

24<sup>th</sup> year OF PUBLICATION

# KASHMIR OBSERVER

Wednesday 17 March | 02 Shaban | 1442 Hijri | Vol:24 | Issue: 63 | Pages:08 | Price: ₹3

www.kashmirobserver.net • twitter.com / kashmirobserver • facebook.com/kashmirobserver • Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-2016



P3 CITY

## ENSURING ECONOMIC FREEDOM OF WOMEN WILL REALISE DIVERSITY IN LEADERSHIP: VC KU

Vice-Chancellor of University of Kashmir Prof Talat Ahmad on Tuesday inaugurated a seminar organised as part of the varsity's series of academic activities pertaining to the

P5 THINK

## CHINA'S CITY OF LOST MOSQUES

The labyrinth of alleys and lanes in the old city of Suzhou hides a secret: historical fragments of the long history of Islam in China. Regular stories in the international press highlighting the treatment of Muslims in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous....



P7 STATE

## NIT SRINAGAR TO IMPLEMENT HINDI LANGUAGE

Following the directions from the Minister of Education (MoE), the National Institute of Technology Srinagar (NIT) is all set to implement...



In a dark time, the eye begins to see  
—Theodore Roethke

## NEWS DIGEST

### J&K Sees 97 Cases, 2 Corona Deaths

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday recorded 97 fresh COVID-19 cases that pushed its infection tally to 1,27,831, while two more deaths linked to the virus raised the toll to 1,972 in the Union Territory, officials said. Nineteen of the fresh cases are from the Jammu division and 78 from the Kashmir division, they said. [▶ More On P6](#)

### PIA Shaped Balloon Spotted In Jammu

SRINAGAR: For the second time in a week now, an aircraft-shaped balloon with PIA (Pakistan International Airlines) written on it, was recovered by local police in Bhalwal area of Jammu division on Tuesday morning. The balloon was spotted by locals following which a police team reached the spot, reports said Tuesday. "It was after due assessment that the team" [▶ More On P6](#)

### Kotwal Transferred To Ladakh

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor-led administration in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday transferred incumbent Inspector General of Registration, Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Pawan Kotwal and posted him to Union Territory of Ladakh. An order in this regard, of which a copy lies with news service GNS, says that the official is transferred and his services placed at the disposal of Union Territory of Ladakh for further posting.

### Muzaffar Baig Likely To Join PC Today

SRINAGAR: In a major political development, the founding member of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Muzaffar Hussain Baig is likely to join Peoples Conference (PC) on Wednesday. Baig is all set to join Sajad Gani Lone led Peoples Conference on Wednesday here and all the arrangements have been finalized in this regard, news agency KDC reported while quoting sources. [▶ More On P6](#)

### Youth Stabbed After Verbal Spat

SRINAGAR: A teenager on Tuesday was critically injured after being stabbed by a youth in Kawoosa village of central Kashmir's Budgam district. 17-year-old Amir Rashid Wani, son of Abdul Rashid Wani was stabbed by another youth after an altercation over some trivial issue took ugly turn in Kawoosa village of the district on Tuesday evening. [▶ More On P6](#)

# 32.31 Lakh People Given Domicile Certificates

## 1.22 Lakh Non-PRC Holders New Domiciles of J&K

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A total of 32.31 lakh people in Jammu and Kashmir have been given domicile certificates and include 122671 persons who were not Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC) holders, while 2.15 lakh applications have been rejected, Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy said on Tuesday.

Reddy also said in Lok Sabha that as per the information provided by the government of Jammu and Kashmir, a total of 35,44,938 applications for issue of domicile certificates have been received as on December 31, 2020, out of which 32,31,353 applicants have been issued domicile certificates.

In a specific query by the Congress parliamentarian



File Photo: Abid Bhat

from Chandrapur constituency in Maharashtra regarding "the total number of domicile certificates that have been issued to holders of the erstwhile Permanent Resident Certificate", Reddy said: "As on 31st December, 2020, a total of 31,08,682 Domicile Certificates have been issued to the dependents/holders of erstwhile Permanent Resident

Certificates in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir."

In other words, 122671 persons (32,31,353 minus 31,08,682) who were not PRC holders have been issued the domicile certificate.

A total of 2,15,438 applications have been rejected, he said replying a written question.

He said Rule 5 of the Jammu and Kashmir Grant of Domicile [▶ More On P6](#)

## 'No Info On Whatsapp Leak About Art-370 Scrapping'

The central government has no information on the leak of WhatsApp chat related to confidential and sensitive information, including scrapping of Article 370, which surfaced during the investigation of TRP scam by the Mumbai Police, Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday. A 500-page transcript of a purported WhatsApp conversation, containing details of Balakot air strikes and abrogation of Article 370, went viral in January this year after it was [▶ More On P6](#)

## Govt Strengthening Counter Militancy Apparatus: MHA

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Government of India (GOI) Tuesday said that keeping in view the modern weapons used by the militants, it has been strengthening its counter militancy apparatus.

A question was raised in the Lok Sabha whether the government is aware that militants have resources and more advanced arms and ammunition and what are the plans to equip

# Gunmen Loot Rs 3.50L From Srinagar Bank

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Three armed robbers looted Rs 3.5 lakh from a bank in outskirts of Srinagar on Tuesday in the second such incident in less than a week, officials said.

A police official said that the gunmen entered the Grameen Bank branch at Panzina Srinagar this afternoon and threatened the bank staffers with guns. After

committing the heist they fled from the spot and then the bank officials informed the police, the official said. "Efforts are on to identify the gunmen," the official added.

This is the second bank robbery in less than a week.

On March 12, a Grameen Bank branch at Ogmuna Kunzer area of Tangmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district was robbed of Rs 2.24 lakh. The branch had [▶ More On P6](#)

# Major Reshuffle In Admin, 34 Officers Transferred

Mohammad Aijaz Is New DC Srinagar, Raghav Langer Is Div Com Jammu,

Observer Web Desk

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday ordered a major reshuffle in administration, transferring and posting at least 34 officers with immediate effect. As per separate orders, Dr.

Piyush Singla (IAS), Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag. Mohammad Aijaz (IAS), Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar. Ms. Avny Lavasa (IAS), Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, has been asked to hold [▶ More On P6](#)

## Police 'Prevents' 4 Youth From Joining Militancy

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Tuesday claimed to have prevented four youth brainwashed by Pakistan based recruiters' through social media handles, from joining militant ranks.

Two teenagers from central Kashmir's Budgam district were recovered from Tral town in south Kashmir after being tracked by police teams, a police spokesperson said Tuesday. [▶ More On P6](#)

## DDB Cease To Exist After DDC Formation: MHA

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Tuesday informed the Lok Sabha that after the constitution of District Development Council (DDCs), District Development Boards (DDB) have ceased to exist.

Similarly, the District Planning Committee chaired by the Member of Parliament representing the area has taken the place of DDB. [▶ More On P6](#)

## Wasim Rizvi's Act Part Of Deeper Conspiracy: MMU

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Mutahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU) on Tuesday said that the former UP Shia Waqf Board chairman Wasim Rizvi's move to approach Supreme Court to seek removal of 26 verses from the Holy Quran was a part of a deep-rooted conspiracy aimed at stoking sectarian tension among Muslims.

Noted Shia leader Maulana Masroor Abbas Ansari said that an emergency meeting



was held at the head office of Anjuman Shari-e-Shiyan, Budgam, in connection with

the blasphemous act of Waseem Rizvi who has filed a mischievous [▶ More On P6](#)

# HC Puts JKCA Elections In Abeyance

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir high court on Tuesday ordered that the conduct of the proposed elections of the office bearers of the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) shall remain in abeyance. Reserving its orders on a number of appeals filed by

various parties including City Cricket Club, Srinagar and Others, a bench of Justices Ali Mohammad Magrey and Puneet Gupta also directed that till the final decision in the matter, the Committee of Administrators (CoA) so appointed by the court shall only look into the routine day to day affairs of the Jammu and [▶ More On P6](#)

# 'Take Rs 30 & Set Me Free From Treaty': A Postcard To Gulab Singh's Heir

Badar Bashir

Some thirty years after he petitioned the Dogra Maharaja's great grandson, veteran photojournalist of Kashmir is calling it "arush of young blood" to set himself free from the shackles of the notorious treaty.

On March 16, 1846, the treaty of Amritsar between the British Government and Maharaja Gulab Singh of Jammu apparently "sealed the fate of Kashmiris" and pushed them in an era of "tyranny and taxation".

The Imperial British sold the erstwhile state to Singh for a sum of Rs 75 lakh (Nanak Shahi). With this single pact, historians say, Kashmiris were sold along with their land, water and air.

After the Dogra dynasty fell in

the fall of 1947, last monarch, Hari Singh's son, crown prince Karan Singh became Sadre Riyasat of Jammu and Kashmir. His rise as a seasoned congressman remained entrenched in the minds of Kashmiris over the years.

In one fine morning of 1989, Habib Naqash dispatched a postcard to his address.

"I was casually sitting with my colleagues and discussing the day when we were sold so cheap and in such a callous manner," Naqash, a jovial photojournalist holding sway over his tribe, told Kashmir Observer.

Habib Naqash was then frequenting Srinagar's Press Enclave as one of the few photojournalists who would be soon covering Kashmir's explosive situation akin to some war photographers.



He was in the middle of the same pressing assignment when he decided to do the unthinkable. "I remember sending a postcard

carrying Rs30 to Karan Singh's palace with a note that I should be set free from the bondage now. But it was never accepted," Habib said over a

hearty laugh.

He counted his share of money keeping the whole amount and population in view.

Kashmir Observer's repeated attempts to reach out to Karan Singh for his take on the story failed. While it remains interesting to see whether or not the Dogra dynasty's last crown prince has any inkling about the telling incident, this story will be updated as and when he responds.

Earlier Habib Naqash's long-term colleague, veteran journalist, Yusuf Jameel uploaded the details of the incident, on the day, when the treaty turned 175.

"In 1989 (or early 1990), photographer Habib Naqash sent a money order of Rs 30 to Dr. Karan Singh, the scion of erstwhile Dogra rulers, with the request that he may be freed from the bondage as he is making compensatory payment with interest," Jameel wrote on his social media handle. [▶ More On P6](#)





To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

BAZAR  
OBSERVER  
Wednesday| 17-03-2021



## Risk Of Early Death For Men 60 Per Cent Higher Than For Women, Global Study Finds

Press Trust Of India

Men aged 50 years and above may have a significantly higher risk of death than women of the same age group, partly due heavier rates of smoking and heart disease in men, according to a large study of people in 28 countries. However, the research published in Canadian Medical Association Journal found that the gap in mortality risk among men and women varied across countries. "Many studies have examined the potential impact of social, behavioural and biological factors on sex differences in mortality, but few have been able to investigate potential variation across countries," said Yu-Tzu Wu, from the King's College London, and Newcastle University in the UK. "Different cultural traditions, historical

contexts, and economic and societal development may influence gender experiences in different countries, and thus variably affect the health status of men and women," said Wu. The research examined different socio-economic, lifestyle, health and social factors that might contribute to the mortality gap between men and women aged 50 and older. The data included over 179,000 people across 28 countries and more than half -- 55 per cent -- were women. The study found that men aged 50 and over had a 60 per cent greater risk of death than women, partly explained by heavier rates of smoking and heart disease in men. "The effects of sex on mortality should include not only physiologic variation between men and women but also the social construct of gender, which differs across societies. In particular, the large variation across countries may

imply a greater effect of gender than sex," Wu said. "Although the biology of the sexes is consistent across populations, variation in cultural, societal and historical contexts can lead to different life experiences of men and women and variation in the mortality gap across countries," Wu added. The researchers noted that the findings are consistent with the literature on life expectancy and death rates. "The heterogeneity of sex differences in mortality across countries may indicate the substantial impact of gender on healthy aging in addition to biological sex, and the crucial contributions of smoking may also vary across different populations," the authors of the study noted. The team recommends that public health policies should account for sex- and gender-based differences and the influence of social and cultural factors on health.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in school records as Amaan Gulzar While my correct name is Amaan Gulzar Sofi which needs immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office to the Imamia Public School Wahabpora Budgam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Amaan Gulzar Sofi  
S/O Gulzar Ahamd Sofi  
R/O Bandgam Budgam

BMG

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

#### NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one.

Shri : Nisar Ahmad Dar

S/o: Abdul Gani Dar

R/o: Chinar Bagh Chadoora Budgam owner of vehicle bearing

Registration No: JK04E-2779 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S

J&K Bank B/U Malpora .

