



P3 CITY

**BADAMWARI TO OPEN FOR VISITORS TOMORROW**

Tourism Department is organising a cultural evening at Badamwari Garden from 4 pm to 6 pm on March 20 (Saturday) to announce its opening and the garden will

P5 THINK

**THE DOORWAY AMNESIA**

Imagine you're in the middle of watching a riveting episode of your favourite TV show. You decide the situation calls for popcorn, so you get up and head to the kitchen. But when you arrive in the kitchen you suddenly stop and think to yourself....



P7 STATE

**THOUSANDS PROTEST AGAINST WASIM RIZVI IN KARGIL, DEMAND HIS ARREST**

Thousands of Muslims staged a protest in Kargil after Friday prayers against former Shia Waqf Board chairperson Waseem Rizvi who has filed a petition...

**Quote!**

Wanting to be someone else is a waste of who you are  
—Kurt Cobain

**NEWS DIGEST****J&K Logs 152 Corona Cases**

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Friday 152 more cases of coronavirus, while the deadly claimed another life in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. The victim, officials said, belonged to the Jammu division and raised the fatality count to 1979 in the Union Territory—732 in Jammu and 1247 in Kashmir. About the new cases of [More On P6](#)

**Youth Injured In Solar Battery Blast**

SRINAGAR: A 25-year-old youth was injured after a solar battery exploded in Arwani area of Bijbehara in South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Friday evening. An official said that the solar battery installed at a readymade shop, which belongs to Zahid Zahoor War, son of Zahoore Ahmad War of Arwani exploded this evening, thus resulting in injuries to the shop owner. He said the injured [More On P6](#)

**Six Gamblers Held With Rs 5700: Police**

SRINAGAR: Police on Friday claimed to have arrested six gamblers from Mir Bazar area of south Kashmir's Qazigund. Jitender Singh, Charan Singh, Ranjit Singh, Lohi Singh, Karan Singh and Mohd Rafiq Kumar were arrested by a police team from Palpora area of Qazigund after receiving a tip-off about gambling activities, a police spokesperson said Friday. He said Rs 5,700 and playing cards were seized from the spot during the raid. [More On P6](#)

**Biker Collides With Bridge, Dies**

SRINAGAR: A biker died in a road accident in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Friday afternoon. Reports said that a biker lost control over a two-wheeler and collided with a bridge at Prang, resulting in critical injuries. He was immediately rushed to Hajin hospital for treatment where doctors declared him dead. The deceased has been identified as Attula Dar son of Sonaulah Dar. [More On P6](#)

**Missing KU Student Traced**

SRINAGAR: A PG student of Kashmir University who was reported to be missing has been traced from Jammu. The University administration places on record its appreciation to the local police, especially SP Hazratbal, SDPO Hazratbal and SHO Nigeen police station, for their efforts in tracing the missing student within 24 hours, reports said. The University was, with a sense of deep concern, in constant contact with the [More On P6](#)

**J&K's Debt Piles Up, Liabilities Over Rs 83000 Crore**

Agencies

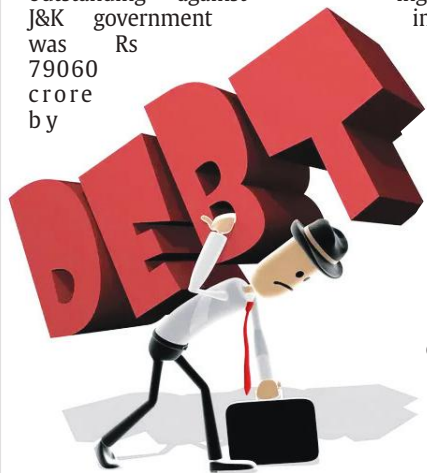
SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory is slipping into a "debt trap" as its liabilities have mounted over Rs 83000 crore, reports said Friday.

Official documents reveal that J&K's liabilities have piled up to Rs 83573 by 2019-20 up by Rs 4513 crore from preceding financial year. The overall debt outstanding against J&K government was Rs 79060 crore by

2018-19.

According to the documents, Rs 13487 crore liabilities were raised by J&K in 2018-19 and Rs 11999 crore in 2019-20, news agency KNO reported.

