Lose; District Social Welfars
officer, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, be-sides other senior Officers and Offi-cials of Social Welfars Department
were present in the meeting.



The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. APM Department Canal Office Budgam Industrial Complex Salnakott. Srinagar 19012, Rashmil Tel: 0194-2497735, Ext. 218; amid.zoktwo@kbmall.com

AUCTION NOTICE

(For sale of mortgaged immovable property undersub rule 06 of Rule 08 read with sub rule 01 of Rule 09 of the security Interest (Enforcement)
Rules 2002 of SARFAESI Act 2002)

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the borrower, mortgagor and guarantors in particular that the below mentioned immovable property mortgaged to Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd Branch Nasrullahpora, the physical possession whereof has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank under section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI Act 2002 will be sold through e auction on "As is where is", "As is what is", "Whatever there is "and "No complaint" basis on 25.02.2024for recovery of dues to the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd Branch Nasrullahpora. The description of property, reserve price and the earnest money deposit (EMD) is mentioned herein below

Description of the mortgaged appurtenant property (Put on ale)

Reserve Price

Dated:16.01.2024 Place: Srinagar

Residential House along with land underneath 8 thereto measuring O1kanal bearing Khasra No.465 Khata No.48, Khewat No.7 situated in Mouza Labartal, Tehsil & District Budgam standing in the name of Shaheena Bano wife of Mohammad JaffarHajam resident of Labartal, Budgam.

Rs.38,56,400 (Rupees thirty eight lac fifty six thousand and four hundred Only) Rs.3,85,640/

Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)

The bid document/format containing full details of the mortgaged property and all the terms & conditions can be had from and submitted on the website"https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net (Contact Persons: Mr.Ram Sharma (M) 9978591888, 9265562821 (O) 079 – 6813 6844.). The bids complete in all respects can be only submitted online by or before 20.02.2024upto 4.00 PM. The e-auction will be held on 25.02.2024 from 11.30 AM-4.00 PM. The contact details of the bank officials are: Mr.Zahoor Ahmad Khan (Authorized Officer) Mobile No.9149443300&Mr.Muzaffal ain (Branch Head Nasrullahpora) Mobile No. 979722522.

Authorized Officer



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Turn Rs 10,000 Monthly Into 5.63 Cr In 30 Yrs!

Irshad Mushtan

id you know that by investing just Rs 10,000 per month for 30 years in quality equity mutual funds, you could potentially see a maturity amount of Rs 5.68 crore? Yes, it may sound too good to be true, but it's the power of systematic investment plans (SIP) and the magic of compounding.

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Most open ended mutual funds allow investment for 30 years. Similarly, Systematic Investment for 30 years.

at any time.

As a reminder, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is the official regulator of Mutual Funds in India. They are responsible for ensuring that investors are protected and maining transparency in the operation of mutual funds and the overall stock market. Choose your investments wisely and let he power of compounding work in your favor.

Author is NISM qualified, Mutual Fund advisor and distributor having experience of 18 years in financial market.





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



PRAYERS 6:08

CALENDAR 06 Raiab 1445

FAJR ZUHR 12:38 ASR 4:08 Magrib 5:51 ISHA 7:15

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Thursday I 18-01-2024

Trump's Potential Return

ald Trump secured a landslide victory in the loward caucuses on Monday, marking his first major win in the contest for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination. Trump's commanding performance, with over 51% of the vote, not only solidifies his position as the clear frontrumer but also sets a record as the largest-ever vote share in a contested Iowa caucus, surpassing George W. Bush's 41% in 2000.

The results leave no doubt about Trump's continued influence within the Republican Party, as voters rallied behind him despite facing numerous federal criminal charges. Ron DeSantis, the governor of Florida, emerged as a distant second, narrowly beating Nikki Haley, the former ambassador to the UN, who secured the third spot with just over 21% and around 19% support, respectively. Vivek Ramaswamy, an Indian-origin biotech entrepreneur, bowed out of the race after winning less than 3% of the vote, throwing his support behind Trump. This consolidation of support behind the former president underlines the challenge faced by other contenders in building a broad coalition within the party.

Trump has called for unity in an effort to consolidate support and present a united front against potential Democratic opponents in the general election. The lowa outcome is crucial, determining the allocation of the state's 40 delegates to the Republican National Convention in July.

The focus now shifts to how the dynamics of the race

outcome is crucial, determining the allocation of the state's 40 delegates to the Republican National Convention in July.'

The focus now shifts to how the dynamics of the race will evolve. Trump's early and clear victory in Iowa, despite adverse weather conditions, positions him as the candidate to beat in the Republican momination race. The 2024 contest is shaping up to be a fierce battle, with Trump's dominance casting a long shadow over the political landscape.

Trump's chances may have been further brightened by the liberal disillusionment with the incumbent president Joe Biden whose unqualified support for Israel has not just disappointed many of his admirers around the world but also within the US. More so, the Muslim voter base of the Democratic Party which has felt betrayed by Biden's complicity in the ongoing carnage in Gaza.

But Trump as Biden's replacement would be akin to going from frying pan into fire. The Iowa result has demonstrated that Trump has a wide and a surging support in the US and from hereon it seems likely that he will not only be nominated as the Republican candidate for in the US and from hereon it seems likely that he will not only be nominated as the Republican candidate For president but may go not to defeat Biden in November. To stop the Trump juggernaut, it will not only require a herculean campaign effort by the Democratic party but more importantly get its supporters to believe in its liberal credentials, something that seems a tall order now.

OTHER OPINON

On Airport Chaos

On Airport Chaos

In Sunday, a passenger on an IndiGo Delhi-Goa flight was arrested for allegedly assaulting the pilot after dense fog forced a flight delay of more than to have been delayed. As reported in this paper, data from Flightradar24 show that 606 outbound flights from Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport were delayed on Sunday, while 87 were cancelled. As a airline networks are integrated, and aircraft and crow that 400 hound flights were delayed and 42 were cancelled. As airline networks are integrated, and aircraft and crow tend to serve multiple flights across sectors, delays due to bad weather in one airport, especially a hub like Delhi, can have ripple effects. Social media platforms are awash with passengers complaining about long delays and cancellations.

There cannot be any justification for the violence by the passenger, thowever, the recent criticism of the aviation sector should lead to course corrections. In recent times, several control leads to course corrections. In recent times, several control leads to course corrections. In recent times, several control leads to course corrections. In recent times, several control leads to course corrections. In recent times, several control leads to course corrections. In recent times, several control leads to course corrections. In recent times, several control leads to course corrections. In recent times, several control leads to course or course control leads to course or the sector—at all the control leads to course or the sector—at all the control leads to course or the sector—at a control leads to course or the sector—at a control leads to course or the sector—at a control leads to course or the sector of the explanation could be traced to the structure of the sector—at a control lead to course or the sector—at a control leads to course or the sector or leads to the sector—at a control lead to course or the sector or leads to the sector—at a control leads to course or the sector or leads to do the sector or leads to do the sector or le

An Unequal World



Asad Mirza

The cavernous gap between rich and poor is
likely to increase globsally, the Oxfam report
says, and that since 2020, the richset five men in the world have
doubled their fortunes. During
the same period, almost five billion people globally have become
poorer. Hardship and hunger are
a daily reality for many people
worldwide. At current rates, it
will take 230 years to end poverty,
but we could have our first trillionaire in 10 years.

Oxfam's Report

Citing huge concentration of global corporate and monopoly power contributing to exacerbating inequality economy-wide, the report further says that seven out of ten of the world's biggest corporates have either a billionaire CEO or a billionaire as their principal shareholder.

Through squeezing workers, dodging tax, privatising the state and spurring climate breakdown, global corporations are driving inequality and acting in the service of delivering ever-greater wealth to their rich owners. To end extreme mequality, governments must radically redistricts must radically redistricts and corporations are decided to the property of the property of

corporations back to ordinary people, the report turges. For years, Oxfam has raised alarm about widening and extreme inequality. As we enter 2024, the very real danger is that these extraordinary extremes are becoming the new normal. Corporate and monopoly power is an unrelenting inequality-generating machine.

Corporate and monopoly power is an unreleating inequality-generating mochine. For most people around the world, the start of this decade has been incredibly hard. For the poorest people, who are more likely to be women, racialised peoples, and marginalised groups in every society, daily life has become more brutal still. Global inequality - the gap between Global North and the Global South - has grown for the first time in 25 years. In addition, climate breakdown, driven by the super-rich, is dramatically increasing global inequality.

Governments are finding impossible to stay financially affoat in the face of mounting

debt and the escalating costs of importing fuel, food and medicines. Low- and lower-middle-income countries are set to pay nearly half a billion US dollars a day in interest and debt payments between now and 2009, and they are having to make severe cuts to spending to be able to pay their creditors.

Meanwhile, the dramatic increase in extreme wealth witnessed since 2020 has become set in stone. Billionaires are now US 8.3 trillion or 34% richer than this decade at the significant of the significant

An era of monopoly

The report uses new data to demonstrate that the richest people are not only the biggest beneficiaries of the global economy but exercise significant control

eticiaries of the global economy but exercise significant control over it too.