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 officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3045

Dated 16-03-2021

MCB

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir



### PUBLIC NOTICE

I am applying for the issuance of Fertilizer License under name and style Green Hi Tech Horti Fertilizers Main Market Shopain . If Anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Chief Agricultuer Officer Shopain within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohsin Iqbal  
S/O Mohd Iqbal Naikoo  
R/o Shahilatoo Shopain

ast

### Sad Demise



With profound grief and sorrow, it is to inform that Haleema W/o Late Mohammad Maqbool Bhat R/o Sathu Bar Bar Shah Srinagar left for heavenly abode on Tuesday,16 March, 2021. The mourning will be held only for 3 days. However, There will be no congregational fateha khawani

### BEREAVED

Javiad Ahmad Bhat & Others

Cell: +91-9419540025

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I am applying for the issuance of Pesticides License under name and style Bhat Pesticides Chitragam Shopain . If Anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Plant Protection Officer Lal Mandi Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Mubashir Ahamd Bhat S/O Gh Mohd Bhat R/o Chitragam Shopain

AST

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI PHE (HYD) DIVISION BANDIPORE

Email: [xenhydbpr@gmail.com](mailto:xenhydbpr@gmail.com), [xen-hydbpr@jk.gov.in](mailto:xen-hydbpr@jk.gov.in)

Address:- Mini Secretariat Bandipore Block-C

#### TENDER DOCUMENT

##### TOP S H E E T

E-NIT S. No: 31-PHE/Hyd/Bpr of 2020-2021

The Bidding documents consisting of eligibility criteria, specification, bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms & conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the e-procurement Portal <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per schedule of dates given below:-

S. No.	Description	Date	Time
		DD MM	YYYY
1	Publishing date of NIT	15	03 2021
2	Download start date	15	03 2021
3	Bid submission start date	15	03 2021
4	Bid submission end date	05	04 2021
5	Bid opening date	06	04 2021

#### Notice Inviting e-Tender

E-NIT 31/PHE/HYD/BPR of 2020-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of J&K e-tenders (Two cover System) on Item Rate Basis are invited from Reputed and resourceful contractors/ Firms/Companies/Joint Venture of repute in PWD/ Railways and other state Governments for the following works, which should be uploaded on the Procurement web portal <http://jktenders.gov.in> for the subjected work(s) referred below to be received by the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department PHE (Hyd) Division Bandipora and as per the details mentioned in this e-tender notification and to whom all the terms and conditions of detailed e-NIT /Tender Documents/ PWD Form No:- 25 double are accepted. The detailed tender document and Specifications etc. can be downloaded on the e-procurement portal <http://jktenders.gov.in>. The cost of tender documents (Non-refundable/Non-Transferable) should be in the shape of e-Challan or Treasury Challan/Receipt in favour Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE (Hyd) Division Bandipora

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in lacs)	Cost of TD (in J)	Time of completion	Class of Contract	Position of AA
01	Retrofitting of water supply schemes Tilmath Pardaywala by way of providing/ laying and fitting of pipes, construction of R/wall, chain link fencing around structures, anchor / saddle blocks at spots, collection chamber, spring protection including installation of 30 unconnected FHTC's at Tilmath Pardawala incl maintenance for a period of 03 years which incl DLP of 12 months.	51.55Lacs Incl. cost of pipes, chain link	5000.00 Indicate Name of work with NIT S.No on TR/ E-Challan	03 Months	AAY	Accorded
02	Retrofitting of water supply scheme Tangath by way of providing, laying and fitting of pipes, construction of Anchor/ saddle blocks, chain link fencing around structures, sluice chamber, intake/ collection chamber and providing and laying of filter media to 0.60 MGD SSFP including installation of 37 unconnected FHTC's at Tangath incld. maintenance for a period of 3 years which include DLP of 12 months.	63.18lacs Incl. cost of pipes,chain link	5000.00 Indicate Name of work with NIT S.No on TR/ E-Challan	06 Months	AAY	Accorded
03	Retrofitting of WSS Nagistan Surbal by way of providing, laying and fitting of pipes, construction of R/wall, chain link fencing around structures, anchor/ saddle blocks at spots, collection chamber, crate protection at head site including installation of 50 unconnected FHTC's at Numberdapatil incl maintenance for a period of 03 years which including DLP of 12 months	67.60lacs Incl. cost of pipes, chain link, crates	5000.00 Indicate Name of work with NIT S.No on TR/ E-Challan	06 Months	AAY	Accorded
04	Retrofitting of WSS Paswalpati Kudara by way of providing, laying and fitting of pipes, construction of R/wall, chain link fencing around structures, supporting pillars for RWM, construction of 0.15 Lac gallon SR, sluice chamber, collection chamber, crate protection at head site including installation of 80 unconnected FHTC's at Kudara, Chreapati, Paswalpati incl maintenance for a period of 03 years which including DLP of 12 months.	73.49lacs Incl. cost of pipes, chain link, crates	5000.00 Indicate Name of work with NIT S.No on TR/ E-Challan	06 Months	AAY	Accorded
05	Retrofitting of WSS Shamthan by way of providing, laying and fitting of pipes, construction of R/wall, chain link fencing around structures, anchor/ saddle blocks at spots, construction of 0.05 Lac gallon SR, sluice chamber, collection chamber, spring protection including installation of 20 unconnected FHTC's at Shamthan incl maintenance for a period of 03 years which including DLP of 12 months.	63.90 Lacs Incl. cost of pipes,chain link	5000.00 Indicate Name of work with NIT S.No on TR/ E-Challan	06 Months	AAY	Accorded
06	Retrofitting of WSS Nagistan Surbal by way of providing, laying and fitting of pipes, construction of anchor/ saddle blocks at spots, construction of 0.15 Lac gallon SR, sluice chamber, including installation of 36 unconnected FHTC's at Mughal Mohalla Nagistan, Konsipati Nagistan, Upper Nagistan and Surbal incl maintenance for a period of 03 years which including DLP of 12 months	88.30 Lacs Incl. cost of pipes	5000.00 Indicate Name of work with NIT S.No on TR/ E-Challan	06 Months	AAY	Accorded
07	Retrofitting of WSS T.A Shah by way of providing, laying and fitting of pipes, construction of anchor/ saddle blocks at spots, including installation of 30 unconnected FHTC's at T.A Shah, Chhatti, Gujarpati including maintenance for a period of 03 years which including DLP of 12 months	65.96 Lacs Incl. cost of pipes	5000.00 Indicate Name of work with NIT S.No on TR/ E-Challan	06 Months	AAY	Accorded

Position of Funds:-  
Major Head of Account:

Available  
Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- The tenderer should in his own interest inspect and examine the site, its surroundings/topography, nature of ground, climatic conditions, accessibility or other relevant information at his own expenses and responsibility to satisfy himself before tendering for the advertised work. The bidder will have to execute each part of the work i.e. Civil / Electro-Mechanical part under the close supervision of the respective Engineer- in- Charges of Civil & Mechanical wings In-charge of the Scheme.
- If L1 fails to start the work within 15 days of the issuance of letter of intent or allotment, whichever is earlier, the department shall allot the work to the other willing Lowest bidder like L2, L3, L4 and EMD of the lowest bidder including the additional Security Performance shall be forfeited , be-sides debarring the Contractor for a period of two years for participating in the e- Nit's issued by the kmr. PHE Department Srinagar.

#### 2.0 CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION OF TENDERS:-

##### 2.1 TECHNICAL

- The contractor should possess the experience having successfully completed works during last five years ending 31/03/2020 which should be any one of the similar nature works:-
  - Similar works for:-
    - Civil Contractor means works like Rapid Sand filtration Plant or Slow Sand Filtration Plant, Clarifloculator, PST, OHT or the RCC Service Reservoir or Overhead Tanks , Laying & fitting of Pipes & for
    - In case the bidder does not meet the requirements singly, he can adopt the option of joint venture or consortium as described in the tender document under JV clause.
  - One similar completed work costing not less than 80% of advertised cost during the last five years. Or
  - Two similar completed works costing not less than 50% of advertised cost each during the last five years. Or
  - Three similar completed works costing not less than the 40% of advertised cost during the last five years.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

Executive Engineer,  
PHE (Hyd) Division Bandipora

DIPK-15128/20

## Indian Institute of Carpet Technology Srinagar

Baghi-Ali-Mardhan-Khan, Nowshera, Srinagar

Email: [contact@iictrsrinagar.org](mailto:contact@iictrsrinagar.org); [www.iictrsrinagar.org](http://www.iictrsrinagar.org)

Ph. 0194-2411143, Fax: 2428636

#### Short Term Tender Notice

The Institute requires following items for implementation of "Technology Up-gradation Scheme" sponsored by National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India. In this connection, sealed quotations, affixed with Rs. 5/- revenue stamp, are invited from registered dealers/General order suppliers for supply of items given below:

S. No	Name of the Items	Quantity
1.	Tool Kit Box Complete Set (Taparia)	01 No.
2.	Ripet Machine. Carpet Loom (BOSCH)	01 No.
3.	Drilling Machine. Hammer Type along with bits 05 to 13 mm (BOSCH)	01 No.
4.	Cutting Machine as per sample (BOSCH)	01 No.
5.	Electronic Weighing Machine Capacity 50 kg	01 No.
6.	Craft Paper (as per sample)	05 Rim
7.	Cartridge 933 920 set of 04	02 Sets
8.	Photo Paper Rim A4/A3	04 No (02 each)
9.	Paper Rim A4	10 No
10.	Steel Inch Tap 50 sq ft length	01 No
11.	Permanent Marker	10 No
12.	Plastic Chair (Nilkamal)	22 No
13.	Plastic Table (Nilkamal)	02 No
14.	Water Cooler 10 ltr. (Purit )	01 No
15.	Glass (Steel)	12 No
16.	Wall Clock	01 No
17.	Matting 20x15 with fixing	300 Sq.ft
18.	Filing Cabinet	02 No
19.	Coal Bukhari	02 No

The quotations accompanied with earnest money in the shape of CDR 2% of the quoted amount pledged to Director IICT, Srinagar must reach this Institute by or before 22-03-2021 till 1.00 p.m. The tenders shall be opened on the same day at 2.30 p.m.

The undersigned reserves the right to accept/reject any tender without assigning any reason thereof.

DIPK-NB-6443/20

Sd/-  
Project Coordinator

## Office of the District Soil Conservation Officer, Department of Soil and Water Conservation, Anantnag/Kulgam

E-TENDER NOTICE of  
NIT No: 08 of 2020-21 Dated:- 15/3/2021

For and on behalf of the Governor, Jammu & Kashmir (UT), e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Government / Central Government Organizations for the following work:

S.No	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (Amount in rupees)	Earnest Money (Amount in rupees)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document (Amount in rupees)	Time of Completion (Days)	Receiving / Opening Authority
1	Up gradation of Spring at Herpor Dialgam Anantnag	0.90	1800	ABC & D	200	5	Tender Opening Authority
2	Up gradation of Spring at Patch-gamnd Kund Kulgam	0.90	1800	ABC & D	200	5	Tender Opening Authority

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities,(B.O.Q), set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:- [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)

Position of funds: Partially available

Position of AA/TS: Accorded

Publishing Date	15.3.2021
Download Start Date	16.3.2021 from 10.00 AM
Bid Submission Start Date	16.3.2021 from 10.00 AM
Bid Submission End Date	22.3.2021 upto 2.00 P.M
Date of opening of Financial Bid (online)	22.3.2021 at 2.30 P.M (in the Office of District Soil and Water Conservation Officer Anantnag).

- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the Departmental Website:- [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)
- The price bids uploaded on the website in time will be opened on 22.3.2021 at 2.30 P.M in the office of District Soil and Water Conservation Officer Anantnag).. In case of public holiday on the date of opening of the bid, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- Bids must be uploaded along-with cost of tender document as shown against the work in the shape of Scanned copy e-challan / copy of receipt from treasury favouring "Assistant Conservator of Forests, Department of Soil & Water Conservation Anantnag/Kulgam" by crediting the requisite charges to the MH 0406 - FOREST (Revenue). Scanned copy of the earnest money / bid security in shape of CDR / FDR pledged to "Assistant Conservator of Forests, Department of Soil & Water Conservation Anantnag/Kulgam" shall also need to be uploaded.
- The amount advertised has been worked out at par with the rates of Jammu & Kashmir Sanctioned Schedule of rates 2012.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" options as well as from " Bidders Manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per IT Act, bidders can get Digital Signature Certificate from approved vendor.
- The Bidders have to submit their financial bids online 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.
- Bidders must ensure to positively upload scanned copies of below mentioned documents for Technical Bid.
  - CDR
  - PAN CARD
  - GST Registration number.
  - Registration Card
  - e-challan / copy of receipt from treasury as cost of Tender Document.

No: DSCO/ANG/KUL/E-Tender/2020-21/734-39  
Dated :15-3-2021

DIPK-15138/20

Sd/-  
District Soil & Water Conservation Officer,  
Department of Soil and Water Conservation  
Anantnag/Kulgam



## ISHA 8:03

(Kashmir Observer, 17 March, 2005)



## KASHMIR OBSERVER

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the  
Kashmir Observer LLP

Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001

Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Ind Area, Srinagar.