The liabilities include Rs 34291 crore market borrowings, Rs 1237 crore loans from Centre, Rs 3370 crore special securities issued to the National Small Saving Fund, Rs 3574 borrowings from financial institutions/ banks, Rs 692 crore from Ways and Means Advance (WMA) from Reserve Bank of India, Rs 27162 crore from small savings, provident funds, etc., Rs 9709 crore reserve funds/deposits (Net). This also includes Rs 3573 crore borrowings under UDAY power bonds. In [More On P6](#)

**Major Reshuffle In J&K Police**

Sandeep Chowdhary Is New SSP Srinagar

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday ordered transfer of 25 SSPs and SPs in Jammu and Kashmir with immediate effect.

According to Home Department's order, Rayees Mohammad Bhat (IPS), AIG (P&T), PHQ has been transferred and posted as SSP Baramulla vice Abdul Qayoom.

Dr. Vinod Kumar (IPS), awaiting orders, has been posted as SSP Poonch vice Ramesh Kumar Angral. Sandeep Choudhary (IPS), SP Anantnag has been transferred and posted as SSP Srinagar vice Mohd. Haseeb Mughal.

Chandan Kohli (IPS), SP Rajouri has been transferred and posted as SSP Jammu vice Shridhar Patil (IPS).

Dr. G.V. Sundee Chakravathy (IPS), SP Handwara has been transferred and posted as SP Kupwara vice Ambarkar Shriram Dinkar (IPS). Sudhanshu Verma (IPS), SP Hazratbal, Srinagar has been transferred and posted as SP Sopore vice Javid Iqbal.

Sandeep Gupta (IPS), SP North, Srinagar has been transferred and [More On P6](#)

**Night Flights Start From Srinagar Airport**

Go Air Takes Lead With First Ever Night Flight From Valley

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a major relief to fliers, the Srinagar International Airport has finally started much awaited night flight operations from the Valley with Go Air becoming the first private player to take off a flight from Srinagar to New Delhi.

The Go Air flight G8 7007 took off from Srinagar Airport around 7:35 pm Friday though the timing will be



rescheduled from tomorrow. Go Air operates on Jammu, Delhi and Leh sectors of the erstwhile state.

"Today we started a trial flight at 7:35pm. The flight will now depart at 8:30pm. It is for the first [More On P6](#)

**PMLA CASE****Court Refuses To Stay ED Summons To Mehbooba**

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Friday refused to stay summons issued to former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case.

**Bajwa's Statement Good Opportunity: Mehbooba**

Srinagar PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Friday said Pakistan Army Chief's statement calling for better ties with India has provided a "good opportunity" for the two [More On P6](#)



A bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice [More On P6](#)

**169 Major Landslides Hit J&K In 5 Years: GoI**

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has reported 169 major landslides in last five years, impacting life and infrastructure, government of India said on Friday.

In all 3656 major landslides have occurred across India and were collected by Geological Survey of India through onsite field investigations under the Post-Disaster Studies programme taken up annually by [More On P6](#)

**Friday Following Me'raj-e-Alam Observed**

KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Emotional scenes were witnessed at Hazratbal shrine on Friday following Me'raj-e-Alam after the devotees had a glimpse of the relic of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) post congregational prayers.

The devotees including men and women from different parts of the Valley, who thronged to the shrine today, were seen reciting Durood, many with moist eyes, when the holy relic was displayed. Witnesses said that the rush of devotees was higher than last Friday when the [More On P6](#)

**HOSPITAL HORROR****Minor Fights For Life After Given 'Expired' Injections**

Hospital Administration Suspends Nurse, Orders Probe

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: A minor girl is battling for life at the district hospital Shopian where she was administered expired injections four days ago, sparking anger and outrage among the locals and prompting administration to order a probe.

Six-year-old Bazila Jan of Devpora village was admitted to the district hospital Shopian by her family four days ago with the complaint of pneumonia, her father Mohamad Iqbal Khataria said Friday. At the hospital, he said, the minor girl has been given expired Monocef injection [More On P6](#)

**Mercury Rises As Kashmir Braces Up For Wet Spell**

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Mercury increased in Kashmir Valley amid forecast for wet spell next week, weatherman said on Friday.

A meteorological department official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 5.8 degree Celsius against 4.2 degree Celsius on the previous night. The minimum temperature was 1.1 degree Celsius above normal for this time of the year in the summer capital of J&K, the official said.