New research by Oxfam Illuminates just how much of the world's financial assets are owned by the top 1%. Using data from Wealth X, the report says that the richest 1% own 43% all global financial assets. In the Middle East, the richest 1% hold 48% of financial wealth; in Asia, the richest 1% own 50% of wealth. All the richest 1% own 50% of wealth. If further asserts that we are living through an era of monopoly power that enables corporations to control markets, set the terms of exchange, and profit without fear of losing business.

Around the world, Around the world, corporate power is relentlessly pushing into the public sector, commodifying and segregating access to vital services such as education, water and healthcare, while enjoying massive. enjoying massive, taxpayer-backed profits. This can gut profits. This can gut governments' ability to deliver the type of high-quality, universal public services that can reduce inequality

The report says that far from be-ing accidental, this power has been handed to monopolies by our governments.

our governments.

Workers overlocked
Basically, global corporations drive inequality by using
their power to force wages down
and direct profits to the ultraweelthy. Oxfam's analysis finds
that 791 million workers have
seen their wages fall to keep up
with inflation and as a result
have lost US \$1.5 trillion over
the last two years. Women are
vastly overrepresented in the
poorest-paid and least
Around the world, corporate
power is relentlessly pushing into
the public sector, commodifying
and segregating access to vital
services such as education, water
and healthcare, while enjoying
massive, taxpayer-backed profits.
This can gut governments' ability
to deliver the type of high-quality,
universal public services that can
reduce inequality.

The Remedy

The Remedy
The report besides bringing out the glaring inequality globally, also offers remedial steps to ease the balance of wealth.
Firstly, it says that the corporate power should be reigned in. It could be done by building a strong and effective state, which is the best bulwark against corporate power. Report urges the governments to take a proactive role in shaping their economies

for the common good. State must guarantee inequality-busting public services including health-care, education, care services and food security, by investing in public transport, energy, housing, and other public infrastructure. Secondly, the governments need to use their power to rein in the runaway power of corporates and prevent injustices across their supply chains, nationally and internationally. They must also stop the monopoly over knowledge by democratising trade and ending the abuse of patent rules that drive inequality. Further, the corporations must pay living wages and commit to ensure climate and gender justice; dividend payments and buybacks should be banned until this is guaranteed. Trade unions must be supported, protected and encouraged. CBO's pay should be capped, besides a permanent wealth tax and a permanent excess profit tax.

Thirdly, the governments

be capped, besides a permanent wealth and a permanent except of the company of th

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer Asad Mirza is a Delhi-based senior political and international affairs commentato



res nor publication must include the writer's name and addir nym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, spaceand accuracy quire. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with en anything in it. -EDITOR

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Power of Words

ords carry a lot of power.
They can build and lift,
They can build and lift,
They can build alm, and
teach and inspire. Conteach and inspire. Conteach and demolish, incite and enrage, and embarrass
and demean. Their meanings crystalize perceptious that shape our beliefs,
drive our behaviour, and ultimately
create our world. The power of words

arises from our emotional responses when we read, speak or hear them. The words we write or speak to others can leave a huge impact and create a lasting memory, either good or bad. It is therefore very important to choose them wisely and use them properly. Words are like music – when played well, they can euchant and delight the whole environment. And, words

are free. But, if used in a wrongful and harmful manner, they even cost you a mountain. Worlds hold incredible power to shape our lives. Positive communication, rooted in empathy and understanding, can transform relationships, boost our physical and mental well-being, and inspire personal growth. By choesing our words carefully, we can harness the power

of language to create a brighter, more fulfilling life. So, let us embrace the power of words and use them to up-lift, inspire, and iransform the world. Said Mother Teresa: "Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless."

Ranaganathan Siyakumar

Re-inventing Silk Road Saga

Why Re-Opening the Silk Road is Crucial for Asia and the World

Dr. Rizwan Rumi

The Old Silk Road was so wide-ly used in the 4th century that in the 21st Century, its geopolitical significance led most nations to wish for the same dom-

nations to wish for the same dominance over this route. Charles C Mann, an American journalist and author believes that inventions such as silk, paper, gunpowder, stirrup, and moldboard plow all started in Asia which led to more complicated innovations in the West which reached Europe through the Silk Road.

The era in China of the 4th centry BC to Znd century AD witnessed an exponential silk trade surge making China one of the most prosperous nations, known as the Land of Silk. This route started at Luoyang and Seyang, where the Silk Routes crossed the Yellow River at Lanzhou, and then followed the Gansu Corridor. At Dunhuang, the route split three ways, the northern branch crossed the Tianshan Mountains and the other two crossed the Taklamakan Desert. The Silk Route crossing China did not only impact Northern China but the history of the whole world.

The ancient silk route conceted land and sea routes linking it with China, India, East Asia, South Asia, Arabian Pensinal, East Africa, Central Asia, and the Mediterranean as well as Southern Europe, All anskeholders with an unspoken language frust between each other.

Trade activities were noticed back 4000 years in Xinjiang, buting that time, green jade was a precious stone in Xinjiang, while silk became popular terms among the Silk Boate and Silk became popular terms among the Silk Boate Incope and Wasars of the Zhou Dynasty, Around 300 BC, civilizations along the Silk Road including and civilizations along the Silk Road including and civilizations along the Silk Road including and civilizations along the Silk Road and civilizations along the Silk R

along the Silk Road including an-cient Creece, Persia, Yyezhi and the Qin State had control over the eastern parts of the Gansu Corri-dor crossing a huge long valley from Luoyang to Xinjiang. Development of the trade route started during the Han Empire 206 B to 220 AC, until hindered by attacks of small nomadic tribes from Central Asia on their trade caravans.

by attacks of small nomadic tribes from Central Asia on their trade caravans.

The reinforced development of the Silk Road dates back to the Sth century BEC when Darius the great Persian ruler built the first royal road from the Tigris River to the Asian Sea, Besides facilitating easy trade, the invasion of Asia by the powerful Greek King Alexander expanded into Asia by conquering Samarkand (a city in South East Uzbekistan) and new ones gave the idea of a connecting bridge between China and Europe. The spreading eastward of Greek, Egyptian, Indian and Persian made the Silk Road's passage extensively sought affer.

In the 7th century, the Tang Dynasty touched its Golden Age. The rise of the Mongols between 1207 AD and 1360 brought political stability which promoted the Silk Road. Western travellers such as the Venetian traveller Marco Polo went on the Silk Road controlled by the East between 1271 and 1295 was very impressed by his discoveries in the East led him to say that the East was far more developed and innovative than the West.

During this time, to protect felt ir tade routes, in 138 BCE, a the care to the Silk time, to protect their trade routes, in 138 BCE, a

developed and innovative than the West. During this time, to protect their trade routes, in 138 BCE, a general was sent as an envoy to the Western regions to sout out the territory and to form an anti-Knijang alliance with the Western people to build trade relationships with them. He returned to the Han Empire with stories of highly developed civilized societies in the West sharing about their wide diversity of products over the Western borders. It was not ongo before silk and jade were exchanged for horses and cotton by diplomats. This marked the

formal beginning of the Silk Road trade bringing silks and ceramics to other parts of the world. At the end of the Han Empire's rule in 220 AD, it was split into three warring stares, Wel, Shu and Wu marking the beginning of the three kingdom periods.

During the ancient Roman Empire era, the demand for Chinese silk rose to levels that royal orders were passed to ban Chinese silk and went as far as calling Chineses silk monard! However, the Eastern Roman Empire was so obsessed with Chinese silk that they got spies to steal the silkworm eggs and learned the secrets of

known as the South West Silk Route, connected the Yunan Prov-Robust connected the Yunan Prov-ince of China to Tibet and India, trading in horses, tea, sugar, salt, copper, and cotton. The route's history is intertwined with the rise and fall of empires and the exchange of cultures along its path.

From the third and fourth cen From the third and fourth cen-turies BCE, Southeast Asian coun-tries started becoming Indianized linguistically, politically, and re-ligiously where Hindu and Bud-dhist thoughts started to domi-nate, and dance styles and forms of art were taken from India. WHY IS IT WITAL TO REVIVE THE SILK

why is It wind. To revive the suk.

ROMD?

It Will Challenge Western Hegemony and Bring Political Balance
to the World.

In today's modern world, when
we envision power and money,
we immediately think of Western
nations, but the Silk Road outdates every modern trade. The
Silk Road may be the answer to
challenge Western hegemony and
its world dominance.

With Western dominance, the
East appears to become slaves
to the West. Western decisions

tions which used to be more rel-evant in the 1950s-1960s. In fact, during the attack on Gaza, China holds the same view as India, be-ing a proponent of a two-state solution contends that the Pal-estinian people are engaged in a struggle for national rights, and this cause deserves unwavering support. Demonstrating their backing, Chinese Prime Minister Mah-

Demonstrating their backing, Chinese Prime Minister Mah-moud Abbas visited Beijing in June, marking the initial visit by an Arab leader to China this year. Following this, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang asserted that Is-rael had exceeded the bounds of

Emirates proves so.
Ironically, with all its criticisms, U.S. trade with China has grown widely in recent decades and while they may hate to admit it openly, trade between them is vital for both nations. Today, China is one of the largest export markets for the U.S. The surge in trade between the United States and China gained momentum over the two decades following China's accession to the World Trade Organization in 2001. While this trade has brought advantages to consumers and businesses in both nations, there is growing apprehension among Washington officials regarding the potential hazards associated with Beijing's state-driven development. President Biden has opted to uphold tariffs on Chinese goods and implement additional trade restrictions as part of an initiative to redefine the bilateral relationship.