RNI Registration No: 69503/98

Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16

Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider

Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja

Switchboard: (0194) 2106304

Editorial: (0194) 2502327

Email editorial: editor@kashmirobserver.net

### K O V I E W

## Surge in Covid cases

India recorded 26,291 new COVID-19 cases on Monday, its highest single-day spike in 85 days, taking the country's infection tally to around one crore fourteen lakh. India's COVID-19 tally had crossed one crore mark on December 19. The country has also witnessed 118 more fatalities taking the number of deaths to 1.59 lakh.

There has been sudden spike in the infections over the past five days taking the active caseload to 2,19,262. At the same time, the recovery rate has dropped to 96.68 per cent. Three states— Maharashtra, Kerala and Punjab— account for 77 percent of the total active cases.

This has brought lockdown back in vogue in some places. Nagpur is the first city to go under lockdown in the second covid wave. Only essential services will remain open in the city. Other places are also mulling the lockdown. However, the government of Maharashtra which has witnessed some surge recently, has balked at imposing fresh lockdown saying it was not the answer to the rising COVID-19 cases. The state government has decided to make restrictions stricter. There is now also pressure increasing on the government to get more people vaccinated.

India has so far administered the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine to 2.14 crore people till March 12. However, this figure represents only 1.58 per cent of India's 135.5 crore population. At this rate, India will take 12.6 years to vaccinate 70 percent population. Now the government is trying to speed up the process. The next in line among the high priority groups are those above 50 years of age. Union health ministry has announced that at least 2 million vaccine doses were administered across the country, making it the highest in a single day so far. Now the government plans to take it to 5 million a day. To make it possible vaccination centres are being expanded to 100,000 across the country.

The urgency of vaccination can't be overemphasised. Last year, the extended Covid lockdown battered the economy, leaving lakhs of people unemployed. The country can hardly afford fresh surge in the cases forcing the government to go for yet another lockdown. So the vaccination has to pick up in right earnest. In Kashmir too, there's a dire need that more and more people are vaccinated. On Monday, J&K recorded 94 new coronavirus cases, taking the tally to 1.28 lakh, while no fresh death was reported. Srinagar district recorded the highest number of 49 cases. But the vaccination is not yet commensurate with the spread of the infection. It is time that the government speeds up the inoculation drive and sets up more vaccination centres. The Valley needs to be Covid-free for the businesses to return to normal and tourism to pick up in the warmer seasons ahead.

### O T H E R O P I N O N

## Manage privatisation

A key government initiative this year will be the proposed privatisation of public sector enterprises, while the State will confine itself to the bare minimum presence in strategic sectors. Coupled with the monetisation of assets, as proposed in the budget, this will herald a major change in India's political economy, where, over time, the State will retreat from directly managing companies and assets and confine itself to a broader regulatory and oversight rule. This newspaper supports the privatisation drive and believes that it is not the State's business to be in business. There was a historical context for the government to invest in public sector enterprises in the initial decades after Independence, but that era is long over.

But it is important to recognise that privatisation is not merely an economic decision — it is squarely within the realm of politics. It is tied to questions about the nature and responsibility of the State, the future of employees in units which are meant to be privatised, and the future economic implications in sectors which move into private hands. And that is why it is crucial to manage this much-needed process of privatisation with political finesse.

This includes reaching out to all political and economic stakeholders — from Opposition parties to trade unions. It includes building a strong intellectual case for privatisation — while reassuring those who fear that they will bear the brunt of the consequences of reforms. And it includes keeping a flexible outlook and be willing to engage in negotiations rather than adopt an absolutist attitude. As the controversy over farm laws shows, economic reforms are deeply contentious now and the role of the private sector continues to be viewed with suspicion. The government must be transparent and consultative, while the Opposition must be responsible and not engage in mindless obstructionism of sound policy initiatives.

Hindustan Times

# World Consumer Rights Day: Digital Literacy and Way Ahead

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

SECTION 4 (1) (b) of RTI Act 2005 impresses upon public authorities to make voluntary disclosure of information through their official websites. When the information is officially available, this ensures transparency in the functioning of Government plus people do not have to access the information by filing applications under RTI Act and waiting for 30 days or more.

When Mushtaq Ahmad Lone a dedicated RTI campaigner from remote Bonen village of District Budgam told me that he was being denied the information sought under Right to Information Act (RTI) by Govt officials of Food Civil Supplies and Consumers Affairs Department (FCS & CA) for many months, I thought he would have asked for some sensitive information. When Mushtaq told me that information pertained to BPL, PHH and AAY ration card beneficiaries of some villages in his area, I was astounded why this basic information was being denied? The details of Below Poverty Line (BPL) also called Priority Households (PHH) and Antodaya Anna Yojna (AAY), Non Priority Households (NPHH) and Above Poverty Line (APL) ration card beneficiaries is actually available on e-portal of the FCS & CA (www.jkepdas.nic.in) for last several years but the Government never created awareness about the same in past. This should have been on the top priority of the FCS & CA Department to make sure consumers know in which category they have been registered. The officials of this department don't want to provide the details of BPL or AAY or PHH beneficiaries to the public under RTI Act with their seal and signature as the beneficiary list on the e-portal was not acceptable to most of the storekeepers until 6 to 7 months back. There are many blacksheep who still keep consumers in dark about their subsidized ration entitlement. These officials have created their own kingdoms and are selling rice and wheat flour at exorbitant rates to the poorest of the poor. This unholy practice has been curbed to some extent because of the Digital Literacy campaign launched by people like Mushtaq Ahmad and activists of Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement but a lot more needs to be done in this direction by Government and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's).

#### Exposing the scam

Last year in March we exposed a scam wherein around 50 BPL consumers in Loolipora village of Budgam were being sold subsidized rice at highly exorbitant rates for more than 3 years by the Government storekeeper of FCS & CA Department. The rice was sold @ Rs 15 / Kg which otherwise was to be sold @ Rs 3 / kg only to these poor families. Before exposing a scam in Loolipora one of the residents from a nearby village Bonen namely Sona Ullah had contacted Mushtaq Ahmad. He was provided a ration on exorbitant rates by the storekeeper of FCS & CA Department. The aggrieved man's statement was video recorded by Mushtaq and sent to the Assistant Director Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS & CA) Budgam. The officer took quick action and suspended the storekeeper. The video went viral. More and more aggrieved consumers got in touch with Mushtaq which included some three to four persons from Loolipora village in Chadoora. They complained about the denial of free rations because the local storekeeper had given them fake Non Priority Household (NPHH) ration cards (also known as Above Poverty Line (APL) ration cards.)

#### Mushtaq Ahmad Lone

The RTI movement decided to undertake a kind of social audit in Loolipora village. Mushtaq got in touch with another activist, Nazir Ahmad, a lawyer from the same village. With others they undertook a random survey of households, cross-checking about 80 NPHH/APL ration cards against the lists on the ePDS portal. Of these 80 households, 50

turned out to be BPL/PHH on the ePDS portal. For three to four years each of these 50 consumers had paid Rs 15 per kg of rice instead of the Rs 3 per kg that they had been entitled to pay under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). Their APL and NPHH cards were fake. They had been created by local storekeepers in league with the Tehsil Supply Officer (TSO). In some cases, the consumers had been given school notebooks with the seal and signature of the storekeeper and TSO.

#### NFSA in J&K

The National Food Security Act (NFSA), better known as the Right to Food, is a people-friendly legislation that aims to benefit the disadvantaged and marginalised communities of India. Despite the existence of Article 370 at the time, the NFSA was extended to Jammu & Kashmir in full with effect from April 1, 2016, when the PDP-BJP led government was in power. The then J&K legislature had assented to this bill.

**The proactive disclosure of information of BPL, APL, PHH or NPHH consumers on electronic public distribution system (e-PDS) portal proved to be helpful. The Government needs to involve NGOs and women self-help groups (SHG's) to reach out to people regarding digital literacy.**

The NFSA provides highly subsidised rations of wheat flour for Rs 2 per kg and rice for Rs 3 per kg to about 75 lakh people in J&K who have been listed as PHH. Another 45 lakh people listed as NPHH get their rations at higher rates. This means that more than 95% of J&K's population is covered by the NFSA. But have the benefits of the NFSA actually reached the people it is meant to serve?

Each of the 50 consumers in Loolipora village who had bought rice at exorbitant rates for the last five years had been cheated of Rs 20,000 to Rs 25,000 in total. Altogether, more than Rs 15 to 20 lakh had been embezzled from a single village only. Who has benefited? Had these people been made aware that they were supposed to get subsidized ration, they would not have been looted. Imagine how much money would have been embezzled by FCS & CA officials in other villages of J&K where there is no awareness about e-PDS?

#### Complaint Filed

On June 6th 2020 we brought the Loolipora issue to the notice of Secretary Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS & CA) JK Government. A team of two senior officers from FCS&CA Department was tasked to probe the fraud. On June 9th the Joint Director FCS & CA Kashmir visited Loolipora village. People raised slogans against corrupt officials of the department. We were asked to submit our statement of the facts. The preliminary inquiry into the Loolipora ration scam revealed the involvement of nine to ten officials of the food department, of whom a few have retired from service. The letter from the office of Secretary, Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS & CA), dated 5.07.2020 assured that action was being taken against the erring officers. The Secretary FCS & CA encouraged us in his thank you note and remarked that our work was akin to a 'social audit.' The money embezzled is yet to be recovered from the storekeeper who is under suspension since the last 9 months?

#### e-POS Machines

Around 4 years back the Government decided to install electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) machines in all government run ration depots across J&K which includes private fair price shops as well. The then Minister FCS & CA Chowdhary Zulfikar termed introduction of ePoS machines as one of the biggest reforms in bringing transparency in the Public Distribution System (PDS). Crores of rupees were spent on purchase of these machines and for many years

the machines were not put into use. It took the Government more than 3 years to actually put these machines into use at ration depots. The Loolipora incident compelled the Government to make effective use of ePoS machines and aadhar linking all consumers. This was only possible due to personal efforts of the Secretary FCS & CA Mr Simrandeep Singh a young IAS officer.

In July last year we again exposed a similar scandal in Tarzoo village in Sopore. In this village around 150 BPL consumers were sold rice @ Rs 15 / Kg (APL rate) which was actually to be sold @ Rs 3 / Kg. After bringing both the issues into the notice of Govt, a probe was initiated. The accused are yet to be taken to task. Through this piece I request the Govt to make the probe details of Tarzoo public. In Loolipora case, many officials were taken to task few of whom had retired and the amount was to be deducted from their pension as per the order issued by Govt. How much amount has been actually deducted

from their pension in the last 9 months is not actually known. We will be again following up the case with the Government soon or will get the details using RTI. We are waiting for the action to be taken against other officials. If the Govt does not act, we may seek judicial intervention by way of filing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL). When complaints continued to pour in, the Government decided to put into use the electronic Point of Sale machines (ePoS).

#### How does an ePoS machine work?

The Aadhaar-linked electronic Point of Sale machine (e-PoS machine) used at ration stores displays price, the weight of items and the credentials of a consumer. The field officials of the department of Food and Civil Supplies were thus reluctant to use these machines as there was no space left for corruption, mismanagement and black-marketing. The Govt storekeepers as well as fair price shop owners were supposed to sell the ration on the fixed rates to consumers plus his or her category under BPL, AAY, APL, PHH or NPHH is also very much visible on these machines. At the end of the transaction the consumer is supposed to get an electronically generated receipt which would show all these details.

Around 3 years back Food and Civil Supplies Department of Kerala deployed electronic point of sale (ePoS) machines in all the 14,374 ration shops in the state. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan declared the complete digitization of the state's ration distribution / supply chain, in compliance with the National Food Security Act (NFSA) at a function in Kannur on May 21st 2018. The Department completed the task of installation of ePoS machines across all retail ration outlets after connecting the 3.41 crore ration beneficiaries in the state with the ration card management system utilizing the Aadhaar database. The department gave training to all 14,374 ration dealers and their staff in managing the sales through ePoS machines on a single day at 348 centres in the state. Around 1,500 Civil Supplies Department officials also underwent training in the ration card management system.

#### Social auditing

With an aim of ensuring transparency in the public distribution system (PDS), the Food & Civil Supplies Department Kerala signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) for conducting social auditing to ensure a smooth ration distribution system. A pilot social audit on the National Food

Security Act (NFSA) was conducted last year in Chengal Choola area of Trivandrum, Kerala. The TISS report found that several beneficiaries were deprived of their true entitlements under PDS. The audit report, full of poignant pictures of the living conditions of the people revealed that food-kit distribution had been discontinued but was resumed a week before the audit, many receiving them for the first time. Though all Asraya beneficiaries (Kerala Govt scheme for poor) were eligible for Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), the audit found that only 44% got them. A similar social audit conducted by RTI Movement volunteers also revealed a lot of mismanagement in Loolipora and Tarzoo areas as mentioned above. In order to ensure transparency in PDS, J&K Govt also needs to undertake a massive social audit in association with some reputed institutions as complaints against Govt storekeepers are constantly pouring in. Some months back one more store keeper from Chara e Sharief circle in Budgam was suspended by the Administrative Department as he was found to be involved in serious offences and looting poor consumers. The Kerala government has started GPS tracking of vehicles transporting food grains in the distribution chain as well as installation of surveillance systems in all distribution centers as part of the PDS renovation. J&K Govt must also follow this model.