Qazigund, the gateway town of Kashmir, recorded a low of

5.7 degree Celsius against 3.8 degree Celsius on the previous night while mercury settled at 0.7°C against 1.1 degree Celsius on the earlier night at Pahalgam, the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a low of 6.0 degree Celsius against previous night's 2.6 degree Celsius, the official said. The minimum temperature settled at 6.6 degree Celsius in Kupwara against 2.6 degree Celsius on the previous night, the official said.

Gulmarg recorded minimum temperature [More On P6](#)

**US Defence Secretary Arrives In India**

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: In the first visit by a top Biden administration official, US Defence Secretary Lloyd J Austin arrived in India on Friday on a three-day visit, aimed at further boosting bilateral defence and security ties in the wake of China's growing military assertiveness in the region including in the Indo-Pacific.

India is the third stop for Austin during his three-nation first overseas tour as the Defence Secretary, and the visit is seen as a reflection of the Joe Biden administration's strong commitment to its relations with its close allies and partners in the region. The US defence secretary visited Japan and South Korea before India. The US official was received at the Palam airport by senior Indian military officials and diplomats from the American embassy. [More On P6](#)

**GENUINE HANDMADE KASHMIR PASHMINA IS NOW AUTHENTICATED****Know The Kashmir Pashmina Label**

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# Capsule Cameras To Help Early Detection Of Cancer

Press Trust Of India

**M**iniature cameras which patients can swallow to get checked for cancer are being trialled across England, the National Health Service (NHS) said on Thursday.

The imaging technology, in a capsule no bigger than a pill, can provide a diagnosis within hours. Known as a "colon capsule endoscopy", the cameras are expected to help speed up the checks, catching more cancers early when they are easier to treat.

"As we come out of 'peak Covid' and the disruption of the pandemic, the NHS is now pushing ahead with genuine innovation to expand services for many other conditions," said NHS Chief Executive Sir Simon Stevens.

"That's why we're now trialling these ingenious capsule cameras to allow more people to undergo cancer investigations quickly and safely. What sounds like sci-fi is now becoming a reality, and as these minute cameras pass through your body, they take two pictures per second checking for signs of cancer and other conditions like Crohn's disease," he said.

Traditional endoscopies mean patients need to attend hospital and have a tube inserted whereas the new technology means that people can go about their normal day. An initial group of 11,000 NHS patients in England will receive the capsule cameras in more than 40 parts of the country.

"As the NHS continues to prioritise cancer care, this latest innovation will ensure people can get the checks they need and conveniently – the cameras are small but they will make a big difference for patients," said Dame Cally Palmer, NHS national cancer director.

The latest NHS figures show that hospitals carried out more than two cancer treatments for every patient they treated for COVID-19. In December alone, more than 25,000 patients were treated for cancer and more



than 200,000 people came forward for checks – 13,000 more than the same month the previous year.

"From the cutting-edge technology of these colon capsules to COVID protected hubs and chemo home deliveries, the NHS has fast tracked new ways of treating and diagnosing cancer – all while responding to the coronavirus pandemic," said Professor Peter Johnson, NHS clinical director for cancer.

Infection control measures required to make en-

doscopies COVID-secure mean they take much longer to do, which has reduced the number of people who can undergo the life-saving checks.

The capsule endoscopy normally takes five to eight hours and provides full images of the bowel with information sent to a data recorder in a shoulder bag, so patients can go about their day.

The NHS said its Long Term Plan is committed to increasing the number of tumours caught at an early

stage from half to three in four.

At University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation trust (UCLH), the endoscopy team have already started using the innovative diagnostic tool.

"Colon capsule is a new innovation that has recently become available and involves swallowing a camera pill that takes pictures of the bowel as it passes through. These pictures are beamed to a recording device that the patient wears at their waist," said clinical lead Ed Seward.

"Not only does colon capsule increase our diagnostic capacity, because it doesn't require the resources of a dedicated hospital space to do the examination, it also allows us to do the examination in the patient's home, so patients who may be shielding or cautious about going to a hospital, can perform the procedure in the comfort of their own homes," he said.

Dr Alastair McKinlay, President of The British Society of Gastroenterology, said: "We welcome any initiative that seeks to simplify and improve the early diagnosis of gastrointestinal disease and, in particular, colorectal cancer which unfortunately is still responsible for many avoidable deaths.