THE NEW SILK ROAD WILL STRENGTH-

THE HEW SIK ROAD WILL STERMOTHER THE LASTERN ENTREPRENEURAL.

AND INMOVATIVE SPIRIT

The revival of the Silk Road will draw out the Eastern world's enterpreneurial spirit and develop its innovative powers, to link with each other culturally reviving ancient traditions and this itself is a cause for celebration and unity. The buildup of Eastern confidence and self-assection, new inventions and growth will spring up. The New Silk Road goes via the Suez Canal in Egypt where shain and European trade flourishes. During the 1990s, with the growth of Chinese industrialization and trade, the Silk Road was revived. China focused on Central Asia, Central Europe, and Africa. Central Europe, and Africa. Asia was established through the Silk Road, concentrated mainly through its Maritime Routes. A present, in the Maritime Silk Road, several deep water ports are being developed to have seamless connectivity through roads, rall-sumpur Jakarta, Singapore, and Colombo through these routes. In the West, the Silk Road connects to Dijbouti, the Red Sea, Haifa Istanbul Athens, Italy, and the Adriatic Sea.

Lampur Jakarta, Singapore, and Colombo through these routes. In the West, the Silk Road connects to Dijbouti, the Red Sea, Haifa Istanbul Athens, Italy, and the Adriatic Sea.

The Trans-Surasla Logstic is every control of the Colombo through these routes. In the West, the South Asia, South East, Asia, and Central Asia. The new Silk Road covering through and and the Colombo through Balana and Flosing.

The Trans-Surasla Logstic is a joint venture of companies veneral compared to the woll have a larger geographic spread compared to the woll have a larger geographic spread compared to the old Silk Road covering Africa going all the way to Latin America. China is trying to reach Nairobi through all with fresh ambition to reach Actific. Ocean. through the Actific. Corean. through the Actific.

rail with fresh ambition to reach the Arctic Ocean through the Northern Sea Route. With good trade comes brighter fortune and confidence. Fear makes countries do werld things and this fear will leave when most of the nation's stand on an equal platform. The golden ages of the past always signified periods or rest, peace, wealth and harmony and this is what the revival of the new Silk Road can do for the world.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do ire the author's own and not necessarily represent ditorial stance of Kashn

Rita Farhat Mukand, is an independent writer in West Bengal and Dr. Rizzeun Rumi, th author is a freelancer, Writer an columnist and can be reached on rizwarroomiss) w@gamil.com



The New Silk Road

connections can

counter Western

control over Asia to Asia" can be

challenged. Silk

Routes would be opened not only for trade but for

harmonious unity in Asia and the Middle East, which would strengthen these Western dominance and unbalanced and unreasonable rules

making Chinese silk. They produced silk in the Byzantine Em-pire, but Chinese silk was still superior! Indian and Chinese Connections: For thousands of years, India and China have been connected by two silk routes, the Overland Silk Road and the Jesserknown Maritime Silk Road transporting silk suices and other Juxknown Maritime Silk Road trans-porting silk, spices, and other lux-ury goods. Maritime Silk Routes have powerful evidence that an-cient Asia was deeply connected, used by Hindu Brahmans and Buddhist monks, by diplomats and adventurers, used for trade, cultural expansion, diplomacy, pi-racy, and raids.

cultural expansion, diplomacy, piracy, and raids.
India has twelve very important in the silk Road sites that used to play a big role in ancient trade through the Silk Road sites such as Indraprastha (in New Delhi), Shravasti (in Utar Pradesh), Isammu and Kashmit, Tunjab, Utrarakhand, Kaushambi (in Utar Pradesh), Jammu and Kashmit (in Utar Pradesh), Vaishali (in Bihar), Vikramshila (in Bihar), Arikamedu (in Puducherry) Kaveripattinam (in Tamil Nada) and Nalasopara (in Maharashtra) where gold was exported from this town. All these I 2 main sites associated with the Silk Road are on UNESCO's tentative list including the ruins of ancient Vaishali in Bihar, the Remains of Vikramshila Ancient University, and Budchist sites like Kushinagar, Sravasti, Kaushambi, and Ahichhatra in Utar Pradesh.

Stees line Roshiniagal, Sidvesti, Kaushambi, and Ahlichharta in Ut-tar Pradesh.

The Silk Route wasn't merely about trade; it was an information superhighway, facilitating the exchange of ideas, art, and science. Greek art flowed into India, Buddhism spread globally, and Chinese travellers like Fa Hein and Hiuen Tsang visited India through these routes. The Arabs gained knowledge from India and China, Sahaping new sciences like Algebra.

In Sikkim, the Silk Route is an offshoot of an ancient trade route originating from Lhasa, passing through Nathula Pass and reaching the port of Tamralipta in West

THE NEW SILK ROAD

Now in modern times, the New Silk Road travels via the Suez Canal in Egypt where Asian and European trade flourishes. In the 20th century, due to World Wars 1 and 2, along with the Cold Wars, the Silk Routes were subtimed

were subdued. During the 1990s, During the 1990s, with the growth of Chinese industrialization and trade, the Silk Road was revived. China focused on Central Asia, Central Europe, and Africa.

China launched its Belt and Road initiative in 2013

economic belt and the 21st century Mari-time Silk Road. century Maritime Silk Road.
China vigorously
invested in Africa
trica to connect
more easily with
Africa through
East Africa and
North and Central Africa was
huidly connected
through Southern Europe.
Presently,
through rail conthrough silvent
Europe and mean
the North Sea,
Poland is being
connected. There
is a railway network through
which China,
Russia, Mongolia,
Russia, Mongo

which China, Russia, Mongolia, and Kazakhstan are being connected called the Eurasian Land Bridge now called the New Silk Road – a new net-work working its route into Eu-

rope, The Trans-Surasia Logistics is a joint venture of companies be-tween China, Germany and Russia to connect China with Germany on the global stage always have their last say without any chal-lengers. The disconnection of the Silk Road disunited the East and Middle East and fear and distrust were created between nations in the East. Due to Western imperialism,

ern imperialism, radicalization in the Middle East especially rose as counter-attacks on the West, which the West used to their advantage to "prove" that Easterners were barbaric and savages.

barbaric and savages. China's flag-ship scheme, the Belt and Road Initiative will el-evate the politi-cal and cultural significance in the East. In the coming days, Furasia consist-Furasia consistsignificance in the East. In the East. In the East. In the East with for so unity in a would in these ainst minance in the min

self-defense in its military operations in Gaza. One can conclude
that the new BRICS alliance will
start speaking more strongly
against human rights abuses. On
january 11, 2023, South Africa, the
only nation in the world to speak
up against Israel's attack on Gaza
up against Israel's attack on Gaza
up against Israel's attack on Gaza
to halt the widespread killing of
civilians in Gaza Israel accusing
them of carrying out genocide
against Palestinians in the region.
Nations only have power when
they have money and military
strength which keeps more powerful nations in line and speaking
up against unreasonable Western
hegemony will bring more balance and peace into the world.

ance and peace into the world

hegemony will bring more balance and peace into the world.

REVIVAL OF TRADE THROUGH THE
SILK ROAD WILL REMOVE AN INAGA
THAN SILK ROAD WILL REMOVE AN INAGA
THE SILK ROAD WILL REMOVE AN INAGA
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South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab

HK Hyundai, Unveiled The new Hyundai CRETA

Srinagar; HK Hyundai (An authorized Dealer of HMIL, Located at Athwajan Bypass Srinagar) unweiled the highly awaited new Hyundai (ERTA, Building on the success & legacy of the CRETA brand, the new Hyundai (CRETA, promises a paradigm shift with cutting-edge technology, segment defining-adge technology, segment defining asidety, exhilarating performance and comfort & convenience features. The new Hyundai (CRETA stands unchallenged, embodying the sesence of the Undisputed Ultimate. The starting price of new Hyundai (CRETA is Rs. 10,99,990 (ex-showroom). Mr. Riaz Ahmad Wani (Marketing Head, J&K Bani), unweiled the new Hyundai (CRETA is Rs. 10,99,990 (ex-showroom). All employees (LSUSOMES, Media groups etc. Joined the unweiling ceremony and praised the unweiling ceremony and praised

Yaqoob Mir (Managing Director, HK Hyundai), sald, "Hyundai (RETA is a brand beloved by India, captivating over 9 Lakt ustomers, and counting, ir made India 'Live the SUV life'. The new Hyundai (CRETA with its commanding road presence, segment leading Features including advanced Level 2 ADAS safety suite, powerful 1.5 Liter Turbo Gol engine and a gamut of convenience and active 8 passive safety features, is set to redefine the SUV landscape in India once again. We are confident that the new Hyundai (CRETA will not just uphold but elevate the strong legacy of the CRETA brand, remaining the Undisputed. Ultimate CRETA brand, remaining the Undisputed. Ultimate SUV is complemented by its brand ambassadors who are the eptiome of Undisputed. Ultimate in the Indian film industry. Through an action

envisions them as a perfect catalyst to bridge the gap between HMILS cutting-edge automobiles and the as-pirations of the young and dynamic

demographic.

