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P3 CITY

SRINAGAR RESIDENTS RUE DILAPIDATED CONDITION OF ROADS

The residents of various localities of Kashmir's capital city Srinagar Friday lamented water logging in the city areas after incessant rains lashed the valley for the last two days.



BOOK REVIEW | A SAGA OF UNENDING MATERNAL GRIEF IN KASHMIR

Shahnaz Bashir's debut novel The Half Mother is set in Natipora, a locality in Srinagar. The protagonist of the novel, Haleema, is the bearer of...



P11 SPORTS

JOFRA ARCHER REVEALS INJURY CONCERN THAT COULD KEEP HIM AWAY FROM CRICKET FOR SOMETIME

England pacer Jofra Archer said he needs to look after his troublesome elbow first before setting.



Quote!

No one believes a liar even when he tells the truth

—Aesop

NEWS **DIGEST**

Three Deaths, 99 Corona Cases In J&K

SRINAGAR: The overall fatality count due to coronavirus inched closer to 2000 mark in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday as three more people died of the infection, while 99 fresh cases of virus were reported during the last 24 hours. Among the three victims who succumbed to coronavirus on Saturday, officials said, More On P10

7 OGWs Held In Shopian: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested seven militant associates of Hizb-ul-Muiahideen in south Kashmir's Shopian district. Samiullah Chopan, Hilal Ahmad Wani, Ramaiz Ahmad Wani, Rouf Ahmad, Zahid Ahmad, Faizan Ahmad Khan and Shahid Ahmad Rather were arrested by state forces during a naka search in Shopian district on More On P10

Blaze Leaves Three Families Homeless

SRINAGAR: Three families were rendered homeless after a devastating fire turned their residential houses into ashes in Watpora area of Bandipora district, reports said Saturday. Fire erupted from the residential houses of Nisar Ahmad in Watpora area on Friday night and engulfed the adjoining houses of his brothers within no time, news agency KNS reported Saturday. The report said that fire • More On P10

5 'Gamblers' **Arrested In Kulgam**

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested five gamblers in an input driven raid in south Kashmir's Kulgam district. Tarig Ahmad Sheikh, Mohd Idrees Naikoo, Rouf Ahmad Ahangar, Imran Ahmad Bhat and Gulzar Ahmad Sheikh were arrested by a police team during a raid at village Amaanpora of the district following an input about gambling activities, a police • More On P10

IAF Airlifts 381 Stranded Passengers To Leh

JAMMU: The Indian Air Force (IAF) on Saturday airlifted 381 stranded people from Jammu and Kashmir to Ladakh, an official said. While 197 passengers were airlifted from Srinagar to Leh in C-17 aircraft, another batch of 184 passengers were ferried from Jammu to Leh, Chief Coordinator, Kargil Courier Service, Aamir Ali, said. More On P10

Encounter Rages On In Shopian

Top Commander Sajad Afghani Believed To Be Trapped



A pheran-clad youth holding a cricket bat smiles, as a CRPF man frisks him in Srinagar's Lal Chowk on Saturday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Two to three militants, unknown

including top commander Sajad Afghani is believed to be trapped in an ongoing encounter
More On P10

2 SPOs Injured In Sopore Grenade Attack

wo special police officers (SPOs) were injured on Saturday in a militant attack in Sopore town of Baramulla district. Around 11:30 am Saturday, unidentified militants hurled a grenade towards the police post located near the Bus Stand Sopore, a police More On P10

Police Releases List Of 9 'Wanted Militants

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu Kashmir Police has on Saturday made public a list of 'Most Wanted Militants' operating in and

around summer-capital Srinagar.
The listidentifies the militants as; Waseem Qadir Mir of Shahzadpora, Nowgam Srinagar (Joining date December 20, 2020) Shahid Khursheed resident of Methan, Chanapora (Joining date February 6, 2021), Irfan Ahmed Sofi of Astan Mohalla, Natipora, (Joining date December 14, 2020), Bilal Ahmed Bhat of Natipora, (Joining date February 14, 2020), Saqib Manzoor Dar of Old Barzulla, Srinagar, (Joining date August 5, 2020), • More On P10

Sticky Bombs A Threat, Will **Face It: DGP**

AGENCIES

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir police chief Dilbagh Singh Saturday said Sticky-bombs are a challenge for the police but huge amount of recoveries have been made and more recoveries of such bombs are on cards.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a sports event, the J&K's Director General of Police stated that the security forces are keeping a watch on the militancy activities and many attempts to target forces have been foiled. About sticky-bombs, the DGP said • More On P10

Kashmir Outraged Over Wasim Rizvi's Anti-Islam Move



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Strong resentment and anger is brewing in Kashmir against former chairman of UP Shia Waqf Board Waseem Rizvi, who has moved Supreme Court seeking removal of 26 verses from the holy Quran.

According to the reports, protests were held at many

places in this capital city against the blasphemous acts of Rizvi with angry protesters seeking his immediate arrest for hurting sentiments of Muslims across the globe.

In Srinagar's Press Enclave, member of Rehmatan-lil-Alameen Foundation, a religious body, assembled on Saturday afternoon and staged a protest • More On P10

Remarks Blasphemous, **Unacceptable: Grand Mufti**

ammu and Kashmir's religious scholar have come down heavily on Waseem Rizvi for approaching supreme court to delete 26 verses of holy Quran, stating that Rizvi's assertions are totally blasphemous, unacceptable and that he should be arrested immediately. Kashmir's Grand Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam said Saturday that Quran teaches brotherhood and rejects all forms of violence. "Waseem Rizivi hasn't understood the Quran and is instead speaking against it. Our beloved • More On P10

Have Filed Complaint With Police: BJP

he Kashmir unit of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has filed a complaint against former chairman of UP Shia Waqf Board, Waseem Rizvi for hurting the sentiments of Muslim community by speaking against the holy Quran. BJP's IT Cell In charge for Kashmir province, Manzoor Bhat said that they have filed a complaint at Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar's officer against Waseem Rizvi for his anti-Ouran remarks.

More On P10

Questioning Qur'an's Authenticity Unacceptable: Maulana Abbas

ımmu and Kashmir Ittihadul Muslimeen chief and senior Hurrivat leader Maulana Muhammad Abbas Ansari and President Maulana Masroor Abbas Ansari in their separate statements have denounced former UP Shia Waqf Board chairman who has filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking removal of some verses from the holy book. • More On P10

Wildlife Board Clears Shahpur Dam Project

SRINAGAR: The standing committee of National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has given its goahead to multi-crore Shahpur Kandi dam project, which will benefit both Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory and Punjab.

The NBWL, in its meeting held on February 18, has given its clearance for 51.08 hectares of land falling under the Conservation Reserve for the project.

"The proposed site for construction of Shahpur Kandi Dam is strategically located on the Ravi river because the particular stretch is narrow on the said location. There is no other possible alternatives for examination to avoid the submergence of Wildlife land in the Shahpurkandi Dam

Reservoir. So it is necessary for Wildlife Clearance of 51.08 ha land falling un-

der • More On P10

Rains Relent, Fresh Snowfall In Pahalgam; Kupwara

SRINAGAR: Pahalgam Kupwara received fresh snowfall even as rains relented after four days in Kashmir Valley, officials said on Saturday.

The weatherman has already forecast erratic weather till March 15 with possibility of more rains especially on Sunday.

A meteorological department official said that Srinagar received 9mm of fresh rain in the last 24 hours till 0830 a.m. even as it recorded a low of 3.8 degree Celsius against 2.2

night. The temperature was 0.1 degree Celsius above normal for this time of the year in this summer capital, the official said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 3.7 degree Celsius against 3.0 degree Celsius on the previous night and received 30.8mm of rain during the time.

The mercury settled at minus0.7 degree Celsius against 0.3 degree Celsius on the earlier night at Pahalgam while the famous south Kashmir resort received 17.4mm rain and 6.5cm snowfall. • More On P10

Kashmir Highway Cleared Of Landslide

■he Jammu-Srinagar highway was on Saturday afternoon cleared of the debris brought in by a massive mudslide in Ramban district, paving the way for resumption of one-way traffic after two days, officials said. The traffic on the highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with rest • More On P10

Ex-Legislators Call For Resumption Of Political Process



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A group of former legislators belonging to different political parties held a meeting on Saturday here, terming the situation in Jammu and Kashmir as "chaotic" and demanded early resumption of a democratic political process.

Conference, PDP and Congress

The legislators including former ministers, MLAs and MLCs affiliated with National

also expressed serious concern over "rampant corruption" in some of the government offices and sought intervention of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in checking the system.

Issuing a statement after the meeting held under the leadership of former National Conference MLA Qazi Jalal-ud-Din, the participants said the former legislators and political workers of Jammu and Kashmir

Annual Amarnath Yatra To Begin On June 28

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The annual 56-day Amarnath yatra will commence on June 28 with all COVID-19 protocols in place, and culminate, as per the tradition, on the day of Raksha Bandhan festival on August 22, officials said on Saturday.

They said the registration process for the pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre high Himalayan cave shrine in south Kashmir would begin on April 1 through 446 designated branches of Punjab National Bank, Jammu and Kashmir Bank and YES bank in 37 states and Union Territories.

A decision to this effect was taken at the 40th board meeting of the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) chaired by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan here, the officials said.

Last year, the yatra was restricted to a group of Sadhus due to coronavirus pandemic, while in 2019 it was • More On P10

KASHMIR In Capital: From The House of Shaws

Romaan Arora

n a mildly cold morning, a tall and striking mansporting his signature shawl style—walks inside the Shaw Brothers showroom with a smiling face.

In his early 50s, Miftah Shaw—who's Mifi Shaw for his friends and family-carries the enthusiasm of a young entrepreneur filled with futuristic vision.

"You see, I have to instruct them for every job," says Mifi Shaw while referring to his staff members.

One of the two Shaw/Shah scions, Miftah Shaw first came to Delhi in 1990 to carry forward his family business of Kashmiri handicrafts -shawls, carpets, jackets, and coats. His journey since then has only made Shaw Brothers a heritage brand in the capital.

"It was my father who had opened up a shop in Connaught



Place in 1978," Miftah continues in a genial tone."It was a seasonal business at that time.'

But for him, the seasonal business became permanent when he

left Kashmir in 1990 because of the political turmoil. The strifefuelled situation back home had brought the heritage handicraft

business to its knees.

Such was the level of unemployment in Kashmir at that time that, as per him, the labourers involved in the renovation of his family house were owners of two houseboats each.

This dramatic scene motivated him to move out for better career opportunities and a better life. However, the journey of the brand, almost a synonym to Kashmiri Shawls and carpets, had started long back.

In the very beginning, Shaw Brothers was established as a brand by Mohammad Akbar Shah and his brothers in 1840. But the foundational journey had already started in the early 1800s when Akbar's father Sidigullah Shah started trading all along the Silk Route.

Initially started as Shah Brothers, the brand was renamed Shaw Brothers in the year 1912 to create a more general image and to attract customers from all across British India.

Soon came the year of the great divide-1944-when the Shaw Brothers (now under the leadership of Miftah Shaw and his brother Mubashir Shaw) was split into two separate entities: Shaw Brothers and Shah Arts Emporium (owned by Miftha's cousin, Mohsin Shah).

In what could be described as its days of glory, the Shaw Brothers used to have its outlets in all major business hubs of British India namely Calcutta, Peshawar, Karachi, and even in Singapore.

But, in the aftermath of the partition, they had to restructure their complete business. Many years and milestones lat-

er, a man of gratitude, Miftah Shaw holds his father in high regard. "It was feasible and possible for

me to permanently establish here only because of the platform provided by my father," he recalls.

"I, along with my • More On P10

Scholarships This Week

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

IIT BHU Varanasi SERB Scholarship Name 1: Department of Electronics Engineering Junior Research Fellowship 2021

Indian Institute of Description: Technology (BHU), Varanasi invites applications for the IIT BHU Varanasi SERB Department of Electronics Engineering Junior

Research Fellowship 2021 from MTech/ BTech degree holders. The fellowship requires the candidates to work on the project entitled, "Development of Simulation Software for Spintronic Device and Circuit Simulation".

The fellowship Eligibility: is open for candidates below 31 years of age who are GATE or JRF NET qualified. They must hold an MTech degree with a first-class or BTech degree with a minimum of 75% (7.5 CPI) in Electronics and Communication Engineering or in the discipline/specialization concerned or in an allied discipline/area.

INR 31,000 per month Prizes & Rewards: Last Date to Apply: Application mode: Via email only

Scholarship Name 2: IIT Ropar Department of Mechanical Engineering (DME) Post-Doctoral Fellowship 2021

Description: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar invites applications for the IIT Ropar Department of Mechanical Engineering (DME) Post-Doctoral Fellowship 2021 from PhD degree holders. The fellowship requires the fellows to work on the project titled, "Water Purification Using Solar energy-driven Humidification-Dehumidification (HDH) Technique".

The fellowship is open

for candidates who hold a PhD degree in Me-

chanical Engineering. They must have completed their PhD within the last three years

from the date of advertisement. They must

have very good knowledge of the subject Heat

& Mass Transfer and numerical tools (such

as MATLAB or SCILAB etc). They must have

good written and oral communication skills.

and the ability to do multi-task, effectively

Candidates who have submitted the thesis are

Prizes & Rewards: Last Date to Apply: Application mode:

Up to INR 55,000 per month 26-03-2021 Via email only

Scholarship Name 3: **Keep India Smiling** Foundational Scholarship Programme

Description: Colgate-Palmolive (India) Ltd. is giving young students an opportunity to pursue their academic/career aspirations by providing them with scholarships for education. This scholarship program provides financial aid to students pursuing studies at various post-matric and undergraduate levels to continue their education and proceed towards a career of their choice.

Eligibility: Students who have passed Class 10 with at least 75% marks or Class 12 with at least 60% marks in 2020 board exams are eligible to apply for the scholarship program for pursuing their higher secondary, 3-year graduation, 4-year

engineering, Diploma programme and 1-year vocational course studies respectively. Annual Family income of all applicants must be less than INR 5 Lakhs per annum.

Prizes & Rewards:Selected scholars can avail scholarship award of up to INR 30,000 per year for up to 3 years of studies depending on their current level of education

30-04-2021 Last Date to Apply: Application mode: Apply online www.b4s.in/observer/KISSP01

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER **BUDGAM KASHMIR**



NOTICE

Where as a joint application has been recieved from owner. Shri: Gh Hussain Dar Late Ali Mohammad



R/o: Budina Budgam as Transferor) & M/S Al Huda Stone Crusher Prop. Abuzar Ali R/o Chattergam B.K Pora Budgam as Transferee) for transfer of Tipper Carriage route permit No.755/GC/ Budgam vehicle No. JK04A -6607.

Now it is therefore notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit/vehicle shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.

No. ARTO/BUDGAM. 2946 Dated 09/03/2021

Assistant Regional Transport officer mcb **Budgam Kashmir**

Eligibility:

Indian Institute of Carpet **Technology Srinagar**

Baghi-Ali-Mardhan-Khan, Nowshera, Srinagar www.iictsrinagar.org Ph. No. 0194-2411143, 2428636

CORRIGENDUM

It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned, that majority of the tenderers/ bidders have not submitted necessary documents as had been mentioned in the e-Tender Notice. This has constrained the Purchase Committee not to open the Financial Bids, which were scheduled to be opened on 10-03-2021.

In light of above, final opportunity is hereby provided to concerned bidders to submit such documents through online mode on www.jktenders.gov.in by or before 17-03-2021 failing which the bids of such tenderers shall be rejected. Further, the financial bids shall now be opened on 18-03-2021 at 11:00 a.m. in the office chamber of Director, Handicrafts and Handloom Department (Kashmir) Kashmir Haat, Srinagar.

DIPK-NB-6358/20

Director

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education,

BRANCH OFFICE SOPORE

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certifi cate of 10th and 12th under Below mentioned particulars Faisal Ahad Shalla Father's Name Abdul Ahad Shalla Mother's Name Shafiqa Begum Roll NO 3156305 (10th Class), 3175252 (12th Session / Year Annual Regular 2016, Annual Regular 2018

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. 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 original

Sd / Assistant Secretary

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

J&K e-Governance Agency, IT Department

Civil Secretariat, Jammu

Subject: Notice inviting Tender for "Design, Development, Implementation, Operation and Maintenance of Web Portal for UT Dashboard, Government of J&K".

NOTIFICATION NO.: 07-JaKeGA of 2021

DATED:10-03-2021

Jammu & Kashmir e-Governance Agency (JaKeGA), Information Technology Department, J&K, invites bids for Selection of Implementation Agency for the Design, Development, Implementation, Operation and Maintenance of Web Portal for UT Dashboard, Government of J&K as per the detailed scope of work provided in the RFP Ref No.: JaKeGA/Tech/05/2021(TAC Approved) Version1.1.

S. N	0.	Key Activities	Date and Time
	1.	Date of Publication of RFP	Start Date: From 02.00 PM of 11/03/2021 on <u>www.</u> iktenders.gov.in
	2.	RFP Document Download Date	02.00 PM of 11/03/2021 onwards
	3.	Last date/time for submission of written queries by intending	19/03/2021 till 2.00 PM.
		bidders through email at: ceojakega@nic.in	
	4.		25/03/2021 at 02.30 PM via Online Mode
		Response to the Queries will be published on www.jktenders.gov.in&www.iakega.jk.gov.in	26/03/2021.
	6.		Start Date: 27/03/2021 from 10.00 AM
			End Date: 05/04/2021 up-to 02:00 PM
	7.	Bid Validity	180 days from the date of opening of commercialbid.
		Bid Procedure	Three stage bidding (Pre-Qualification, Technical & Finan- cial) through e-Tendering mode on www.iktenders.gov.in
	9.	Bid Evaluation Criteria (Selection Method)	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
10.			www.jktenders.gov.in or www.Jakega.jk.gov.in
	11.	Opening of Technical Bids	03:00 PM of 05/04/2021 in Civil Secretariat Srinagar/ Jammu
	12.	Date of Technical Presentation	Will be informed laterwww.jakega.jk.gov.in
	13.	Opening of Financial Bid	Will be informed later
	14.		Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand Only) to be de- posited in the Bank Account mentioned below by or before
			the last date and time of submission of tender. Scanned
			copy of receipt is to be uploaded on https://jktenders.gov
			along with the bid. Bids without tender fee will be rejecte
			However, the Bid Fee will be exempted for MSEs subject t
			furnishing of relevant valid certificate for claiming exemp tion:
			Title: JaKeGA Admin and Contin expenses
			Bank: Jammu and Kashmir Bank
			Account No:0110040100019970
			Branch: Moving Secretariat Sgr/Jmu
_		Did Security /FNAD	IFSC Code: JAKAOMOVING
5.			As per the circular issued by the Finance department issuvide No: A/Misc(2018)-III-895/J dated 22-12-20120.Bidde
			shall submit "Bid Security Declaration" for an amount of
			15,00,000/ (Rupees Fifteen Lacs Only).
			However, Successful bidder has to submit original Bid Se-
			curity Declaration of EMD in the office of CEO, JaKeGA Civi
			Secretariat Srinagar/Jammu J&K before the issue of work
			order, failing which the bidder shall be liable to disqualific tion including blacklisting.

DIPK-14933/20

Chief Executive Officer I&K e-Governance Agency Dated: 10-03-2021

PWD(R&B) DIVISION KUPWARA

No:JaKeGA/JaKeGA/Tech/05/2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the Registration Certificate of my vehicle bearing Redg No; JK05A-1648. Now i am applying for the duplciate of the same . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/ she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained Javid Ahamd Bhat

S/o Gh Rasool R/o Gusoo Pulwama

PUBLIC NOTICE

My father's name has been wrongly written in Polytechnic College AS Gh Mohammad Lone While his correct name is Gh Mohd Lone which needs immediate correction if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Govt Polytechnic College Shopian or Board Of Technical Education Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Arif Ahamd Lone S/o Gh Mohd Lone

R/o Gatipora Shopian ast

OFFICE OF THE EXECUIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION KUPWARA

Sd/-

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No. 68-Kupwara/8869-80 of 2020-21 e-tendering DATED: - 11-03-2021

For & on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory J&K Govt. CPWD , Railways and other state/Central Governments for the followings works:-

S.	Name of Work	Est. Cost	Cost of	Time of	Time & Date	Class of	Major Head of Account
No		(Rs. In	T/Doc.	Completion	of Opening	Contrac-	,
		Lacs)	(In Rs)			tor	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
i.	Construction of Deep Drain with ducking From house of Gh. Ahmad Mir to	4.19	200/-	10 days	20-03-2021	"DEE"	14th FC Grants (BG 2nd)
	Bashir Ahmad Malik via H/o Mohd Yousaf Mir and from Main road to H/o Lt.						2016-17
	Gulam Mohd via H/o Abdul Ahad Lone at Ward No. 1						
2.		0.50	200/-	10 days	20-03-2021	"DEE"	14th FC Grants (BG 2nd) 2016-17
3.			200/-		20-03-2021		14th FC Grants (BG 2nd) 2016-17
	Construction of Tile Path near shop of Ab. Waheed Dagga upto PNB Bank at	1.50	200/-		20-03-2021		14th FC Grants (BG 2nd) 2016-17
	Ward No. 2						, , , ,
5.	Construction of Drain near Hospital at Ward No. 3	0.99	200/-	10 days	20-03-2021	"DEE"	14th FC Grants (BG 2nd) 2016-17
6.	Construction of Tile Path from H/o Mohd. Yusaf Wani upto Abdul Majid Wani	0.50	200/-		20-03-2021		14th FC Grants (BG 2nd) 2016-17
	at Ward No 3						
		0.99	200/-	10 days	20-03-2021	"DEE"	14th FC Grants (BG 2nd) 2016-17
	at Ward No 3						, , , ,
8.		0.99	200/-	10 days	20-03-2021	"DEE"	14th FC Grants (BG 2nd) 2016-17
	at Ward No. 3						
9.		2.50	200/-	10 days	20-03-2021	"DEE'	14th FC Grants (BG 2nd) 2016-17
			200/-				14th FC Grants (BG 2nd) 2016-17
11.	Construction of Tile Path from General road upto Fida Hussain at Ward No. 5	0.99	200/-		20-03-2021	"DEE"	14th FC Grants (BG 2nd) 2016-17
12.		0.99	200/-		20-03-2021	"DEE"	14th FC Grants (BG 2nd) 2016-17
	Wani and others at Ward No. 5						, ,
13.	Construction of main Drain with ducking near H/o Mohd Magbool Malik upto	6.00	300/-	10 davs	20-03-2021	"C&D"	14th FC Grants (BG 2nd) 2016-17
	H/o Ab. Gani Sheikh at Ward No. 6						, , , ,
14.	Construction of Drain with ducking near H/o Manzur Ahmad Malik upto	1.50	200/-	10 days	20-03-2021	"DEE"	14th FC Grants (BG 2nd) 2016-17
	Mohd, Abdulla Shah, at Ward No. 07						, , , ,
15.		2.50	200/-	10 days	20-03-2021	"DEE"	14th FC Grants (BG 2nd) 2016-17
	No 11						, , , ,
16.		2.00	200/-	10 days	20-03-2021	"DEE"	14th FC Grants (BG 2nd) 2016-17
17.	Construction of Drain with ducking near H/o Ab. Rahid khan Gh. Jeelani Khan	3.00	200/-	10 days	20-03-2021	"DEE"	14th FC Grants (BG 2nd) 2016-17
	upto Nallah at Ward No. 12						, , , ,
18.	Construction of P/Wall near H/o Aziz Rehman War and others at Ward No. 12	0.99	200/-	10 days	20-03-2021	"DEE"	14th FC Grants (BG 2nd) 2016-17
	Construction of Drain from H/o Faroog Ahmad Mareed upto Lollab nallah at		200/-		20-03-2021		14th FC Grants (BG 2nd) 2016-17
	Ward No. 13						,
20.	Construction of P/Wall near Masiid Shareef Mareed Mohalla at Ward No. 13	0.99	200/-	10 days	20-03-2021	"DEE"	14th FC Grants (BG 2nd) 2016-17
			200/-		20-03-2021		14th FC Grants (BG 2nd) 2016-17
22.	Construction of lavatory Block at Masjid Shareef Bilalia Ward No. 09 Malik	4.50	200/-		20-03-2021	"DEE"	14th FC Grants (BG 2nd) 2016-17
	Mohalla (Part -A)						. ,
	ition of AAA/TS : Accorded						

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.O), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedul

O1. Date of issue of Tender Notice 11-03-2021

02. Period of downloading of bidding documents From 11-03-2021 to 19-03-2021 (4.00P.M)
03. Bid submission start date 11-03-2021 from (10.00A.M)
04. Bid submission end date 19-03-2021 upto (04.00P.M)

05. Date & time of opening Bids (on line) 20-03-2021 at (11.00A.M) in the Office of the Executive Engineer RnB Division DIPK-14907/20

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural **Sciences & Technology of Kashmir**

Estates Wing, Shalimar Campus - 190 025 Expression of Interest (EOI)

Name of the project:

1. Completion of Auditorium-cum-Multipurpose Hall on Turnkey basis at Faculty of Agriculture Wadura Sopore, District Baramulla

2. Completion of Auditorium-cum-Multipurpose Hall on Turnkey basis at FVSc & AH Shuhama Alusteing, District Ganderbal

Expression of Interest (EOI) is invited for and on behalf of Vice-Chancellor Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir, Shalimar Campus from the reputed firms/ agencies/contractors, fulfilling eligibility criteria, forthedesign, specifications and execution of works required for completion of captioned project/s on

The EOI document can be had from the office of Estates Officer/Chief Engineer, SKUAST-Kashmir, Shalimar Campus.or can be downloaded from the University website: www. skuastkashmir.ac. as per schedule given below.