"Colon capsule is a promising new technology that may offer a real advantage for some patients. For this reason, we welcome the opportunity for a proper service evaluation so that both the limitations and advantages of this technique can be properly assessed. We welcome NHS England's decision to work with some of the UK's top experts in this field to make sure that the technology has a proper evaluation." UK Health Minister Jo Churchill added that as part of additional investment in the NHS, an extra 1 billion pounds will be used to "boost diagnosis and treatment in the year ahead", which includes investing in cutting-edge imaging technology such as this, making cancer screening less invasive and more convenient for patients.

## Google to lower in-app commission rate for developers

Agencies

**T**ech giant Google will lower its planned commission rate for app developers, following complaints from software makers over steep fees.

Google said it will levy a 15 per cent rate on in-app purchases to all developers for annual sales up to \$1 million and take a 30 per cent commission from revenues over the \$1 million mark.

The new policy will take effect in July. A company official said 99 per cent of developers log less than \$1 million annual revenue on the Play store, reports Yonhap news agency.

Google earlier announced a plan to introduce the 30 per cent commission to all in-app digital goods purchases in South Korea while making it mandatory to use its own payment system for app purchases on its platform, starting January 2021.

The new billing policy caused fierce opposition from tech firms and politicians and the company later delayed its implementation to September.

Last year lawmakers proposed bills



that would ban app market operators from imposing certain payment methods in mobile content transactions.

The tech giant has said that the service fee is crucial to reinvest in its platform.

"We will do our best so that South Korean developers can provide their products and services to over 1 billion users from some 300 countries around

the world and achieve success in the global market," a Google official said.

Sales from apps on Google's Play store last year were estimated at over 5 trillion won (\$4.4 billion), according to a government report that reviewed 246 companies that accounted for over 75 per cent of the country's mobile app sales during September and October last year.

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

Estates Wing, Main Campus Shalimar – 190 025

### Notice Inviting e-Tender

E-NIT NO. (27) Of 2020 (FRESH)

Dated :16.03.2021

For and on behalf of Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST(K), e-tenders (in two-cover system) are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Civil contractors whose cards are valid up to 31-03-2021 registered with State PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Govt. departments for the following work:-

S.No	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (in lacs)	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Cost of Tender document	Time of completion
1.	Construction of Farmers Hostel At Main Campus Shalimar SKUAST-Kashmir	233.50	"AAY"	NABARD	5000/-	18 months

Position of AAA: Accorded

a) Position of T.S : Sanctioned  
b) Position of funds: Assured

1. The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per following schedule:-

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	16.03.2021
2.	Date of start of downloading	16.03.2021
3.	Pre-bid meeting date	NA
4.	Bid submission start Date	16.03.2021
5.	Bid submission end date	24.03.2021
6.	Date & Time of opening of Technical bid/ Financial Bids of qualifying bidders (online)	25.03.2021

Further information can be had from the Office of the undersigned

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
SKUAST-K

No. Au/Estates/E-NIT (27)/259  
Dated: 17 .03 .2020

**DIPK-NB-6509/20**

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Farm Manager ACHD Zainapora Shopian

Tele Fax: 01933-264034 Email: [farmmanager034@gmail.com](mailto:farmmanager034@gmail.com)

### QUOTATION NOTICE

Sealed Quotations affixed with the revenue stamp of Rs. 2/= (Rs. Two) are invited from the Registered / authorized dealers for supply of below mentioned Power Weeders:

S.No	Description	No/ qty required
1	Honda make, 7 H.P Power Weeders	2 No.

Terms & conditions:

- The quotation notices should reach in the office of undersigned by or before 22-03-2021 upto 01:00 P.M only through Registered post/ Courier or by hand and shall be opened on the same day at 03:00 P.M in presence of the committee members as well as the quotationer who wish to be present on the occasion.
- The rates should be written in words as well as in figures clearly/ legible without erasing, cuttings and overwriting. Any rate offered with mutilation erosions/ overwritings will not be accepted.
- Quotations received after the fixed date and time will not be accepted unless the corrigendum issued or extended for the purpose.
- Conditional quotations will be out-rightly rejected.
- The committee members shall reserve the right to accept or reject any quotation without assigning any reason thereof.
- The successful quotationer shall be responsible to make the supply of Power Weeders, within the period as may be specified in the supply order.
- The payment shall be made only after the ordered quantity of supply is received by this office, through DBT mode.