Mr, Shabir Baba (GM, HK Hyundai),
Said, "Based on Hyundais' Globail
Design Language of Sensuous
Sportiness'. The new Hyundais
CRETA is loaded with advanced and
Hi-tech features - Quad Beam LED
Headlamps, Hyundai SmartSense
Level 2 ADAS, Voice Enabled Smart
Panoramic Sunroof, connected 26:03
cm HD Infociamment & 26:03
cm HD Infoci

like crash members, floor, side sill and crash pad to improve structural rigid-ity and energy absorption. Thus, en-suring high level of crashworthiness, As a testament of Hyundai's philoso-phy of standardizing safety, the new Hyundai (RETA features 98 Standard Safety Features and over 70 Advanced Safety Features.

Safety Features, over 70 Advanced Safety Features, Safety Features, Mr. Irshad Ahmad Bhat (SM, HK Hyundai), Said, the new Hyundai CRETA offers customers superior peace of mind for a happy life and quality time. With 3 Years unlimited m warranty and Road Side Assistance (RSA), customers can sit back and enjoy their ownership experience of the new Hyundai CRETA. To further demonstrate: Houndaix customer centric new Hyundai CRETA, To further dem-onstrate Hyundai's customer centric DNA, the all-new Creta will be offered with up to 5 years shield of trusting running repair package and up to 5 years shield of trust super periodic maintenance package.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Tourists Forge

Gulmarg bowl, had to go back disappointed due to the lack of snowlall. However, the only silver lining is the snow at Sinthan Top which has retained some amount and is providing some solace to the visitors, the officials added.

officials added.

An otherwise off-beat destination, Sinthan
Top is attracting tourists in hordes these days
as local travel agents redirect the visitors to the
spot to experience some snow.

Top is attracting tourists in hordes these days a local travel agents redirect the visitors to the spot to experience some snow.

"There is no snow elsewhere in Kashmir in the month of January, but my heart filled with jow when I reached here. The weather is very good, Kashmir is truly a paradise," said Aslam Saleem, a tourist from Dhaka, Bangladesh who visited Sinthan Top to see snow.

"This is a very nice place. I am here with my family, and we became very happy when we arrived. We are enjoying it very much," another tourist from Bangladesh said.

Vaishal, a tourist from MF's Bhopal, said they changed their plans when they heard about snow at Sinthan Top.

"Except for this place, there is now snow anywhere in the whole of Kashmir. We had plans of visiting Aru and Beetab valleys, but, when we came to know that there is snowfall in Sinthan Top, we changed our plans. We are enjoying it so much here and are happy that we changed our plans," she said.

Local travel agents were now advising tourists to include Sinthan Top in their titneraries.

"The tour operators are providing options to the tourists to change their titnerary and go to places like Sinthan Top to see snow. Many tourists are opting to go to Sinthan Top rather than other places in Pahaglam because of snow there." President of Travel Agents Association of Kashmir. (TAAK), Bouf Trawel Agents Association of Kashmir, the absence of snowAlla and the month of January has been a "total loss".

"The bookings have come down 75-80 per cent. Tourists used to come here for snow especially at Gullmarg and then it used to trickle to other places inchange strange strange strange to the other places in change strange, the now, here is allow and the advised to the places in the outron of the places in the outron of the contract of the outron of the places in the outr

is a loss at the source as Guimary is snow-iess, the said.

Tramboo said the tour operators were now providing an option to the tourists to delay their visits till February or March.

"We are trying our best to retain bookings, but we are not sure about the snow." he added, Asif Burza, a young boteler who is the managing director of Ahad Hotels and Resorts, said bookings, and tourist arrivals have decreased, but there was hope still for a boom.

"Many tourists come to Kashmir to experience snow, in the absence of it at many prominent destinations, tourists are preferring to visit places like Sinthan Top. We hope there is snowfall and the numbers increase," Burza told PTI.

Experts have said that studies show the glaciers in Jammu and Kashmir have dwindled by 5 per cent in the last six decades, while 48 per cent of them could vanish by the century's end even with moderate climate change.

Earth scientist and glaciology expert, Shakeel Ahmad Romshoo, has voiced concerns, highlighting the significance of snow and glaciers for J-K and Ladakh.

The scientist has noted that under climate change and increasing temperatures, the glaciers in the region were melting.

The other thing that is happening in this region under the climate change is that we get less snowfall and comparatively we get more Experts have said that studies show the ela

rainfall," he said.

An official of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said there has been a large deficit in winter snowfall in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Ladakh this year and the situation is unlikely to change before Republic Day.

According to the IMD's data, December 2023 saw 79-per cent deficit rainfall, while the first half of Jamaury this year has also been largely

half of January this year has also been largely dry except for a one-time light snowfall in places like Gurez.

Avushman Health

Ayushman Health

Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) to include
Kisan Samman Nidhi recipients, construction
workers, non-coal mine workers and ASHA
workers in the next three years.

"In order to ensure that serious illnesses
requiring expenditure of more than Rs 5 lakh
such as transplants and high-cost cancer treatments etc. are also covered under AB PMJAY,
the ministry is working on finalising a proposal to increase the cover amount from Rs 5 lakh
per family per year to Rs 10 lakh per family per
year and increase in beneficiary
to the control of the control of Rs 12,076 crore per andum, the sources stated.

num, the sources stated.

The scheme has successfully catered to 6.2 crore hospital admissions amounting to more than 8x 79,157 crore till now since its launch in 2018.

If the beneficiary had availed the same treat-

If the beneficiary had availed the same treat-ment on his own outside the ambit of AB PM-JAY, the total cost of the treatment would have gone up nearly two times, the official said. The budget allocated for Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY for the financial year 2023-24 is Rs 7,200 crore, which is likely to more than double to around Rs 15,000 crore in the financial year 2075.

around Rs 12,000 ct.

The AB PMJAY crossed the milestone of gen

The AB PMJAY crossed the gen

The AB

With 4.83 crore cards, Uttar Pradesh tops the list of states having the maximum Ayushman cards. Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra stand at number two and uttere positions with 3.78 crore and 2.39 crore Ayushman cards respectively, they said.

Eleven states have more than one crore Ayushman card holders.

The flagshp scheme being implemented by the National Health Authority (NHA) aims to provide health cover of Rs 5 ladh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to 12 crore beneficiary lamilies. Ayushman card creation is the most fundamental activity under the Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY and concerted efforts are being made to ensure that every beneficiary under the scheme has an Ayushman card, the ministry shows the substitution has been included. With 4.83 crore cards, Uttar Pradesh tops the

Avushman card creation has been included in the on-spot services being offered dur-ing the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra launched on November 15, 2023 with the intent to en-sure saturation of different schemes of the

Solic Saturations

The scheme is striving to achieve gender parity along with regional parity and income parity in access to healthcare services with 49 per cent Ayushanna crafts issued to female beneficiaries. Also, 48 per cent of treatment provided under the scheme has been availed by females," the official said, adding gender

ty is part of core design of the scheme.

Entry In Forests

often involving individuals carrying com-bustible items. These actions pose a threat to protected areas for animals. In the event of such incidents, there is a likelihood of wild animals moving towards human habitation," officials told Kashmir Observer.

The wildlife protected areas include Brain, Nishat Conservation Reserve, Dachigam National Park, Dara Conservation Reserve, Khrew/Khanmoh Conservation Reserve, Wangath Conservation Reserve and Thajiwas Wildlife Sanctuary.

Two Injured

fire-fighting operation on Wednesday, an of-ficial said.

ficial said.

An official told the news agency the persistent dry spell and drought-like conditions have led to forest fires in Khull, Chimmer, Banimulla, and other areas.

He said that District Disaster Management Volunteers Kulgan, along with employees of Special Forest Division Kulgan, SDRF Kulgan, and local volunteers have extinguished 70 persur of the fire.

cent of the fire.

"Faroop Alimad Khan and Ashiq Hussain Zargar, forest department employees, sustained injuries during the firefighting operation, Both have been shifted to the hospital for treatment and are said to be out of danger," the official said.

ED Attaches

ED ATTACRIES

10-15 Jakh for a seat, it said.

The ED said the probe found that the money was received in the personal accounts of the accused as well as the accounts of Al-jabar Trust, which was meant for charitable purposes.

"These accounts were used for the purpose of receiving funds from the students and further ploughed (ploughing) into terrorist activities in India in warious ways such as distributies in India in warious ways such as distributing money to stone pelters, providing money to the terrorists based in J&K on the instructions

of Pakistan handlers such as Manzoor Ahmad of Pakistan handlers such as Manzoor Ahmad Shah, Altaf Ahmad Bhat etc.," the agency said.

Light Rain, Snow

Light Rain, Snow

Celsaus on Tuesday night, up from the previous night's minus 4.6 degrees Celsius, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 3.6 degrees Celsius while the mercury dropped to minus 3.2 degrees Celsius in the ski resort of Culmarg in north Kashmir.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, which serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 3.9 degrees Celsius.