Technical Bid shall include:

Eligibility Criteria (As per Annexure-1)

Site-visit, power-point presentation, discussion with TEC (Technical Evaluation Committee) Time schedule is given as under:

Particulars Schedule Last date for on-line submission of pre-qualification bid (Eligibility Criteria) on email amdar786@gmail.com Last date for finalization of pre-qualification bid (shall be communicated on-line) 18.03.2021 (4.00 p.m) Site visit/power-point presentation/discussion Submission of financial bid 19th to 24th March 2021 By or before 27st March 202

Note: Any agency fulfilling eligibility criteria can visit the site/s of work/s before due date with prior intimation to the undersigned.

DIPK-NB-6345/20

Executive Engineer SKUAST-Kashmir

No. Au/Estates/NIT/20/2563-70 Dated: - 10.03.2021

> DISCLAIMER: KASHMIR OBSERVER MAKES EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THE INFORMATION CARRIED IN DISPLAY/ CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS, APPEARING IN THE NEWSPAPER IS CORRECT. HOWEVER THE NEWSPAPER TAKES NO RESPONSIBILITY NOR DOES IT NECESSARILY ENDORSE THE CONTENTS OF THESE ADVERTS. THE READERS ARE THEREFORE REQUESTED TO VERIFY THE CONTENTS BEFORE ACTING THEREUPON. MANAGEMENT

295 Cases Filed Against Food Business Operators For Violation Of FSS Act

Restaurant Sealed For Serving Unhygienic Food In Karanagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The authorities on Saturday sealed a restaurant in Karanagar area of Srinagar for serving unhygienic food to customers while the food prepared at the restaurant was disposed off.

An official said that on information that a restaurant in Karanagar, Srinagar serves unhygienic food to customers, a team of Food Safety Officers under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner Food Safety immediately swung into action and sealed the restaurant.

He said that the food articles prepared under unhygienic conditions in the restaurant were properly disposed off.

He said that a complaint under relevant provisions of Food Safety and Standards Act shall be presented before the competent court against the proprietor and the incharge of these premises soon.

"Also 278 complaints have been filed against the Food Business Operators for not registering themselves under the relevant provisions of law."

He said that the Department has decided to initiate strict action against the Food Business Operators particularly bakers, chicken sellers, butchers and restaurant owners who do not adhere to the provisions of Food Safety and Standards Act. (KNS)

Demolition Drive Conducted Against 'Illegal' Constructions

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Enforcement Wing of Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) today sealed two structures in the area of Rangparistan Rainawari, besides demolished one shop in the area of Jogi Lanker Rainawari, one tin walling/barbed wire and one single storey in the area of Ashai Bagh and Saidakadal which were raised in the green belt area.

The demolition drive was launched under the supervision of Enforcement Officer, Neelofer.

Moreover earth filling

was also removed by the demolition team of the Enforcement wing in the area of Rangerstop Saida Kadal which was dumped in order to fill the water body illegally.

During the demolition operation there was some resistance from the miscreants in the area of Ashai Bagh, but with the support of SDPO/SHO, Nigeen the demolition team managed to demolish the illegally raised structures. The demolition squad was also accompanied by SHO Rainawari who provided full support during the demolition operation.

Goni Khan Traders Association Elects New Body

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Goni Khan Traders Association in Srinagar Saturday announced its new President and General Secretary.

In a statement, Goni Khan Traders Association said Mir Muzamil son of Mohammad Yaqoob Mir proprietor of Ladies First

was declared as new President of Goni Khan Traders Association and Jalal Din Mir son of Ghulam Rasool Mir proprietor of Landmark was declared as new General Secretary of the association, "Both were declared winners as a result of unopposed con testants," the statement

PUBLIC NOTICE

added.

I have applying for a fertilizer licence under name and style, " watergam multipurpose co-operative" at watergam Baramulla, in this regard if anybody have any Kind of objection may file the same to Chief agriculture officer baramulla with in the period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

Muneer Ahmad Sofi S/o: Gh. Mohi-ud-din Sofi R/o: Watergam wagoora Baramulla

GMS

Office Of The Assistant Regional **Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir**



NOTICE Where as a joint application has been recieved from owner.

Shri: Mushtaq Ahmad Dar S/o: Gh Rasool Dar



R/o: 19 Bonepora Gund Saderkoot Safapora as Transferor) & M/S Al-Huda Stone Crusher Prop. Abuzar Ali R/o Chattergam B.K Pora Budgam

as Transferee) for transfer of Tipper Carriage route permit No.1289/GC/ Budgam vehicle No. JK04B -5941 As well as HPA Cancellation with M/S Sargam Trading corp. Jammu

Now it is therefore notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit/ vehicle shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. No. ARTO/BUDGAM.2947 Dated 09-03-2021

mcb

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir



Srinagar Residents Rue Dilapidated Condition Of Roads

Srinagar: The residents of Srinagar Saturday rued the dilapidated conditions of the roads across the city saying the roads have turned irksome for the commuters.

Many of the main roads across Srinagar have developed huge potholes, thus adding to the misery of the people.

The commuters said that they are facing tremendous hardships due to the dilapidated roads in most parts of Srinagar. "The roads in summer capital are completely in shambles, which is only consuming the time of the commuters and also damaging their vehicles," Aamir Manzoor, a commuter said.

The roads that are in dilapidated conditions include in Karan Nagar area outside Sheikh-ul-Aalam hospital, road outside Kashmir Haat, road leading to SMHS hospital through Karan Nagar interiors and in local residential areas.



The road leading to Srinagar Airport is also in dilapidated condition, the locals said.

The commuters have appealed the Roads and Buildings (R&B) department to look into the matter at an earliest so that they could heave a sigh of relief.

Chief Engineer R&B department

Kashmir, Er. Showkat Jeelani, said that the urgency is to fill the patches and the process to repair the damaged roads will be completed by the first week of April.

However, Jeelani said that the complete macadamisation process will be started in April—(KNO)

Brainstorming Session On Capacity Building Held At Islamia College

SRINAGAR: Higher Education Department (HED) in collaboration with IIM-Ahmedabad and NTPC School of Business Saturday organised one day brain storming session with stakeholders on Capacity Building initiatives at Islamia College Of Science & Commerce (ICSC).

The brainstorming discussion was held on Faculty Skill Development, Directors & Principals' Workshop, Career Counseling, Research Area Collaborations, Pilot Projects, Summer School, Developing Innovative Managers, Apprenticeship Training and Ensuring Quality Education.

Commissioner Secretary HED, Talat Parvez Rohella; VC, IUST, Mushtaq A Siddiqi; Director Colleges, M Y Peerzada; Dean Academics KU, Shabir A Bhat; Professor IIM Ahmadabad, Sunil Maheshwari; Dean Engineering, IUST, A H Moon; Director General, NSB, Griesh Tripathi; Dean

NSB, Abika Prasad Dash; Principals of Various Degree Colleges and professors were present during the session.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner Secretary, said that we are finding ways and means to establish innovative and skill development courses for capacity building of students and create employability avenues for them. He added that several initiatives have been taken to invite researches and ideas from students for startups.

Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECHANICAL DIVISION SOUTH AWANTIPORA

Telefax: 01933/295537; Email Id: phemechsouth@gmail.com

GIST NIT

JSD/PHE/MDSA/ e-NIT No:130 of 2020-21 DATE=10-03-2021 enant Governor of Union Territory Jammu and Kashmir online e-tenders are invited in two Cover System, (Technical and

5.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost Rs. Lacs	Cost of T/Doc. (Rs)	Time of Comp	Class of contractor	Programme/ Funds
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Emergent nature of Electrical works for Water Supply Schemes Akhal and Dardegund.	0.98	100/=	05 days	Electrical / Mechanical contractors with GST registration.	M & R
2	Emergent nature of Electro- mechanical works for Water Supply Scheme HS Bugh.	0.27	50/-	05 days	Electrical / Mechanical contractors with GST registration.	M & R
3	Emergent nature of electrical works to be executed at W.S.S. Upper Katpora.	0.58	50/-	05 days	Electrical / Mechanical contractors with GST registration.	M & R
4	Emergent nature of electrical works to be executed at W.S.S. Vessu Manigam .	0.80	50/=	05 days	Electrical / Mechanical contractors with GST registration.	M & R
5	Electrical works for Water Supply Scheme Qazigund Town.	0.55	50/=	05 days	Electrical / Mechanical contractors with GST registration.	M & R

1 0	Publish Date	11-03-2021 (10:00 PM)	
02	Start of downloading of tender documents	11-03-2021 (10:00 PM)	
3 0	On line bid uploading start date	11-03-2021 (10:00 PM)	
4	Last date of uploading of bid	17 -03-2021 (04:00 PM)	
5	Date and time of opening of Tech bids (online)	18-03-2021 (11:00 AM)	
6	Date and time of opening of Price bid	To be notified	

Note: - CDR & Treasury Receipt/e-Challan mentioning NIT No and Work shall be pledged to Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanic Division South Awantipora as per the format annexed. Head 0215 - Revenue & Miscellaneous. All other details can be had from the department

No: JSD/PHE/MDSA/3801 Date: 10-03-2021 DIPK-14918/20

Sd/ Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division (South) Awantipora

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER KUPWARA

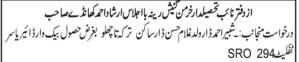
NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from JAWAID AHMAD DAR S/O ABDUL RAHIM DAR R/O HANEEF ABAD HANDWARA is claiming to lost driving licence LMV, MCWG bearing number JK09

Now it is therefore, notified for general information that objections if any.to the proposed issuance of duplicate driving licence shall be filled in writing in the office of the ARTO Kupwara within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in

Assistant REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICERKUPWARA





نام صاحب كنبه معه ولديت 5000 36 سال نبيراحمه ڈارولدغلام حسن ڈار

مزدوري زرينەز دەجەتبىراحمە ڈار **34**سال 10 سال 60 سال عمررسيده سکےعلاوہ ادرکوئی فرد کنبہ میں موجوز نہیں ہےسائل کا کنبہ چھلے بندرہ سالوں سے دھ ہازہ میں ریا نیش بز ، ہےاورسائل کے کنبہ کی کل سالانہ آ مدانی حد مقررہ ہے کم ہے اس حوالے سے اگر کٹی شخص یا اشخاص کو مزکورہ لْفُکیٹ اجرا کرنے میں کوئی عذریااعتراض ہوتو وہ سات دن کےاندراندراینااعتراض دفتر ہازہ میں پیش یں۔معیادگزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

ما می و در و در العداشتهار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ مونیل ریکارڈ میں میرے میٹے کا نام فضان فر دوس میر اند دراج ہواہے جبکہ اسکا اصلی نام فاہد احمد میر ہے اب اسکی در ت کرائی مطلوب ہے اس ضمن میں اگر کسی شخص یااشخاص کوکوئی بھی عذریا اعتراض ہوتو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندرا پنا عذریا اعتراض مونیل کمٹی انعت ناگ کے دفتر میں پیش سات دن بصورت دیگر کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ المشتمر: فردوس احمد مير والدفا مداحمه ميرسا كن ني كبتى انت ناگ

DIAL-EMMA

TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686



PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883 PDD: 0194-2450213 FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES:

2479488,2452222,2452155 CAPD: 18001807011

SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081 **AIRPORTS**



RAILWAYS

SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259 ANANTNAG: 01932-228243

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

HIGHWAY STATUS



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

Srinagar-Leh-(Open)



PRAYERS FAJR 5:20 **ZUHR** 12:40 **ASR** 4:55 Magrib 6:40 **ISHA** 8:00

This Day In History

1812 - Congress authorizes war bonds to finance War of 1812

1862 - Battle of New Bern NC: General Burnside conquers New Bern 1864 - Union troops occupy Fort de Russy, Louisiana

1869 - Defeat of Maori leader Titokowaru in New Zealand. 1901 1st performance of Anton Bruckner's 6th Symphony in A

1901 - Germany's Chancellor von Bulow declares that the agreement Germany signed with Great Britain in October 1900, to restrain foreign aggression and maintain open trade, does not apply

1903 - 1st national bird reservation established in Sebastian, FL 1913 - South African Supreme Court declares that marriages not celebrated according to Christian rites and/or not registered by the Registrar of Marriages, are invalid; all Muslim and Hindu marriages are therefore declared invalid.

1914 - Serbia & Turkey sign peace treaty

1915 - German cruiser Dresden scuttled off Más a Tierra. Chile. having been pursued by the Royal Navy after the Battle of the Falkland Islands, with her engines worn out and virtually no coal. 1916 - Battle of Verdun - German attack on Mort-Homme ridge.

West of Verdun 1923 - Allies accepts Vilnus taking East-Galicia in Poland

1926 - A train in Costa Rica falls into the Río Virilla, killing 248 and

1937 - Battle of the Century: Fred Allen & Jack Benny meet on radio

1939 - Nazi Germany dissolves Republic of Czechoslovakia 1941 - Nazi occupiers of Holland forbid Jewish owned companies

1941 Xavier Cugat & orchestra record "Babalu" 1943 - World War II: Kraków Ghetto is "liquidated" 1955 - Prince Mahemdra becomes king of Nepal.

1957 - Indonesian government of Sastroamidjojo resigns

1958 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site 1958 - USSR performs atmospheric nuclear test

1962 - Disarmament conference opens in Geneva without France 1965 - Israeli cabinet approves diplomatic relations with West Ger-

1971 - South Vietnamese troops flee Laos

1979 - A Hawker Siddeley Trident crashes into a factory near Beijing, China, killing at least 200.

boxers) 1983 - OPEC cut oil prices for 1st time in 23 years

1986 - European Space Agency's Giotto flies by Halley's Comet

1987 - Worlds Ladies' Figure Skating Champ in Cincinnati won by

1992 - Soviet newspaper "Pravda" suspends publication 1994 - Soyuz TM-21 launches with V Dezyurov, G Strekalov & N Tha-

1997 - Iranian military plane crashes, killing 80 2005 - Cedar Revolution, where over one and a million Lebanese

went into the streets of Beirut to demonstrate against the Syrian military presence in Lebanon, and against the government, following the assassination of Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. 2013 - 25 people are killed and 50 are wounded by a series of car

bombings in Baghdad, Iraq. 2013 - Xi Jinping is named as the new President of the People's Re-

2016 - President Putin orders Russian troops out of Syria

From KO Archives

2016 - NASA releases data showing February 2016 warmest month ever recorded globally - 1.35C above the long-term average.

Hefty pay hike for MLAs

Observer News Service

AMMU - The Jammu and Kashmir government has decided to hike the emoluments of the legislators by Rs 10,000 each, fulfilling their long-pending demand for a better pay package.

This was announced by Minister for Finance and Planning Development Muzaffar Hussain Baig in the legislative assembly on Friday while replying to the debate on budget proposals 2005-06.

Justifying the hike in the emoluments of the legislators, the Minister said the government wants to encourage educated and honest people to come to the legislature and this can be done only through offering them better perks.

He said the expectations of the people with their representatives are growing everyday and it is very difficult for the legislators to reach out to the masses with limited resources at their disposal.

"Although it is a difficult decision which could evoke public criticism, the government has to take care of the lawmakers who are at present drawing a meagre salary of Rs 4000 in addition to paltry allowances," he said."

(Kashmir Observer, 14 March, 2005)

New Zealand Marks Two Years Since Christchurch Mosque Killings

Agenceis

Tew Zealand has marked the second anniversary of one of its most traumatic days, when 51 worshippers were killed at two Christchurch mosques by a white supremacist gunman.

Several hundred people gathered at the Christchurch Arena on Saturday for the remembrance service, which was also livestreamed.

Kiran Munir, whose husband Haroon Mahmood was killed in the attacks, told the crowd she had lost the love of her life and her soulmate.

She said her husband was a loving father of their two children. He had just finished a doctoral degree and was looking forward to his graduation ceremony when she last saw his smiling face.

"Little did I know that the next time I would see him the body and soul would not be together," she said. "Little did I know that the darkest day in New Zealand's history had dawned. That day my heart broke into a thousand pieces, just like the hearts of the 50 other families."

In the March 15, 2019, attacks, Australian Brenton Tarrant killed 44 people at the Al Noor mosque during Friday prayers before driving to the Linwood mosque, where he killed

Last year Tarrant, 30, pleaded guilty to 51 counts of murder, 40 counts of attempted murder and one count of terrorism, He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

After the attacks, New Zealand quickly passed new laws banning the deadliest types of semiautomatic weapons. Temel Atacocugu, who survived being shot nine times during the attack on the Al Noor mosque, said the slaughter was caused by racism and ignorance.

"They were attacks on all of humanity," he said, adding that the survivors would never be able to erase

e Islamic Republic of Iran Shin.

ping Line (IRIS) Group says one

of its cargo ships has been dam-

aged after it was targeted by a terror-

ist attack en route to Europe in the

Mediterranean Sea earlier this week.

spokesman, told Nour News on Fri-

day that an explosion object had hit

the container ship — identified as

Shahr-e Kord — as it was traveling in

sustained slight damage, but those

termath of the explosion, which was

quickly put out by the crew members,

on its route after damage assess-

The ship, he added, "will continue

Such acts of terror are a clear ex-

ample of naval piracy and runs coun-

ter to the international law on the

safety of commercial vessels, the of-

ficial said, pledging that the country

will pursue the case through relevant

international institutions to identify

The official said the vessel's hull

A small fire broke out in the af-

the high seas on Wednesday.

aboard were unharmed.

Ghiasi said.

ments and repair.'

Ali Ghiasi, the IRISL Group's

Iran Ship Targeted in

Mediterranean Terror Attack

the pain in their hearts. "However, the future is in our hands. We will go on and we will be positive together.'

Atacocugu wept as he recalled waiting to be treated with the father of three-year-old Mucaad Ibrahim when they learned the toddler had died.

"Suddenly, my pain seemed insignificant," he said.

During the service, the names of each of the 51 people killed were read out. The efforts of first responders, including police and medics, were also acknowledged.

Maha Elmadani, who lost her 66-year-old father Ali Mah'd Elmadani in the attacks, spoke at the service on behalf of the affected Muslim youth.

"The pain of losing these 51 lives not only impacted the people of Christchurch, the pain ripped through New Zealand and the rest of the world and continues to be felt," Elmadani said.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern told the crowd that when preparing her speech, she had been at a loss for what to say because words would never change what happened.

"But while words cannot perform miracles, they do have the power to heal," she said, "There will be an unquestionable legacy from March 15. Much of it will be heartbreaking. But it is never too early or too late for the legacy to be a more inclusive nation."

Ardern, who was widely praised for the compassion shown to survivors and the families of the victims of the shooting and her swift move to tighten firearms control in New Zealand, said words "despite their healing power" would never change what happened.

"Men, women and children were taken in an act of terror. Words will not remove the fear that descended over the Muslim community," she said, adding the legacy should be "a more inclusive nation, one that stands proud of our diversity and embraces it and, if called to,

Late last month, an Israeli-owned

tack while it was in the Sea of Oman.

claiming that it suffered holes in both

jamin Netanyahu was quick to blame

Iran for the alleged incident, an accu-

sation Tehran categorically rejected.

The regime's Prime Minister Ben-

Iranian Ambassador to the United

Nations Majid Takht Ravanchi said

in a letter to the UN Security Council

that the incident "has all the charac-

teristics of a complicated false flag

operation by actors in order to pursue

their malign policies and to advance

Street Journal that claimed the Is-

raeli regime had been involved in a

clandestine campaign of attacks on

Iranian ships carrying oil and arms to

2019 and targeted both Iranian ves-

sels, and other ships with Iranian

cargo, the report claimed, citing "US

Iranian officials have not com-

The Israeli attacks started in late

On Thursday, a report by The Wall

their illegitimate objectives."

Syria since 2019.

and regional officials."

mented on the claims so far.

sides of its hull.

Sunday | 14.03.2021

The wearing of the burqa in the majority-Buddhist nation was temporarily banned in 2019 after the bombing of churches and hotels by Islamic militants that killed more than 250. (File photo)

Sri Lanka To Ban Burqa, Shut Many Islamic Schools: Sarath Weerasekera

ri Lanka will ban the wearing of the burga and shut more than a thousand Islamic schools, a government minister said on Saturday, with the latest actions set to affect the country's minority Muslim population.