**DIPK-15281/20**

Sd/-  
Farm Manager,  
ACHD Zainapora Shopian.

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION PULWAMA KMR.

N.I.T SL. NO: 311 /R&B/Pul/2020-21/11530-11540.

D A T E D:17 /03/2021.

For and on behalf of the Lt.Governor of J&K U.T, the Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama invites Tenders affixed with Rs 5/ Revenue stamps along with earnest money in the shape of CDR for the following works from the Regd. Contractors in sealed envelope mentioning name and full address of the tenderer, Ref. NIT NO & Date and ref. to CDR NO & Date with amount prescribed on the envelope. The tenders be addressed to Executive Engineer PWD R&B Division Pulwama and should reach his office on or before 23-03-2021 upto 4 pm.

The tender documents shall be issued on production of valid registration card and Treasury challan for Rs.200 up to 22-03-2021\_4 pm.

S.NO	Name of work.	Approx Cost	Earnest Money	Class of Contractor	Time for Completion	Cost of T.D.	M.H. of Account
01.	Development of Ground at Mechanical Sub-Division Pulwama.	0.82 Lacs	Rs. 2000/-	DEE	03 Days	Rs. 200/-	

Executive Engineer,  
R&B Division  
Pulwama.

**DIPK-15216/20**



## Badamwari To Open For Visitors Tomorrow

Tourism Dept To Organise Cultural Evening

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Tourism Department is organising a cultural evening at Badamwari Garden from 4 pm to 6 pm on March 20 (Saturday) to announce its opening and the garden will be also thrown open for the general public from March 21 (Sunday).

Kashmir's historic Badamwari was closed for visitors despite almond bloom due to Covid lockdown last year. The almond garden located on the foothills of historic

Koh e Maran in Srinagar holds much significance as it heralds the arrival of spring in Kashmir.

Locals urged the administration earlier to throw open the Badamwari Garden.

The tourism department has decided to announce its opening and the garden will be open for the general public from March 21 (Sunday). Sarmad Hafeez Secretary Tourism and Director Tourism Kashmir, Dr GN Itoo will be the hosts of the cultural evening. (KNS)

## MSME DI Srinagar Organises Training Session On Udyam Registration

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The MSME Development Institute Srinagar under the Ministry of MSME GOI organised the 12th online training session on Udyam Registration for the MSMEs of J&K dealing with manufacturing and services.

During the webinar, Assistant Director MSME DI Srinagar Saheel Alaqband explained the whole process through trial registration and informed MSMEs about the original govt. the website from which registration can be done free of cost.

During the training, while discussing retail/wholesale trade, He stressed the fact that Udyam registration is meant only for Manufacturing and

Service enterprises and does not include divisions 45, 46 & 47 of NIC 2008 which deal with Wholesale and retail trade of Items as no such NIC code will be found on Udyam portal also during registration. The codes at sub-class/ 5 digit level 45200 and 45403 are exceptions in division 45 and are eligible for Udyam registration.

He said MSMEs should not select wrong NIC codes which do not reflect their actual line of activity in order to get the registration.

Alaqaand said, till now the UT OF J&K has 14077 registered MSMEs under Udyam registration out of which 6904 belong to the manufacturing sector and 7173 belong to the service sector.

## Police Disallow Mini Passenger Vehicles To Enter Into City Via Batwara

Commuters Express Anguish

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The traffic police officials have been barring mini passenger vehicles to enter into the Srinagar city through Batwara-Badamibagh road causing anguish among the commuters.

The traffic is being diverted through Lasjan frustrating the travellers as the dilapidated and lengthy road is time consuming.

The commuters travelling from different parts of South Kashmir districts said the decision to divert mini passenger vehicles has caused inconvenience to them, particularly students and patients travelling to Srinagar.

ling to Srinagar.

"The policemen on duty provide no explanation as if they are deaf and dumb. They do not allow Tavera's or Sumo's to ply on Badamibagh-Batwara road for reasons known to them," a group of commuters said.

"This is annoying, we pay fare from our area just to reach our designated place on time but the authorities are creating inconvenience for us by diverting the small passenger vehicles," said a group of angry commuters.