The minimum temperature in Kokernag town settled at minus 1.1 degrees Celsius. In Kupwara, at minus 4.3 degrees Celsius.

A dry and largely snowless winter in Kashmir has resulted in freezing nights and warmer-than-usual days as the day temperatures in Srinagar are more than eight notches

tures in Srinagar are more than eight notches above normal for this time of the year, the of-

ficial said, Kashmir is currently under the grip of "Chilla-i-Kalan", a 40-day harsh winter pe-riod when a cold wave sweeps the region and temperatures drop considerably, leading to the freezing of water bodies as well as water

The chances of snowfall are the highest dur-ing this period and most areas, particularly the

higher reaches, receive heavy snowfall.
Kashmir is going through a prolonged dry spell and a 79-per cent deficit in rainfall was recorded for December, while there has been no precipitation in most parts of the valley in the first formight of January.
There has been no snowfall in most of the plain areas of Kashmir, while the upper reaches of the valley have received lesser-than-usual amount of snow. The meteorological department has forecast a largely dry weather till January 21. January 21.
"Chilla-i-Kalan" will end on January 31.
(with PTI inputs)

Iran's Attack in

Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, the spokesperson for Pakistan's Foreign Ministry, announced that Islamabad was recalling its ambassador to Iran

Islamabad was recalling its ambassador to Iran over the strikes, provoked and blatant breach of Pakistan's sovereignty by Iran is a violation of international law and the purposes and principles of the charter of the United Nations; be said in a televised address. Baloch added that Pakistan asked the Iranian ambassador, who was visiting Tehran when the attack took place, not to return. Iran did not immediately acknowledge Pakistan's decision.

amoussaool, win was vishing ternah witen the attack took place, not to return. Iran lidi not immediately acknowledge Pakistan's decision. Reports in Iranian media said the elite Revolutionary Guard targeted bases belonging to the terror group "Jaish al-Adl" which Iran has fought in border areas and which it says is funded by the US and its regional allies. Six bomb-carrying drones and rockets struck homes that the group claimed housed families of the fighters.

Videos shared by the Baluch activist group HalVash, purportedly from the site, showed aburning building and two charred corpses. However, there were signs that Pakistan was rying to contain any anger over the strite. The country's typically outspoken and nationalistic media covered the attack Wednesday with unusual restraints.

iedia covered the attack Wednesday with un-sual restraint. Tranian state media continued to ignore the

strikes, instead discussing a joint naval drill held by the Pakistani and the Iranian navies in the Persian Gulf on Tuesday, Pakistani officials acknowledged the drill, but said it came before Iran's strikes.

Trail strikes. Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian, while speaking to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, acknowledged that Tehran had carried out the attacks in Pakistan. He defended the action while repeatedly being told by an interviewer that Pakistan had condemned the attack. Iran also said Revolutionary Guard forces killed a suspected Jaish al-Adl member in Rask, near the Pakistan blooder. Activists had described seeing drones and aircraft overhead at the site.

Ali said the government we tential retaliation carefully.

tential retallation carefully.

The country's air defense and missile systems are primarily deployed along the eastern border to respond to potential threats from india. But it might consider taking some measures to respond to such strikes from its western border with Afghanistan and Iran, Ali said, Jaish al-Add was founded in 2012, and Iranian officials believe it largely operates in Pakistan. The group has claimed bombings and kidnapped members of Iran's border police in the next. In Decomber susercol laish al-Add

the past. In December, suspected Jaish al-Adl members killed 11 people and wounded eight

others in a nighttime attack on a police station

in southeastern Iran, Another recent attack killed another police officer in the area. In 2019, Jash al-Adl claimed responsibil-ity for a suicide bombing targeting a bus that killed 27 members of Iran's Revolutionary

Iran has suspected that Pakistan is hosting insurgents, possibly at the behest of its regional archivals. Saudi Arabia, However, Iran and Saudi Arabia reached a Chinese-mediated defente in March, easing tensions. Pakistan, meanwhile, has blamed Iran in the past for militant attacks targeting its security forces. It remains unclear why Iran launched the attack now, particularly as its foreign minister met with Pakistani caretaker Prime Minister met with Pakistani caretaker Prime Minister the World Economic Forum in Dayos.

Kakar has yet to comment publicly on the Iran has suspected that Pakistan is hosting

Kakar has yet to comment publicly on the

His predecessor, Shehbaz Sharif, said he was shocked at the breach of sovereignty. Writing on X, formerly Twitter, Sharif said 'sincere dialogue and meaningful cooperation' between the two countries was the need of the hour. Pakistaris "Baluchistan province, as well as trans' neighboring Sistan and Baluchestan province, has faced a low-level insurgency by Baluch nationalists for more than two decades. They initially wanted a share of provincial resources, but later initiated an insurgency for independence.

AdSIMIL FYUIL

of Botany, highlighted the impact of insufficient chilling periods on bud production and flowering in trees. He explained that if temperatures rise in February, leading to bud and flower sprouting, subsequent rain or snow could result in flower drop due to inadequate pollinarion, ultimately affecting fruit production.

"The continuous dryness may cause a decline in the water table, affecting irrigation in rainfed orchards and impacting fruit quality," Malik said.

According to experts, the dry spell raises

Malik said.
According to experts, the dry spell raises concerns about frost damage to new fruit plantations, particularly in the lower and upper hills, as tissues of younger plants are susceptible to freezing in frost incidents. Moreover, the lack of moisture increases the vulnerability of fruit trees to pest attacks, they added.
Growers Across Kashmir are very much wortied due to prolonged dry spells as they fear it will lead to their losses.
They said that after the early sprouting of flowers, there usually remains erratic weather

They said that after the early sprouting of flowers, there usually remains erratic weather in spring due to which flowers fall, thereby reducing quantity besides putting an impact on the quantity of the fruit.

Notably, there has been deficient rainfall in Kashmir since October last year. Last week, after a gap of over a decade, Srinagar, the summer called of Jamun & Kashmir, recorded 15 degrees Celsius as previously in the year 2010, the mercury in the City had gone up to 15.8 degrees Celsius.

LG Released

the publication.Writer Mushtaq Barq and terary activist Sheikh Waseem Ahmad were

Video Gamers

by papers included in this review, probably exceed permissible sound exposure limits, and are thus engaging in unsafe listening practices, which could put them at risk for developing permanent hearing loss and/or tinnitus."



Security Beefed Up In

JAMMU: Security has been

JAMMU: Security has been beefed up in Jammu ahead of Republic Day and the consecration ceremony at the Ram temple in Ayodhya. Security forces and the police have been put on alert across the Jammu region, including the Indo-Pakistan border, to ensure the deployment of fool-proof security in the region.

Jammu Ahead Of R-Day, Ram Temple Event

Govt. Orders Probe Into Installation Of Fencing Across 10 Jails

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kash-

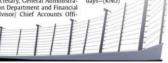
SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Government has ordered a high-level probe into irregularities committed during installation of power fencing systems across 10 prisons of the Union Territory.

The J&K government has constituted a three-member committee to probe into the irregularities committed during the execution of the project "supply and installation of power fencing across 10 jails of the Union Territory of J&K".

Details available with the committee comprises Director General Prisons, Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department and Financial



responsibility for acts of omis-sion & commission on part of the officers/ officials of the Prison organization. The panel has been asked to submit its report along with recommendations to 15K gov-ernment within a period of 30 days—(KNO) days-(KNO)



92% Of Anantnag Youth, Aged 14-18, Use Smartphones For Social Media: Report

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a survey conducted by Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), at least 375 percent youth aged 14 to 18 year in south Kashmir's Anantnag district have done at least noe education related activity in the week prior to the survey as compared to 92.7 percent who used any social media. The report further states that a high proportion of youth year in south Kashmir's Anantnag district have done at least one education related activity in the week prior to the survey as compared to 92.7 percent who used any social media. The report further states that a high proportion of youth year of the survey as compared to 92.7 percent who used any social media. The report further states that a high proportion for youth year of the survey as compared to 92.7 percent could media. The report further states that a high proportion for youth year of the survey as compared to 92.7 percent could bring a smartphone to do digital tasks and of these, 86.1 percent could do the task of digital tasks and of these, 86.1 percent could do the task of these, 86.1 percent could do the task of these, 86.1 percent could do the task of digital tasks and of these, 86.1 percent could do the task of digital tasks and of these, 86.1 percent could do the task of these, 86.1 percent could do the task of digital tasks and of these, 86.1 percent could do the task of digital tasks and of these, 86.1 percent could do the task of digital tasks and of these, 86.1 percent could bring a smartphone to do digital tasks and of these, 86.1 percent could bring a smartphone to do digital tasks and of these, 86.1 percent could bring a smartphone to do digital tasks and of these, 86.1 percent could bring a smartphone to do digital tasks and of these, 86.1 percent could bring a smartphone to do digital tasks and of these, 86.1 percent could bring a smartphone to do digital tasks and of these, 86.1 percent was a smartphone, 63.2 percent doubt a smartphone, 63.2 percent makes and 94.8 percent could and a smart plane and the smart phone do digital task

percent, Of those who could use a smartphone, 63.2 percent males had their own smart phone as compared to 33.8 percent of

their female counterparts.
"Among all those who could use a smartphone, 75.7 percent did at least one education re-

rural India.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the ASER 2023 survey was conducted in Anantnag by volunteers from the Human Welfare Foundation—(KNO)

Silk Industry Boost: Cocoon Bank Fund Raised To Rs. 3.50 Crore

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Director Sericul-ture J&K, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat on

ture Jok, Ajaz Anmao bila un Wednesday inaugurated a one-day Resham Krishi Mela at P-4, Basic Seed Farm, Manasbal. In the event more than 500 Silkworm Rearers! youths from all districts of Kashmir partici-pated with great enthusiasm and fervor.

and fervor.