Minister for public security Sarath Weerasekera told a news conference he had signed a paper on Friday for cabinet approval to ban the full-face covering worn by some Muslim women on "national security" grounds.

"In our early days, Muslim women and girls never wore the burqa," he said. "It is a sign of religious extremism that came about recently. We are definitely going to ban it," he added.

The wearing of the burqa in the majority-Buddhist nation was temporarily banned in 2019 after the bombing of churches and hotels by Islamic militants that killed more than 250. Later that year, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, best known for crushing a decades-long insurgency in the north of the country as defence secretary, was elected president after promising a crackdown on extremism.

Rajapaksa is accused of widespread rights abuses during the war, which are charges he denies.

Weerasekera said the government plans to ban more than a thousand madrassa Islamic schools, which according to him, were flouting the national education policy.

"Nobody can open a school and teach whatever you want to the children," he said.

The government's moves on burqas and schools follow an order last year mandating the cremation of Covid-19 victims, which is against the wishes of Muslims who bury their dead.

This ban was lifted earlier this year after criticism from the United States and international rights groups.

Russia Backs Taliban **Inclusion In Future Interim Afghan Govt**



MOSCOW: Russia said on Friday it backed the Taliban's integration into a future interim government in Afghanistan, as global powers ramped up efforts to secure a peace deal and end decades of war.

The Russian foreign ministry's comments have come as a May deadline looms for the United States to end its two-decade military involvement in the ravaged country.

Washington has encouraged the Afghan leadership to work towards establishing an "inclusive" government and proposed talks with the Taliban to secure a peace accord.

"The formation of an interim inclusive administration would be a logical solution to the problem of integrating the Taliban into the peaceful political life of Afghanistan," Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told reporters ahead of talks next week in Moscow. However, she added that the decision should be made "by the Afghans themselves and should be resolved during negotiations on national reconciliation".

US President Joe Biden is wrapping up a review on whether to stick to an agreement with the Taliban negotiated by his predecessor Donald Trump who wanted to pull out the final US troops from Afghanistan by May.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Friday that Ankara was ready to host such a meeting in April. "Both the Taliban and the negotiation delegation, meaning the government side, had asked us to host such a meeting before," the Anadolu state news agency quoted him as saying.

"We will do this (meeting) in coordination with brotherly Qatar," he added in reference to a separate round of talks staged in Doha. The scheduled US withdrawal is being complicated by a new surge in fighting and concern that a speedy exit may only unleash further chaos.

Global Rise In Childhood Mental Health Issues Amid Pandemic

Paris: By the time his parents rushed him to the hospital, 11-year-old Pablo was barely eating and had stopped drinking entirely. Weakened by months of self-privation, his heart had slowed to a crawl and his kidneys were faltering.

Medics injected him with fluids and fed him through a tube first steps toward stitching together yet another child coming apart amid the tumult of the coronavirus crisis.

For doctors who treat them, the pandemic's impact on the mental health of children is in-

creasingly alarming. The Paris pediatric hospital caring for Pablo has seen a doubling in the number of children and young teenagers requiring treatment after attempted suicides since Septembe

Doctors elsewhere report similar surges, with children — some as young as 8 — deliberately running into traffic, overdosing on pills and otherwise self-harming.

In Japan, child and adolescent suicides hit record levels in 2020. according to the Education Ministry.

Pediatric psychiatrists say they're also seeing children with coronavirus-related phobias, tics and eating disorders, obsessing about infection, scrubbing their hands raw, covering their bodies with disinfectant gel and terrified of getting sick from food.

Also, increasingly common, doctors say, are children suffering panic attacks, heart palpitations and other symptoms of mental anguish, as well as chronic addictions to mobile devices and computer screens that have become their sitters, teachers and entertainers during lockdowns, curfews and school closures.

"There is no prototype for

the child experiencing difficulties," said Dr. Richard Delorme, who heads the psychiatric unit treating Pablo at the giant Robert Debré pediatric hospital, the busiest in France. "This concerns all of us."

Pablo's father, Jerome, is still trying to understand why his son gradually fell sick with a chronic eating disorder as the pandemic took hold, slowly starving himself until the only foods he would eat were small quantities of rice, tuna and cherry tomatoes.

Jerome suspects that disruptions last year to Pablo's routines may have contributed to his illness. Because France was locked down, the boy had no in-school classes. for months and couldn't say goodbye to his friends and teacher at the end of the school year.

"It was very tough," Jerome said. "This is a generation that has taken a beating." Sometimes other factors pile on misery beyond the burden of the 2.6 million COVID-19 victims who have died in the world's worst health crisis in a century.

Islamic State extremists who killed 130 people in gun and bomb attacks across Paris in 2015, including at a cafe on Pablo's walk to school, also left a searing mark on his childhood. Pablo used to believe that the cafe's dead customers were buried under the sidewalk where he trod.

When he was hospitalized at the end of February, Pablo had lost a third of his previous weight. His heart rate was so slow that medics struggled to find a pulse. and one of his kidneys was failing, said his father, who agreed to talk about his son's illness on condition they not be identified by their surname.

"It is a real nightmare to have a child who is destroying himself," the father said.

Pablo's psychiatrist at the hospital, Dr. Coline Stordeur, says some of her other young patients with eating disorders, mostly aged 8 to 12, told her they began obsessing in lockdown about gaining weight because they couldn't stay active. One boy compensated by running laps in his parents' basement for hours each day, losing weight so precipitously that he had to be hospitalised.

Others told her they gradually restricted their diet: "No more sugar, then no more fat, and eventually no more of anything,"

Some children try to keep their mental anguish to themselves, not wanting to further burden the adults in their lives who are perhaps mourning loved ones or jobs lost to the coronavirus. They "try to be children who are forgotten about who don' add to their parents' problems," Stordeur said.

Children also may lack the vocabulary of mental illness to voice their need for help and to make a connection between their difficulties and the pandemic.

"They don't say, yes, I ended up here because of the coronavirus," Delorme said. "But what they tell you about is a chaotic world, of Yes, I'm not doing my activities any more,' I'm no longer doing my music,' 'Going to school is hard in the mornings,' I am having difficulty waking up,' I am fed up with the mask."

Dr. David Greenhorn said the emergency department at the Bradford Royal Infirmary where he works in northern England used to treat one or two children per week for mental health emergencies, including suicide attempts. The average now is closer to one or two per day, sometimes involving children as young as 8, he said.

US: City Of Minneapolis To Pay \$27 Million Settlement To Floyd Family



Agenceis

The city of Minneapolis has agreed to pay \$27 million in a civil lawsuit settlement from George Floyd's family. Floyd, a black man was killed on May 25 at the hands of a policeman, who tackled him on the charge of using a counterfeit currency note. Policeman, Derek Chauvin kneeled on Floyd's neck for nine minutes, which resulted in Floyd's death.

Jurors are being selected for the trial of Derek Chain, the main accused in Floyd's murder, which is set to begin on March 29. Ben Crump, the Floyd familv's attorney call it the largest pretrial settlement ever for a civil rights claim.

"Even though my brother is not here, he's here with me in my heart," Philonise Floyd told AFP. "If I could get him back, I would give all this back".

The settlement of this size "changes evaluations and civil

rights for a Black person when they die," said L Chris Stewart another attorney who worked with the family.

Included in the settlement is \$500.000 for the neighbourhood in south Minneapolis, including the 38th and Chicago intersection what has been barricaded since Floyd's death. The area is covered in murals and a large metal sculpture of Floyd in his honour. "I just want you to know how deeply we are with you," City Council President Lisa Bender told Floyd's family and said she knows " no amount of money" could bring Floyd back.

Floyd's killing sparked mass protests against racism and calling for a reassessment of the police force across the US. Three other officers involved in Floyd's killing are charged with aiding and abetting murder and manslaughter.

It isn't clear yet whether or not the settlement would have implications on Chauvin's trial.

NEWS MAKERS

1st Turban-Clad Sikh **Enters Pak Senate**



Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD: Gurdeep Singh from the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party took oath on Friday as a Senator, becoming the first turban-clad Sikh representative in the upper house of Pakistan's Parliament. Singh, from the party of Prime Minister Imran Khan became the first turban-clad Sikh representative

from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in Pakistan's Senate on March 3. He defeated rival candidates on a minority seat by a huge margin in the election to the upper chamber of Parliament.

He secured 103 votes in the House of 145 whereas Jamiat Ulema-e Islam (Fazlur) candidate Ranjeet Singh secured just 25 votes and Asif Bhatti of the Awami National Party received 12.

SAN FRANCISCO: Sundar Pichai-run Google has launched a scathing attack on Microsoft, accusing the Satya Nadella-run enterprise of willing to break the way the open web works in an effort to undercut a rival.

The attack came as Microsoft President Brad Smith, who on Friday issued a testimony to the House Committee on the Judiciary looking into antitrust and commercial aspects of competition for a free and diverse press, and slammed Google for hampering the growth of news organisations.

"News organisations have ad inventory to sell, but they can no longer sell directly to those who want to place ads," Smith said in a statement.

"Instead, for all practical purposes, they must use Google's tools, operate on Google's ad exchanges, contribute data to Google's opera-



tions, and pay Google money. All this impacts the ability of news organisations to benefit economically even from advertising on their own sites," Smith noted.

Kent Walker, Google's head of global affairs, hit back late on Friday, saving this latest attack marks a return to Mi-

crosoft's long-time practices. "It's no coincidence that Microsoft's newfound interest in attacking us comes on the heels of the Solar-Winds attack and at a moment when they've allowed tens of thousands of their customers to be actively hacked via major Microsoft vulnerabilities," Walker said in a statement.

Sundar Pichai vs Satya Nadella: Google, Microsoft at 'odds' over digital news industry

"They are now making self-serving claims and are even willing to break the way the open web works in an effort to undercut a rival. And their claims about our business and how we work with news publishers

are just plain wrong," he added. Google and Microsoft are at odds over whether publishers

should have more control over a digital ad industry dominated by the search giant and Facebook.

In January, Google threatened to remove its search engine from Australia in response to the News Media Bargaining Code that would force the company to pay news publishers for their content.

Australia passed the law last month and Microsoft is out in full support of the law, slamming both Google and Facebook.

Walker said that Microsoft is the second-largest company in the US but "their track record is spotty".

"They have paid out a much smaller amount to the news industry than we have. And given the chance to support or fund their own journalists, Microsoft replaced them with AI bots," he argued.

"Microsoft's attempts at distraction aside, we'll continue to collaborate with news organisations and policymakers around the world to enable a strong future for journalism". On Friday, a House Judiciary sub-

committee hearing focused on the way Google and Facebook distribute news, and a new bill introduced earlier this week has already found Republican support. It's one of the biggest legislative threats to tech that's come out of the years-long antitrust debate, and much of its political force comes from the precarious state of local journalism.

"The crisis in American journalism has become a real crisis in our democracy and civic life," Cicilline said in his opening remarks Friday.

The fight between two tech giants came as the US is debating a new bill, introduced earlier this week, that would allow news organisations to collectively negotiate with platforms like Facebook and Google the terms in which their content is distributed online. — IANS

Two Killed As Truck Hits A Dozen Vehicles At Jammu Market

JAMMU: Two persons were killed and four others critically injured when a truck driver lost control over his vehicle that hit and damaged nearly a dozen vehicles inside a vegetable and fruit market here on Saturday, police said.

The accident occurred at the Narwal mandi, when the main terminal market of the city was crowded with early morning shoppers, a police official said.

He said the driver of the truck, bearing a Rajasthan registration number, lost control over the wheel apparently due to a brake failure and the truck hit and damaged nearly a dozen vehicles, including four mini load carriers, three cars and two two-wheelers.

Surai Prakash (45) of Akhnoor and Bodh Raj (40) of RS Pura were killed in the accident, while four other critically-injured persons were shifted to the Government Medical College (GMC) hospital, the official said.

He said the truck driver fled the spot after the accident and efforts are on to arrest him.

Court Directs Police To Probe Bandipora Woman's Death Afresh

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: After several representations to police and her mother eventually moving to Court, Jammu and Kashmir Police in Bandipora on Friday filed an FIR to investigate the alleged murder of a 20-year-old woman three years ago, to investigate the case afresh.

The woman was found dead under mysterious circumstances at her in-law's house in Ganastan village of north Kashmir's Bandipora district on August 9, 2018.

Her family had alleged she was killed by her husband, Irshad Ahmad Baig, and told police that he would abuse and beat her.

Police, however, claimed to have conducted inquest proceedings into the matter last year in 2020, during which the body of the deceased woman was exhumed and post mortem was conducted thereafter.

The outcome of inquest proceedings initiated under 174 CrPC by police found no one's involvement in the death of the deceased woman

and police had subsequently closed

the case as natural death. In February this year, the family moved to the court of Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Sumbal, Sonawari and on March 4, the Court directed the registration of FIR in exercise of Jurisdiction Conferred Under Section 156(3) Code of Criminal Procedure. The Complainant who is the mother of the deceased had earlier approached different forums and was represented by Advocate Abid Hussain and Advocate Tasleem Jaan before the Court.

On March 12 (Friday), police filed a an FIR under number 28/2021 under Section 302 of IPC, against Irshad Ahmad Beigh son of Mohammad Ashraf Beigh and fresh investigations were started. (KDC)

Chairman J&K Bank Calls on LG

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chairman Jammu and Kashmir Bank, RK Chhibber Saturday met Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhavan and discussed several important issues pertaining to the functioning of the bank.

The J&K Bank Chairman informed the Lt Governor about the status of disbursement of financial assistance under various flagship programmes,

besides the roadmap being prepared for rationalising the bank staff and filling up the vacant posts. The Lt Governor emphasised on the high importance of making continuous improvements in the functioning of the bank and called for maintaining discipline among the bank functionaries to nurture transparency and accountability at all levels. He advised the Chairman to take all measures to further improve the fiscal health of the bank.

Court Sentences Budgam Man To Life For Killing Woman

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Court of Principal Sessions Judge Srinagar, Abdul Rashid Malik Saturday convicted Javaid Ahmad Bhat Son of Abdul Gani Bhat a resident of Kremshore Khan Sahib, Budgam

Under Section 302 RPC for causing the death of Mst. Gulshan Akhtar D/o Ghulam Hassan Sofi Resident of Kremshore.

As per the history of the case, on June 03, 2014 Police Station, Khansahib received information from reliable sources that the dead body of Gulshan Akhtar is lying in Kremshore and by appearance it looks that she has been killed by strangulation. On receipt of the said information, case FIR was registered under Section 302 RPC and investigation was started.

During investigation, site plan was prepared and dead body was taken into custody/possession by police, photography was conducted, at the place of occurrence some blood stained grass was collected/seized with the help of FSL team for the purposes of chemical examination. One blanket was also seized which was used to cover the dead body.

The Dead body was taken to hospital -for post-mortem, where cloths were seized and one blood stained scarf was also seized. After post-mortem dead body was handed over to legal heirs for last rites. The blood stained grass and scarf was sent to FSL for chemical examination. The statements of witnesses vis-à-vis the seizure were recorded, the order reads.

The order mentions that the trial court examined 21 (twenty one) witnesses. After hearing Qazi Qayoom, learned PP and counsel for the accused, the learned Principal Sessions Judge Srinagar Abdul Rashid Malik observed that the prosecution has cogently and firmly established the circumstances from which the inference of guilt can be drawn.

The circumstances are definite and unerringly point out towards the guilt of the accused. The circumstances cumulatively form the chain, so complete that there is no other explanation of any other hypothesis than that of the guilt of the accused and the evidence is consistent with the guilt of the accused and inconsistent with his innocence.

When after the deceased left

the home she was not seen by anybody and later on after two days her body was found on the spot of occurrence and the accused in the disclosure statement has explained the circumstances which left no doubt in the mind of this court that it was the accused who has committed the murder of the deceased.

The Police had no reason to falsely implicate the accused and the accused has failed in examination under Section 342 Cr.P.O to explain the incriminating circumstances because once the prosecution has discharged the burden of proof, the accused cannot chose to remain silent as adverse inference can be drawn.

The accused has not explained his constant contact with the deceased the knocking of the windows, providing the mobile phone to the deceased, motivated the deceased to come out of the home, the conversation with the deceased and recovery of the incriminating articles from the possession of the accused.

There is no doubt that mere recovery of the incriminating articles is not sufficient to prove the guilt of the accused but the recovery is supported by the detailed disclosure statement made by the accused before the Investigating Officer in presence of the Executive Magistrate and the Dy.S.P. There is not even an iota of evidence that the accused was wrongly implicated.

The Investigating Officer has made all the sincere efforts to unfold the truth. The circumstances in this use are knit brick by brick with the support of the documentary evidence. All the twenty one witnesses have spoken consistently in support of the prosecution story and their statements inspire the confidence of the court Right from the lodging of the FIR, arrest of the accused, the disclosure statement of the accused, the recovery of mobile phone, battery, damaged SIM card, the chapel of the deceased. the scarf round the neck of the deceased, the blood soaked grass, the FSL report, postmortem report and call details point out nothing ex-

cept the guilt of the accused. There is not even a single circumstance which point out towards the innocence of the accused. The silence of the accused in the face of the cogent, oral and documentary evidence further strengthens the prosecution story. The accused has failed to explain his innocence in the light of the chain of circumstances established by the prosecution

The Court further observed that in appreciating evidence the approach of the Court must be integrated not truncated or isolated. In other words the integrate of the evidence in totality on the prosecution case or innocence of the accused has to be kept in mind in coming to the conclusion as to the guilt of the accused, the Court has to appreciate, analyze and assess the evidence placed before it by the yardstick of probabilities, its intrinsic value of the witness.

The Court while appreciating the evidence should not lose the site of the realities of the life and cannot afford to take an unrealistic approach by stating in an ivory tower. It is very easy to pass an order of acquittal on the basis of minor points raised in a case by a short judgment, so as to achieve the yardstick of the disposal. Some discrepancies are bound to be there in each and every case while should not weighed that the Courts are wrong. It does not materially affect the prosecution case. In case the discrepancies pointed out are in the realm of pebbles, Court should act upon it, but if the same are boulders, Court should not make an attempt to jump over the same. The proof beyond reasonable doubt is a guideline and guilty-man cannot get away with it, because truth suffers some infirmity when projected through hu-

man processes. Therefore, the evidence produced by the prosecution establishes beyond reasonable doubt that the accused had only intention to kill the deceased after his love affair failed and the motive behind the killing was the refusal of the parents of the deceased to marry the deceased with the accused. The accused strangulated the deceased till she died by wrapping the scarf around her neck and pressed it so hard that the deceased died instantaneously. Therefore, the offence committed by the accused falls under section 302 RPC and the accused is convicted under section 302 RPC accordingly.

Dr Farooq Demands Strict Action Against Wasim Rizvi

'Rizvi's Despicable Action Aimed At Hurting Dignity of Muslims'

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) President and Member of Parliament from Srinagar Dr. Farooq Abdullah on Saturday condemned former chairman of UP Shai Waqf Board Wasim Rizvi's action of challenging the holy Ouran and its chapters in the Supreme Court.

Terming the act abominable, Abdullah in a statement said the holy Quran is the incorruptible and unchangeable word of Allah. "Almighty has taken the respon-

sibility to protect the Holy Quran

and not even a letter or punctuation in it will change. It is the incorruptible and unchangeable word of Almighty Allah," he said.

"The petition should not be entertained; on the contrary strict action should be taken against him for hurting the sentiments of Muslims living across the globe. Such monstrous and despicable plots are aimed to hurt the dignity and unity of Muslim Ummah. I urge the judiciary to take suo moto cognizance of the nefarious designs of the petitioner under the relevant provisions of law for deliberately and maliciously hurting the sentiments of Muslims across the globe," he said.

KTA Demands Arrest Of Wasim Rizvi

he Kashmir Trade Alliance (KTA) Saturday condemned the blasphemous remarks by Wasim Rizvi and urged the GOI to take strong action against him. "Rizvi is known for his anti-Islamic remarks in past and he should be punished for that. Rizvi should be arrested because he is just trying to create conflict between two schools of thought of Islam. Allah himself is the protector of this holy book," KTA president Ajaz Shahdhar said in a statement.

He said if no action was taken against Rizvi, it would lead to 'sectarian tensions'. "The government should arrest Rizvi at the earliest as blasphemous utterances of this nature can cause sectarian tension." he said.

PDF Demands Stringent Punishment To Wasim Rizvi

hairman People's Democratic Front (PDF) Hakeem Mohammad Yaseen has condemned Wasim Rizvi for insulting the noble Quran and the sanctities of •Muslims by filing a PIL in the supreme court that some verses of the Holy Quran should be removed. In a statement Yaseen while condemning Wasim Rizvi for his blasphemous act against holly book Our'an, has demanded severe punishment against him. "By insulting the Noble Quran, Wasim Rizvi has hurt religious sentiments of Muslim Ummah and has resorted to spreading of hatred among the community. He said Wasim should be dealt with and punished in same way as was given to notorious Salman Rushdie for hurting the religious sentiments of Muslim community, "Undoubtedly the Ouran was a divine book sent down by the Almighty Allah and He was himself its guardian."

IFJHR Files Criminal Complaint Against Wasim Rizvi

criminal complaint was Saturday filed against former UP Shia Waqf Board Chairman, Waseem Rizvi, in Srinagar for promoting enmity between religious groups for seeking removal of the verses from Quran that he says promote 'violence.' The complaint was filed in district court Srinagar by Ahsan Untoo, chairman of the International Forum for Justice and Human Rights, under sections 153 A and 295 A of Indian Penal Code. In the complaint, Untoo sought his arrest and asked the Court to award him stringent punishment for promoting religious enmity and insulting Muslims. In the complaint, Untoo submitted that Rizvi was promoting religious tensions by hurting the sentiments of Muslims.

Drinking Water Scarcity Hits Kangan Villages, **Locals Aghast**

KANGAN: The residents of several villages from Kangan in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Friday complained that they are facing nortage of notable drinking water from the last three days while the authorities are paying no attention towards their sufferings.

The local villagers said that the administration has failed to provide the basic facilities to the people. The villages facing acute water scarcity include Prang, Dragtungue, Chattergul, and Lariprang Chinnar.

Locals said they approached the authorities many times and were given assurance of getting the regular water supply soon, "but no step has been taken on the matter so far".

No Transfer For School Edu Dept **Employees Retiring In Two Years**

SRINAGAR: The government has decided that the employees of the School Education Department retiring in coming two years shall not be transferred.

The comments were made by the officials in a meeting that was held in the backdrop of mass transfers of teaching officials currently going in the depart ment in all ten districts of Kashmir valley.

The administrative secretary to the government for School Education Department, B K Singh said this in a meeting held earlier in last week of February. Singh said, "The employee having only two years remaining for retirement should not be disturbed."

He also urged the concerned officials of the department that the applicants who have a mature stay of more than seven years or more be considered in the first instance and the employees having stay of more than four years should be considered later on.