#### Revivification of ration cards

In most of the villages across J&K Govt, employees and well off people have been provided Below Poverty Line (BPL) or even Antodaya Anna Yojna (AAY) ration cards and they are getting subsidized ration for years and years. These influential people are actually snatching the right of genuine poor and disadvantaged people who are deprived of this entitlement. There are cases wherein A class contractors, Sarpanches and members of panchayat owning land and property have been provided BPL ration cards and are getting subsidized ration from Govt. Under an order No : FCS & CA/Bud/2020/1128-34 Dated 1.10.2020 the Assistant Director FCS & CA Budgam assured to undertake re-verification of BPL, AAY beneficiaries within 3 weeks but till date the re-verification is yet to be initiated. The DC Budgam had actually directed for this re-verification in 2017 and it took FCS & CA officials 3 years to issue an order and actual work is still not done on ground.

#### Conclusion

The proactive disclosure of information of BPL, APL, PHH or NPHH consumers on electronic public distribution system (e-PDS) portal proved to be helpful. This didn't only help the villagers of Loolipora or Tarzoo but people in most of the districts in J&K. There are still many villages, towns, colonies and mohalla's where awareness is needed. The Government needs to involve NGOs and women self-help groups (SHG's) to reach out to people regarding digital literacy. Mushtaq's limited digital literacy helped to expose the corrupt practices being undertaken by officials of the Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department (FCS & CA) for the last many years. We need to create more and more people like Mushtaq who would act as whistleblowers in their respective areas. Women can especially play a great role in this. They need to be trained how to access information from e-PDS portal. The digital literacy will ensure transparency in the public distribution system (PDS)

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

*Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is Founder and Chairman of Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement. He is Anant Fellow for Climate Action and Acumen India Fellow. Feedback: bhatrajamuzaffar@gmail.com*



OBSERVER  
MAIL

All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

### MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O. Box # 337, GP0, Srinagar-190 001  
email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

## Comedy of Errors

As well know Rj in the valley has landed in a controversy after he posted an obnoxious video on his social media handle. In this video he's enacting the role of a husband who's agitated with his wife who spends recklessly, he's seen reprimanding her for spending hefty amounts on online shopping during the pandemic. This apparently funny video is problematic on two accounts, first it perpetuates the misogynist and sexist notion that women are spendthrift and

rely on their husbands for paying their bills. His abrupt takeover of the phone call glorifies male condensing behaviour, it is the typical, 'let the man of the house talk' absurdity. The second and the more despicable part of the video is where he takes a jibe at the delivery boy who is unable to speak clearly. In this video he is seen sniggering without any qualms after every distasteful and disparaging comment he passes. This video clip is appalling and reeks of sadism. The nasty humour that he is employing

promotes ableism and is dehumanising people with a disability. Someone's disability should not become fodder for a content creator. The fact that this video was widely circulated on social media is upsetting and speaks volumes about our society, it can also be attributed to group thinking on social media platforms which erodes our moral consciousness. People should act responsibly on social media platforms where likes and shares are seen as validating behaviours.

The RJ has now posted another apology video. Sure, everyone deserves a second chance. However, we must also realise that what he did was not only the fault with an individual but goes on to show the larger insensitivity that our society has towards these issues. We need to collectively be more aware, alert, inclusive and sensitive.

Mehnaz Mehraj Shah  
Mehnazs@rediffmail



# China's City of Lost Mosques

Alessandra Cappelletti

**The Cultural Revolution effectively banned Islam in China, as religions of any kind were considered tools to oppress and silence the peoples' needs. As a result, little remains of these religious buildings today. But the traces that do still exist – a door, a stone, the structure of the façade, or simply a known address, written in an archive – are symbolic representations of a past life**

The labyrinth of alleys and lanes in the old city of Suzhou hides a secret: historical fragments of the long history of Islam in China. Regular stories in the international press highlighting the treatment of Muslims in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region tend to obscure the fact that Islam was once highly regarded by Chinese emperors.

From written records and imperial edicts engraved on steles (standing stone slabs monuments) it is clear that these Islamic communities enjoyed the favour of the emperors – especially during the Tang (618-907 AD), Yuan (1271-1368), Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1912) dynasties. Islam was looked on favourably by the imperial court because of its ethics, which – as far as the emperors were concerned – promoted harmonious and peaceful relations between the diverse peoples in the imperial territories.

Before the Panthay and Tungan rebellions in the second half of the 19th century in western China, when millions of Muslims were killed or relocated, Islam was considered by Christian missionaries in the country – and particularly by Russian scholars – as a growing threat. Islam was considered by many in the west to have the potential to become the national religion in China – which would have made China the biggest Islamic country in the world.

#### Islam and China: a special connection

Today, Suzhou is a vibrant, wealthy city of 12 million people only 20 minutes by high speed train from Shanghai. What remains of “Islamic Suzhou” lies just outside the city wall to the north-west. There is only one active mosque: Taipingfang, in the northern commercial and entertainment district of Shilu.

Taipingfang was restored in 2018 and is where local and visiting Muslims go to pray. It's in a busy part of the neighbourhood, squeezed in a tiny alley, surrounded by small restaurants and hotels, canteens, food stalls and butchers catering to Uighur and Hui Muslims. The butchers of Taipingfang – like those in Beijing's Niujie area where the majority of the city's Muslim minority lives – are popularly thought to sell the best meat.

Before 1949, Suzhou had at least ten mosques of various sizes and social importance. Many of them were vast buildings with precious furniture and sophisticated decorations, while others were smaller intimate prayer rooms. One of them was a women's mosque presided over by a female imam.

The women's mosque, Baolingqian, was one of a cluster of four mosques was built during the Qing Dynasty, all connected to the wealthy Yang family inside the city walls in the north-western part of the city. Built in 1923, it was established by initiative of three married women from the Yang family who donated the



building and raised funding from other Muslim families to turn it into a women's mosque. During the Cultural Revolution (1966 to 1976), the mosque's library, containing holy scriptures, was damaged and the building was turned into private houses. Nothing remains today to show it was a mosque.

Another Yang family mosque, Tiejunong, was built over three years during the reign of the Qing emperor Guagxu, from 1879 to 1881. It was the biggest in Suzhou with an area of more than 3,000 square metres, featuring seven courtyards. The main hall for Friday prayers had ten rooms and could hold more than 300 people. The courtyard included a minaret and a pavilion in which was housed an imperial stele.

Now a middle school, Tiejunong is recognisable from the external architecture and an ancient wooden engraved side door. Beyond a monumental entrance, there is still the idea of the main courtyard surrounded by trees. Now there is a huge football field, and the trees on the sides of the walkway are still visible from their chopped trunks. The ablation area covered by blue tiles clearly shows the past presence of a mosque.

Tiankuqian Mosque was built in 1906 and is now inhabited by poor city residents – most likely as a result of the practice during the Cultural Revolution of reallocating large, aristocratic or religious buildings as living accommodation for indigent families. The mosque used to cover an area of almost 2,000 square metres, with a main hall, a guest hall and ablation room.

The structure of the main hall was like a large lecture place, containing – as the local historical records report – a

ginkgo wood horizontal plaque written in calligraphy by master Yu Yue. Because many Muslim jade workers had businesses in the same district, donations made the mosque the most prosperous in the whole of China. And, in the 1920s, a school teaching Islamic and Confucian texts was opened there.

Many of the mosques had affiliated schools teaching the Arabic language and Islamic writings to the children of the Muslim communities. Suzhou is one of the first cultural centres where Islamic scriptures were published in the Chinese language. Translations from Persian into Chinese were made by the 16th-century Suzhou scholars, Zhang Zhong and Zhou Shiqi, making the city an early hub of Islamic intellectual culture.

But it was an Islamic hub hybridised in its Chinese context, a process described in Jonathan Lipman's book, *Familiar Strangers: A History of Muslims in Northwest China*. Islamic texts were taught alongside Confucian ones, giving birth to an eclectic corpus of Islamic writings.

The oldest Suzhou mosque, Xiguan, takes its name from the adjacent Xiguan bridge in the centre of the old city. It was built in the 13th century during the Yuan dynasty, probably financed by the prominent Muslim Sayyid family, and its influential Yunnan's provincial governor, Sayyid Ajall Shams al-Din Omar al-Bukhari (1211–1279).

The mosque was later incorporated into a government building during the Ming dynasty, so only written accounts remain of its existence in local Chinese records. This suggests – and it is already a well-known historical assessment – that the Yuan dynasty favoured Muslims

from Central Asia in its administration and government service. This significant population group was much later, in the 1950s, classified within China as the Hui minority and constitute about half of China's Muslims today.

#### Traces of the past

The Cultural Revolution effectively banned Islam in China, as religions of any kind were considered tools to oppress and silence the peoples' needs.

As a result, little remains of these religious buildings today. But the traces that do still exist – a door, a stone, the structure of the façade, or simply a known address, written in an archive – are symbolic representations of a past life. These are clues to the diverse social context and spiritual geography that these places inspired and were part of.

As the American sinologist, Frederick Mote – a professor of history at Princeton University – argued, Suzhou's past is embodied in words, not stones, and the fragments of Suzhou Islamic communities can be pieced together with the help of historical written records. These records of a diverse past are equally important to the future in a country where religions – every religion – are strictly controlled by the state due to what the authorities consider as their potential destabilising political powers.

The recent reports of efforts of ideological re-education performed by local authorities towards the Uighur population in north-western China make the situation even more complex and worth further observation and research.

*By Arrangements With  
The Conversation*

# Our Many Wasteful Ways

Cheryl Rao

Like many others, I think of myself as respectful of the environment, careful, not at all wasteful, and so on: positive strokes all the way.

Imagine my horror, therefore, when I read in the newspapers that the Food Waste Index Report of the UN Environment Programme said Indians waste fifty kilos of food per person per year, most of it from households.

The images that come to mind immediately are of a person sitting atop a mound of rice, wheat, vegetables and fruit and yes, meat and fish too. If you visualise a single kilo of any of these and then multiply it by fifty, that comes to quite a heap – and way too much to waste!

I cringe at these snapshots in my mind's eye; and as always, I wonder what my parents would have thought about it.

Father came from a large, mostly male household, which translated into one that had enormous quantities of food prepared daily – and consumed daily. Without refrigerators or iceboxes to preserve anything for the following day, leftovers – if any – were given to pets and other garden creatures. Even the skins of fruit, the peels of vegetables and other kitchen waste went to the chickens and birds and rabbits that were a part of the menagerie, and the rest went into the compost pit. Naturally, Father brought those habits to our home and Mother, who came from another large and not very well-off household, added her careful ways to make sure no food was ever wasted.

Our parents acquired their first refrigerator when I was around seven years old, and when I think back to those gadget-free days from the luxury of our present-day refrigerators and freezers,



I cannot help but marvel at the science and art of it all.

It must have been a Herculean task for Mother to cook exactly what was needed for each meal. How did she calculate for our growing appetites, how did she make allowances for one – or all – of us children being extra hungry after a day of vigorous play; how did she have enough on the table for a couple of unexpected visitors at mealtimes; how did those delicious curries never run out – and yet never get tossed uneaten into a bin?

Perhaps she did what was the prac-

tice in her childhood home: stored the leftover curry uncovered in a “meat safe” (that was essentially a small cupboard with mesh on all sides to keep the cool night air circulating), and then cooked it up again into “special” masala eggs or spicy omelettes at breakfast time!

For us, today, it is so simple. We don't need to be creative or inventive; we cook whatever quantity we like; serve ourselves what we plan to eat and return the rest to the fridge for the next meal, or we tuck it into the freezer, unlabelled, and take it out a few days down the line

as a surprise offering, doubly delicious because no effort has gone into cooking it all over again!

We don't use the word “leftovers” at all, because technically, it is not leftovers but the excess prepared and carefully frozen when fresh.

... And, whatever we – or anyone else chooses to call it – we certainly don't toss any of it into the rubbish bin!

... So, why then, when my conscience is more or less clear, does the thought of those wasted fifty kilos of food per Indian per year trouble me so greatly?

Why do I suddenly peel the cucumbers and the melons a little thinner, allowing a little green (or white) to remain? Why do I now toss away fewer cabbage leaves and retain more onion skin, and look up recipes for the tender skin of bottle gourd ...?

If I am a little more careful, will someone else be a little less careless?

*Gulf News*

**Our parents acquired their first refrigerator when I was around seven years old, and when I think back to those gadget-free days from the luxury of our present-day refrigerators and freezers, I cannot help but marvel at the science and art of it all**



# 70% Chances Of Rainfall On March 21, 22: MeT

## Agencies

Srinagar: With forecast for no "major rainfall activity" and moderate rains or snow "likely" on March 21 and 22, mercury remained above normal in Kashmir Valley, weatherman said on Tuesday.