On the occasion, the Director Sericulture J&K felicitated 20 progressive Silkworm rearers and 5 Sericulture Entrepreneurs with memento, certificates, and tool kits as a token of

appreciation.
The event was jointly organized by the Sericulture Dev. Department J&K and Central Sericulture Research & Training Institute, CSB, Pampore, show-casing the achievements of the sericulture community who casing the achievements of the sericulture community who have relentlessly dedicated themselves for the welfare of the sericulture sector, farmers and silkworm rearers. The Director Sericulture J&K also released various booklets/

pamphlets on the occasion ex-hibiting technical activities and

hibiting technical activities and information related to the sericulture practices as a whole.
The stalls highlighting
various Centrally Sponsored
Schemes, Holistic Agriculture
Development Programme
(HADP). UT level schemes, and
an array of silk/mulberry products were set up by the Sericulture Dev. Department J&K. CSR.
Pampore and various End.

Addressing a huge gathering of Silkworm Rearers and Seri-culture Entrepreneurs, Director Sericulture assured the full support of the Department for providing technical guidance of sericulture activities, including Silkworm Rearing, Reeling, and

/eaving. He informed that the Depart ment has also enhanced its Co-coon Bank Revolving Fund from Rs. 70 lakh to Rs. 3.50 Crore for local Reeling Unit holders for

increasing consumption of Co-local Reeling Unit holders for increasing consumption of Co-coons at local level and at the same time the department has introduced Production based lacentives to Rearers /Reelers on Cocoon and Silk produc-tion under Capex to encourage them towards higher produc-tion / production / producti

around.
Speaking on the occasion Dr.
NK. Bhatia, Director Central
Sericulture Research & Training
Institute, CSB, Pampore also
shared his valuable inputs viza-viz different schemes and the
benefits which the people of
Sp& avail by associating themselves with Sericulture Dev.
Department and the CSR&TI
Pampore.

Ladakh's Apricot Growers Sound Alarm Over Unprecedented Dry Spell

MINAGAR: The crucial part of winter is almost nearing its end and it has not snowed yet in Ladakh.

Like the rest of the farmers, the current weather partern has doubled the worries of Sadiq Hardassi, an apricot farmer of Hardas village in Kargil district of Ladakh, who has been associated with the

harpin district of Ladarit, wind has been associated with the cultivation of this fruit for many decades.

"Snow is a blessing for apricot farmers of Ladakh. Our livelihood is determined by the crop, which we harvest to sell in various parts of the country. No snow means a death blow. No snow means a death blow to the apricot trees," he said as

to show hiches a death blow to the apricot trees," he said as per news agency. Like Sadiq, hundreds of apri-cot farmers in the high-alti-tude region of Ladakh are verpressing growing concerns as they grapple with an unusual snowless and dry winter. Traditionally reliant on a blanket of snow for irrigation, the absence of snow is posing significant challenges to the cultivation of apricots, a vital crop for the region. "We are experiencing a snowless winter for the first time here. Farmers of Ladakh particularly from Kargil dis-trict are very much worried



because of the topography of the area. Farmers know that they won't be able to manage irrigation for apriced orchards in Spring time when it doesn't or snows less during winter," Sadiq said. He said the farmers ideally need to irrigate their aprice orchards once in every 10 days to ensure quality fruit during the season.

"The main source of irriga-tion for our orchards is glad-id water. We are worried that our apricot trees will wither if there is no timely snowfall during winter. It will be a big loss to the apricot farmers of Ladakh, who harvest apricots worth Rs 10 crore during the season," Sadiq said. The main source of irriga

Ladakh's apricot orchards are nown for their robust and fla-

apricor farmer said the current dry weather may affect the health of apricot trees. "Apricot trees require ad-equate moisture during their dormancy period, and the cur-rent conditions may impact the overall health of the ortsatch. So, there must be a timely snowfall so that the earth re-tains moisture," he said—(KNO)

known for their robust and fla-vorful produce, with the wince, with the vincial role in season playing a crucial role in the fruit's development. Grow-ers said the absence of snow and dry conditions are disrupt-ing the natural growth cycle off apricots, affecting the quantity and quantity of the harvest. Mohammad Jawed, another apricot farmer said the current dry weather may affect the

der, to ensure the deployment of fool-proto security in the region.

The security measures have been beefed up ahead of the Pran Pratishtha ceremony on January 22 and also the Republic Day celebrations. Security setup has been put on January setup has been put on January as entry, a senior officer said.

The security forces have intensified checking and frisking of vehicles and pedestrians in several parts of the city here as well as in other parts of the region, the officials said.

Jammu SSP Vinod Kumar led the review of the security on the ground, including checking points and nakas, today, they said.

Nakas and mobile vehicle

Winter Of Despair For Kashmir's Line Producers, Artists

Press Trust of India

Press Irust of India
SRINAGAR: As snowfall continues to elude the picturesque
valley of Kashmir, local line
producers and others associated with the Indian film industry are in a state of despair
as shooting requests are drying
up due to a snowless winter.
The mighty mountains of
Pir Panjal region, which are
draped in a thick white blanket
of snow during this time of the
season, are bare, lighlighting
the climatic changes gradually sweeping the Himalayan
region.

ally sweeping the Himalayan region.

The dry spell in Kashmir has significantly impacted us. We've three projects lined up but they hang in balance. If snowfall doesn't occur, these projects may either get cancled, postponed, or relocated to places with snow. Snow holds immense importance for Kashmir, and we are fervently praying and hoping for it. Abid Hussain, casting manager at KG Production, told PTI.

The snowless winter and the

at KG Production, told PTI.
The snowless winter and the
extended dry spell, Hussain
said, has even led some people
associated with the industry
to experience depression due
lack of work. He said the people associated with the film
industry in Mumbai are also
easerty avagiting the snowfall eagerly awaiting the snowfall in Kashmir to commence film shootings.

shootings.
"Kashmir's fame is intricately linked to snow, and there's a substantial adverse effect on line producers this time due to absence of snow," he added.
Bismah Masoodi, a Line Producer, said some sched-

uled shoots have already been postponed due to the lack of snow in the valley. However,



she expressed optimism that once snowfall occurs: filmonce snowfall occurs; film-makers will travel to Kashmir

makers will travel to Kashmir for shooting.

"Our projects require meticulous planning, and we are optimistic that snowfall will happen, allowing filmmakers to come for shoots and enabling us to continue our work." she said. Bismah, who has worked with famous celebrities like Karan Kundra, Amaan Malik Karan Kundra, Amaan Malik karan Kundra, Amaan Malik wan others and has contributed to various ad films and biopics, said the dry spell not only stalls movie shootings but also hits locals offering catering services, transportation and hotels as tell smire region suffers due to this extended dry spell. The absence of snowfall has adversely affecting the plans of filmmakers view. But we remain hopeful for snowfall to fulfill the plans of filmmakers with the plans of for maker and actor from Kashmir."

she added.

Mir Sarwar, a popular filmmaker and actor from Kashmir, is
also concerned with the unusual
weather pattern as the valley
is witnessing warm days in the
harshest 40-day period of winter,
locally called Chilai Kallan.

"I had plans for a short film requiring snow, but the dry conditions prevail. Nature's will is a factor, but human re-sponsibility for climate charge can't be ignored. Kashmir's aura is synonymous with snow, attracting numerous filmmakers and tourists. De-spite several projects being delayed, I believe some are exploring alternatives like Hi-machal." he said. "I had plans for a short film exploring alternatives like Hi-machal," he said, Bhawani Bashir Yasir, who

Bhawani Bashir Yasir, who played roles in movies like "Haider". "Bajrangi Bhajjaan; 'Kesari'. and "Jehad". said snowfall is important for many tourist activities.
"There is a huge impact of climate change in Kashmir, primarily affecting the economy and various professions, including the tourism industry. Film shootings in Kashmir try. Film shootings in Kashmir try.

including the tourism industry. Film shootings in Kashmir benefit not only actors but also other sectors like transporters and hoteliers. When shootings are canceled, the entire system is crippled," he said. Despite no snowfall and the persistent cold weather con-ditions, there is a glimmer of hope within the people associ-ated with the valley's tourism sector, including the hoteliers.