In the meeting Singh also said, "In case of a demand for transfer on grounds of disability, spouse, extreme serious health conditions, security grounds, posting in hard or very hard zones and marriage grounds, such cases should be examined based on facts and necessary certificates issued by designated competent authority and subject to availability of equivalent cadre vacancies in institution identified by the applicant."

Singh directed CEOs and directors of both Jammu and Kashmir regions that "In case of applications on grounds of extreme health conditions or serious illness, disability, the respective Chief Education Officers (CEOs) shall endorse the claims of the applicant with designated medical board for necessary certification; however their request place should be kept vacant for their claims on medical grounds."—(KNO)

800 **Beneficiaries Register For** Sehat Scheme In Poonch

Observer News Service

POONCH: As many as 800 registered under SEHAT scheme in Poonch during series of daily basis camps held across Poonch District.

On the direction of District Development Commissioner Poonch, Rahul Yadav, the camps were conducted in the Sub-divisions of Poonch, Mandi, Mendhar and Surankote. The CSC/VLE has appealed to the public to make maximum enrolment and avail the benefit of the scheme.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS **DEPARTMENT OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION**

DISTRICT SRINAGAR (E-NIT NO: 120F2021 DATED, 09.03,2021)

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor Jammu & Kashmir UT, E-Tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractor registered with J&K UT /Central Govt. Organization for the following works:

S. No	Name of work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In lacs.)	Class of Contractor	Cost of TD	Time of
1	Construction of DRSM Check dams at Minanar Dara, Srinagar	0.989	DEE	Rs: 200/=	10 days
2	Providing and Laying of crate wire structures at Minanar Dara Srinagar	0.975	DEE	Rs: 200/=	10 days
3	Construction of DRSM Check dams at Wechihor Dara Srinagar	0.989	DEE	Rs: 200/=	10 days
4	Providing and Laying of crate wire structures at Wechihor Dara Srinagar	0.975	DEE	Rs: 200/=	10 days
5	Construction of DRSM Check dams at PaithporaChattergulKangan	0.989	DEE	Rs: 200/=	10 days
6	Providing and Laying of crate wire structures at PaithporaChattergulKangan	0.975	DEE	Rs: 200/=	10 days
7	Construction of DRSM Check dams at FaikpatriChattergualKangan	0.989	DEE	Rs: 200/=	10 days
8	Providing and Laying of crate wire structures at FaikpatriChattergualKangan	0.878	DEE	Rs: 200/=	10 days
9	Upgradation of spring at ChanthanGulabpora (Waliwar- B) Ganderbal	5.00	DEE &CEE	Rs: 300/=	10 days

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bills of quantities, (B.O.Q) set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website https://

Position of funds: Budgeted

Position of AA/TS: Accorded. Receiving/Opening Authority: Tender Opening Committee

Publishing date	09-03-2021		
Download Start Date:	13-03-2021 from06:00 PM		
Bid submission start Date:	13-03-2021 from 06:00PM		
Bid submission End Date:	18-03-2021 up to 06:00 PM		
Date of opening of Bids through online:	19-03-2021 at 11:00 AM		

The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website: The date for opening of price bids through online shall be separately. 02.

Bid uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (Cost of Tender Document) in shape of Treasury Challan for the amount Shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406 - Forest & Bid Security declaration in shape of proforma enclosed at Annexure "A". The Bid for the works shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids. As per Rule 171 of GFR-2017, performance security shall have to be deposited by successful bidder to the order of 3% of the

value of the contract and if there are compelling circumstances, performance security in excess of 3% may also be demanded Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from: Bidders Manual Kit". 06. 07. To participate in bidding process bidders can get Digital Certificate from approved vendor. The bidders must submit their financial bids on line in electronic format with digital signature No financial bid will be accepted

in physical/hard form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above. 09. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e. valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD duly renewed for the current year, PAN, Valid Tin registration. Demand Draft (cost of Tender Document).

The successful bidder has to produce valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award on contract. The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or other-11.

wise). The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of information regarding publishing the NIT. In any of the newspaper under circulation. 13. of.

The tender accepting Authority however, reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason there-14. All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the detailed document.

15. The contractor shall attach the tax clearance certificates with respect to income tax and GST clearance certificate. The work shall be completed strictly as per the specifications drawings (as per annexure to NIT). The contractor shall be personally responsible for maintaining the specifications for the material and sub standard material shall not be entertained The quantities mentioned in the NIT are subject to increase or decrease depending on availability of funds. No activity shall be undertaken by the contractor against the provision of J&K Soil & Water Conservation Act, and in case of

DIPK-15023/20

any violation action under the provisions of the Act, shall be initiated against the contractor, his representative or worker if any. Assistant Conservator of Forests District Srinagai

No: DSCO/Sgr-Gbl/1022-26 Dated: 09-03-2021

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (IRRIGATION & FC), DIVISION

SDA BUILDING NEAR POLICE CONTROL ROOM BATAMALOO SRINAGAR KASHMIR-190009

Fax/Phone: 0194-2470119

email: exenifcdsrinagar@ifckashmir.com

DASTI QUOTATION

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, sealed quotations affixed with revenue stamp worth 6.00 are invited from approved, reputed firms for below mentioned items in view of World Water Day to be celebrated on 22-03-2021, which should reach to the office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation & F C Division Srinagar by or before 16-03-2021 upto 02:00 PM, in case the last date of receipt of the quotation is declared a holiday or any un-avoidable circumstances the quotation shall be received on the next consecutive working day up to 02:00 PM. The quotation should be accompanied with Tender Document fee of 200/- in shape of Treasury Challan/Receipt to be deposited under

MH: 0702-Rev. Misc.

The Quotation must be accompanied with G.S.Tin No., Pan Card, Registration certificate and experience certificate in the relevant field, duly self attested

S No	Particulars	Unit	Rate	Rate by the quotationer
01.	Preparation of flexi boards	Sft.	RTQ	•
02.	Production of Five-minute video regarding the works/ achievements done by the department	Minute	RTQ	

Terms and Conditions;

- The rates should be written by the quotation both in words and figures without any overwriting.
- The payment will be made to the successful tenderer under MH: M&R.
- The rates must be inclusive of all taxes.
- The Flexi boards are to be displayed at various places of Srinagar city to be identified by this office.
- The duration of Video should be of 05 minutes produced on professional format.
- The video shall cover all the developments which shall be pointed out by thisDepartment and the concerned Executive Engineers
- The video shall be screened by the higher officers of this department before its finalization.

No: - I&FCD/Sgr/CS/9594-99 Dated: - 10 /03/2021. DIPK-15030/20

Sd/-**Executive Engineer** Irrigation & F C Division

Srinagar.

OBSERVER .

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NO **HOLDS** BARRED



Alongside its numerous negatives, the history of India-Pakistan engagement has also, however, a characteristic redeeming feature: naysayers are unable to hold up agreements to move forward. This is so notwithstanding the generally accepted notion that chances of success in such engagement are low and numerous trip wires exist to derail an incipient process.

Moving forward

The Indo-Pak ceasefire agreement must be viewed differently

T.C.A. RAGHAVAN

Others have suggested India's mounting concern over a real two-front conflict with China and Pakistan — actually materializing and, therefore, the necessity to seek some easing of tensions on both fronts. Conversely, Pakistan, now that an India-China softening is underway, would certainly not like to be left alone with a 'hot' LoC.

oincidentally, I wrote in these pages last month on the forthcoming 20th anniversary of the Agra summit. The February 25 joint announcement of the Indian and Pakistan militaries on an agreement to enforce the 2003 ceasefire on the Line of Control was certainly as much of a surprise as the invitation from the then prime minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, to General Pervez Musharraf to visit India for a summit meeting two decades earlier had been.

Much like the situation before the Agra summit, the current agreement comes at the end of a long and particularly tense period. Major terrorist attacks (Uri, Pulwama) and strong Indian military responses (surgical strikes, Balakot) were one aspect of the period from 2016 to 2020. Alongside, the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union territories and legislative changes with regard to Article 370 led to a super-charged public opinion and a diplomatic storm in Pakistan.

The net result — and even before the pandemic had consolidated its hold in South Asia — was a closure of trade and cross-border movement of people, a virtual freeze of cultural contacts, and a substantive reduction in the level and size of the respective diplomatic representation in either country, along with a host of other negatives. There were, alongside, regular exchanges of fire, often fierce with high-calibre weapons, along the LoC. The ceasefire of 2003 seemed buried pretty comprehensively.

In the India-Pakistan context, diametrically opposed and entrenched positions are hardly new. Even so, the position by the end of 2020 seemed especially chronic. Pakistan's stance was one of 'nothing doing' until the restoration of Article 370 as well as a rolling back of the legislative changes of August 2019. In India, the government and a significant section of the public seemed to have firmly coalesced to the position that 'terror and talks cannot go together'. Démarches and polemics

constantly ricocheted off each other in what now appeared to be — some feared, others hoped — a new normal in India-Pakistan relations.

So when the joint announcement of February 25 came, the bemusement among many was inevitable. Diehards on both sides married to the elusive grail of consistency pointed to the abandonment of principle and a maverick approach. Thus, some in India wonder if the latest step forward is a harbinger of other initiatives and, if so, what happens to the principled position on the cessation of terror before diplomatic engagement? In Pakistan, similarly, some ask that if a broader engagement is to also follow, where does this leave Pakistan's demand that the August 2019 'annexation of J&K' be reversed first?

Alongside its numerous negatives, the history of India-Pakistan engagement has also, however, a characteristic redeeming feature: naysayers are unable to hold up agreements to move forward. This is so notwithstanding the generally accepted notion that chances of success in such engagement are low and numerous trip wires exist to derail an incipient process. The impulse to break the mould of hostility and strategic mistrust has coexisted, even if uneasily, along with the numerous divisive issues of the India-Pakistan portfolio. Thus even as the negative milestones of the post-2016 downturn are listed, major initiatives, such as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's unannounced visit to Lahore in December 2015 or the opening of the Kartarpur visa corridor, also stand out as contrarian events that buck the general trend.

There is the inevitable speculation about what precisely led to this announcement of adhering to a ceasefire agreement otherwise in tatters. Some explanations point to the need of both India and Pakistan to better position themselves vis-àvis the new administration in the United States of America. Others have suggested

India's mounting concern over a real twofront conflict — with China and Pakistan — actually materializing and, therefore, the necessity to seek some easing of tensions on both fronts. Conversely, Pakistan, now that an India-China softening is underway, would certainly not like to be left alone with a 'hot' LoC. Alongside these speculations, there are others military hardware on both sides, on account of the wear and tear, requires respite; the economic challenges that loom ahead for both countries; the quiet role of the Gulf states and so on.

The search for such explanations is itself based on the premise that something very unusual has happened for which there has to be some direct and objective reason. What this approach overlooks, of course, is that crests and troughs comprise the natural rhythm of the India-Pakistan history. These cycles, in fact, have overridden ideological, political and institutional divides in both countries. For example, over the past quarter-century, virtually the entire political spectrum of both countries has either been in government or been the supporter of the government of the day in one way or the other. All the principal actors of the present and past have thus been participants in the crests and troughs of India-Pakistan relations.

In India, the election to power of the current government was seen by many as the harbinger of a new and muscular approach on all matters concerning Pakistan. While this may well have happened, what is overlooked are the efforts, often in parallel, to reach out to strike a positive balance, beginning with the invitation to the then prime minister of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif, to attend its first swearing-in. Similarly, there is a view both in India and in Pakistan that military interventions in Pakistan's polity act as a setback to any India-Pakistan stabilization. There is a kernel of truth in this, but the fact is that the Pakistan military has also been an entity with which progress has been made by Indian interlocutors. The cur

rent initiative regarding the ceasefire thus cannot be easily explained by the view that post Nawaz Sharif no major step forward was to be expected given the fact that the army was effectively back at the helm in Pakistan.

The point, perhaps, is also that in so heavily securitized a relationship, there is a natural cynicism built into the positions on both sides. This cynicism naturally breeds a fundamental conservatism in approaching the bilateral relationship. Political initiatives then remain the major way by which logjams are broken. These initiatives are moulded not by considerations of bureaucratic precedent or of being consistent with earlier positions, but through larger assessments of national and political interest. The present agreement with regard to enforcing the ceasefire has to be seen in this context — possibly both sides came to the conclusion that the status quo, with a high level of military and political tension, was no longer in their interest and had, in fact, become counterproductive.

What lies ahead? The India-Pakistan landscape is littered with failed initiatives. The dangers that exist are well known — whether from political turbulence or terrorist attacks. The differences in the respective positions of both sides are as stark as ever. Perhaps the public health crisis that engulfs us will, in fact, provide elements for a more stable platform to be constructed. But, in sum, if diplomacy is again going to be the platform for future dealings, that is a positive development and must be supported and nurtured. If it can ease the intensity of future crests and troughs, that itself will be no small achievement.

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

Telegraph India

OSTON – Election campaigns are rarely the place to look for reasoned geopolitical analysis, and the 2020 US presidential election was no exception. In fact, it featured even less disciplined thinking than usual, with Donald Trump decrying the "Chinese virus" and Joe Biden calling Chinese President Xi Jinping "a thug."

Nonetheless, now that Biden is president and COVID-19 vaccines are being administered widely, America has more bandwidth to think afresh, particularly about the Sino-American relationship, which will be the central US foreign-policy issue for at least the next decade. If there was ever an international dynamic that demanded a cogent and credible strategy, this is it. But with emotions running dangerously high in both countries, the careful consideration such a strategy demands has been hard to discern.

With the list of mutual grievances growing longer by the day, changing the trajectory of the US-China relationship will not be easy. There are many questions, none of which admits of an easy answer. Indeed, where might an effort to restore relations even begin?

Does the problem lie simply with Trump's unpredictability over the past four years, or is it rooted in US misjudgments going back decades, as Trump and his acolytes allege? Is America the more culpable party because it has refused to share the global stage with an emerging China, or have both countries sim-

ply lost patience with each other?

On one hand, Xi's "China Dream" perhaps does represent a threat to the rest of Asia and to democracy worldwide, as many in the Trump administration believed, and as many of Biden's advisers tacitly acknowledge. On the other hand, China's ostensible strengths and Xi's bravado may be masking fatal flaws that have yet to become outwardly apparent.

Students of international politics learn early on that it is important to disentangle cause and effect across different "levels of analysis." Following a methodology first outlined by the political theorist Kenneth Waltz, the key is to consider whether international conflicts are best explained by the character of national leaders, the interests and interaction of domestic political forces, or the balance of power within the international system.

Was World War I triggered by Kaiser Wilhelm II's inferiority complex, the militarism of European elites, or the Anglo-German race for naval preponderance? Was the US invasion of Iraq in 2003 the product of George W. Bush's righteous pursuit of vengeance after the September 11 terrorist attacks, a well-intentioned security mission based on bad intelligence, or the hubris of a hegemon that believed it could impose its will on a troubled region? The answers to such questions are rarely simple or straightforward.

Following the transfer of power from Trump to

Biden's China Challenge

CHRISTOPHER SMART

Biden, however, there is a brief window of opportunity for both the United States and China to examine how they reached their current impasse. For US policymakers, now is the time to consider how much of the friction can be blamed on Trump's confrontational style, how much is rooted in US and Chinese domestic pressures, and how much reflects the inevitable clash of global powers. Only after answering some of these questions can we think about what constitutes a more effective strategy for Biden to pursue.

TRUMP'S CHINA SYNDROME

The twists and turns that produced the Trump administration's China policy fill Superpower Showdown, a lively account by two gifted Wall Street Journalreporters. Building on daily reporting during the first three years of the Trump presidency, Bob Davis and Lingling Wei have framed their narrative against the broader backdrop of US bureaucratic engagement with China since Deng Xiaoping's famous 1992 southern tour to kick-start his "Reform and Opening-up" strategy.

Moreover, the book benefits from each reporter's personal perspective on the Sino-American trade war. Whereas Davis is the son of a man who enjoyed great success in the luggage business until relentless Chinese competition wiped out that industry in America, Wei is the granddaughter of an aide to Mao Zedong during the iconic Long March. Though she and other American journalists were expelled from the country last year, she still considers China her "motherland."

Davis and Wei trace the current confrontation back to China's accession to the World Trade Organization in 2001, when US and other world leaders hoped that opening Chinese markets would lead to domestic political liberalization. In March 2000, then-President Bill Clinton distilled this attitude when he dismissed China's aspirations to control the internet as tantamount to "nailing Jell-O to a wall." As Davis and Wei wryly point out, it was right around this time that a Chinese computer scientist "was figuring out Jell-O nailing" with technology that would block foreign messages and censor domestic users.

Without resorting to psychoanalysis of either leader, Superpower Showdownshows how a difficult relationship turned dramatically worse when Xi, an ardent Chinese nationalist, confronted Trump, the "America First" populist. Through his "China Dream," Xi envisions a future in which his country will dominate everything from the South China Sea

to the global artificial-intelligence industry. And for his part, Trump's focus on Chinese trade abuses may be the one constant principle of an otherwise inconsistent political career.

Taking stock of the new Trump administration as best they could, Chinese officials in 2017 catalogued 142 items under dispute between the two countries. Of these, they deemed only 20 to be non-negotiable from China's perspective, suggesting that they were prepared to reach an agreement with Trump, the self-proclaimed dealmaker. But, as Davis and Wei tell us, the Chinese soon became infuriated that the trade talks were proceeding against a backdrop of incendiary presidential tweets, tariff hikes, and vague US hints of subjecting China to Iran-like financial isolation

subjecting China to Iran-like financial isolation.

Meanwhile, Team Trump could not agree on what it wanted from China. Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin focused on pressing for more market access. US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer stressed the importance of an enforcement mechanism that would invariably intrude on Chinese sovereign decisions. And trade adviser Peter Navarro pushed for full isolation to reverse China's historic ascent. Though the steadfast Chinese negotiator Liu He seemed prepared to compromise, he often found himself hemmed in by political pressures back home.

CHINA'S BALANCING ACT

Arguably, America's democratic system, in which powerful interests have long favored Chinese trade flows, should have imposed more limitations on Trump. Yet, as Davis and Wei note, many US businesses had themselves grown frustrated with China, and thus welcomed Trump's tougher line. And when they did complain about unpredictable US tariffs, Trump simply turned a deaf ear.

As for Xi, despite having amassed more power than any other Chinese leader since Mao, he faced bureaucratic and ideological checks on his policy decisions. Although the Chinese economy has grown almost twelvefold over the past two decades, there have been repeated threats of a cascading debt crisis since he rose to power in 2012. In this context, Trump's declaration of a trade war affected not only the Chinese economy but also Xi's political standing.

EXPORTING POPULISM

While internal imbalances shape and constrain Xi's choices, global imbalances affect the broader

international agenda that Xi must confront. On this point, Matthew C. Klein of Barron's and Michael Pettis of Peking University offer a provocative argument in Trade Wars Are Class Wars, making a direct connection between today's international confrontation and rising domestic inequality within the world's largest economies.

Specifically, Klein and Pettis contend that because Communist Party of China (CPC) elites chose to constrain domestic consumption and boost exports, US manufacturers suffered, and their displaced and disaffected workers then mobilized to deliver Trump the presidency in 2016.

Of course, in this analysis, China isn't the only source of global trade imbalances. German policies matter too, insofar as they have constrained wages and fueled Europe's trade surpluses. Moreover, wealthy elites on both sides of the Atlantic have long benefited from the massive expansion of financial flows that were needed to sustain the imbalances.

The implication is that America's workers are victims of global financial elites and malign economic policies set in both Beijing and Berlin. But the authors do not stop there. Detailing the demise of the world's gold standard, they argue that the dollar's role as the world's reserve currency makes America's persistent current-account deficits much worse than they otherwise would have been.

Klein and Pettis's account has some truth to it. But by painting the world's richest country as a semihelpless victim, they seem to have provided only a partial explanation.

A LONG, BUMPY MARCH

In thinking about what lies ahead, it is important to remember that the US-China relationship was deteriorating before Trump's presidency. Even if the Biden administration chooses a more predictable strategy of leveraging America's alliances, the problems afflicting the relationship will only get harder. Patience is already wearing thin in both countries.

Indeed, the issues of tariffs, trade imbalances, and lost manufacturing jobs will start to seem easily resolvable compared to the emotionally and politically charged challenges posed by Hong Kong and Taiwan, and the perennial threat of North Korea's nuclear program. Even more difficult will be the new issues that have emerged at the intersection of economics and politics, from cybersecurity and sanctions to climate and technology policies. One thing is already clear: lucid analyses that help us separate and illuminate these interwoven strands will prove ever more useful in the years ahead.

Project Syndicate

Book Review

A Saga of Unending Maternal Grief in Kashmir

"Women have never been secure within (or without) the nation state – they are always disproportionately affected by war, forced migration, famine, and other forms of social, political, and economic turmoil."

Nousheen Jeelani

∠ Haleema's story

reverberates past her individual story and becomes an epitome of the agony of the general population. The author has tried to give a sneak-peek into the lives of many women whose stories continue to be illustrative of sad existences in the valley

hahnaz Bashir's debut novel The Half Mother is set in Natipora, a locality in Srinagar. The protagonist of the novel, Haleema, is the bearer of myriad symbolic meanings. She is, in a way, a metaphorical representation of a Kashmir which has seen its children succumb to war. She is an ordinary woman with extraordinary resilience, spirit and strength. Caught amidst the tempestuous times, divorced by her husband, and forced to come back to her father's house with her only son, Imran, Haleema's story since inception creates an atmosphere of longing and lament.

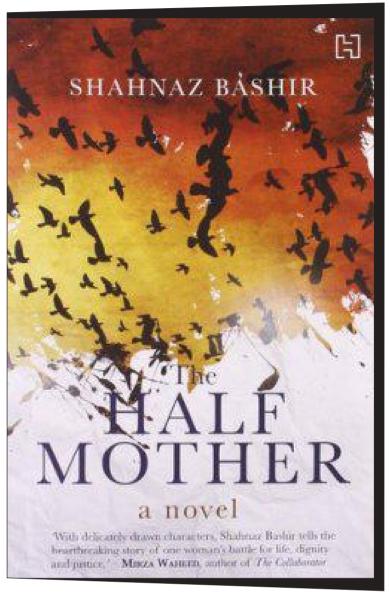
The tragedy of Haleema's life underscores the fact that women serve as soft targets in turmoil-ridden regions, and that any form of violence, assault, or agitation on them works as a system of a political cover-up. As outlined by the lives of Haleema and other women in The Half Mother, women are often subjected to the disappearance or killing of their male-folk, resulting in an immense trauma manifested in different spheres of their lives. Haleema's father is brutally killed in front of her eyes by a Major for mustering the courage to question the latter.

As if this was not enough, her son Imran is taken into custody by the same forces for the not-so-rare coincidence of being the namesake of a Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (an independent political organisation that believes in Kashmiri nationalism) commander in the same locality. He later vanishes into thin air. In vain, Haleema goes to each jail, detention centre and police headquarters in search of her missing son. Over the course of her quest, she comes across hard experts, modest legislators, susceptible authorities, and fanatic mediapersons. The true reason behind Imran's disappearance is never completely revealed but is only hinted at towards the end.