A meteorological department official told GNS that Srinagar recorded a low of 5.6 degree Celsius against 6.3 degree Celsius on the previous night. The minimum temperature was 1.9 degree Celsius above normal for this time of the year in this summer capital, the official said.

Qazigund, the gateway town of Kashmir, recorded a low of 5.2 degree Celsius against 6.0 degree Celsius on the previous night while mercury settled at 2.0 degree Celsius against minus 1.3 degree Celsius on the earlier



night at Pahalgam, the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a low of 4.2 degree Celsius against previous night's 4.1 degree Celsius, the official said.

The minimum temperature settled at 3.0 degree Celsius

in Kupwara against 1.7 degree Celsius on the previous night, the official said.

Gulmarg recorded minimum temperature of minus 1.4 degree Celsius against minus 2.6 degree Celsius on the previous night, the official said. The temperature at the world famous skiing resort which received nearly 3ft fresh snowfall last week was 1.9 degree Celsius above the normal for this time of the year, the official added.

"Scattered light rain/thundershowers is expected in Kashmir division and isolated very light rain/thundershowers in Jammu division in next 24 hours," the official. There is no forecast of major rainfall activity till March 20, he said.

"As of today, it looks like 70% chance of light to moderate rain /snow is likely during 21-22nd March in J&K and at Sonmarg -Drass axis." (GNS)

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

## 32.31 Lakh People

Certificate (Procedure) Rules, 2020 mandates certain documents to be annexed with the application. The applications which lack the prescribed documents are rejected.

Under the domicile law, anyone who has resided for 15 years in Jammu and Kashmir or has studied for seven years and appeared in Class 10 and Class 12 examinations in an educational institution located in the Union territory is a domicile, a notification issued in April last year said.

Anyone who is registered as a migrant by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants) will also be deemed to be a domicile. The children of all-India services personnel, who have served there for 10 years, also come under the category.

Others who can be deemed to be a domicile include the children of those central government officials, all-India services officers, officials of PSU and autonomous bodies of the central government, public sector banks, officials of statutory bodies, central university officials and those of recognised research institutes of the central government, who have served in Jammu and Kashmir for 10 years.

The children of those who fulfil any of the conditions or the children of such residents of Jammu and Kashmir who reside outside the Union territory in connection with their employment or business or other professional or vocational reasons, but their parents fulfil any of the conditions provided in the sub-section, are also considered domiciles, the notification added.

## 'No Info On

submitted by the Mumbai Police before a court as part of its chargesheet in a case of misuse of TV rating point (TRP), which led to a political storm.

"No such information has come to the notice of the government," Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy said in a written reply.

Reddy's reply came when asked whether the government has taken cognisance of the leak of the Whatsapp chat on confidential and sensitive information which surfaced during the TRP scam investigation.

## 39 Soldiers Killed

have been reported since decades and immediate and effective retaliation is undertaken by security forces in such cases.

"Thirty-one civilians were killed and 39 security force personnel were killed in such incidents from August 5, 2019 to February 28, 2021," he said in a written reply to a question.

Reddy said the central government has sanctioned construction of 14,460 bunkers (1,431 community bunkers and 13,029 individual bunkers) to provide protection to the people living in areas close to the IB and LoC and to safeguard human lives in the event of cross-border firing.

Out of these, 7,856 bunkers have already been constructed in the border areas of Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

## Intruder Shot

possession of Rs 200 in Pakistani currency and his physical appearance suggested that he was not mentally fit, they said, adding that his body is likely to be handed over to Pakistani rangers after post-mortem.

He was the second Pakistani intruder killed by the BSF in Samba sector in the past 37 days and third since November 23 last year.

A Pakistani infiltrator was killed in border outpost Chak Faquira in Samba on February 8, while another intruder was killed in the same area on November 23 last year.

## J&K's Budget

2020-21 fiscal, making it the highest ever budget for the region.

Of Rs. 1,01,428 crore, Rs 38,764 crore were earmarked for capital expenditure and Rs 62,664 crore for revenue expenditure.

The budget is being presented in the Parliament as UT is currently without its Assembly and the Parliament exercises its law-making powers.

Under the J&K Reorganisation Act, powers of J&K Assembly will be exercised by the Parliament in absence of an elected government in the UT.

## Govt Strengthening

security forces and intelligence agencies with advanced weaponry and quotient to combat militants.

Replying to a query, MoS GK Reddy, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), while acknowledging the fact said that militants have been using

modern weapons and equipment to commit militancy acts across the world.

"Combat against militancy is a continuous process," Reddy said.

The written reply reads that "the government has been strengthening its counter militancy apparatus including equipping security forces and intelligence agencies with requisite resources, equipment, weaponry, modern technology, training, etc."

## Gunmen Loot

no CCTV Cameras and it was not immediately whether the Panzinar Srinagar one had the facility or it too was bereft of it. (GNS)

## Major Reshuffle

the charge of Chief Executive Officer, Special Purpose Vehicle for Jammu City for implementation of the Smart City Project, under the Smart City Mission, in addition to her own duties, till further orders.

Anshul Garg (IAS), Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Jammu.

Rahul Yadav (IAS), Deputy Commissioner, Poonch, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Kathua.

Doifode Sagar Dattatray (IAS), Deputy Commissioner, Doda, has been transferred and posted as Chief Executive Officer, Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna, relieving Choudhary Mohammad Yasin (IAS), Mission Director, National Health Mission, J&K of the additional charge of the post.

Ms. Kritika Jyotsna (IAS), Chief Executive Officer, Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency, holding additional charge of Secretary, J&K Academy of Arts, Culture and Languages, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal.

Baseer-ul-Haq Chaudhary (IAS), awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama.

Athar Aamir Ul Shafi (IAS), Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, shall hold the charge of Chief Executive Officer, Special Purpose Vehicle for Srinagar City for implementation of the Smart City Project, under the Smart City Mission, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Basharat Qayoom (IAS), awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited.

Bilal Mohi-ud-din Bhat (IAS), SubDivisional Magistrate, Karnah-Tangdhar, holding additional charge of Sub-Registrar, KarnahTangdhar, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam. Rohit Khajuria (KAS) Deputy Commissioner, Samba, has been transferred and shall await further orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department.

Showkat Aijaz Bhat (KAS), Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam, has been transferred and shall await further orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department.

Ms. Anuradha Gupta (KAS), Director, School Education, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Samba.

Ajay Kumar (KAS), Director, Development Expenditure, Division-I, Finance Department, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Reasi.

Inderjeet, KAS, Director, Agriculture, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Poonch.

Vikas Sharma(KAS), Director, Geology and Mining, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Doda.

Ms. Indu Kanwal Chib (KAS) Deputy Commissioner, Reasi, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur.

Shafqat Iqbal (KAS), Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal, has been transferred and shall await further orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department.

O.P. Bhagat (KAS), Deputy Commissioner, Kathua, has been transferred and shall await further orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department.

As per a separate order, Bipul Pathak (IAS), Principal Secretary to the Government, Science & Technology Department, holding additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Social Welfare Department, has been transferred and posted as Principal Secretary to the Government, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.

Alok Kumar (IRS), Principal Secretary to the Government, Youth Services and Sports Department, has been asked to hold the charge of Principal Secretary to the Government,

Science and Technology Department and Chief Executive Officer, Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA), in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Ms. Sarita Chauhan (IAS), Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, holding additional charge of Chairman, J&K Special Tribunal, has been transferred and posted as Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Labour and Employment Department. "She shall continue to hold the charge of Chairman, J&K Special Tribunal, in addition to her own duties, till further orders."

Mr. Sanjeev Verma (IAS), Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment.

Saurabh Bhagat (IAS), Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Labour and Employment Department, has been transferred and posted as Director General, J&K Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development.

M. Raju (IAS), Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Jal Shakti Department, holding additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Estates Department, has been asked to also hold the charge of Administrative Secretary, Civil Aviation Department and Civil Aviation Commissioner, in addition to his own duties, till further orders, relieving Ms. Rukhsana Gani (KAS), Administrative Secretary, Hospitality and Protocol Department of the additional charge of the post.

Talat Parvez Rohella (KAS), Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Higher Education Department, has been transferred and posted as Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Hospitality and Protocol Department.

Rukhsana Gani (KAS), Administrative Secretary, Hospitality and Protocol Department, has been transferred and posted as Inspector General of Registration, J&K.

Zubair Ahmad (KAS), Director General, J&K Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development, has been transferred and posted as Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, relieving Simrandeep Singh (IAS), Secretary to the Government, Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of the additional charge of the post.

Sheetal Nanda (IAS), Secretary to the Government, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, has been transferred and posted as Secretary to the Government, Social Welfare Department.

Yasha Mudgul (IAS), awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as Secretary to the Government, Cooperatives Department, relieving Mr. Navin Kumar Choudhary, IAS (JK:1994), Principal Secretary to the Government, Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare of the additional charge of the post. 12. Ms. Sushma Chauhan, IAS (JK:2009), Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, holding additional charge of Chief Executive Officer, Special Purpose Vehicle for Jammu City for implementation of the Smart City Project, under the Smart City Mission, is transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Higher Education Department. She shall also hold the charge of Administrative Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department, in addition to her own duties, till further orders. 13. Mr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, IAS (JK:2009), Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, holding additional charge of Chief Executive Officer, Special Purpose Vehicle for Srinagar City for implementation of the Smart City Project, under the Smart City Mission, is transferred and posted as Chief Executive Officer, Mission Youth. He shall also hold the additional charge of Mission Director, Skill Development Mission, relieving Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah (IAS) of the additional charge of the post.

Dr. Raghav Langer (IAS), Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama, has been transferred to Divisional Commissioner, Jammu. Also, Dr. Pawan Kotwal (IAS), Inspector General of Registration, J&K, has been transferred and his services placed at the disposal of the Union territory of Ladakh for further posting.

## Police 'Prevents'

The teens, he said, had left their houses on March 14 and had gone missing thereafter. "Both the youth are in their early teenage, and had got influenced on social media to join militant ranks. They were instigated by Pakistan based recruiting handlers through social media

## Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Rajya Sabha Tuesday passed a bill to raise the upper limit for permitting abortions from the present 20 weeks to 24 for "special categories of women" including rape survivors, victims of incest, minors and differently-abled.

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020 to amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 was passed by voice vote. The bill was passed by Lok Sabha about a year ago.

A resolution moved by Congress leader Pratap Singh Bajwa to send the bill to a select committee of Rajya Sabha was defeated by voice vote, along with some other amendments proposed by members.

"The bill as amended is passed," Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh said.

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said the amendments in the bill have been made after studying global practices and wide consultation within the country.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we will not frame any law which harms women. This is to preserve and protect the dignity of women," he said.

The minister said the suggestions and objections made to the bill by some members were symbolic in nature and aligned with their party ideology.

Besides Congress, members of various parties including Shiv Sena, AITC, CPI, CPI-M and Samajwadi Party had demanded to send the bill to the select committee.

The bill amends the act passed in 1971 to Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2020.

Under the new act, pregnancy

in special can be terminated "where the length of the pregnancy exceeds 20 weeks but does not exceed 24 weeks" if no less than two registered medical practitioner are of the opinion that the continuance of the pregnancy would involve a risk to the life of the pregnant woman or of grave injury to her physical or mental health or there is substantial risk that if the child were born, it would suffer from any serious physical or mental abnormality.

The act bars registered medical practitioners from revealing the name and other particulars of a woman whose pregnancy has been terminated as per the new law except to a person authorised by any law during that time.

Anyone who violates the privacy norms defined under the act may be punished with imprisonment of up to 1 year or fine or both under amended act.

Every state government and

union territory will have to constitute a medical board comprising a gynaecologist, a paediatrician, a radiologist or sonologist and any member as may be notified by the respective government to handle functions under prescribed by rules under the new act.

Shiv Sena's Priyanka Chaturvedi said the decision to terminate a pregnancy impacts a woman mentally, physically and emotionally.

"And for her who is in the advanced stage of pregnancy and a stage where she knows there is a life inside her womb, for her to take that decision is a difficult one indeed. For her across various medical boards with three doctors and some state representatives, I think is extremely demeaning to her, is invasion of her privacy, invasion of her choice and creating more bureaucratic hurdles needed at the time when she needs to take that decision," she noted.

handles," the police spokesperson said.

Both the teenagers, he said, were properly counselled in presence of their family members and handed over to their parents.

In a similar action in Ganderbal district, police said it saved two youth from Batwina and Kurhama areas from joining militancy.

The duo, the police spokesperson said had initially gone to Shopian after leaving their homes to join militant ranks. Both of them were apprehended by police when they reached Karannagar-Batamalo axis.

"Facts have been revealed by the duo that they were motivated by Pakistan based handlers to join militancy and asked to establish contact with their ground cadre in District Shopian. After proper counselling, both the youth will be handed over to their parents," he added.