Omar Dares Centre To Hold I-K Assembly And Parliament Polls Together Press Trust of India

Press Irust of India

JAMMU: National Conference
vice-president Omar Abdullah on Wednesday challenged
the central government to
hold elections in
Jammu and Kashmir along with the
2024 Lok Sabha
polls if it was serious about its idea
of 'one nation, one
election'.
He said this government, which talks so much

ent, 50

ernment, which talks so much about simultaneous elections in the country, is unable to put its money where its mouth is, even in one state much ises than the entire nation. "If the government is serious about 'one nation, one election,' hope that they will put their money where their mouth is and show us that it is possible by doing it first in Jammu and Kashmir, "We have Parliament elections in a few months, let us have assembly elections et us have assembly elections ease." Abdullah told reporters here, 'Abdullah told reporters here, 'Abdullah told reporters here, 'Tf you cannot have assembly election (in Jammu and Kashmir) (spether with Parliament now, how do you imagine that you will ever have

(nationwide) assembly elec-tions together with Parliament elections, when states like UP, Bihar and others, which re-quire a significant presence of security forces, will also go to the polls simulta-neously," he said.

......

checkpoints (MVCP) have been established at intersec-

been established at intersec-tions in the city, its entry and exit points and roads leading in the capital city, they added. The police and paramilitary personnel of the CRPF have been deployed in important areas, the officials said. Several high-level meetings have been held in the capital city and districts to review

city and districts to review security measures ahead of these two mega events during the past one week. Additional DGP Anand Jain on Monday directed all the intelligence agencies to generate intelligence in advance so that anti-national and anti-social elements do not succeed in their nefarious designs in the Jammu region.

their nefarious designs in the Jamun region.
"Proper coordination be maintained among all the intelligence agencies and se-curity organisations in their respective areas of jurisdiction to foil the nefarious designs of anti-national elements and ensure smooth and inci-dent-free conduct of national events," the ADGP said.

the polls simultaneously, "he said.
Abdullah expessed confidence that the pressed confidence that the pressed confidence that the late in J-K.

"When the mandate in J-K.

"When the mandate is delivered will get a resounding mandate is delivered will exist. We do not believe in post-poll alliance," he said in reply to a question about the possibility of going with any other party in case of a fractured mandate in the assembly elections,
Regarding seat distribution,
Abdullah dismissed the talk of conflicts within the alliance.
"No talks have been held with the Congress on seat sharing, Our efforts should be to win all six seats and they should remain with the INDIA alliance.
"Several people want to con-

'Several people want to contest... Let us first talk to them test. Let us first talk to them.
Three seats are with the INDIA
alliance, there is no need to
discuss them but the talks will
be held on how to win the rest
of the three seats currently
held by BJP," he said.

VBSY Emerges As Potent **Force Of Positive Change** At Kupwara

KO NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA: The Viksit Bharat RUPWARA: The Viksit Bharat Sankalip Yatra (VBSY) the na-tionwide campaign to spread awareness about the welfare Schemes and initiatives of the Government of India, reached, Maratgam. Monibal, Nowgam A and Nowgam B Panchayats of Mawar Qalamabad block of Kupwara district, on wednesday. The focus of the Vtsa age.

apwara district, on wednesday. The focus of the Yatra was to The locus of the Yatra was to reach out to the people, create awareness about the welfare schemes aimed at sanitation facilities, essential financial services, access to LPG cyl-inders, housing for the poor, food security, proper nutri-tion, reliable healthcare, clean drinking water, etc. drinking water, etc.
The VBSY witnessed over-

whelming response from the people in the border district Kupwara. Today the VB Vans were received in grand wel-come ceremonies organised at the venues by officers and officials from various

and officials from various departments. As part of the yatra, the government departments had set up stalls to provide citizens, on the spot services, like free health check ups, issuance and updation of the Aadhaar cards, registration of beneficiaries for various welfare schemes benefiting scores of people at these cames.

benefiting scores of people at these camps.

The day-long program began with participants taking the pledge to make India adveeloped and self-reliant nation by the year 2047.

Videos of beneficiaries of various departmental schemes under Meri Kahani Meri Zubani were also played and cultural programmes

and cultural programmes were organised.

Maintain A Secure Environment For Religious Gatherings:IGP

SRINAGAR: Stressing the importance of maintaining a secure environment for religious gatherings, Inspector General of Police Kashmir Zone V.K Birdi assured the people of the police force's commitment in facilitating people of the policy of assured the people of the police force's commitment in facilitating peaceful and undisturbed observances. The ICP mede observances. The ICP mede these remarks on Wednesday as he undertook a visit to Gurudwara Rainawari, Sriinagar on the auspicious occasion of Gurupurab to personally inspect and review the arrangements in place for the devotees. Accompanied by the officers, ICP Kashmir participated in the celebrations and later

in the celebrations and later on interacted with the Gu-



rudwara management, local authorities, and community leaders to ensure seamless co-ordination for the comfort and safety of worshippers. Birdi appreciated the efforts of the Gurudwara committee in fostering a spirit of unity and nurturing a harmonious environment.

tance of fostering a strong and positive relationship between the police force and the community it serves. To put all the arrangements in place, he exhorted to work in close coordination to facilitate the community while celebrating the festival, He also urged the officials to remain available for class to remain available for the assistance of visiting devotees.

Rohit Dazzles As India Eke Out Thrilling Win

BENGALURU: The third T201

BENCALURU: The third T201 served up a thrilling tie as it went into a super-over. It may have been a dead rubber, but India and Afghanistan served up a thrilling encounter, with the hosts walking away with a nerve-wrecking win.

After Rohit Sharma and Rinku Singh powered India to 212/4, Afghanistan batters took Indian bowlers to the cleaners as they took the game into the super-over. In the Super-Over, Mukesh Kumar was handed the ball. Afghanistan posted 16 for the loss of 1 wicket in the Super-Over, in reply, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Rohit came on to bat. Rohit continued in the same venice of the super-Over. In the super-Over, In the super-Over, Rohit and Rinku came on to bat. Rohit continued in the same venice of the super-Over. In the second Super-Over, Rohit and Rinku came to the crease first, Rohit hammered six and four on the trot, but Rinku Singh and then Sanju



Samson departed without scoring, India posted 11 for 2 wickets. In reply, Ravi Bishnoi played the hero for India as he picked up two wickets. Earlier, skipper Rohit Shama produced a marvellous, situation-defying hundred, his fifth in T20Is, as India recovered from a top-order

meltdown to post a massive 212 for 4 against Afghanistan in the third and final T20l in Bengaluru on Wednesday. Rohit (121 not out, 69b, 11x4, 8x6) and his perfect sidekick Rinku Singh (69 n.o., 39b, 2x4, 6x6) shared 190 runs for a stellar, unbeaten fifth-wicket stand as India

came back from a flaky 22 for four after opting to bat first. Virat Kohli lasted just one ball. Entering the field to a rapturous welcome from a near-packed stadium, kohli could not negate a climbing delivery from Ahmad, slicing the pull to Ibrahim Zadran just inside the circle.

Axar Patel, Jaiswal Enter Top 10 Of ICC T20I Rankings





Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Riding on two excel-DUBAY: Riding on two excel-lent outings against Afghani-stan in the ongoing series, India left-arm spinner Asar Patel on Wednesday leaped to his career-best fifth place, while opening batter Yashasvi Jaiswal rose to the sixth spot in the latest ICC men's T201 player rankings. Patel's hauds of two for 23 and two for 16 in India's identical six-wicket wins over Afghanistan in the first two T208 of their three-match series have also lifted him two plac-esto 16th among all-rounders.

es to 16th among all-rounders.

Jaiswal's 34-ball 68 in the first
T201 in Indore lifted him seven

places to a career-best sixth po-sition, while other left-hander Shivam Dube's successive un-beaten knocks of 60 and 63 have helped him shoot up from 265th

Batter Shubman Gill moved Batter Shubman Gill moved up seven places to 60th while left-handed batsman Tilak Ver-ma gained three places to joint-61st while left-arm pacer Arsh-deep Singh jumped four places to 21st spot. Among the Afghans, Najibul-lah Zadran (up one place to 46th) and Mohammad Nabi (up two places to 54th) moved up in the batting rankings.

the batting rankings. New Zealand's Finn Allen,

whose two innings of 34 off 15 and 74 off 41 against Pakistan helped him to reach 16th among batters. His teammate Tim Southee, who took six wickets in the first two matches, is up eight places to 18th in the bowlers' list. Pakistan's star batter Babar Azam is up one place to fourth after notching two consecutive hall-centuries against New Zoaland. The bowling rankings saw Sri Lanka spinners Wanindu Hasanga and Maheesh Theekshana take joint-third position. Pakistan Das bowler Haris Rauf's haul of five wickets in two matches against the Kiwis have

matches against the Kiwis have lifted him two places to joint 14th.