Haleema's search leads to an unimaginative, dark, and melancholic tale of a brutalised alley where she discovers that she is not the only one to have undergone the suffering of losing someone to a forced disappearance. A police official, expressing his utter disappointment at not being able to help Haleema, tells her:

"It has been a long time since we filed an FIR. A long, long time. Actually, we cannot lodge an FIR against the tifying, carrying and delivering dead bodies to their families.'

The policeman's words are an indi-



The Half Mother Hachette (2014)

cation of a torn, troubled and anarchic reality of Kashmir in the 1990s; owing to unrecognisable authority, on-going militancy, and inadequate means of justice and redressal system. It is in this situation that Haleema stands up with an intense aching for her child and declines to fear the exceedingly terrible consequences. She tries to kindle some light in the midst of all the darkness that encompasses her life by listening to Imam who tells her:

"The greatest of sufferings bring the greatest of hopes, the greatest of miseries greatest patience, and the greatest of uncertainties lead to the greatest quests.

These words are significant and indicative of the everyday life of such women whose lives constantly dangle between the hope of finding their loved ones, and despair as they wrestle with the terrifying possibility of returning home brutalised, assaulted, and alone.

Haleema's story reverberates has her individual story and becomes an epitome of the agony of the general population. The author has tried to - Chandra Talpade Mohanty,

give a sneak-peek into the lives of many women whose stories continue to be illustrative of sad existences in the valley. In one of the incidents, Rukhsana, whose brothers have taken up arms, is beaten and stripped in front of everyone. Her mother is also beaten. She is commanded to get her sons to surrender or Rukhsana would be seized otherwise. Since a woman's sexual 'purity' is consequential in determining a family's honour and respect in traditional societies, therefore any trace of contempt has outcomes that are not ephemeral. Thus, a constant attempt to avoid such viciousness on the bodies of women has prevented them from coming to the forefront, making resistance movements masculine and changing the whole discourse of conflict into one focusing on the male-dominant narra-

The title of the book, The Half Mother, is indicative of the vocabulary born out of conflict in Kashmir which exists in no other part of the world. It exemplifies the uniqueness of each conflict and the subsequent impact borne by the general population which cannot be

The depiction of woman as a protagonist might have to do with the fact that women are often not considered first-hand victims of the conflict. The mainstream media has never been sensitive towards the gendered perspective which has pushed women to the peripherv. thus overshadowing their exceptional valour and heroism. It is in the wake of turmoil that women are forced to step into the domain of the unconventional and blur the borders between private and public. This can be seen as a change in stereotypical gender roles but the ascribed reasons and successive impacts are not positive.

The language of the book is eloquent and powerful. The author has intricately woven a saga of unfinished and inchoate grief with delicate words that tear the reader's heart apart. The usage of untranslated Urdu and Kashmiri words adds a flavour to the text and prevents it from getting lost in translation.

The book is a must-read because it gives a voice to the expressionless; it is a tribute to lost ones, and it reclaims the history of a tumultuous conflict zone from an insider's view

> The article first appeared in Live permission from the author

How The U.S. And China Could Go To War

ISHAAN THAROOR

ou're reading an excerpt from the Today's WorldView newsletter. Sign up to get the rest, including news from around the globe, interesting ideas and opinions to know, sent to your inbox every weekday.

It's 2034 and a war is about to begin. A flotilla of three U.S. naval destroyers is furrowing a path through the South China Sea, a contested body of water that is the thoroughfare for a significant proportion of global trade. Near the ominously named Mischief Reef, they encounter and board a Chinese vessel. And then things start to spiral.

Far-reaching cyberattacks cloud the United States' ability for strategic action. Conventional warfare and sea battles lead to dramatic losses for both sides. An array of other countries get pulled into a conflict that sees strategists resort to the most dangerous of measures. Ultimately, no one really wins.

The scenario may be speculative, but it's all too real, says Adm. James Stavridis, former supreme allied commander of NATO who imagines these events as co-author of "2034: A Novel of the Next World War." which publishes Tuesday. The book, written with novelist and combat veteran Elliot Ackerman, is what Stavridis describes as "a tale of cautionary fiction," tapping into a rich tradition of Cold War storytelling — think John Hackett's "The Third World War" or Stanley Kubrick's "Dr. Strangelove" — that made clear the apocalyptic disaster that war between the Soviet Union and the United States would represent.

"Part of why we never ended up throwing nuclear weapons at each other during the Cold War is that we imagined how terrible it would be, how gripping and societally destructive it would be," Stavridis told Today's WorldView.

Stavridis hopes he can stoke the public's recognition of the grim consequences of Sino-U.S. escalation. His page-turner — "crisply written and wellpaced," as The Washington Post's review describes it - involves a cinematic cast of characters: A sphinxlike Chinese defense attache who loves munching on M&Ms; a gnarled, three-fingered brigadier general



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of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard; a maverick U.S. fighter pilot gripped by World War II nostalgia; an overworked Indian American White House deputy national security adviser whose family connections in the motherland influence the course of the war.

Beyond the fiction, though, is a road map to war that could easily translate to the real world. "The novel lays out a pretty plausible ladder of escalation that goes from a conventional attack to a second conventional attack to a third conventional attack to America deciding to pull a tactical nuclear weapon and use it," Stavridis said. "That's more real [a prospect] than I wish it were.

The action in "2034 takes place 15 years from when

Stavridis and Ackerman began writing the book, a framing of the future that allowed them to "create a world where the technology is roughly the same, but the underlying tensions are going to be coming to a head," Stavridis said, acknowledging "the timeline of China's advance, its military, its artificial intelligence capabilities, its cyber-capabilities.

In their telling, China's Belt and Road Initiative has expanded from its network of infrastructure and economic deals into a significant geopolitical enterprise that includes enhanced security relationships with countries such as Iran. The United States, meanwhile, has an unnamed female president who is intriguingly not affiliated with either of the two

traditional political parties. The post-partisan administration she leads still cannot avoid the miscalculations and blind spots that see a maritime dispute explode into ruinous global war.

In Washington's national security establishment, a growing body of policy papers and think tank reports chart similar terrain. The inexorable waning of U.S. military supremacy in the Asia-Pacific region will lead to a more tense standoff. Both sides will be — or already are perceived to be drawing "red lines" over an array of interests, from freedom of navigation in the South China Sea to Chinese claims over Taiwan. The United States may feel compelled to redeploy more of its strategic assets to China's neighborhood, while China may grow all the more insecure as Washington beefs up its security cooperation with Asian allies.

As strategists plot a burgeoning hemispheric great game, they are also reckoning with the risks of escalation. Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr., the chief of staff of the Air Force, told reporters last year that a conflict with an adversary like China now would see "combat attrition rates and risks ... that are more akin to the World War II era than the uncontested environment to which we have become accustomed' in recent decades.

"While planning to win a war with China remains necessary, it is no longer sufficient," warned a 2016 report from the Rand Corp. "The United States must also consider how to limit war and its costs.

Both U.S. and Chinese officials insist that they have no interest in provoking conflict or locking horns with the other in a new Cold War. But the hubris of great powers has often instigated calamity. "Nations are like people, and they can become overconfident in ways that lead them to make bad choices," Stavridis said. "Certainly that's been the case for the U.S. in many occasions.

A disastrous Sino-U.S. war is not "preordained," he added, pointing to moments in the novel "when either side could have pulled the keys out of the car.' "Big doors can swing on small hinges," Stavridis said.

The Washington Post

Researchers test artificial intelligence that calculates suicide attempt risk

Agencies

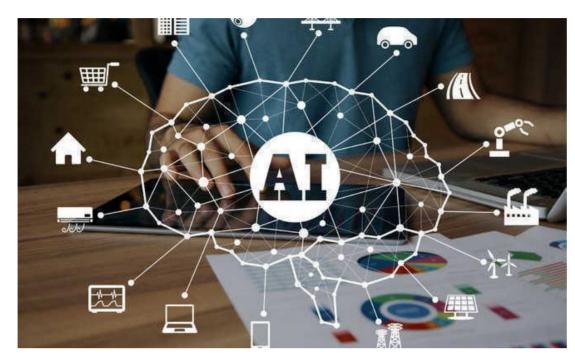
machine learning algorithm that predicts suicide attempt recently underwent a prospective trial at the institution where it was developed, Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Over the 11 consecutive months concluding in April 2020, predictions ran silently in the background as adult patients were seen at VUMC. The algorithm, dubbed the Vanderbilt Suicide Attempt and Ideation Likelihood (VSAIL) model, uses routine information from electronic health records (EHRs) to calculate the 30-day risk of return visits for a suicide attempt, and, by extension, suicidal ideation.

Suicide has been on the rise in the U.S. for a generation and is estimated to claim the lives of 14 in 100,000 Americans each year. making it the nation's tenth leading cause of death. Nationally, some 8.5 per cent of suicide attempts end in death.

Colin Walsh, MD, MA, and colleagues evaluated the performance of the predictive algorithm with an eye to its potential clinical implementation. They reported the study in JAMA Network Open.

Upon stratifying adult patients into eight groups according to their risk scores per the algorithm, the top stratum alone accounted for more than onethird of all suicide attempts documented in the study, and approximately half of all cases of suicidal ideation. As documented in the EHR, one in 23 individuals in this



high-risk group went on to report suicidal thoughts, and one in 271 went on to attempt suicide.

"Today across the Medical Center, we cannot screen every patient for suicide risk in every encounter-nor should we," said Walsh, assistant professor of Biomedical Informatics, Medicine and Psychiatry. "But we know some individuals are never screened despite factors that might put them at higher risk. This risk model is a first pass at that screening and might suggest which patients to screen further in settings where suicidality is not often discussed.

Over the 11-month test, some 78,000 adult patients were seen in the hospital, emergency room and surgical clinics at VUMC. As subsequently documented in the EHR, 395 individuals in this group reported having suicidal thoughts and 85 lived through at least one suicide attempt, with 23 surviving repeated attempts.

"Here, for every 271 people identified in the highest predicted risk group, one returned for treatment for a suicide attempt," Walsh said.

This number is on a par with numbers needed to screen for problems like abnormal cho-

lesterol and certain cancers. We might feasibly ask hundreds or even thousands of individuals about suicidal thinking, but we cannot ask the millions who visit our Medical Center every yearand not all patients need to be asked. Our results suggest artificial intelligence might help as one step in directing limited clinical resources to where they are most needed," Walsh added.

Walsh, who originally created the algorithm with colleagues now at Florida State University. had previously validated it using retrospective EHR data from

OFFICE OF THE **ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR**

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri: Ghulam Nabi Sheikh S/o: Abdul

NOTICE

Sheikh R/o: Narbal Budgam owner of vehicle

bearing Registration No: JK04E-7809 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Narbal

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.

No. ARTO/BUDGAM.2996 Dated 13-03-2021

> **Assistant Regional** Transport officerBudgam

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU KASHMIR

Office of The Executive Engineer P.H.E Division Budgam H.Q: Budgam.

NOTICE INVITING E - TENDERS: Short Terme-NIT No: 37/PHE/Bud/Civilof 2020-21.

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu Kashmir U.T., e – tendersare invited (in Two Cover System) on "item rate basis" from Registered Firms / SSI Unit Holders/Electric Suppliers having sufficient experience of the relevant job for undertaking the follow-

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9	S.	Name of work	Adv. Cost (Rs.	Amount of ear-		Major head
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þ		Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of CCTV Surveillance System in the	2.50	5,000/-	03 Days	Capex
1		Office of The Executive Engineer, PHE Division Budgam And Circe Office Budgam				
1		including fixing of intercom facility within the Divisional Office				

The Bidding Documents and other details can be downloaded from the website: https://jktendersgov.in From12.03.2021(10:00 a.m)20.03.2021(04:00 p.m)

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Book of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website: www.jktendersgov.in As per schedule of dates given below TABLE (II)

IADLE (I	II <i>)</i>	
01	Date of publishing of Tender Notice	10.03.2021
02	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 12.03.202110:00 a.m.
		To 20.03.202104:00 p.m.
03	Bid Submission Start Date	12.03.202110:00 a.m.
04	Bid submission End Date	20.03.2021Upto04:00 p.m.
06	Date and time of opening of Bids (Online)	22.03.2021at 11:00a.m. in the office of the Executive Engineer PHE
		Division Rudgam (H.O. Rudgam)

Bids must be accompanied by bid security viz: Earnest Money, CDR/FDR under M.H 0215 to be pledged in favor of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Budgam (as specified in the table (I) (Page 1st) which shall be valid for 90 Days after opening of bid. Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Budgam (H.Q. Budgam) on 22.03.2021at 11:00a.m. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. No:- PHE/Bud/7900-35

DIPK-14910/20

Dated:-10.03.2021

(Er. Najeeb A Tramboo) Executive Engineer, PHE Division Budgam.

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER KASHMIR NOTICE



Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Zahoor Ahamd Joo S/o AbduL Khaliq Joo R/o Wuyan Pampore (Transferor) of Eco bearing registration No. JK01W-1045



chasis No: 289210 Engine No: 288884 Model 2014 in favour of Asma Faroog D/o Faroog Ahmd R/o Sheikh-ul-Alam Colony Nowgam Bypass (Transferee).

Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general, public that representation/ Objection, if any in connection with proposed transfer will be received within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer to the address of undersigned.

No, representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the aforesaid period.

NOJK-RTOK 7693 Dated: 13/03/2021 fko

Regional Transport Office.

Govt.Of Jammu and Kashmir

Office of the Assistant Regional **Transport Officer, Shopian**

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is informed through the medium of this notice that owners who have purchased BS III agriculture tractor/ construction equipments and have not registered their vehicles till date are advised to produce their vehicles before BOI (Board of Inspection) along with all documents by or before 29/03/2021 and thereafter shall not be registered as per the order issued by MORTH (Ministry of Road Transport & Highways).

Note: Those tractor owners who have produced their Tractors/Construction equipments before BOI earlier shall visit office for fee deposition.

NO.ARTO/Spn/2021/362 Dated :10/03/2021

DIPK-14951/20

Assistant Regional Transport

Officer, Shopian.

The J&K Board Of Professional **Entrance Examinations (BOPEE)**

Tel/Fax: 0194-2433590-, 2437647 (srinagar): 0191-2479371, 2470102 (jammu) website: http://www.jakbopee.org, email: ceojakbopee@gmail.com

Admission Notification for Common Entrance Test-2021 (Bachelor of Engineering & Technology Courses) only

Notice No. 026-BOPEE of 2021 dated 25-02-2021.

Notification No.036-BOPEE of 2021 Dated: 10-03-2021

Online Applications, duly affixed with latest coloured photograph, thumb impression and signature are invited from the eligible and desirous candidates of UT of J&K / Ladakh for appearing in the Common Entrance Test (CET Engineering)-2021 for admission to Bachelor of Engineering & Technology Courses in Government/Private Colleges of UT of J&K for the academic session 2021. The selection of the candidates shall be governed by the J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examination Act, 2002 and the Rules and Regulations there under; JK Reservation Act, 2004, S.O. 127, dated: 20-04-2020 and S.O 69, dated:- 28-02-2020 subject to further amendments, if any, and Guidelines contained in the Electronic Information Brochure (CET) 2021. These Rules, Regulations, SO's and e-Brochure are available on the official websites of the BOPEE www.jkbopee.gov.in/www.jakbopee.org

- Receipt of online application forms: w.e.f. 14-03-2021.
- 2. Last date for filling the online application forms: 06-04-2021. 3. Fee Rs. 1200/- (Rupees one thousand and two hundred only) to be paid online through national
- Credit Card/Debit Card/Net Banking. 4. Please download e-information Brochure from BOPEE website(s) viz www.jkbopee.gov.in /
- 5. The syllabus for the examination/test is available in the e-brochure
- Date of Entrance Test: To be notified separately.
- The candidates, in their own interest, are advised to go through the Information Brochure before filling up of Online Application Forms. The Board shall not be responsible for any act of omission or commission in filling up of the Online Application Form by the candidate. It shall be presumed that the candidate has gone through the information contained in the e-Information Brochure and has agreed to follow the conditions contained therein. No candidate can claim any alteration in conditions which have been incorporated in the e-Information Brochure and
- The candidates are further advised to remain in touch with the BOPEE website (s) www.jkbopee.gov.in / www.jakbopee.org daily. The Board does not undertake any responsibility for any delay caused in publication of Notices/ Notifications in the Print Media (Newspapers) as delay, if any, in such publication(s) is not within the control of the Board, notwithstanding that the Board notifies the same on the official website(s) and sends for ublication simultaneously on the date of issue of the said Notifications/Notices etc.
- The examination may be conducted Offline by the Board.

The applicants can also contact the Help Desk of I.T. Section of the BOPEE during the office hours and working days only on 0194-2437647 / 0194-2433590 / 0191-2479371 / 0191-2470102 and/or email-at helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com for any assistance/guidance in this regard.

The applicants are advised to fill up the online Application Forms on their own or through a responsible person. The applicants can also avail the services at of Common Service Centres' of J&K for filling up online Application Forms at nominal charges. They can also avail of the services at any National Informatics Centre located at the office of the Deputy Commissioner of the concerned

<u>Submission of Online Application Forms:</u>

The interested candidates have to upload the following scanned original / self-attested certificates in PDF format with size from 100-200 KB along with the Application Form:

- Domicile Certificate of UT of J&K/UT of Ladakh as the case may be, however in respect of Candidates of UT of Ladakh, ST certificate issued by the Competent Authority of Ladakh shall be treated as Domicile Certificate;
- Qualifying (10+2) marks certificate: (where result is declared)
- Date of Birth Certificate(Matriculation issued by the Board); and Reserved category certificate, if any,
- TFW certificate on the prescribed proforma. (Duly renewed where ever applicable)

However, it is for the information of all the concerned that afore-titled documents as required for submission of application form shall be considered provisional and subject to change(s) vide any order as may be issued by the Government subsequently.

- 1. The candidates can change/ modify their online Application Form at any time before it is "submitted" online. However, for any subsequent modifications, if required, the candidates should approach the BOPEE office Srinagar/ Jammu. They are advised, in their own interest, not to share their 'login' details with any other person, lest he/she may get an opportunity to change important details in the Application Form. They can check the status of their Application Form on the official website(s) of the BOPEE. If any form is not confirmed for want of required information, the candidate concerned must report in the BOPEE office Srinagar or Jammu by or before 8th April, 2021 (or after two days of expiry of last date fixed by the Board failing which his/her Application Form shall be rejected without any further notice.
- 2. Candidates shall also have to upload their photograph, signature and thumb impression images in JPEG format and size within the range of 10-50 KB as given in the instructions in the e-information Brochure uploaded on the BOPEE website(s).
 - The candidates must, after filling up all the required entries, ensure that their online payment has been successfully made and all the requisite documents have been uploaded in specified format/size. Mere downloading of the Application Form does not mean that the candidate has submitted his/her Application Form successfully. Candidate should

ensure that he/she keeps checking the status of his/her online Application Form until it is scrutinized by the Board and approved/accepted.

4. For any help / assistance candidates may call "Help Desk" numbers during office hours of

Eligibility 1. The Applicant must

- a. be a Domicile of UT of J&K/UT of Ladakh as the case may be, however in respect of Candidates of UT of Ladakh, ST certificate issued by the Competent Authority of have passed 10+2 or equivalent examination from a recognized statutory Board with
- Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics as compulsory subjects and with at least 50% marks for Open Merit Category candidates including the Children of Defence Personnel, Children of Para Military Force, Children of J&K Police Personnel and candidates possessing outstanding proficiency in sports and 40% marks for candidates belonging to SC/ST and Other Socially and Educationally Backward classes;
 c. be at least 17 years old on 31st December 2021;
- 2. The candidates appearing/who have appeared in the 12th Class examination (Annual Session 2021) can also apply and appear in the BOPEE test provisionally. However, they shall be required to produce the marks card of the said examination in support of having qualified the examination at the time of declaration of the result/counselling as may be

- a) No under process certificate will be accepted;
- The information provided by the candidates in the online Application Form cannot be verified from the original documents by the BOPEE officials before admission of candidates. The information on the Application Form downloaded page or on the Admit Card of candidate shall in no case be construed as an acceptance of such information/category certificate by the BOPEE. Therefore, if at any stage, it is found that a candidate has provided false or incorrect information in respect of any eligibility condition(s), his/her candidature will be cancelled without any further notice; however, the original documents (as desired by the concerned Colleges) are necessarily to be submitted in the Colleges by the provisionally selected candidate(s) at the time of admission

The candidates are warned not to resort to any unfair / fraudulent means or act of

impersonation at the time of Entrance Test or upload any objectionable material including a photo of any object, other than his/her own photograph while submitting the online form. In case, a candidate is found taking recourse to such acts, criminal prosecution shall be initiated against him/her and his/her abettors. He /she shall be permanently debarred from appearing in the entrance Test in

The sports category candidates have to indicate their sports category on the Application Form. They are also required to submit their Sports certificate(s) in the office of the Secretary, J&K Secretary Sports Council Jammu / Srinagar for determining their sports points which will be afterwards officially forwarded by the Council to the BOPEE. The BOPEE, however, shall not be responsible for non-inclusion of any candidate in the list forwarded by the Sports Council or for their delay in submission of sports points to the

The candidates having more than one reserved category certificates can get benefit of only one category indicated and uploaded along with the Application Form, which in no case shall be changed afterwards. The candidate, whose category certificate has not been found valid, will be considered in open merit, if otherwise found eligible without any further notice.

Roll No Slip/Admit Card:

The Notification for downloading of online/electronic Admit Card/ Date of Entrance Test shall be notified separately.

The examination shall be conducted at Jammu/Srinagar Centres simultaneously

Note: The online submitted Form is purely provisional and is liable to be cancelled at any stage subject to the final verification of the documents and even at any stage where such a document is proved to be fake/false.

E&OE

DIPK-NB-6372/20 No: BOPEE/EXAM-04/2021

Dated 10-03-2021

(Dr SuniL Gupta) **Controller Of Examinations** J&K BOPEE

Indian Economy Looking At 'V-Shaped' Recovery: Anurag Thakur



Agenceis

There are green shoots visible in various sectors of the economy and the country is already looking at a "V-shaped" recovery, Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Anurag Thakur said on Saturday.

"India is already looking at "V-shaped" recovery. Along with the green shoots in various sectors, in the month of February, FPI inflows were Rs 25,787 crore," Thakur said at a virtual conclave organised by the Institute of Actuaries of India.

After two consecutive quarters of contraction, the country's gross domestic product (GDP) entered into

a positive territory with a growth of 0.4 per cent in the October-December quarter of the current fiscal, according to the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) in February.

Thakur said the country" foreign exchange reserves, which have been steadily increasing over the last few months, had touched all time high at USD 590 billion in January 2021.

He said the accretion to the forex reserves in the last eight month was USD 100 billion.