## DDB Cease To

The Minister of State (MoS) GK Reddy, in a written reply filed in Lok Sabha, said that as per information provided by Union Territory of J&K, there was no provision of District Development Councils (DDCs) in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Reddy informed that the Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 was adapted through the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of State Laws) Fourth Order, 2020 and was notified on 16th October 2020.

"The adapted law provides for direct election of Sarpanch/Panch and members of DDC. Further, every DDC shall have a fund to be called the DDC fund comprising grants by the government and its own resources," Reddy said.

The reply reads that the members of DDC exercise and perform functions as per the mandate provided in section 46 of Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, as adapted.

"After the constitution of DDCs, District Development Boards have ceased to exist in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and District Planning Committee chaired by the Member of Parliament representing the area, has taken the place of DDBs", the reply reads.

The reply further reads that the District Planning Committees perform functions as envisaged in section 47B of the said order.

Notably, Government of India (GOI) recently conducted the maiden DDC elections across Jammu and Kashmir with a chairperson representing each district comprising of a total of 14 members.

## Wasim Rizvi's Act

petition in the Supreme Court regarding abrogation of some verses of the holy Qur'an.

As MMU chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq could not participate due to his continued house detention, the meeting was chaired by Agha Syed Hassan Al-Mosvi As-Safvi and participated by the heads and representatives of various religious organizations.

The meeting said this sacrilegious act by Waseem Rizvi has deeply hurt the religious sentiments of Muslims across the world and looked as part of a deep-rooted conspiracy aimed at stoking sectarian tension among Muslims.

Maulana Masroor said a unanimous resolution was passed strongly condemning the blasphemous act by Rizvi.

On the occasion, the religious leaders asked the Government of India (GoI) to immediately arrest Waseem Rizvi for resorting to blasphemy and attempting to create sectarian rift among Muslims. They also demanded stern punishment to him.

The resolution also maintained that as per the international laws, no petition against any religion or holy book, can be entertained in any court of law. It said the petition in the Supreme Court of India was a serious issue for the Muslims so it must be dismissed forthwith.

The resolution stressed "communal zealots" like Waseem Rizvi must not be linked with any religion or sect.

The resolution demanded immediate release of Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir who has been under house arrest since August 5, 2019, so that he leads people during such sensitive matters and fulfills his responsibilities. It demanded release of all the political prisoners and youth who are languishing in jails since long.

Besides Aga Hassan and Maulana Masroor Abbas those who attended the meeting included include Mufti Azam Nasir Ul Islam, Agha Syed Muhammad Hadi, Mufti Muhammad Ishaq Nazki, Moulvi Muhammad Ashraf Inayat, Maulana Khurshed Ahmad Qanungo, Maulana Lateef Ahmad Bukhari, Mufti Ghulam Rasool Samoon, Maulana Fareed-ur-Rehman Bukhari, Maulana Ghulam Rasool Noori, Moulvi Bashir Ahmad Bhat, Moulvi Mudassir Ahmad, Moulvi Ghulam Hussain Mattoo, MMU

Secretary Maulana M S Rehman Shams and dozens of other Ulemas.

## HC Puts JKCA

Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA). Besides appeals by number of associations, Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has also sought permission from the court for appointing adhoc committee to hold the affairs, management and administration of JKCA, contending that the present management has failed to implement the court directions in letter and spirit.

Through its counsel, the BCCI had submitted that the present Administrators of JKCA with CEO as appointed by the court were obliged under law to hold the free and fair elections of JKCA and to amend the constitution of JKCA in conformity with the Justice Lodha Panel within two months.

The BCCI submitted that even after a gap of more than two and half years, neither the constitution has been amended nor elections held till date.

"The Administrator as also the CEO are running the affairs of JKCA in contrast to the basic spirit of direction contained in the division bench judgment of the J&K High Court and the orders of Supreme Court."

Other the other hand, a senior advocate appearing on behalf of various clubs informed the court that the Administrators and CEO have amended the JKCA rules in contravention of the mandate of law given by the court as also against the Lodha Committee which he said was approved by the Supreme Court.

He said that the Administrators and CEO withdrew the memberships as well as voting rights of the cricketing clubs who were members of JKCA. (GNS)

## 'Take Rs 30 & Set

"It came back without being received by the payee."

When asked to elaborate more on the postcard act, Yusuf Jameel told Kashmir Observer, "Well, it was a spontaneous act on part of my colleague and friend. While he is the better person to talk about it in detail, all I can say is that it was his personal call."

But what seems a laughable stunt became a telling act for its symbolic importance, many say, as the postcard had come knocking the gates of the dwindled Dogra Durbar when dis-sent had taken roots in the valley.

## J&K Sees 97

The officials said Srinagar district recorded a maximum of 53 new COVID-19 cases, followed by 15 in Jammu district.

While eight districts did not report any fresh cases, 10 other districts had cases in single digits.

The number of active cases stands at 937 in the Union Territory, while 1,24,882 patients have recovered from the infection so far, the officials said.

A death each due to the novel coronavirus was reported from the Jammu division and the Kashmir valley in the past 24 hours, they added.

## PIA Shaped Balloon

took the object into their possession", they said.

"A similar PIA designed balloon was also found on March 9, after it had landed in Sotra Chakk village of Hiranagar sector", they said.

Meanwhile a police official said that they have taken possession of the mystifying object and the matter set under investigation.

## Muzzaffar Baig

Stage has been set for his joining tomorrow. A joint press conference may also be held after he joins the party," sources said.

Perintently, Baig had parted his ways from PDP in November 2020 after a mandate to contest DDC elections on PAGD ticket was denied to his wife Safeena Baig.

However, Safeena contested the election as an independent candidate from Sangrama DDC constituency of Baramulla district and emerged victorious. Later, she was also elected as chairperson of DDC Baramulla.

Moreover, Baig had previously served as deputy chief minister of the erstwhile state and also as a member of parliament (MP) from Baramulla Lok Sabha seat.

## Youth Stabbed

news agency KDC reported.

The injured was taken to JVC Hospital where he was referred to SKIMS for specialized treatment in critical condition, the report said.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident and have initiated further investigations.



## JKSRTC BoDs Approve Implementation Of Intelligent Transport Management System

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Board of Directors of Jammu and Kashmir Road and Transport Corporation on Tuesday during 82nd meeting, in a significant decision increased the wages as per Minimum Wages Act for all the skilled employees of the corporation. The BoD also decided to examine the cases of compassionate appointments under SRO-43.

The BoDs approved the implementation of Intelligent Transport Management System (ITMS) for improving the transport system in J&K.

The Board also decided to recast the route plan for JKRTC so that the new fleet is utilised for an efficient public transport system as well as public distribution system across J&K.

The Board also approved the constitution of Technical committee for the finalization of purchases and other related aspects of the Corporation.

Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar chaired the Board of Directors (BoDs) meeting at Civil Secretariat.

The BoDs discussed various items pertaining to the corporation during the meeting besides detailed deliberations were held on the action taken report of decisions in earlier board meetings.

Advisor Bhatnagar, who is also the Chairman of BoDs, emphasised upon the need for evolving an effective mechanism and innovations to improve the efficiency and making the corporation a profit-worthy public utility.

He called upon the officers to prepare a proper business plan for the success of the corporation and asked the management to adopt a model which would be viable in terms of revenue generation as well as an effective transport system.

Suggesting several measures to improve the health of the Corporation, the Advisor asked the officials to increase the operationality of the truck fleet so that maximum profit can be generated by the corporation.

MD JKRTC informed the meeting that the corporation generated revenue of Rs. 87.16 crores during the financial year 2019-20; Rs. 77.44 crores as operational revenue and Rs. 9.72 crores as Non Operational revenue.

## Protests Rock GDC Kupwara, Sogam Against Wasim Rizvi

Observer News Service

**KUPWARA:** The students of the two colleges Government Degree College Kupwara and Sogam on Tuesday carried out a massive protest rally against the Wasim Rizvi who filed a petition in Supreme Court of India seeking to eliminate verses from Holy Quran.

Scores of students raised slogans against the petitioner and described it as an Anti Quran and Anti-Islam move.

Meanwhile a group of students from Government Degree College Kupwara said that they want the Supreme Court to trash the plea immediately to avoid law and order situation.

"We appeal the Apex Court not to entertain the plea and instead take a stringent action against the infamous petitioner for the malicious act."

It is pertinent to mention that the plea filed by Wasim Rizvi is



totally against the basic tenets of Islam and Muslims which has the potency to create disharmony on a larger scale.

"We ask the authorities concerned to see as to why and with whose support has the person got this much courage to create a divide among the largest minority community in the country", adding that a student at Government Degree College, Sogam said that the plea moved by Wasim Rizvi is a direct assault on basic ethos and fundamental teachings of Islam.

Meanwhile students from both the colleges dispersed peacefully. (CNS)

## Nagaland Police Rescue Kashmiri Truck Driver From Abductors

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In a joint operation Dimapur police and Assam Rifles rescued one truck driver and his helper after they were reportedly abducted by some unknown reprobates from the Purana Bazaar area of Dimapur town on Saturday last.

In a joint statement issued by the President Dimapur District Truck Owners Union Vishito and the President Dimapur District Truck Drivers Union Kaiho said that the driver Arif Khan and his helper Wilson Naik were rescued from Thilixu village area of Dimapur.

The statement also appreciated Dimapur police and Assam

Rifles personnel for rescuing the kidnapped drivers and his helper.

The driver reportedly informed that he is a resident of Jammu & Kashmir and he had travelled all the way from Kashmir to Kohima via Gujarat.

While returning, his truck hit a vehicle in Dimapur in a traffic jam. The driver said when some persons held him; even he begged for mercy and was ready to bear the cost for the damage. However, he was taken to an unknown place and was later tied, blindfolded and was severely beaten up. He also showed his injuries on his body. He said the security forces later rescued him. (KNT)

# Rs 109 Cr Projects Approved For Capital Cities, Anantnag

## Nod Given To Shivpora—Batwara Cycle Track



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** To reinforce the momentum achieved by the Housing & Urban Development Department under the vision of SBM, the State Level Apex Committee Tuesday approved the revised target of 51,232 Individual Household Toilet (IHHT) Units across all the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of Jammu and Kashmir along with the revised target of 2757 Community Toilets/Public Toilets. It also approved procurement of 30 mobile toilets by Directorate ULB Jammu and Jammu Municipal Corporation at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.77 crore.

It was announced during 7th meeting of State Level Apex Committee on Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban which was chaired by the Chief Secretary, BVR Subrahmanyam.

The Committee also approved action plan for establishing decentralised solid waste management facilities in 76 ULBs at an estimated cost of Rs. 404.52 crore over the next five years.

The new concept of decentralised waste management is based

on scientific segregation of wet and dry waste at the household level followed by door-to-door waste collection and transportation to waste management centres. The segregated waste is proposed to be appropriately disposed of and recycled on scientific lines with linkages for generating non-conventional renewable energy in the form of Compressed Natural Gas.

Administrative Secretaries of departments of Housing & Urban Development, Jal Shakti, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Commissioners, Municipal Corporations, Jammu/Srinagar along with Directors, Urban Local Bodies, Jammu/ Kashmir participated in the meeting.

It was informed that the Swachh Bharat Mission aims to eliminate open defecation, scientific disposal of solid waste and bringing effective behavioural change regarding healthy sanitation practices through five components of Individual Household Toilets (IHHTs), Community Toilets/Public Toilets (CT/PTs), scientific solid waste management, IEC activities, and

capacity-building measures.

Later, the Chief Secretary chaired the 7th meeting of the State Level High Power Steering Committee (SLHPSC) for implementation of the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT).

The Committee reviewed the progress of projects under AMRUT in Jammu, Srinagar and Anantnag which are at various stages of completion, and approved various new projects including the construction of stormwater drainage at Hamdania Colony, drainage network in Digiana and up-gradation of drainage in JMC.

The Committee also gave its nod for change of location of the proposed cycle track in Srinagar City; from Shivpora to Batwara.

The meeting was attended by the Administrative Secretaries of departments of Housing & Urban Development, Transport, Forest, Environment & Ecology, Jal Shakti, Commissioners, Municipal Corporations, Jammu/Srinagar along with Directors, Urban Local Bodies, Jammu/ Kashmir participated in the meeting.

## Protests In Jammu Against Property Tax, Fuel Price Hike

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir Congress on Tuesday staged a protest demonstration in Jammu against the BJP-led union government over the hike in the prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas, besides implementation of property tax.

Carrying placards and denouncing the "unprecedented and unjustified" hike, the Congress leaders and workers chanted slogans against the BJP government at New Plot, Jammu while demanding immediate rollback of the property tax orders.

The Congress leaders also targeted the government for the steep hike in the prices of LPG cylinders and accused it of "looting" poor people by raising the fuel prices.