I&K Blind Cricket Team Loses By 1 Run In Nagesh Trophy



Agencies

HYDERABAD: Telangana on Tuesday beat Jammu and Kashmir by
one run in the eliminator match
of the ongoing 6th edition of the
Nagesh Trophy - Men's National T20
Cricket Tournament for the Blind
2023-24 at JB Cricket Ground in Hyderabad. With this win, Telangana
qualified for the Super eighth stage
of the Nagesh Trophy and became
the 8th team to do so after Andhra
Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, Gujarat,
Rajasthan, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh,
Opting to bat first, Telangana
smashed 101/5 in the 10 overs with
Nikhil Bathula scoring 54 of 32
balls, Jammu and Kashmir started
off well with Mohammed Azeem
smashing each and every corner of
the ground. However, Telangana
restricted them to 100, hence winning
the match by 1 run. Nikhil Bathula
was adjudged as the Player of the
Match.
Following the conclusion of the

League Stage in December 2023,
Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha,
Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Delhi qualified for the Super 8 stage following
their exemplary performances. Urtar Pradesh and Tripura, Telangana
and Jammu & Kashmir locked horns
in the Eliminator games. The Super
8 stage of the Nagesh Trophy will
begin on January 29 following an
inauguration in Nagpur on January
28. The Super 8 stage will run for
three days and the semi-finals will
be played on February 1. The finals
of the mega event will take place on
February 2 in Nagpur.
Nagesh Trophy was launched
in memory of the late 5P Nagesh,
Founder and President, of the Cricket Association for the Blind in India
and Founder Trustee, Samarthanam
Trust for the Disabled. The launch of
the tournament brought together
the entire blind cricket community.

the tournament brought together the entire blind cricket community into one huge platform, by creating a milestone in the blind cricket his-tory. (ANI)

Praggnanandhaa Beats World Chess Champion Ding Liren

NEW DELHI: Chess prodigy Rameshba-bu Praggmanandhaa clinched the num-ber one spot among India's chess play-ers following his victory over World Champion Ding Liren. The 18-year-old defeated China's Liren with the black pieces at the 2024 Tata Steel Chess Tournament on Wednesday and surpassed the levend-

Wednesday and surpassed the legend-ary Viswanathan Anand to take the number one spot.

Praggmanandhaa said he was sur-prised with the outcome as he didn't expect the world champion to get oust-

"I think any day, if you beat such a strong player, it's always special because it's not very easy to beat them. The first time winning against a world champion in classical choses feels good," he added. Praggmanandhaa, who started playing at the tender age of 5, went on to become India's youngest and the then world's second-youngest Grandmaster at age 12 in 2018.

He is the fifth-youngest person ever

at age 12 in 2018.

He is the fifth-youngest person ever to achieve the title of Grandmaster after Abhimanyu Mishra, Sergey Karja-kin, Gukesh D and Javokhir Sindarov. Incidentally, his elder sister R Vaishall is also a Grandmaster, which makes the



ed in such a fashion.

ed in such a fashion.

"I felt I equalized very easily and then somehow things started to go wrong for him. Even after I won the pawn I felt is should be holdable," Praggananardhaa was quoted as saying by Chess.com.

siblings the world's first-ever brother-sister GM duo. In the Masters category, Grandmas-ter Anish Giri headed into the first rest day as the sole leader in the group. Giri's sensational moves helped him secure a victory over D Gukesh.

Finn Allen Helps NZ Clinch Series Win Over Pakistan



Agencies

DUNEDIN: Finn Allen's 137-run on-slaught powered New Zealand to

DUNEDIN: Finn Allen's 137-run on-slaught powered New Zealand to seal a 45-run win against Pakistan in the 3rd T201 match at University Oval in Dunedin on Wednesday. In the five-match 20-over series, the Kiwis gained an unassailable lead over Pakistan after the end of the hird T201 game.

After winning the toss, Pakistan decided to field first, However, their decision did not go in their favour as they failed to restrict the Kiwis' run rate. Allen's (137 runs from 62 balls) onslaught put doubts over Pakistan skipper Shaheen Afridi's mind fol-lowing his decision to ball after win ning the toss.

ne toss. Blackcaps showed their in-The Blackcaps showed their in-tent in the powerplay as the hosts raced to 67/1. Following the early departure of Devon Conway, Allen and Tim Seifert led the charge with the bat and stitched up a 125-run partnership.

New Zealand ended up with a total of 224-7 which saw the likes of Haris Rauf and Afridi conceding 2/60 and 1/43 respectively. Mohammad Wasim's spell of 1/35 (4) was the least expensive among the Pakistan bowlers.

In the second inning, Saim Ayub (10 runs from 13 balls) and Mohammad Rizwan (24 runs from 20 balls) opened for Pakistan to chase down a total of 225 runs from 20 overs. However, the openers failed to make a mark as the Kiwis picked up early wickets. Babar Azam (58 runs from 37 balls) was the only standout batter for the Men in Green' and helped them to take a better position, but the hosts did not give the visitors a chance to make a solid partnership. In the end, Shaheen Afridi (16") and Mohammad Wasim jr (1") were unbeaten on the crease and took Pakistan to 179/7 after the end of 20 overs. Meanwhile, Tim Southee led the Kiwi bowling attack after he scalped two wickets in his four-over spell.

Australian Open: Djokovic, Sabalenka Go Through

MELBOURNE: Novak Djokovic fought off another feisty challenge to reach the third round of the Australian Open on Wednesday after women's champion Aryna Sabalenka made more serene progress and Ons Jabeur crashed out at the hands of a schoolgirl.

clash against qualifier Dino Prizmic, the 36-year-old Serbian looked in full pomp in the opening set against Australian Alexei Popyrin but lost he second. The agreesive Popyrin, backed by a crowd in full voice, had set points in the third set but Djokovic saved them and, riled by an exchange with a fain in the crowd, ran out a 6-3 4-6 7-6 (4) 6-3 winner.



Top 10 seeds Coco Gauff, Barbora Krejckiova, Beatriz Haddad Maia, Jannik Sinner, Andrey Rublev and Stefanos Tsitsipas all got through their second-round contests in varying conditions as Melbourne lived up to its reputation for changeable weather. Rain washed out more than three bours of play on the outer courts at the start of the day but the skies had long cleared by the time Djokovic took to the court where he has won 10 of his 24 Grand Slam titles. Top 10 seeds Coco Gauff, Barbora

10 of his 24 Grand Slam titles. As in his four-hour first round

"I haven't been playing my best but I'm still trying to find my form," Djokovic said. "I think both my first and second round opponents were really, really great quality tenins jalyers and I managed to find a way to win four. That's what counts in the end." Sabalenka made short work of Beyear-old Brenda Fruhvirtova with a 6-3 6-2 in the early evening match on Rod Laver Arena. — a second dominant victory over a qualifier for the Belavusian in her first



Coach Hopes Support For Palestine Won't Distract UAE

Agencies

United Arab Emirates coach Paulo Bento said on Wednesday he hopes his team will not be distracted by the huge support Palestine are expected to receive when the two teams meet in their second Asian Cup Group C encounter.

Palestine enjoyed massive support at the stadium during their 4-1 loss to Iran in their group opener. Iranian fans also gave the Palestine team a warm welcome in a show of solidarity, with the conflict in Gaza raging for over 100 days.

Tor me, no. It's not going to distract me ... I hope it doesn't disturb our players as well," Bento told reporters ahead of Thursday's game at Al Janoub Stadium.

porters ahead or a second Al Janoub Stadium.
*Some of the players have some

experience while others not so much since it's their first time in such a competition. What I think all the players and coaches like is that all stadiums should be full.

"Maybe it's a little bit different experience because in our league there aren't many people watching the games in stadiums. Until now I didn't see many people in stadiums for games of the national team in Abu Dhabi or Dubai."

UAE, semi-finalists in 2019, beat Hong Kong 3-1 in their opener and Bento is looking to secure six points and put one foot in the knockous tage. While Palestine are seeking their first ever win at the Asian Cup since making their debut at the continental championship in 2015, the Portuguese coach said he is not taking them lightly.

Onana Back Training With Cameroon And Likely To Play

ABIDJAN: Goalkeeper Andre Onana is likely to be included in Camer-oon's line-up for Friday's Africa Cup of Nations group game against hold-ers Senegal after returning to train-ing with the team on Wednesday. Onana missed Cameroon's opening match of the tournament in the Ivo-ry Coast on Monday after he was al-

of the difficult tug of loyalty between club and country, especially for African internationals forced to leave their European clubs mid-season to compete at the Cup of Nations.

"It's like choosing between my father and my mother, but my country comes first, that's why I'm here," he said
"Let people continue to criti-

"Let people continue to criti-cise me, I'm used to it, I do what is



lowed to stay at Manchester United and play in their 2-2 draw with Tot-

and play in their 2-2 draw with Tot-tenham Hotspur on Sunday. He flew by charter plane over-night to the Ivory Coast after the clash at Old Trafford but only ar-rived hours before kick off of the Group C clash against Guinea, in which Camerson came from behind to force a 1-1 draw. The decision to allow the 27-year-old to forgo the opening match of the tournament. aused controversy among Camer-

oon supporters.

good for my country," Onana added. Onana has a chequered history with

Onan has a chequered history with Cameroon after breaking through into the team while still a teenager at Ajax Amsterdam.

He turned down a call-up to the 2017 Cup of Nations finals, which Cameroon went onto win, and at the last World Cup in Quara was sent home after one match follow-ing a row with coach Rigobert Song, which has since been patched up, But he did compete at the last ediwhich has since been patched up. But he did compete at the last edi-tion of the Cup of Nations two years ago, just months after returning from a lengthy doping ban.