"These are signs of confidence that the global funds and investors look at India as a destination to invest and they are bullish about India"s growth story," Thakur added.

HDFC Bank To Cover Vaccination Cost Of Employees, Family Members

Agenceis

DFC Bank on Friday said it will cover the vaccination cost for its over 1 lakh employees and their family members.

HDFC Bank will sponsor the inoculation of over 1 lakh employees of

the bank and their immediate family members against coronavirus. The bank will reimburse vaccination cost

for the two mandated doses, the lender said in a statement. "Our employees have shown exem-

plary perseverance.

professionalism and dedication to serve millions of customers. Covering the cost of vaccination for our employees and their dependent family members is a small gesture from the organisation to express our gratitude to our employees," Vinay Razdan, Group Head

HR, HDFC Bank, said.
 Ashima Bhat, Group Head, HDFC
 Bank, said all employees of the bank

are like the front-line workers, who ensured that an essential service like banking was available for customers even during the lockdown.

"For their health and safety, we are ensuring that our employees and their dependent family members are inoculated and protected from COVID19," she said.

virus. Earlier this week, ICICI Bank too had informed about bearing the cost of vaccination for nearly 1 lakh employees and their next of kin. A number of corporate houses have announced to bear the cost of vaccination of their employees and family members.

The country's largest lender SBI earlier this month said it has donated Rs 11 crore towards PM CARES fund as part of CSR activity to support the government's initiative to vaccinate all in the country.

Also, the SBI employees contributed Rs 107 crore towards the fund in 2020. It also committed 0.25 per cent of its annual profit early last year to support the fight against COVID-19.

With All Struggling, How Did Adani's Wealth Rise By 50 Pc, Asks Rahul Gandhi

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday asked how did businessman Gautam Adani manage to increase his wealth by 50 per cent while everyone else was struggling because of the CO-VID-19 pandemic.

His remarks come after a new report said that Adani added USD 16.2 billion to his wealth taking his net worth to USD 50 billion in 2021, more than anyone else in the world. Tagging the news report in a tweet, Gandhi asked, "How much did your wealth increase in 2020? Zero. You struggle to survive while he makes Rs 12 lakh crore and increases his



wealth by 50 per cent. Can you tell me why?" With the biggest wealth surge, Adani has beaten Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos and Tesla CEO Elon Musk, according to the report. PTI

Renewal Of Registration For 15-Yr Old Govt Vehicles To Stop From Apr 1, 2022: Draft Notification

Agencei

The government departments will not be able to renew the registration of their vehicles older than 15 years from April 1, 2022, if a proposal in this regard issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is finalised. It has sought the stakeholders' comments to amend related rules in this regard issuing a notification.

Once approved, this will be applicable to all government vehicles - central or state governments, union territories, PSUs, municipal and autonomous bodies, as per the notification.

"From April 1, 2022, government departments will not be able to renew the certificate of registration of their vehicles, after 15 years. This will apply to all government - central, state, UT, PSUs, municipal bodies & autonomous bodies," the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways said in a tweet.

The development comes close on the heels of the voluntary vehicle scrapping policy announced in the Union Budget on February 1 for 2021-22 which provides for fitness test after 20 years for personal vehicles while commercial vehicles would require it after the comple-



tion of 15 years.

Notification of the draft rules has been issued to this effect on March 12 by the ministry seeking comments, objections and suggestions from the stakeholders within thirty days.

The certificate of registration shall not be renewed after the lapse of 15 years for government vehicles, it said.

Presenting the Budget for 2021-22 in Parliament, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1 had announced vehicle scrapping policy.

Road, Transport, Highways and MSMEs Minister Nitin Gadkari had said that initially one crore vehicles will go for scrapping and the policy will lead to new investments of around Rs 10,000 crore and create as many as 50,000 jobs.

These old vehicles are estimated to cause 10-12 times more pollution than the latest vehicles.

The government had earlier said it plans to impose a green tax on old polluting vehicles soon in a bid to protect the environment and curb pollution while vehicles like strong hybrids, electric vehicles and those running on alternate fuels like CNG, ethanol and LPG will be exempted.

The revenue collected through the green tax will be utilised for tackling pollution.

Under the scheme, transport vehicles older than eight years could be charged green tax at the time of renewal of fitness certificate at the rate of 10-25 per cent of road tax, as per green tax proposal sent to states for consultations after cleared by the ministry.

Fuel Price Rise Impacts Consumption In India

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: According to official data, country's fuel consumption fell sharply in February, the second consecutive month when demand is slowing signs of a slackening amidst rising fuel prices.

The consumption slowdown in February is lowest since September when it had begun becoming clear that worst is over and demand is picking up.

According to oil ministry's Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC), consumption of fuel (largely petrol and diesel) fell 4.9 per cent in yoy February to 17.2 million tonnes. The demand also slipped 4.6 per cent on monthly basis indicating that various hiccups still remain on the path of full recovery for the Indian economy.

A clearer indication that recovery is still some way off can be gauged by seeing the diesel consumption data as the fuel is prime source of transport for all kinds of goods in the country and accounts for about 40 per cent of overall refined fuel sales in India. The consumption of Diesel fell 3.8 per cent to 6.55 million tonnes in February on a month on month basis and declined 8.5 per cent year-on-year.



Petrol sales, on the other hand, fell 6.5 per cent to 2.44 million tonnes in February and by about 3 per cent from a year earlier.

Both the fuel is on the boil in the country with pump price of petrol and diesel rising by 26 times in 2021 by Rs 7.46 and Rs 7.60 per litre respectively so far this year. Petrol prices have also breached the Rs 100 a litre mark in several cities.

Contrary to auto fuel prices, sales of cooking gas or LPG cylinders grew 7.6 per cent YoY in February to 2.27 million tonnes. This is largely on account of government t subsidies and provision of free connection to Ujjawala customers.

5 Held In Punjab For GST Scam Of Rs 700 Crore

Agencei

CHANDIGARH: They have been accused of availing and passing on fraudulent input tax credit to the tune of over Rs 122 crore to various firms without due payment of tax to the government.

An authorisation for the arrest of seven people was issued by Commissioner (State Tax) Nilkanth S. Avhad, an official statement said.

Search and seizure operations were conducted at multiple locations in Khanna town by the teams of the department to gather evidence for establishing the modus operandi that involved creating firms in states outside and within Punjab dealing in copper scrap and hosiery items.

The input tax credit created through bogus firms was used to support the local movement of goods of traders.

The department had got alerted about the network after a vehicle carrying copper scrap was detained last year and investigation had revealed that the goods had been procured locally while as e-way and invoice were generated from some other firm.

The detailed investigation re-



vealed a network of 44 firms spread across states that was being used to create the bogus input tax credit for setting off the tax liability arising out of purchases made from local unregistered dealers.

On being confronted with the evidence, the kingpin accepted that he was operating the network with the help of some other accomplices some of whom have also been arrested.

The total bogus billing by the network is likely to be more than Rs 700 crore while input tax credit created or availed and tax evaded is more than 122 crore, said the official statement.

The accused -- Vinod kumar, Maninder Sharma, Sandeep Singh, Amarinder Singh and Sunny Mehta -- were produced before the Duty Magistrate and were remanded to judicial custody for 14 days.

NEWS MAKERS

Indian Oil Corporation Helps Bolster India's Vaccination Drive

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the nation's top oil firm, has helped bolster India's COVID-19 vaccination programme by supplementing the available cold chain equipment (CCE) infrastructure in four states for the storage and transportation of vaccines.

It has supplemented cold chain requirements across Jammu and Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, Bihar and Manipur, a company statement said.

"IOC is procuring CCE equipment like Ice-Line Refrigerator (ILR), Deep Freezer (DF), Walk-in-Cooler (WIC), Walk-in-Freezer (WIF) and Refrigerated Truck (RT), for handing over to the respective state governments," it said.

The company's management has also left no stone unturned to inspire the company's stakeholders to get vaccinated at the earliest to contribute to the success of the world's largest vaccination drive.

Shrikant Madhav Vaidya, Chairman, IOC and Ranjan Kumar Mohapatra, Director (HR) were amongst the first few to get the indigenous vaccines to allay apprehensions amongst stakeholders.

Speaking about IOC's focus on employee welfare, Vaidya said, "An inspired, agile and resilient team of employees enabled IndianOil to fuel the economy and to keep the kitchen fires burning, even during the most difficult phases of the pandemic.

We are committed to ensuring their welfare at all times".

Mohapatra said, "We are also ensuring that the vaccination needs of our retired employees are also taken care of. Care is one of the core values that continue to drive us. As a responsible corporate citizen, IndianOil will do

everything it can to contribute to the success of India's vaccination drive".

During the countrywide lock-down, Team IndianOil ensured the smooth supply of petroleum products, including delivering on an average of 25 lakh cylinders every day to its customers' doorsteps.

India's largest energy company also extended medical insurance coverage and ex-gratia payment in case of death for its over 3,23,000 frontline soldiers.

Demonstrating proactive alertness, IndianOil formed a high-powered committee under the stewardship of Director (HR) for on-ground situation assessment and deployment of measures to contain the threats, even before the countrywide lockdown was announced.

"The committee met continuously without a single break for 200 days to ensure internal

COVID-19 cases to 1,13,08,846,

and external stakeholders' safety and well-being. Presently, the empowered committee continues to meet on alternate days," the statement said.

Quick policy decisions enabled IOC to accommodate work-from-home routine for its employees wherever possible. In another unique empathy-

In another unique empathydriven move, IOC's HR officials proactively reached out to its 30,000 employees and over 20,000 ex-employees to check on their well-being and extend a helping hand wherever needed.

It is also contributing to the resurgent economy and is well on track to achieve its capital expenditure target of Rs 26,000 crore in the current fiscal.

"Since the easing of the lockdown from April 20, 2020, IOC has commenced work on around 2,800 projects worth about Rs 2 lakh crore across the country," the statement added.

menced work on projects worth h crore across the tatement added.

Ratan Tata Takes First Shot Of Covid-19 Vaccine, Says Effortless And Painless

Agenceis

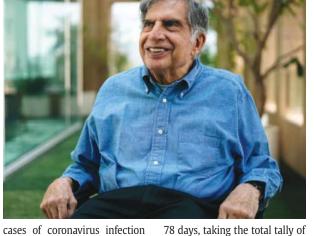
NEW DELHI: Veteran industrialist Ratan Tata on Saturday hoped everyone can be immunised and protected soon from the coronavirus pandemic, having got himself vaccinated.

Tata in a social media post praised the process of vaccination, describing it as "effortless and painless".

"Very thankful to have gotten my first vaccination shot today. It was effortless and painless," he said.

Having got vaccinated at a time when the number of COVID-19 cases are rising in India, Tata said, "I truly hope everyone can be immunised and protected soon."

India had recorded 23,285 in a day, the highest in around



according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday. The total number of CO-

The total number of CO-VID-19 vaccine doses administered in India has crossed 2.80 crore with 18.40 lakh jabs given on Friday till the evening, the ministry had said.

The countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16 with healthcare workers getting inoculated, and vaccination of the frontline workers started from February 2, 2021.

The next phase of COVID-19 vaccination commenced on March 1, for those who are above 60 years of age and for people aged 45 and above with specified comorbid conditions.



Encounter Rages

with state forces in Shopian district of south Kashmir, reports said Saturday.

Acting on intelligence inputs suggesting presence of militants, special operations group (SOG) of police, army's 34 RR and CRPF laid a siege around Rawalpora village of Shopian on Saturday evening and launched a cordon and search operation, reports said. As the search operation was in progress, the officials said that the militants hiding in the village opened fire upon the joint team.

As per the sources two to three militants are believed to be trapped.

District commander for Shopian Wilayat Lone Alias Saiad Afghani of Lashkar-e-Toiba is believed to among the trapped, news agency GNS reported.

Afghani, a resident of Rawalpora was initially associated with Jaish-e-Mohammad outfit and few months before he had switched to LeT. He has been active since 2018.

Police Releases

Abirar Nadeem Bhat of Eidgah, Mohalla, Narbal (Joining date December 12, 2018), Muhammad Yousuf Dar alias Iss Kantroo, a recycled militant who joined the ranks twice in 2012 and again in 2015, Muhammad Abbas Sheikh of Rampora Koimoh, Kulgam (Joining date April 2015) besides Ubaid Shafi Dar of Firdousabad, Batamaloo, Srinagar joining the ranks on October 31, 2020.

The police have in the meantime maintained that 'informer shall be suitably rewarded'.

Meanwhile official sources told local news agency GNS that the list is being made public in the aftermath of surge in militancy-related cases in and around City.

They further said that: "Abbass Shiekh - one of the listed militant – is believed to be the mastermind of several militant attacks taking place in and around City suburbs."

Sticky Bombs

that such bombs are a threat only because the magnet it contains can be fixed with any vehicle or metal surface.

"This is a ploy to target private vehicles, or security forces vehicle or for that matter any abandoned vehicle in the busy places. We will ensure to prevent such attacks and the threat that exits will be faced by the police and other agencies," he said.

"Extra vigil is being maintained to prevent IED attacks as evident the last week's development where in two modules of Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Muhammad were busted in Awantipore in Pulwama in which a IED material was recovered and a person who had agreed to carry Lethpora, Pulwama like vehicle IED explosion," he added.

The DGP also said that the large IEDs weighing over 7 kgs were recovered recently, security grid is working hard to foil all such bids by the militants.

About the Sopore grenade attack, the DGP said that the attack can be on anyone and it's not the first one that has come up.

To a question about the Amarnath Yatra, the DGP said that all the security arrangements are in place and whatever more is required will be done. Extra forces will be deployed and we will ensure foolproof security for the upcoming annual pilgrimage of Amarnath," he said.

On Pakistan's involvement in promoting narcomilitancy in Kashmir, he said that they're always up to disturb the situation.

"We have always failed their attempts and it will continue in times to come. "Many cases have come up in last year and this year as well but the investigation is much strengthened and these cases have been forwarded to National Investigation Agency (NIA) where the links between militants and narco trade were found", the DGP said.

The DGP said that there are 200 militants active in Iammu and Kashmir.

"I am hopeful the number will reduce more," he said. The DGP said that on launch pads across the LoC, the number of militants ready to sneak in is about 250. (KNO)

Kashmir Outraged

against the former Rizvi who is enjoying the backing of UP government, reports said. Carrying placards and banners that read "Put Wasim Rizvi in jail," "Wasim Rizvi is anti-Islam," the protesters demanded arrest of the controversial politician for hurting sentiments of Muslims.

The protesters said that Rizvi's aim was to create a wedge between the Muslims by filing the appeal in Supreme Court.

"We have assembled here to register our protest against accursed Rizvi, who wounded the religious sentiments of billions of Muslims across the world. We want the government to act tough against such radical elements, who always stoke controversy through his blasphemy acts," they said.

They appealed to the Supreme Court of India to dismiss the plea seeking amendments in the holy Quran whose authenticity, they said, has never been challenged since the past 1400 years.

"We appeal the every sect of Muslims to be united and do not sway into emotions, we also appeal the government to arrest Rizvi and punish him for attempting to create communal discord," they added

Meanwhile, anger has started brewing across the Valley against Rizvi, who faces nearly a dozen cases for corruption, forgery and cheating and is accused of swindling Rs 70 crore Shia Waqf Board Funds.

In a statement issued here, Jammu and Kashmir Mutahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU) headed by incarcerated Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq strongly condemned the mischievous and malicious agenda of Rizvi, by filing a petition in the Supreme Court of India against some verses of the holy Qur'an.

"This move is deliberate, aimed at provoking Muslims and feeding into the agenda of Islamophobes hostile to Islam and full of hatred," an MMU spokesperson said.

The clerics' body said that the holy Qur'an is the final word revealed by Allah Almighty and every single word has and will remain unchanged till the Day of Judgment. They said that the holy scriptures revealed by Allah including the Quran are sacred and it is beyond the power of any human being or agency to change a single word or to make any change(s) to it

"By such mischief, people like Rizvi seek publicity, and score brownie points to get close to the power corridors," the MMU spokesperson said, adding "Qur'an does not preach violence or hatred against anyone. It is the fountainhead that promotes humanity, love, unity and harmony,"

The religious amalgam appealed to people to not resort to violence over the obnoxiousness of Rizvi, which he and his masters would be anticipating to further their agenda.

"Instead pledge to follow the teachings of the holy Qur'an in letter and spirit," the MMU spokesperson said.

Remarks Blasphemous

Prophet (SAW) after conquering Makah, stated (La Yasrib Al-Qumul Youm....-forget whatever wrong you did so far, I forgive everyone). This is mentioned in the quran and is clear example Quran teaches forgiveness not violence," Mufti Nasir said, adding that the Iran government must act quickly against Rizvi and arrest him for his blasphemous remarks and hurting the religious sentiments of billions of people across the globe.

The Grand Mufti urged people to maintain discipline, remain calm and to register protest peacefully.

Karwan-e-Islami International patron Alama Sheikh Ghulam Rasool Hami said that in the past many people tried to change verses of holy Quran but failed.

"Allah himself is the protector of this holy book, which doesn't teach violence by love and forgiveness. Quran is a complete way of living and will remain till Qayamah (doom's day). Muslims across the globe shouldn't give much importance to Rizvi, who is a non-entity," Alama Hami said. He said no power on earth can change even one word of the holy quran let alone Rizvi.

Kashmir's religious scholars have, however, appealed to maintain calm, control their emotions, and to register protests in a peaceful manner against the blasphemous act of Rizvi. Widespread condemnations continue to pour in from different religious organizations of Kashmir—(KNO)

Condemning Rizvi's 'blasphemous' move, Anjuman Sharie Shiayan President Aga Syed Hassan and former minister Aga Ruhullah called on authorities to register a case under Section 295A of IPC against Rizvi for hurting sentiments of Muslims.

Top Shia leader and former minister Aga Ruhullah Mehdi called Rizvi a servant of Sangh.

"I don't believe in Takfir, but this person, Wasim (not) Rizvi has brazenly let his belief known and his belief is absolutely not that of a Muslim. He is a known servant of Sangh and I suggest he should be left alone," he tweeted.

Have Filed

He said the party will ensure strict action against those who are involved in hurting the religious sentiments of any community and nobody will be allowed to speak against any community or their holy book. The party has sought FIR against Rizvi.

"We have filed a complaint and want the accused to be dealt with strictly so that no one will be allowed to interfere or make the remarks that would hurt the sentiments of any particular community," Bhat said while appealing the people to maintain communal harmony as displayed from time to time.

Pertinently, the party also staged a protest at its office in Srinagar here and chanted slogans against Waseem Rizvi. During the protest, the party leaders and workers demanded strict action against him— (KNO)

Questioning Qur'an's

Maulana Muhammad Abbas Ansari termed Wasim as a corrupt and satanic tool and said that the Holy Quran is safe and pure from all kinds of changes and alterations and distortions and shortcomings.

He said that the "accursed Wasim, who was fed on the filth was trying such vicious tactics to please his masters and divert attention from the Wagf Board scam". Ansari said that even hundreds of Wasim Rizvis could not delete a single surah or a verse of the Holy Qur'an.

Maulana Ansari said that all sects of Muslims are the believers of one Qur'an, copies of which are in every Muslims home.

On the other hand, Maulana Masroor Abbas Ansari also condemned Waseem Rizvi and said that Waseem was making unholy attempts to divide the Muslim Ummah at the behest of his masters. Masroor questioned Waseem Rizvi's credentials saying "for a person who does not even know how to read a Quranic alphabet, raising sinister fingers on the verses of the Holy book is evident that he is doing all this to please his masters".

Masroor Ansari said that Wasim Rizvi has nothing to do with the Shia school of thought and the Shia community has already thrown him out.

2 SPOs Injured

spokesperson said. In the surprise grenade attack, he said, two policemen Mohammad Afzal and Azad Ahmad received minor injuries. Both the injured officials have been evacuated to nearby hospital for the treatment of their injuries," the spokesperson said.

He further said that a case has been registered in this regard under relevant sections of law.

"Investigation is in progress and officers continue to work to establish the full circumstances of this crime. Area has been cordoned and search in the area is going on," he adde

Wildlife Board

the Conservation Reserve," reads agenda note of the meeting.

The NBWL, according to minutes of the meeting circulated on March 8, cleared the project subject to certain conditions including that the user agency shall abide by all the directions of the Supreme Court, provisions of WildLife (Protection) Act, 1972, directions of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and orders of the government of Jammu & Kashmir in this regard.

The Shahpur Kandi dam project is located on the Ravi river in Pathankot district. Once completed, the project will generate electricity of upto 206 megawatt and provide irrigation to Punjab (5,000 hectares) and Jammu and Kashmir (32,173 hectares).

A bilateral agreement was signed between governments of Punjab and J&K in 1979 on the project. As per the agreement, construction of Ranjit Sagar Dam (Thein Dam) and Shahpurkandi dam was to be taken up by Punjab government.

The project was approved by the Union government as a national project in 2008. The work on the project started in 2013 but it was stopped in 2014 due to disagreement between J&K and Punjab.

In September 2018, both the sides signed a fresh pact to restart work on Rs 2793 crore project. (KNO)

Rains Relent, Fresh Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a low of 2.1 degree Celsius against 3.0 degree Celsius on the previous night while it received 21.2mm rain.

The minimum temperature settled at minus 0.3 degree Celsius in Kupwara against minus 0.7 degree Celsius on the previous night while the north Kashmir district received 15.2mm rain including

2cm snowfall, the official said. Gulmarg, the world famous skiing resort, received 9.4mm of rain in last 24 hours. In past days, the famed tourist destination in north Kashmir received 105.1cm of snow. It recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4.4 degree Celsius against minus 4.0 degree Celsius on the previous night, the official said.

The weatherman has forecast erratic weather with rain with thunderstorm in plains and snow over higher reaches in the Valley till March 15.

The weatherman has issued a warning, asking concerned to remain alert for landslide and avalanche in "vulnerable spots as land is fully saturated.

Kashmir Highway Cleared

of the country, would be allowed from Jammu to Srinagar on Sunday subject to fair weather and better road condition, officials of the traffic department said.

The road was closed for routine weekly maintenance on Friday but was blocked at Shabanbass near Banihal following a massive mudslide triggered by heavy rains besides shooting of stones from the hillocks overlooking the highway at multiple places between Banihal and Ramban.

Officials said the road clearance work was completed around 3 pm on Saturday but only the local stranded traffic was allowed to ply towards their

"In view of the inclement weather prediction issued by the meteorological department for the next few days, people are advised to undertake journeys on the highway after confirming the status of the road," an advisory issued by the traffic

However, it said light motor vehicles would be allowed from Jammu towards Srinagar, setting a cut-off timing for such vehicles to cross Nagrota (Jammu) between 5 am to 12 pm and Jakheni (Udhampur) between 6 am to 1 pm.

"No vehicle shall be allowed before and after the cut-off timing," the advisory said, adding that only stranded heavy motor vehicles would be allowed between Nashree and Ramban. (PTI)

Ex-Legislators

role in steering the erstwhile state out of the current "political impasse".