"The incessant hike in fuel prices is an additional burden on the common people who are at the limit of their woes owing



to the Covid-19 induced lockdown for months," they said.

They said the poor and the middle class have been severely hit by the recent hikes. "BJP's claim of providing 'pro-people governance' stands exposed as the Central government has miserably failed to address the issues affecting the general public."

While demanding rollback of property tax, they said the government is now terrorising the

people by saying "if you won't pay tax, you will face consequences and we are on roads for terrorising people."

They said that the government has failed to provide basic facilities to the people but have succeeded in levying taxes only.

"At a time when the unemployment rate is increasing, instead of taking pro-people steps, they are putting more and more burden on them," they said—(KNO)

## Seminar On 'Women In Leadership' Held At GDC Kokernag



Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** A one day seminar with the theme 'Women in Leadership: Problems and Prospects' was Tuesday organised at Govt Degree College Kokernag, here.

The programme was jointly organised by the Department of Sociology of the college, Women's Grievance Cell and College Debates and Seminar Committee. Among others, speakers from both administrative and academic backgrounds delivered lectures on the topic with a special focus on its contemporary relevance.

The speakers highlighted the challenges that women face in performing leadership roles especially in patriarchal settings.

Shafaq in her lecture said that women who constitute half of the population, represent a valuable human resource and play an important role in development of

society and the nation. She said women have proved themselves as better leaders in situations of crisis such as Covid-19 and deserve acknowledgement and equal opportunities free from stigma, stereotyping and violence.

She also called for creation of a conducive and sustainable environment for womenfolk in all fields wherein they are provided and guaranteed equal rights and opportunities with full dignity and peaceful living.

The speakers also challenged the practice of questioning and taking the opinions and decisions of women for granted. They quoted this as being an important factor for the dearth of women as leaders and heads of states.

All the speakers agreed that women have to come forward to bring change in themselves that will lead and catalyse the larger change in society and the nation.

## Kupwara Resident Slips To Death At Harwan

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A 30-year-old man died after he fell from the first floor of a residential house in Chandapora area of Harwan in Srinagar.

He was identified as Bashir Ahmad Khatana, son of Fazal Khatana, a resident of Kupwara, who was working as a servant at the residence of Sheikh Yasir at

Chandapora area of Harwan. He fell accidentally from the 1st floor of the house.

He was immediately rushed to Bone and Joint Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries, officials said.

Meanwhile, proceedings under section 174 have been initiated in this regard and an investigation has been launched—(KNO)

## Zanskar Students Protest, Demand District Status

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** All Zanskar Students Association on Tuesday staged a protest at Press Club Jammu, demanding district status to Zanskar.

The protesting students said that they have been demanding district status for the last many decades but so far this area has been neglected on all fronts.

They said that they will not stop till they won't achieve their goal and will continue to push for their demands. "Zanskar remains isolated from district headquarters for over six months in a year. For the last 33 year, the people of Zanskar have been consistently demanding that Zanskar must be declared as a full-fledged district but so far all promises of politicians have proved fake on the ground."

"Zanskar valley being the lone Sub Division of J&K which is situated at a distance of 2474 km away from its district headquarters with only surface connectivity of terrible un-macadamized road. Also, it is one of the oldest Tehsil of Ladakh region of J&K pre-1953 along with Leh and Kargil districts but Leh

and Kargil were given full-fledged district status while unfortunately Zanskar has remained as a subject of exploitation and has been neglected politically," they said, adding that on July 6, 2008, the PDP-INC Ghulam Nabi Azad led government created 8 new districts in the state but failed to consider even a single district in Ladakh region.

They said that Zanskar is 240 km away from the district headquarter in Kargil and faces many issues due to the lack of basic amenities and remoteness of the region. "It takes a 12-hour drive to reach the district headquarters and because of the distance, the region lacks proper administrative control. And in winters, heavy snowfall keeps the region cut off from its main headquarter," they said.

"Even in today's time people of Zanskar are being deprived of basic amenities such as proper health systems, connectivity, electricity, education, and telecommunication services," they said, adding that the people face many difficulties and challenges especially women during their pregnancy and delivery because of the unavailability of adequate doctors and health facilities.

## NIT Srinagar To Implement Hindi Language

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Following the directions from the Minister of Education (MoE), the National Institute of Technology Srinagar (NIT) is all set to implement official language Hindi (Raj Basha) and in this regard recently language inspection was conducted on the campus.

Director Official Language Department, Ministry of Higher Education (HRD), Suniti Sharma conducted Official Language (OL) Inspection at NIT Srinagar.

In the initial interaction, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Dr. Rakesh Seghal, and Registrar Prof. S K Bukhari apprised the Director OL, MOE, Ms. Suniti Sharma about the progress in implementation of the official language in the campus.

Director OL also visited various sections of NIT and interacted with Heads of Departments (HOD), faculty members including in-charge of Hindi Cell to take an account of work being done for Official Language implementation.

She was informed that in the campus, there is a separate Hindi Cell which was created for the implementation of Raj Basha and Director NIT Srinagar had already conveyed to higher education department for the requirement of staff for establishing Rajbasha cell.

During the inspection, Director OL elaborated and discussed various aspects, rules & regulations related to the official language implementation.



The orientation for officers, facility members was also held regarding its implementation in the institute.

Director Rajbasha said the main objective of official language is to conduct the official transaction is one language (Hindi) throughout the country.

As per provisions of section 3 (3) of the Official Language Act 1963, the website of the institute should be bilingual (Hindi and English). Signboards, stationery items, forms, notice boards, rubber stamps, etc should be prepared in the regional language, Hindi, English as well.

"Official letters received in Hindi would be answered in the Hindi language," it said.

In order to train and learn the official language, the Ministry has directed NIT Srinagar to use computer-based software's, LILA (Leaning

Indian Languages Through Artificial Intelligence) Hindi Prabodh, Praveen and Pragma" software, etc for the benefit of officers, employees, etc nominated for working in Hindi. The LILA is a multi-media-based intelligent self-tutoring application for learning Hindi and other regional languages.

On the occasion, Director NIT, Srinagar Rakesh Seghal said about the implementation of official language that they are duty-bound to fulfill the national mandate for its implementation.

"It is a national mandate, the NIT Srinagar would be actively involved in the implementation of official language and fulfill its national duty," he said.

Dr. Seghal stressed to ensure maximum use of the official language and stated that faculty and other staff members have evinced a keen interest in learning Hindi.

## Quality Of HE Students Depends On Benchmarks Set At Grass Root Levels: VC CUK

Observer News Service

**GANDERBAL:** School of Education, Central University of Kashmir (CUK) Tuesday organised a one day national seminar on "National Education Policy (NEP 2020) With Special Reference to School Education", at varsity's Green Campus here.

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir, presided over the function which was attended by Registrar, Prof. M Afzal Zargar, Controller of Examinations, Prof. Parveen Pandit, Director IQAC, Prof. Farooq A Shah, Dean and Head School of Education, Dr. Syed Zahoor Geelani, Director, MPRC, Prof. (Dr.) Shahid Rasool, former Dean and Head SoE, Prof. Nighat Basu and research scholars.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir said that schools, colleges and universities need to come together for materialising the goals of NEP-2020. He stated that, "quality of higher education students depends upon the benchmarks set for students at the grass root levels." He said that CUK is always

ready to provide support and cooperation to the grass root level educational institutions in terms of providing the required human resource whenever the need arises. He also suggested that, SoE should convene meetings, on regular basis, with the representatives from school-level institutions so that effective means of addressing the issues, related to school education, can be developed. He asked the principals to inform students about the supernumerary seats made available by the university in different departments for the residents of the Ganderbal, so that they would compete for them in the upcoming Central Universities Common Entrance Test.

Registrar, Prof. M. Afzal Zargar, in his remarks, stated that, "university cannot live and work in isolation but has to develop meaningful linkages with schools, industries and other job-providing institutions. There has to be a meaningful and working integration between these institutions." He suggested that CUK has the potential of adopting more schools, functioning in its vicinity,

thereby giving some air to the objectives set for Unnat Bharat Abhiyaan.

Addressing the participants, Director IQAC, Prof. Farooq A Shah, observed that implementation of any policy is a real test and challenge for its stakeholders and NEP-2020 is no exception in this regard. He further commented that various aspects of this policy like Vocationalization of Education at grass root level, Early Childhood Care and Education, Role of NGOs in achieving the objectives of this policy, School Complexes and Mother Tongue, are good ideas and, if implemented in letter and spirit, can do wonders in education system in India.

Controller of Examinations, Prof. Parveen Pandit, deliberated upon the competence and caliber of Anganwadi workers associated with professional care taking of pre-school children and stated that, there is a dire need for improvement in their professional education and training.

Prof. Nighat Basu, former Dean, spoke about the achievements of B.Ed. Pupil Teachers who were teaching at Free Winter Coaching Centres for three and a half months during the winter.

Dean School of Education, Dr. Syed Zahoor Geelani, spelt out the objectives of holding the seminar and said the primary objective for conducting the event was to discuss the ways and means by which the tertiary level educational institutions, like CUK, will improve the quality aspects of schooling at grass root level and vice-versa. He said that to realize said objective, Chief Education Officer, Ganderbal, Principal, DIET, Ganderbal and Principals/Heads of the Lab. schools—wherein our B.Ed. Pupil Teachers were running Free Winter Coaching Centres—were invited. He revealed that, SoE successfully run Free Winter Coaching cum Practice of Teaching Centres at 14 Lab Schools in Jammu and Kashmir wherein almost 1000 children, from downtrodden sections of the society, were taught and mentored for three and a half months, during this winter, by our B.Ed. trainees.

The programme proceedings were conducted by Asst. Professor, Dr. Gawhar Ahmad Bhat and vote of thanks was proposed by Asst. Professor, Dr. Firdous Ahmad Sofi.



## SA Legends Qualify For Semis In Road Safety World Series T20



### Press Trust of India

RAIPUR: South Africa Legends entered the semifinals of the Road Safety World Series T20 by beating Bangladesh Legends by 10 wickets here.

Openers Andrew Puttick (84 not out off 54 balls; 9x4, 1x6) and Morne van Wyk (69 not out off 62 balls; 9x4) slammed unbeaten half centuries as South Africa Legends chased down the 161-run target in 19.2 overs late on Monday.

The win helped the South Africans finish third with 16 points after India (20 points) and Sri Lanka (20 points).

Earlier, put in to bat, Bangladesh Legends displayed a much-improved batting performance before South Africa Legends bowlers triggered a collapse.

The Mohammed Rafique-led side were restricted to 160 for 9 in 20 overs with South Africa Legends off Thandi Tshabalala and

pacer Makhaya Ntini taking two wickets each.

Nazimuddin provided a decent start with a 33-ball 32 with five fours and a six while Aftab Ahmed (39; 1x4, 3x6) and Hannan Sarkar (36; 2x4, 1x6) were the other main contributors.

Nazimuddin, however, was dismissed by Tshabalala while Ahmed and Sarkar were sent back by Zander de Bruyn and seamer Garnett Krugger.

Once Sarkar was dismissed at the team score of 130, Bangladesh lost six wickets for 30 runs.

### Brief Scores:

Bangladesh Legends: 160/9 in 20 overs (Nazimuddin 32, Aftab Ahmed 39, Hannan Sarkar 36; Makhaya Ntini 2/26, Thandi Tshabalala 2/33) lost to South Africa Legends 161/0 in 19.2 overs (Andrew Puttick 84 not out, Morne van Wyk 69 not out) by 10 wickets.

## Messi Ties Xavi's Record As Barcelona Cuts Atletico's Lead AT Top Of La Liga

### Agencies

MADRID: Lionel Messi scored twice as he tied Xavi Hernandez's record of most appearances for Barcelona, putting them within four points of the Spanish league lead after beating last-placed Huesca 4-1.

For his 767th match, Messi was honoured by Barcelona with a large image behind one of the goals showing him embracing Xavi as the players looked forward and pointed upward. The banner included the words "767 matches" and touching the sky.

"It's incredible," Barcelona coach Ronald Koeman said. "His impact on this team is enormous. It's amazing what he has done for this club up until now."

Antoine Griezmann and Oscar Mingueza also scored at the Camp Nou Stadium as the Catalan club won its fourth straight league match to increase the pressure on leader Atletico Madrid.

Atletico, seeking its first league title since 2014, had a comfortable lead until recently, having won only two of its last six league games. It was held to 0-0 at Getafe on Saturday.

Diego Simeone's team will visit Barcelona in May.

"We always said we wouldn't give up," Barcelona midfielder Pedri Gonzalez said.

"We have a good squad that can keep fighting for this title and we have momentum on our side."

Barcelona, coming off elimination by Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League last 16, was in control from the start on Monday.

Messi scored in each half for his 130th double in the league. He opened the scoring with a shot into the top corner after a nifty one-touch to clear a defender just outside the area in the 13th minute, then closed the scoring with another shot from outside the area in the 90th.