"We cannot be mute spectators to the current situation. Instead, we will be reaching out to the masses and administration in an attempt to bridge the gap between the government and the people," the statement issued under the banner of the ex-legislators council said.

It said the council discussed the current political, social and economic situation prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir and was of the opinion that the current impasse on the restoration of a political process has only added to the miseries of the general masses.

It sought intervention of the Lt Governor to impress upon the Union government for resumption of political process, the statement said. The meeting was attended by former ministers

Ram Paul, Jagjivan Lal and Haji Nissar, former MLA Gul Rafiquee and ex-MLCs Kashmira Singh, Brij Mohan Sharma, B L Bhat, Depinder Kour, Iqbal Butt and Firdous Tak.

"The participants observed that a delay by the Union government in restoring the democratic political system in Jammu and Kashmir creates an adverse effect and negates the very purpose of a federal structure," the statement said.

The participants said the political leadership, be it from regional or national parties, have sacrificed and given their blood to nurture political democratic space in the trouble-torn Jammu and Kashmir.

'In the absence of a public representative government, the masses were facing several problems and programmes and policies were being made in cozy official spaces of the civil secretariat. There is a complete gap between the administration and general masses," the statement said.

It alleged that the people are running from pillar to post to get their grievances and issues redressed but only to be turned away.

"The prevailing system needs to be immediately checked", the meeting resolved and urged the Lt Governor to personally check the system which was proving "detrimental for the interest" of Jammu and Kashmir and the government.

One of the participants said the former legislators are coming together for the larger interest of Jammu and Kashmir.

"It is the need of the hour for the political leadership of all parties to raise above their party ideologies and contribute to take out Jammu and Kashmir from the prevailing situation," the leader said, asking not to be named.

Annual Amarnath

called off mid-way due to a "terror threat" on August 2, three days before the Centre revoked provisions of Article 370 and divided the state in to two union territories.

In 2019, over 3.42 lakh pilgrims visited the Hindu cave shrine, housing the naturally formed ice-shivlinga, while the highest number of over 3.52 lakh pilgrims paid their obeisance at the shrine in 2015.

As many as 3.20 lakh offered their prayers at the shrine in 2016, 2.60 lakh in 2017 and 2.85 lakh in 2018, the officials said.

Keeping in view the safety and security of the pilgrims, the board has decided that the yatra this year would commence simultaneously from both

the routes -- the traditional 46-km Pahalgam track in Anantnag district and 12-km Baltal in Ganderbal district on June 28, the auspicious Hindu day of 'Ashaad Chaturthi', an official

spokesperson said. "This year's Yatra will be held as per COVID-19 SOPs developed by the government. No person below the age of 13 years and above the age of 75 years will be permitted to undertake the pilgrimage," he said.

The spokesperson said the board also decided to enhance the daily routewise pilgrims ceiling from 7,500 per day per route to 10,000, excluding yatris who would travel by helicopters.

One of the highlights of this year's yatra would be the introduction of free of cost battery car service up and down of the 2.75-km-long Baltal to Domel stretch, the spokesperson said.

During the meeting, the SASB also approved enhancement

remunerations for Pujaris (priests) from existing Rs 1,000 per day to Rs 1,500 per day for the next three years, he said.

Further, as directed by the Lt Governor during the January 5 preparatory meeting, the spokesperson said the group accidental insurance cover for yatris and service providers was also enhanced from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 5 lakh, and for ponies from Rs 30.000 to Rs 50.000.

The Lt Governor during the Saturday meeting also directed for sending special invites to 'Akhada Parishads, Acharya Parishads', and exploring the possibility of establishing counters at prominent religious places across the country for facilitation of Sadhu and Sant Samaj, he said.

Laying special emphasis on providing best-inclass healthcare facilities to all the visiting devotees and service providers, the Lt Governor directed the officers concerned to upgrade the present healthcare facilities on both the routes with latest equipment and augmenting the strength of the medical staff to handle emergencies.

On strengthening the communication infrastructure, the Lt Governor directed for making telecom services operational at the holy cave and across the yatra routes two weeks prior to the commencement of pilgrimage.

It was further directed to upgrade the sanitation capacity commensurate with the enhanced yatra volume for the base camp and along the routes, the spokesperson said.

He said a discussion was also held on introducing RFID tracking and prepaid hiring of services.

The board directed for wide publicity to inform the intending pilgrims to timely secure the prescribed compulsory health certificates before seeking their advance registration from the nearest designated bank which would issue the pilgrim a 'Yatra Permit' valid for a specified date and route, the spokesperson said.

The spokesman said the board will also enable live telecast of morning and evening 'Aarti' (prayers) for devotees across the globe.

"The live telecast is a tool for virtual 'Darshan' for those who are unable to undertake the arduous Yatra," he said, adding the pilgrims can download the 'Shri Amarnathji Yatra' App available on the Google play store to get real time information about the Yatra and for availing several services online.

Further, the spokesman said the board is issuing silver coins of 5 gm and 10 gm denomination through the Metal and Mineral Trading Corporation (MMTC) which would be sold to the pilgrims at the cave shrine and at the offices of the board during the Yatra.

KASHMIR In Capital

brother, just took it to the next level as we started having international clients, while our father mainly focused on expanding the business in India only." However, moving to a distant land with the hope of establishing the heritage of the forefather may appear to be quite inspirational, but, for Miftah Shaw, it was never a cold morning breeze.

"In the beginning, it was very tough to meet the two ends," he said. "We had around 1500 artisans at that time in Kashmir."

With no work in the valley, and tiring efforts to gain grounds in Delhi, the Shaw son had to pay his

huge workforce despite very little earning. "This continued till 1996,"Miftah remembers with a stressed look.

This level of hardworking, however, was meant to bring success and it did the same in the form of multiple outlets under the banner of Shaw Brothers at various locations in Delhi, such as Hotel Le Meridian, Barakhamba road, and finally in Defense colony in 2001.

Not more than 20 minutes into the conversation, Miftah Shaw goes to meet an awaited client and comes back only after an hour of extensive dealing. "There is more professionalism here," he says with

a warm smile while resuming the conversation. "But in Kashmir, people are more laid back." However, he believes the situation is changing, and now, he sees a promising Kashmir youth who

Apart from that, Miftah Shaw also points the difference in exposure one receives in the two places.

"Delhi receives people from all across the world. This exposure that you receive here is just perfect to become a professional businessman," he claims. Coming to establishing the brand in the capital, Miftah Shaw credits his family's love for labour mot-

to, quality and honesty for the niche and the name. "Selling the right things to the right people, has always been our motive," the scion continues amid the din of Delhi. "We spend a good amount on research and de-

velopment. We bring masterpieces to the market. If we say something, it means and, it has to. So by maintaining the quality and building trust through this quality, we have been here for the last 30 years." While his Delhi years have largely remained cordial, cultural barrier has always tested him. Much

of this comes from his strong sense of belongingness—something he terms quite a Kashmiri thing. But apart from these social adjustment realities, Miftah Shaw today appears a blend of calmness and concern. After spending 30 scorching summers in the capital, he calls the timeline between 1996 and 2012 as his glorious capital years. Post-2012, the trade isn't the same.

"It cycles in the world," he says. "You've a boom and recession over the period of time. So our business has also seen this same global pattern of rising and downfall." Currently, it's the latter one that is prevailing. But despite being hit by the global meltdowns and slowdowns, this Shaw scion is currently banking on his father's legacy of catering to the domestic clientele.

Owing to his own story of struggle and eventually success, Miftah Shaw was quick to come up with an advice for the youth of Kashmir.

"To prosper, you have to strive, and for that, you must move out," he suggests.

"I believe our youth is promising, and they possess the talent of turning things upside-down. But I would suggest it to them to come out of Kashmir for at least a year or two, to get the exposure of working in a better and more professional environment." Coming to Kashmir, Shaw has a sense of regret,

along with optimism. "I haven't paid my motherland as much as I must have done. But I am hopeful I will be doing this thing," he remarks with a firm belief.

"For instance, I want to upgrade the Khanqa-e-Maula shrine of Mir Syed Ali Hamadani. I want to renovate it and to take it to the next level."

"Also," he continues, "I have the same plan for the downtown — I want to turn it into an Italian Downtown or Moroccan Downtown.' The sense of paying back to his motherland came

when he, along his friend, visited Kashmir."My friend from Bangkok went to the shrine of Shah-e-Hamadan with me," Miftah recalls. "After we left the shrine, he confronted me and said, 'I pity you! You are here, and yet you are do-

ing nothing for this place! What kind of person vou are?'These words sparked the fire inside me and strengthened my will." Today, he may be willing to play his part in the

sanctum up-gradation, but he faces the hitch in the form of hierarchy of permissions. "Unfortunately, I am not able to do this because of the bureaucracy," he says. "There are too many

hurdles and obstacles. You can't cross and convince the municipality in Srinagar, keep aside talking to the tourism department.' "But," he resumes, "I am hopeful that I shall get this

chance to serve my motherland. Just one ray and I shall immediately capitalize it. I have to do it because I owe it to My Kashmir," he concludes with sparkling eyes.

Three Deaths,

two were residents of Kashmir Valley while one was from Jammu division. With these deaths, the overall toll in J&K has risen to 1974–730 in Jammu and 1244 in Valley. About the fresh 99 cases of Covid-19, officials said Kashmir Valley reported 75 while the remaining 24 were detected in Jammu division.

Giving district-wise details, the officials said that Srinagar reported 42, Baramulla 12, Budgam 6, Pulwama 2, Anantnag 4, Bandipora 2, Ganderbal 2, Kulgam 2, Shopian 3, Jammu 14, Samba 2, Poonch and Udhampur one each new cases of coronavirus.

Moreover, they said, 102 more patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals—11 from Jammu Division and 91 from Kashmir Valley. 7 OGWs Held

Friday, a police officer said Saturday. He said that

two hand grenades and 105 rounds of ammunition were recovered from their possession. A case Fir no 40/2021 U/S 7/25 Arms Act 18, 20,13,33,38 ULAP Act has been registered against

the arrested persons in police station Shopian. **Blaze Leaves Three**

tenders were rushed to the spot and after hectic efforts the blaze was brought under control.

An official said that till the fire was brought under control three families were rendered homeless and property worth lakh got perished.

"However, no loss of human life was reported in the incident," he added.

Meanwhile, a police official said that they have taken cognizance of the matter

5 'Gamblers'

spokesperson said Saturday. Besides playing cards, he said, 4 mobile phones and a cash amount of Rs 9020 were also recovered from the possession of the accused.

"They have been arrested and shifted to Police Station where they remain in custody. Accordingly, a case FIR No. 48/2021 under relevant sections of law has been registered and investigation has been initiated," he added.

IAF Airlifts 381

The IAF operates C-17, C-130 and an-32 aircraft regularly to airlift stranded passengers between Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh in view of the closure of the 434-km Srinagar-Leh national highway owing to heavy snowfall in December last year.

The highway was reopened on February 28 but the fresh snowfall early this week again forced its closure. Thousands of passengers were airlifted by the IAF since the commencement of the Kargil courier service

between the two union territories in January. (PTI)

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Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Department of Urban local Bodies Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE WATERGAM

Subject.-Proposal for Revision of Building Permission fee schedule of Municipal Committee Watergam

In exercise of the powers conferred under Section-66 read with Section -70 of J&K Municipal Act 2000, the Municipal committee Watergam hereby proposes to revise Building permission fee schedule w.e.f 01.04.2021. in this regard any person having any objection regarding imposition of the revised fee as given below may submit their objections in writing to the office of the undersigned or Tehsildar Watergam within 15 days from the date of publication.

The revised Building Permission fee schedule is given as under:-

	S.No.	Construction type	Revised Rate
S	1	Residential	Rs. 10/- per Sft.
u f	2	Commercial	Rs. 20/- per Sft.
r	3	Renovation/Repairs	Rs. 05/- per Sft.
f	4	FencingAA/alling	Rs. 10/-per Rft. p.
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NO; MC/WTG/BP/1709-12 Dated: 13-03-2021 gms

EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE WATERGAM

Jofra Archer Reveals Injury Concern That Could Keep Him Away From Cricket For Sometime



Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: England pacer Jofra Archer said he needs to look after his troublesome elbow first before setting sights on his twin targets of playing in the T20 World Cup in India and the Ashes Down Under.

After missing two Tests in England's 1-3 series defeat recently, the 25-year-old fiery pacer bounced back strongly taking three for 23 to restrict India to a modest 124 for 7 in the first T20I at the Motera here on Friday.

"I need to take care of my elbow first before I think about what is going to happen," Archer said in the post-match interaction.

"For me, in the immediate, I want to get through this series and then I will do everything in my power to make sure I'm going to the World Cup and the Ashes.'

Archer cleaned up KL Rahul in the powerplay, and nearly took a hat-trick in the death overs after dismissing Hardik Pandya and Shardul Thakur to help England win by eight wickets and go one-up in the five-match T20I series

"I'm just glad to have helped in the win. I'm just being honest, if I get one wicket or three, the way I bowl doesn't change. I think wickets just depend on how lucky you are at the time," he said

Archer further said they all are on the same page as far as the workload management is concerned.

"Obviously, I came to them (the medical team) during the Test series and said it's (my elbow) was not feeling right at the moment and I didn't have to say it twice, they automatically jumped on it and already started making plans. We are

all on the same page. England, who lost the Test series after winning the first Test in Chennai, are well aware of India's resilience and Archer urged caution after their convincing victory.

"It's just the first game of the series, there are still four other games to go. They (India) are number two in the world for a reason so I don't think we can get ahead of ourselves

enjoy it," he said. It was a sheer display of fine pace bowling in the Powerplay as the duo of Archer and Mark Wood consistently bowled in 140kph-plus.

as yet. It was a good win and we'll

The consistency worked as Wood blew away Shikhar Dhawan's leg stump with a 148kph delivery.

"I still try to cheer him, still to try to wind him up a bit," said Archer, known for their fiercely-guarded pace rivalry.

"It was good to see the ball carrying through and see the speed gun. Really exciting to see what he can do in the rest of the series.

"I still try to out pace him but I don't think I am in the best position to do it at the moment (elbow injury)," he said in a lighter vein.

On Friday, Eoin Morgan made a surprise move by handing the new ball to leg-spinner Adil Rashid after winning the toss.

The gambit worked well as Rashid dismissed star India skipper Virat Kohli for zero, his third duck following two in the Tests.

"You just love to see it when a plan comes off. Rashid is a worldclass bowler and can bowl anywhere...," Archer said.

"Kohli is obviously a dangerous batter and to see the back of him early so many times is a real bonus. I think it probably might have dampened their camp a little bit," he said.

Archer said they were lucky with the toss as the conditions were slow. "I was excited to bowl first be-

cause there was a bit of dew when we trained the other night. But getting on top of the conditions gave us a little bit of an advantage. It was a very good team performance on a slow wicket," he said.

West Indies Defeat Sri Lanka By 5 Wickets To Win ODI Series



Agencies

NORTH POINT: A 192-run opening stand between Evin Lewis and Shai Hope and cool finishing by Nicholas Pooran steered the West Indies to a five-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the second one-day cricket international. The West Indies also earned a winning 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Lewis made 103 and Hope 84 to set the strong foundation that allowed the West Indies to overtake Sri Lanka's 273-8 with two balls to spare.

A middle order slump which saw the home side slip to 233-4 when captain Kieron Pollard was out in the 46th over put late pressure on the West Indies.

But Pooran made an unbeaten 35 from 38 balls to steer his team home in the final over in the West Indies' highest successful ODI run chase against Sri Lanka.

The West Indies came to the 48th over needing 31 runs from 18 balls. Fabian Allen hit a six from the first ball from Nuwan Pradeep to eat into the deficit but was out next ball, leaving the match still in the balance.

Pooran hit a four from the next delivery to ease some of the pressure on the home side and the West Indies was in a stronger position when Pradeep's over conceded 18 runs, leaving 13 runs to be scored from the last 12 balls.

Dushmantha Chameera bowled a tight 49th over, conceding only four runs, and the West Indies came to the last over still needing nine

The first ball was a dot ball but

Pooran went down on one knee to strike a superb cover drive for four from Pradeep's second ball, putting the West Indies five runs from victory.

Pradeep bowled a full toss which Pooran sliced behind point for four, and another full toss which the batsman chipped into the leg side for the winning run.

"You could say (it was too close for comfort)," Pollard said. "But at the end of the day we take the win. The guys batted well.

"Evin scored a hundred and in the dressing room we asked him for a hundred. It was nice to see Pooran finishing off the game and it was a total team effort."

Sri Lanka batted first after winning the toss and slumped to 50-3 in the ninth over.

Danushka Gunathilaka's luck turned and his 96 from 96 balls led Sri Lanka's recovery. Gunathilaka seemed to have been wronged when he was given out for obstructing the field in the first ODI which the West Indies won by eight wickets. He batted superbly on Friday, re-establishing the Sri Lanka innings in a partnership of exactly 100 for the fourth wicket with Dinesh Chandimal, who made 71.

A quick-fire innings of 47 from 31 balls by Winandu Hasaranga lifted Sri Lanka to a competitive total.

"In our batting, we lost a couple of wickets in the early part but we recovered," Sri Lanka captain Dinush Karunaratne said.

"Unfortunately those two batsmen who got runs today couldn't go on to a big one."

The final ODI is at the same venue on Sunday.

Kulgam Bags Top Position In UT-Level U-14 **Carrom Tournament**



Observer News Service

RAMBAN: Inter-district, UT-level Carrom competition for boys under 14 age group concluded here today with Kulgam team se-

curing top position. The District Youth Services and Sport Officer, Dharmveer Singh informed that as many as 35 students from various districts of both the divisions participated in the competition.

Teams from Kulgam bagged the first position, while Pulwama and Iammu secured second and third positions respectively. Later, prizes were also distributed amongst the winners and participants.

IND VS ENG 2ND T201, PREVIEW

India Needs Better Batting Effort From 'X Factors' Hardik Pandya And Rishabh Pant

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: Left shaken by a bunch of world-class operators, the Indian team's white-ball stars will be aiming to put up an improved batting effort in the second T20 International against England here on Sunday.

It was India's first white-ball game in three months and the rustiness of some of the premier shorter format players like KL Rahul, Hardik Pandya, and Yuzvendra Chahal's showed in the first game in which the hosts were clinically outplayed.

One defeat is never the end of the story and no critic can rule this Indian team out of the series on the basis of a singular performance especially because of its zeal to fight.

However, as skipper Virat Kohli talks about players with X-factors doing the job, he would expect Rishabh Pant and Pandva to do a bit more with their explosive hitting, which should not be confined to one audacious reverse scoop (Pant off Jofra Archer) or a falling ramp shot (Pandya off Ben Stokes).

They are more than capable and will be expected to give a far better account of themselves, trying to play more shots square of the wicket like Shreyas Iyer did during his innings of 67 off 48 balls.

Pant (21 off 23 balls) weren't able to gauge the pace of the track as Archer and Mark Wood bowled fast and straight denying them any width for the cut shot. The extra bounce also didn't allow them to drive on the up.

"The wicket didn't allow you to hit the kind of shots you wanted to. Shreyas' innings was an example of



how you could use the depth of the crease, ride the bounce because there was variable bounce at times, and hit the areas square of the wicket which others failed to do.

"It was just a below-par batting performance and England made us pay for it," Kohli had summed it up aptly at the end of the match.

The captain's acknowledgement of Iyer's performance could well mean that the wait for Survakumar Yadav might get a tad longer with only one middle-order slot available currently. However, Kohli's propensity to change his playing XI at the drop of a

hat is well documented. While giving his team's oldest member Shikhar Dhawan of matches is perfectly understandable but how long does he want to persist with the left-hander, who looked completely out of sorts during

his 4 off 12 balls. Rohit Sharma, as per Kohli, is rested for a couple of matches having played 6 consecutive Test matches along with 14 days of hard quarantine

at the start of his Australian sojourn. But Rohit's presence is very nec-

essary at the top of the order and even though no one is really talking about it, it's been long since the Indian skipper has had an impactful T20 performance. He is too good a player to miss out. The bowling department didn't

have enough runs on board to put up a fight but whether one of the three spinners can make way for a tearaway quick like Navdeep Saini remains to be seen. Perhaps Yuzvendra Chahal could make way for Rahul Tewatia, who may not be as crafty a leg break bowler but certainly a decent one with good batting prowess.

Foin Morgan, one among the likeable international captains, has been provided a team that has its bases covered with 12 players plying their trade in the IPL.

Unless something really goes wrong, this England team is a contender to win the T20 World Cup trophy in October this year with way too many powerhouse performers. Match Starts at 7 pm.

Two Olympic Probable Athletes Fail NADA Dope Tests At IGP In Patiala

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Two athletes, who are in contention for the Olympic Games, have failed dope tests conducted at the Indian Grand Prix in Patiala last month, the National Anti-Doping Agency's Director General Navin Agarwal revealed on Saturday.

It is understood that one of the athletes is a high-profile female quarter-miler, who has won multiple gold medals in the 4x400m relay event and was supposed to be a part of the Tokyo-bound team. However, neither NADA nor the Athletics Federation of India have divulged any names.

"I can't comment about the names but yes, we had collected samples during the Grand Prix in Patiala. There are a couple of positive cases but I can't say anything beyond that," Agarwal told PTI on Saturday.

"Since this is an Olympic year, our

focus is solely the core Olympic probables, who will be tested regularly. This year we are not going to test anyone below senior national level," he added

The prohibited substance in question is stimulant (energy-booster) Methylhexan-2-amine which is in the World Anti-Doping Agency's list published in 2021.

As of now, the athlete in question has not been handed a provisional suspension but it is a given that she and the other offender will have to appear before NADA's Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP) and prove that the banned substance was inadvertently taken.

The sanction for this offence is ban between two to four years but the athlete has a chance to seek revocation of the suspension from Anti-Doping Appeals Panel (ADAP), the higher body of NADA.

'Will Continue To Bat With Freedom, Only Need To Execute Plans Better,' Says Shreyas Iyer

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: India's "play freely" batting philosophy that skipper Virat Kohli has advocated won't change despite the opening T20 debacle against England, the rapidly-rising Shreyas Iyer said but acknowledged that it needs better execution in the coming games.

India posted just 124 against England in the first match here on Friday, unable to cope with a very disciplined pace bowling show by the visitors, spearheaded by Jofra Archer and Mark Wood. England took just a little more than 15 overs to overhaul the target.

Asked if India will need to step away from the new batting philosophy of gong for the shots no matter what the situation, Iyer said, "...it won't change because if you see the batting line up we have and the power-hitters down the line, we don't have to change anything to be honest."

"We have come with a plan and we have to execute as much as possible because going into the world Cup we need to see to it that we tick all the boxes. This is a five-match series, so it is a perfect time to try different stuff and see what suits us," he explained.

The second T20 is scheduled to held here on Sunday.

The selectors picked IPL performers like Suryakumar Yadav, Ishan Kishan and Rahul Tewatia for the series while the in-form Rishabh Pant also made a return on the back of his strong international performances in the past couple of months.

Asked if he is under any pressure to perform, Iyer said: "I am in no sort of pressure to perform. Lam playing freely, happily and enjoying my innings.

Iver came out to bat at number five after Pant was promoted in the batting order. He said, batting position is not his concern.

"Coming into Indian team, you have to be flexible with which batting position you will be batting. I haven't made any changes, it is just the mindset, what the team requires and (I) batted according to the situation," he said.

"It was a challenging situation, we had to keep playing the natural game and keep the scoreboard ticking irrespective of losing early wickets."

Iyer, who captains Delhi Capitals in the IPL, said his experience of playing in the league helped.

"I have been in this situation before, been there in IPL, it is not the first time. I knew I will get odd boundaries, and momentum changes if a partnership (gets going). So from that point of view, their bowlers bowled well. It was their day and kudos to them."

Asked the reason behind playing three spinners, he said: "We practised on this surface before the match and when spinners were bowling, it was stopping and turning, very similar to the two-paced wicket which we played on. The plan was to play three spinners, as that's our strength.'

Talking about his thought process when he came out to bat with the team struggling at 20-3, Iyer said: "I knew Rishabh was hitting well, my thought was to just take singles. He was the dominator at the time and I decided I will play ball to ball before the spinners come on.

"It worked pretty well for me. They bowled three overs of Adil (Rasheed) and I was waiting for that one over. It was difficult to take on the bowlers in the initial phase...we kept losing wickets so obviously it didn't work out for us."

Iyer said he is carrying the momentum from his performance for Mumbai in the Vijay Hazare Trophy

Asked if he has any message for Mumbai ahead of their final against Uttar Pradesh on Sunday, Iyer said: "Mumbai doesn't have to change anything and obviously Prithvi Shaw is in such good form, his mindset is on point now.

"I spoke to him also. I told him not to listen to anybody and play his game."

Premier League Legend Alan Shearer Impressed By Manvir, Colaco and Vignesh

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: English Premier League's all-time record goal-scorer Alan Shearer is impressed by the performances of Manyir Singh, Liston Colaco, and Vignesh Dakshinamurthy in the ongoing Indian Super League. He has included the three Indian

youngsters in a combined list of his top 10 goals scored across the ISL and Premier League this season. The three players find themselves alongside global superstars Mohamed Salah and Harry Kane in a list

prepared by Shearer while speaking

to the common host broadcaster of both leagues. Shearer, who scored 260 goals in 441 Premier League appearances, was left impressed by Manvir's goal for ATK Mohun Bagan against Odisha FC last month. He also remarked defender Vignesh Dakshinamurthy's volleyed-effort against Hyderabad as

"magnificent". Both Vignesh and Manvir feature in ISL season 7's final on Saturday evening as Mumbai City FC face ATK Mohun Bagan at the Fatorda Stadium in Margao, Goa.

Colaco was also named in the list. The Hyderabad FC forward recently received a call-up for the Indian team camp later this month.

Kerala Blaster's Gary Hooper's long-range volleyed goal against ATK Mohun Bagan and SC East Bengal's Bright Enobakhare's goal cutting past four FC Goa defenders capped off the



inclusions from ISL. In Shearer's list of top five ISL goals, he ranked Bright on top followed by Hooper, Vignesh, Liston, and Manvir respectively.

England captain Harry Kane's goal for Tottenham Hotspur and Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah's goal led the additions from the Premier League. Leicester City playmaker James Maddison and West Ham United duo Manuel Lanzini and Sebastien Haller's goals completed the list prepared by Shearer.

Meanwhile, former Ireland striker and player-cum-interim head coach of ATK, Robbie Keane passed on his best wishes to ATK Mohun Bagan.

"I will definitely be watching ATK Mohun Bagan and rooting for them in the ISL final from my home in Dublin. The principal owner, Sanjiv Goenka is a great boss to have and we have remained great friends ever since our association in ISL," said Keane.

From Squash Courts To Harvard, India's No. 1 Junior Player Amira Singh Is An Ace

NEW DELHI: Like in Indian basketball, there are 'Singh Sisters' in the country's squash fraternity too, where 18-year-old Amira and her 13-yearold sister Anahat are top ranked juniors in their respective categories.

If that wasn't enough, Amira, a student of British School in Chanakyapuri, will be flying to Boston this year to study economics and pursue her passion at the prestigious Harvard University.

But will India's junior No. 1 (U-19) be able to strike a balance between studying economics at the Harvard and play the game at the highest level? 'That's what her aim is. The current world No. 1 Ali Farag of Egypt graduated from the Harvard with a degree in mechanical engineering. Harvard University has an excellent squash team along with some of the best coaches. It will help her (Amira) grow as a player,' mother Tani Vadehra Singh told PTI on Saturday.

'She was always good in academics and was able to balance both. That was also one of the reasons that the university selected her,' she added. Amira has represented India at

the Asian and World Iunior Championship and was a member of the bronze medal-winning team at the continental event. Her most distinguished interna-

tional performance is her bronze medal-winning performance at the Scottish Open Junior Championship In Edinburgh in December, 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic broke. In India, sports often forces talented youngsters to treat academics as secondary but for Amira's parents, lawyer father Gursharan Singh and businesswoman mother Tani, it was always about striking the right balance. 'She has studied as much as she

has trained. I can tell you that a couple of years back when she was having her board exams and the Indian junior team trials was being held at Noida, she would write her board papers and then rush off to the trials and managed that with only three hours of sleep,' the mother recalled.

Squash is still not an Olympic

sport but the likes of Saurav Ghosal, Joshna Chinappa and Dipika Pallikal have had a lot of success at the Asiad and Commonwealth Games. 'That's the target we have set for

her. To represent India at the CWG

and Asian Games in the future,'

Singh said. While Amira will be starting a new journey which promises to be ex-

hilarating, the younger sister Anahat herself isn't doing too badly either, considering she's just into her teens. 'She was a good badminton player

but when she saw my elder daughter doing well in squash, she also picked up the game,' the mother said about her vounger daughter, who is now India No. 1 in the U-15 category. Anahat has been the national

champion twice and won around

50 tournaments but her biggest accomplishments in a short span would certainly be winning gold and silver at the acclaimed British Junior Open in 2019 and 2020. The sisters get a lot of good feedback about how the game is at the top level from former India player

and world doubles runners-up Ritwick Bhattacharva. They train at the Siri Fort and also

at Vasant Kunj under Amjad Khan and former top national level player Gaurav Nandrajog.

Not Wearing Mask Properly In Flight? Deboard Such **Passengers, DGCA Tells Airlines**

Press Trust of India

eeking to ensure strict adherence to COVID-19 protocols by air travellers, aviation regulator DGCA on Saturday asked airlines to deboard passengers who do not wear their mask "properly" despite repeated warnings

Also, the watchdog has directed airlines to treat a passenger as "unruly" in case the person violates the protocols.

The latest directives come against the backdrop of the rising number of coronavirus cases in certain parts of the country even

"On board the aircraft, in case any passenger does not adhere to wearing a mask properly even after repeated warnings, he/she should be de-boarded, if need be, before departure." the circular said. "In the case of any passenger on

board an aircraft refusing to wear a mask or violates the 'COVID-19 Protocol for passengers' even after repeated warnings, during the course of the flight, such passengers may be treated as 'Unruly' passengers, as per the DGCA.

The procedure in respect of handling such unruly passengers will be followed by the airline



as domestic air traffic is improving. In a circular issued on Saturday, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), has also directed the airport operators to ensure that the passengers wear their mask and

maintain social distancing norms

at all times during air travel. The DGCA said it has been noticed that some travellers undertaking air journey do not adhere to "COVID-19 protocols", which essentially involve wearing of masks properly -- not below the nose, right from entering the departing airport to exiting from the

arriving airport. Observing that some passengers after entering the airport do not wear their mask properly and maintain social distance while being in the airport, the regulator said that some passengers have been noticed not wearing their masks properly

concerned as per the Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR), it added.

The circular said that the passengers will wear masks and maintain social distancing norms at all times during air travel, adding the mask shall not be moved below the nose except under exceptional circumstances.

Directing the CISF/ police personnel deployed at the entrance of the airport to ensure that no one is allowed to enter the airport without wearing a mask, it said that chief airport security officer and other supervising officers must ensure this personally.

In case any passenger found violating COVID-19 protocols at the airport, they should be handed over to security agencies after proper warnings, the direc-

"If required, they may be dealt as per law," the circular added.

AIADMK, DMK Have Drifted From Anna's Path: Owaisi

Press Trust of India

IMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Friday slammed the two Dravidian majors, DMK and AIADMK, accusing them of deviating from their principles and compromising for political gains.

In stark contrast to the two parties, T.T.V. Dhinakaran's Amma Makkal Munntera Kazhagam (AMMK), with whom he has forged an alliance for the April 6 Tamil Nadu polls, was emerging as a viable political alternative in Tamil Nadu, he said.

Addressing a well-attended rally organised by the AMMK in Chennai, sharing dais with Dhinakaran. Owaisi said, "both the ruling AIADMK and the opposition DMK drifted from Anna's (late chief minister C.N. Annadurai) path".

The present AIADMK, he said, was not the party that it was when late chief minister J. Jayalalithaa was at the helm. "The AIADMK that you see now is not the AIADMK of madam Jayalalithaa, who kept away the BJP from entering Tamil Nadu. The party has now become subservient to Modi," he alleged.

Training his guns on the DMK, Owaisi accused the party of duplicity in its claims of being secular.

"DMK leader M.K. Stalin should explain if his party and ally Congress considered Shiv Sena, which is in alliance with the Congress in Maharashtra,

secular or communal," he asked. He also accused the Congress of backing the BJP government's amendment to Unlawful Activi-

While on the one hand, DMK's ally claimed to be secular, on the other, it supported the Centre on the "draconian" law.

On the charge from some sections that AMMK was the "B team of the BJP," Owaisi said Dhinakaran was politically mature to respect leaders and minorities.

"His AMMK is the only party that can secure the interests of the poor and the minorities," he said.

AIMIM is seeking to make its foray into Tamil Nadu and has joined the AMMK-led alliance from which it will be contesting three seats: Vaniyambadi, Krishnagiri and Sankarapuram.

Hitting out at the DMK, Owaisi said "unfortunately, DMK lacks political courtesy and became the most arrogant party," recalling the incident when the Dravidian party's minority wing invited him to attend a conference in Chennai. which he obliged and the party later denied the meeting.

"If they do something like this to me, imagine what they can to the common people." Owaisi said. Meanwhile, Dhinakaran re-

leased his party's manifesto for the polls, at the rally.

The promises include a "corruption-free Tamil Nadu," the "Amma Economic Revolution Scheme" that will provide jobs for one person in every household, various pro-industry initiatives, port management, creation of additional Assembly constituencies, better medical care for the poor, sops to the farm sector, river inter-linking and a subsidy of Rs 100 for one LPG cylinder a month.

WEST BENGAL ELECTIONS

Former Union Minister Yashwant Sinha Joins TMC, Says Democracy is in Peril



Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: Former Union minister Yashwant Sinha, a bitter critic of Prime Minister Narendra Modi regime, on Saturday joined Trinamool Congress days ahead of the high- octane West Bengal assembly polls. Sinha, a senior BJP leader during Atal Bihari Vaipayee rule, told reporters it was call of the hour to ensure TMC win the assembly elections with a thumping majority which will herald defeat of Modi government in 2024 Lok Sabha polls and save the country.

Sinha, who served in the cabinet of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, had quit the saffron party in 2018 after having serious differences with the present party leadership. His son Jayant Sinha is the BJP MP from Hazaribagh in Jharkhand. The octagenarian leader had campaigned for TMC in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

Former Union Finance Minister and the Minister of External Affairs, Sri @YashwantSinha today joined TMC. We are delighted to have him with us in @mamataofficial's fight to expel the communal forces from Bengal and India.

Democracy under threat Speaking after joining TMC at its office in Kolkata, the bureaucrat-turned-politician. a scathing attack on Modi and Union Home minister Amit Shah, observing that democracy is under threat in the country under them. "Strength of the democracv lies in the robustness of its institutions, and all the institutions have been weakened systematically." Sinha said.

"The country is faced with

strange situation. The values and principles we gave so much importance, the founding principles of our Republic are not being followed. The farmers of the country are sitting near Delhi for months but the government doesn't care. The ruling party has only one objective – win elections by any means," he said.

The senior politician pledged support to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in her fight against the BJP. "TMC will win the polls by thumping majority. But, we have to increase the victory to another level," he

"Present BJP believes in conquering people'

"(Gopal Krishna) Gokhale had famously said 'What Bengal thinks today, India thinks tomorrow'. Bengal should herald changes. The win of TMC in West Bengal assembly polls will ring in changes in 2024 general elections and defeat them (Modi-Shah led BJP)," Sinha said.

Observing that the BJP led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee was vastly different from the saffron party today, Sinha said, "Atal ji believed in consensus. Now Modi and Shah believe in crushing opposite opinion. Atal ji believed in taking people along, but the present BJP regime believes in conquering people.'

"Atal ji believed in coalition, now coalition partners are leaving BJP one after another," he quipped.

Sinha said migrant labourers were forced to come back home on foot during the coronavirustriggered lockdown while education, healthcare are also going through a rough phase but the government does not seem to be bothered.

The veteran politician observed it is a serious fight today, not merely to win elections but to save the Republic.

"Mamata had offered self in

exchange for Kandahar hostages" Sinha recalled during Kandahar hijack of Air India plane, when TMC was the coalition partner of the Vajpayee government, Banerjee had volunteered at the cabinet meeting to go and meet the hijackers to secure release of hostages "as she is not afraid for her life.'

.@MamataOfficial had offered to go to Kandahar in 1999 and submit herself as a hostage for terrorists in return for the lives of passengers onboard the IC-814 aircraft that was hijacked. You don't need a 56-inch chest to be a patriot.

He said he had about 45-minute conversation with Banerjee before joining the TMC. "The tipping point was the attack (in Nandigram) on Mamata Banerjee. When I spoke to her today, she described the incident to me. This government can do anything to win the election. The attack on Mamata Ii made me decide that I want to work with her," he said about the March 10 incident.

Sinha's joining Trinamool Congress might not help it win votes, but his utterances against the BJP could lend weight to TMC's offensive against the saffron party in the high-voltage Bengal polls.

"We welcome Sinha to our party. His participation would strengthen our fight against the BJP in the coming elections," TMC Lok Sabha party leader Sudip Bandopadhyay said earlier while welcoming Sinha to the party fold.

Physics, Chemistry, Maths Will **Remain Important Subjects** For Engineering: AICTE

Physics, chemistry and mathematics will continue to be important subjects in engineering courses and it is not mandatory for state government or institutions to offer these courses to students who have not studied them in class 12. the AICTE said on Friday.

Addressing a press conference, AICTE chairperson Anil Sahasrabudhe also said students opting for streams like biotechnology, textile or agriculture engineering will have an option to not study these subjects in class 12.

The clarification by Sahasrabudhe came following news reports about physics and mathematics no longer being compulsory for studying engineering as per the approval handbook for 2021-22 issued by the AICTE.

"Physics, chemistry and mathematics will continue to be important subjects for certain streams of engineering like mechanical engineering; it's not that these subjects will lose their relevance. However, for streams like textile engineering, agriculture or may be biotechnology, students will have an option of not studying the three subjects compulsorily in class 12 and make up for them through bridge courses 2021-22 has been changed to remove the restrictions of the previous rules in case there are states or universities that want to open up "on the lines of the NEP".

"There was a very classic case, which came up this year during admission into an agricultural engineering or agricultural technology course where physics, chemistry and maths (PCM) is mandatory. Now, in open schooling and the CBSE, there are subjects like agricultural chemistry. However, these institutes are only accepting pure chemistry," said Sahasrabudhe, while highlighting the importance of multidisciplinary approach.

However, the chairperson reiterated that it is not mandatory for states or institutions to change their current mandatory preference of PCM for admission to engineering courses.

"While opening up the window, it is not mandatory for any of the states or universities that they must admit students from any of the three courses... Universities and the state governments may continue to have the same three subjects of maths, physics and chemistry as mandatory. This is purely a window of opportunity, which is



later," Sahasrabudhe said.

In its revised rules aligned as per reforms proposed in the new National Education Policy (NEP), the technical regulator has given a list of subjects: Physics, mathematics, chemistry, computer science, electronics, information technology, biology, informatics practices, biotechnology, technical vocational subject, engineering graphics, business studies and entrepreneurship.

Students need to pass in any three subjects (from the list) with a minimum of 45 per cent marks in class 12 board examination to be able to apply for admission in undergraduate courses in engineering, according to the revised rules of the All India Council for Technical Education.

"Universities will offer suitable bridge courses such as mathematics, physics, engineering drawing for students coming from diverse backgrounds to achieve desired learning outcome of the programme" the AICTE provides in the Approval Process Handbook 2021-22

According to Sahasrabudhe, the new Approval Process Handbook

open, but not restricting, or forcing or making it mandatory that any three subjects can and should be allowed," said Sahasrabudhe.

On offering engineering courses in mother tongue, the AICTE cited its survey recently where 42 per cent of the current second-, third- and fourth-year engineering students said that they would prefer to pursue their course in mother tongue had there been an opportunity.

"No one is being forced. This is an opportunity created and not being imposed. We have this misgiving that we all have to do our engineering in our mother tongue. But also think of those who wanted to pursue in their mother tongue... having deprived them of this opportunity till now? We conducted a survey on students who are already in second, third and fourth year. They have already learnt their science subjects in English. And, it is not the Hindi-speaking students, but majority students from Tamil Nadu said had they got an opportunity, they would have studied in Tamil. Second was in Hindi, third was Telugu, fourth was Marathi and fifth was Kannada," he stated.

After Kolkata, Farmer Leader Rakesh Tikait To Hold Mahapanchayat In West Bengal's Nandigram

West Bengal Assembly Elections 2021: Days after urging the farmers in West Bengal to not support BJP in the upcoming polls, Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait on Saturday said he is visiting West Bengal's Nandigram today, where he will hold a mahapanchayat (public meeting).

Ahead of the upcoming West Bengal Assembly polls, Rakesh Tikait on Saturday urged people not to vote for the BJP and accused the party of looting the entire country. Tikait said this at a mahapanchayat (a public meeting) in Kolkata. The BKU leader's agenda for Bengal visit includes discussing the issue of MSP and the three controversial farm laws with the farmers of the state.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari are contesting against each other in Nandigram.

Tikait, who is leading a massive farmers' protest against the three central agriculture laws at the Delhi-UP border, was received in Kolkata by Trinamool MP Dola Sen.

Tikait's visit to Nandigram comes barely 3 days after Mamata Banerjee sustained injuries to her foot, head and chest when she was campaigning in the constituency after filing her nomination papers. She had told reporters that four-five unknown people pushed her and shut the car door on her.

On Wednesday, Tikait had said that he will go to Kolkata this week to urge farmers to defeat the BJP in the West Bengal Assembly elections, but claimed he is not supporting any political party.

Saying that the farmers are distressed, and election will be discussed with them, Tikait said he is not going to West Bengal to seek votes.

"I will go to Kolkata on March 13. The clarion call for a decisive struggle will come from Kolkata. We will talk to farmers there and urge them to defeat the BJP," the BKU leader said. He was in Ballia to address a 'Kisan Mahapanchayat'.

Tikait said the farmers' movement would continue and that he is ready to negotiate with the central government. "If the Indian government talks, we will talk," he added.

NEET 2021: Medical Entrance Exam To Be Held On August 1

Press Trust of India

The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for ad-**I** mission to undergraduate medical courses will be conducted on August 1, the ministry of education's national testing agency (NTA) announced on Friday.

"The NEET (UG), 2021, is going to be conducted by NTA for admission to MBBS, BDS, BAMS, BSMS, BUMS and BHMS courses as per the relevant norms, guidelines and regulations notified by the regulatory bodies concerned.

"The exam will be conducted in 11 languages, including Hindi and English, through pen and paper mode on August 1," the NTA said in



an official notification.

Bulletin containing detailed information regarding the test, syllabus, eligibility criteria for age, reservation, categorisation of seats, examination fee, cities of examination, state code will be available shortly when the submission of the application form for NEET (UG) starts, it added

ECOSPORTS SE: Auto Wings Hyderpora Launches Special Ford Edition

Observer News Service

ties Prevention Act.

n a glittering ceremony, Auto Wings Ford—an authorized dealer of Ford India Pvt Ltd—launched the Ford's special edition of ECOSPORTS SE at its corporate office Baghi-Hyder Hyder-

pora byepass on Saturday. The car was launched by the chief guest, SDPO Azhar Rashid, along with Ashiq Hussain Wani, Managing Director Auto Wings Ford Pvt Ltd, Azhar Majid Mir, Director, Auto Wings Ford Pvt Ltd, in presence of top management and huge gathering of customers and dignitaries.

Speaking on the occasion, Younis Bashir, General Manager Auto Wings Ford Pvt Ltd, said, "We are extremely delighted by the launch of Ford Eco-Sport SE which is special edition of Ford Ecosports, as Ford EcoSport is



one of the most popular compact SUVs we have in India."

The special edition comes with the upgraded features. It is available in

both petrol and diesel engine options. "As we have always seen the EcoSport with its signature tailgatemounted spare wheel, however, there

is no spare wheel at all in the EcoSport SE. Also, the rear bumper has a dualtone finish. The customers will get a tyre puncture repair kit with the new

variant as well," Younis Bashir said. The current guidelines allow an automaker to sell an M1 category passenger vehicle without a spare wheel if it is equipped with features like tubeless tyres, tyre puncture repair The passenger vehicles weighing

3.5 tonnes or less, and having a seating capacity of up to nine individuals are included in the M1 category.

The EcoSport SE has also features like the chrome front grille, electric sunroof, satin aluminium roof rails, 16-inch alloy wheels, automatic AC with heater, rear-view camera, emergency brake assist, electronic stability control, traction control system and hill launch assist.

The EcoSport SE also gets additional equipment in the form of HID headlamps, rain-sensing wipers, Ford MyKey, SYNC 3 8-inch touchscreen infotainment system compatible with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, electrochromic IRVM, 60-40 split rear seat,

six airbags, TPMS and cruise control. So far as the engine options are con-

cerned, the EcoSport SE gets a 1.5-litre TiVCT petrol unit making 122PS of maximum power and 149Nm of peak torque, and a 1.5-litre TDCi diesel unit belting out 100PS of maximum power and 215Nm of peak torque.

5-speed manual gearbox. There is no automatic transmission option though

Both the mills are mated to a

While EcoSport SE Petrol MT carries a price tag of Rs 10.49 lakh, EcoSport SE Diesel MT is worth Rs 10.99 lakh

Plus, the Ford EcoSport SE is being offered in seven colour options - Canyon Ridge, Lightning Blue, Diamond White, Moondust Silver, Race Red, Smoke Grey and Absolute offering cutting edge technology features and quality to the customers.