The Argentine playmaker has 21 league goals, three more than Atletico's Luis Suarez at the top of the scoring list.

Barcelona kept pressing and nearly added to the lead when Jordi Alba hit the crossbar in the 33rd, and a couple of minutes later Griezmann added his goal with a well-struck curling shot into the top corner past Huesca goalkeeper Ivano Fernandez.

Huesca pulled one back through a penalty kick earned after a breakaway in first-half stoppage time, converted by forward Rafa Mir.

## Cricket Great Michael Holding Awarded Best Pundit At British Sports Journalism Award

### Press Trust of India

LONDON: West Indies cricket great Michael Holding, who came out in support of the 'Black Lives Matter' movement, has been named the 'Best Pundit' at the SJA British Sports Journalism Award 2020.

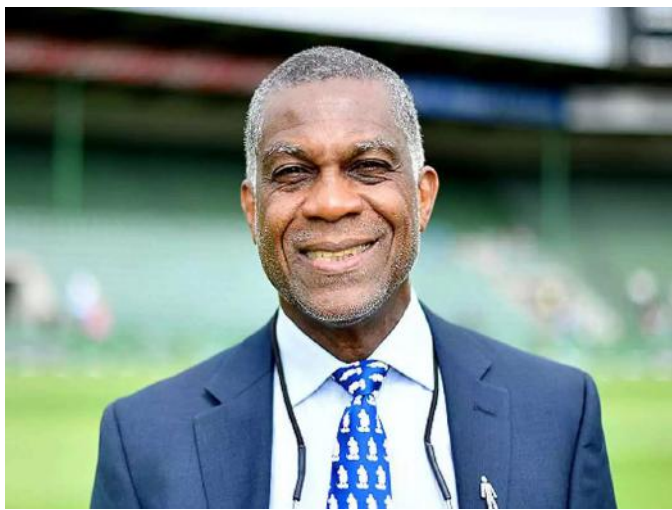
Holding had delivered a powerful message against racism during last year's England-West Indies series, saying that blacks have been dehumanised and their accomplishments wiped off from a history "written by people who do the harm."

The awards were hosted online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It is something that has been in me and in my head for many, many years," Sky Sports' quoted Holding as saying in his video acceptance speech.

"People don't understand what it is like to go through life and always thinking that people think less of you than what you think of yourself," he added.

Asked if he thinks that 2020 will play a vital role in bringing about change in



social and racial equality, Holding said: "I believe so and I hope so."

"If you just look at the protests on the road and look at the faces of the people that were on the road. I saw a Swedish women's football team take a knee before a game, so it is going all over the world that

people are recognising that things need to be done, and it's about time it did."

BLM gained momentum in the wake of African-American George Floyd's death at the hands of a white police officer in the USA in May last year.

## ICC Bans Two UAE Cricketers For Eight Years Over Match-Fixing Charges

### Press Trust of India

DUBAI: The ICC on Tuesday slapped eight-year bans on United Arab Emirates (UAE) cricketers Mohammad Naveed and Shaiman Anwar Butt for their attempted role in trying to fix matches in the T20 World Cup qualifier in 2019.

The bans are backdated to October 16, 2019, when they were provisionally suspended for attempting to corrupt matches and found guilty of breaching global body's Anti-Corruption Code.

The 33-year-old former captain and right arm pacer Naveed has played 39 ODIs and 31 T20 Internationals for his country, while 42-year-old middle-order batsman Butt has played 40 ODIs and 32 games in the short-format.

"Mohammad Naveed and Shaiman Anwar represented their adopted country, the UAE at the highest level in cricket," Alex Marshall, ICC General Manager—Integrity Unit, said in an ICC release.

"Naveed was the captain and leading wicket taker. Anwar was the opening bat. Both had long international careers and were well versed in the threat from match fixers.

"That they both chose to engage with this corrupt activity was a cynical betrayal of their positions, their teammates, and all supporters of UAE cricket."

According to the release, the two cricketers were found guilty of: Article 2.1.1 – for being party to an agreement or effort to fix or contrive or otherwise influence improperly the result, progress, conduct or other aspect(s) of a match or matches at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup



Qualifier 2019.

Article 2.4.4 – Failing to disclose to the ACU full details of any approaches or invitations received to engage in corrupt conduct under the Code at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Qualifier 2019.

Naveed was also found guilty of breaching the following two counts of the Emirates Cricket Board Anti-Corruption Code for Participants of the T10 League 2019: Article 2.1.1 – for being party to an agreement or effort to fix or contrive or otherwise influence improperly the result, progress, conduct or other

aspect(s) of a match or matches at the T10 League 2019.

Article 2.4.4 – Failing to disclose to the ACU full details of any approaches or invitations received to engage in corrupt conduct under the Code at the T10 League 2019.

Marshall expressed happiness that both have been given significant sanctions.

"I am pleased that the independent Tribunal has imposed significant bans from all forms of cricket and this should serve as a warning to any cricketer who considers taking the wrong path."

## Sri Lanka Fined For Slow Over-Rate In Third ODI Against West Indies

### Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Sri Lanka have been fined 40 per cent of their match fees for maintaining a slow over-rate against the West Indies in the third ODI in Antigua, the ICC said on Tuesday.

Sri Lanka all-rounder Danushka Gunathilaka was also reprimanded for giving a send-off to Nicholas Pooran in the match on Sunday which the West Indies won by five wickets.

Richie Richardson of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees imposed the sanction after Dimuth Karunaratne's side was ruled to be two overs short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration.

"In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to minimum over-rate offences, players are fined 20 per cent of their match fees for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time," the ICC said in a statement.

"In addition, as per Article 12.9.1 of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League Playing Conditions, a side is penalised one point for each over short. Consequently, Sri Lanka will lose two points from their points tally during the Super League," it added.

Karunaratne pleaded guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanction, so there was no need for a formal hearing.

Gunathilaka has been reprimanded for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct during the same match.

Gunathilaka was found to have breached Article 2.5 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batter upon his/her dismissal during an International Match."

"In addition to this, one merit point has been added to the disciplinary record of Gunathilaka, for whom it was the first offence in a period of 24 months," the ICC said.

The incident occurred in the 35th over of West Indies' innings, when Gunathilaka used inappropriate language towards Pooran upon his dismissal.

Gunathilaka admitted the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by the match referee and as such, there was no need for a formal hearing.

On-field umpires Joel Wilson and Leslie Reifer, third umpire Gregory Brathwaite and fourth umpire Nigel Duguid levelled the charges.

## World Champion P V Sindhu & Co Chase Elusive All England Championships Title

### Press Trust of India

BIRMINGHAM: World champion P V Sindhu will look to shrug off her demoralising Swiss Open final defeat and take advantage of a depleted field when she spearheads India's challenge at the prestigious All England Open Badminton Championships, beginning here on Wednesday.

Sindhu looked a pale shadow of herself in her defeat against Carolina Marin, going down without much fight as she struggled to contain errors.

Carolina, the three-time world champion from Spain, though has pulled out of the prestigious tournament due to an injury, taking some shine off of the event.

Also missing in action will be the Chinese, Koreans and Chinese Taipei shuttlers, who decided not to compete in the Super 1000 event as it is not part of the Tokyo Olympic qualification period. It affects the quality of the competition but also provides the 19-member Indian contingent an opportunity to go deep in the draw and recapture the trophy which has been won by just two Indians so far -- the legendary Prakash Padukone (1980) and P Gopichand (2001).

While former world number one Saina Nehwal had a runner-up finish in 2015, Sindhu's best finish was a semifinal in 2018 but none of the other Indian shuttlers have been able to go deep in the tournament till now.

Olympic silver medalist Sindhu will again be one of the top contenders but Saina is nowhere near her best with just two quarter-final finishes to show in the last two years.

Among other Indians, former number one Kidambi Srikanth and young men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, currently ranked 10 in the world, had a good run in Swiss Open and will look to put their best foot forward.

Fifth seed Sindhu will kick off her campaign with a clash against Malaysia's Soniia Cheah and is likely to face Japan's Akane Yamaguchi in the quarterfinals, provided she wins her initial rounds. London Olympics bronze medalist Saina has drawn in-form seventh seed Mia Blichfeldt of Denmark in her first round and might meet Scotland's Kristy Gilmour next.

In men's singles, Srikanth will open against Tommy Sugiarto of Indonesia, while world championships bronze medalist B Sai Praneeth will take on France's Toma Junior Popov and is likely to clash next with second seed Viktor Axelsen, who has won the two Super 1000 titles in Thailand, and the Swiss Open.

Commonwealth Games gold medalist Parupalli Kashyap will open against world number one Japanese Kento Momota, who is returning to international circuit after a horrific car accident last year that saw him undergo an eye surgery.

He was also laid low after contracting COVID-19.

## India Women To Play For Pride In 5th ODI Against South Africa

### Press Trust of India

LUCKNOW: The series already out of their grasp, the Indian women cricketers, who are struggling to put together a cohesive team show, will have pride at stake when they clash with South Africa women in the fifth and final One-day International in Lucknow on Wednesday.

Barring the convincingly nine-wicket win in the second match, the Indian women have barely fired in unison while the South Africans, who have already clinched the series 3-1, have excelled as a team.

To be fair to the home side players, they were a bit rusty as they are playing their first international series after more than a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic while South Africa recently beat Pakistan 3-0 at home. The Indian team also missed the flair of young Shafali Verma at the top of the order and the experience of Shikha Pandey in bowling department.

Indian spinners, save Rajeshwari Gayakwad (5 wickets from 4 matches), were a big let-down on the slow tracks and that has played a big part in India's series loss when the South Africans chased down 249 and 267 in the third and fourth matches.

Senior leg-spiner Poonam Yadav could not get a single batter out in the four matches she has played so far. It remains to be seen if she keeps her place in the playing eleven on Wednesday.

Veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami



continued to be the pick of Indian bowlers as she topped the bowling charts with eight wickets from the three matches she has played but she did not get much support from her colleagues except for spinner Gayakwad. Goswami did not play in the fourth match.

Top-order batter Punam Raut has been in sensational form with scores of 10, 62 not out, 77 and 104 not out in the four games.

The 31-year-old top run getter among the Indians would like to continue from where she left in the fourth match where she hit an unbeaten century, though, in a losing cause.

Captain Mithali Raj and her deputy Harmapreet Kaur were the other two consistent batters while star opener Smriti Mandhana shone only in the second match.

Opener Jemimah Rodrigues was also disappointing and she was left out of the fourth match after scores of 1, 9 and 0.

Raj, who became the first Indian woman cricketer and second internationally to reach 10,000 runs during the series, had scores of 50, 36 and 45 in the three innings she has played so far. She did not bat in the second match.

The same is for Kaur who had scores of 40, 36, 54. She also did not bat in the second match.

After smashing a match-winning 80 not out in the second match, Mandhana has not done much in the other three matches with scores of 14, 25 and 10. With pressure off in the inconsequential match, the 24-year-old left hander is due for a big innings.

The South Africans, on the other hand, have excelled in team work with their batters and bowlers performing in unison except in the second match where they were blown away by the batting brilliance of Mandhana and Raut.

For them, opening batswoman Lizelle Lee has been in ominous form, topping the overall batting chart with 288 runs with scores of 83 not out, 4, 132 not out and 69.

She single-handedly won the rain-marred third match for South Africa with a scintillating unbeaten century. She has been ably supported by Laura Wolvaardt (154 runs) and Lara Goodall (124).

Pacer Shabnim Ismail has been the top wicket-taker for the South Africans with seven scalps from four matches—second overall after Goswami.

## Tiger Global-Backed Upstox To Sponsor Indian Premier League

### Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Tiger Global-backed online brokerage Upstox will sponsor the Indian Premier League starting April 9.

IPL Governing Council announced a "multi-year" partnership with Upstox as an official partner for the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Backed by marquee investors such as Tiger Global, Upstox currently has over 2.8 million customers, a joint statement said without giving the value of the sponsorship deal.

This is for the first time in the history of IPL that a brand in the stock and mutual fund sector would be partnering at large to create awareness about this category.

Founded with the vision of making financial investing easy, equitable, and affordable to all Indian investors, Upstox provides online investments in stocks, mutual funds, digital gold, derivatives, and ETFs for both investors and traders.

Brijesh Patel, Chairman, IPL, said, "As one of the most-watched cricket leagues in India, IPL along with Upstox, one of India's fastest-growing digital-trading platforms, can create a huge impact on the audience, especially the



millions of Indian youth who are financially independent and looking for more options to manage their portfolios."

Commenting on the partnership, Ravi Kumar, co-founder & CEO of Upstox said, "In India, cricket is more than just a sport. It is an important part of our culture and social life, with a huge fan following, especially by the

millennials."

IPL, he said, has paved a bold new direction to Indian cricket in the last decade just like Upstox, which is revolutionising finance in India.

"This is what sparks a natural connection between both the brands. With this integration of sports and finance, we intend to spread financial awareness across the country," he said.