A police official on condition of anonymity said this is being to streamline the traffic. "We have to streamline the traffic in city." (CNS)

**The policemen on duty provide** no explanation as if they are deaf and dumb. They do not allow Tavera's or Sumo's to ply on Badamibagh-Batwara road for reasons known to them



On Friday following Me'raj-e-Alam, faithful thronged the sanctum of Hazratbal, Srinagar in great numbers, to glimpse the holy relic of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). KO PIC / ABID BHAT

## SMC Shelves Rs 8 Crore Project Over Internal Tussle

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has shelved rupees eight crore project that was aimed to generate employment in Srinagar city after the qualifying agency refused to fall into line of Financial Advisor Chief Accounts officer (FACAO) & Chief Sanitation officer (CSO) of the corporation.

Sources said that last year in March the SMC invited tenders from interested agencies/ organisations for the project which was aimed to create job opportunities for at least 300 unemployed youths. The tender was invited for the outsourcing of manpower of the Corporation, but surprisingly the project is still in abeyance.

Sources said, after receiving poor performance from agencies due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic the tender was extended four times and finally it was

published in July 2020 through a notification vide SMC no. SMC/PS/COM/7/2020.

"Three among five agencies which were selected through an e-tendering notice published in March 2021, two were dropped for lacking technical eligibility. Subsequently, a financial bid was opened and selectees were asked to present Powerpoint Presentation (PPT). All the three technically qualified agencies presented the PPT and SMC set up contract committee which went ahead with a final evaluation of the proposals and quoted rates," sources said.

Finally, the committee concluded that one of the participant agencies namely All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG) qualified for the tender and the committee submitted its final report to the ex-Commissioner of the corporation after fulfilling all the required formalities.

Sources further said that the Financial Advisor/Chief Accounts officer (FACAO) and Chief Sanitation officer (CSO) communicated verbally to the qualified agency several times to come for negotiations. However, in turn, the concerned agency asked SMC officers to communicate with them officially. Moreover, the agency has not till date received any official communiqué in this regard from the Corporation instead were called by FACAO for negotiation before issuing the Letter of Authority/Intent.

"The delay was caused as the concerned officials were expecting some favour before allotment of tender. FACAO had called the qualified agency AIILSG to his office and was asked to share the contract on a 50/50 basis with the other bidder namely Kuchay Traders to which the qualified agency rightly refused and the project was shelved," sources added. (KDC)

## Various Projects Being Executed To Make Srinagar A Smart City: Commissioner SMC

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Commissioner SMC Athar Amir Khan Friday said that establishing street vending zones, constructing toilets, procuring new machines, and bringing accountability into the functioning of Srinagar Municipal Corporation will help make Srinagar a smart city.

"We are receiving funding from the Centre, J&K government and PP mode for execution of smart city programme. We are upgrading basic facilities through e-governance. There are various works being executed under smart city programme which are on top priority," Khan said.

One of the initiatives, he said has been taken hundred-per cent door to door waste collection and source segregation in four wards of the district.

"We want to get rid of dumpsters on our roads and streets. The main focus is to collect waste from households by the door to door and then make scientific disposal of the waste," he said.

The initiative was recently taken up in four wards of the city including Shalimar, Soura, Karan Nagar and Humhama.

Under this project, every household and waste generator segregate their waste into two bins –green and blue (green for organic waste and blue for inorganic waste).

Similarly, he said they are procuring new machines including snow clearance machines.

"We want to make use of machinery and manpower in an efficient manner. We want an IT-based system so there is proper accountability and efficiency in the Corporation," the SMC Commissioner said.

Khan said they were going to construct new toilets at various places. "We are conducting a functional audit of existing ones to check if they have water facilities available and are in good condition so they could be made for public use," he said.

Asked about a picture that has gone viral where tourists are seen lined one after the other who

chooses to use the banks of Dal Lake as an open toilet, he admitted there was a lack of toilets along the banks of the famed lake.

"There are restrictions on constructions. After seeing this picture, we deployed two mobile toilets on the banks of Dal Lake. Similarly, another existing toilet at Shalimar has been made functional," he said.

Similarly, the SMC Commissioner said they were creating more vending zones to make streets decongested in Srinagar.

Recently, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha laid the foundation of one Smart Vending Zones near Jahangir Chowk and is expected to be made operational in April 2021.

This will accommodate more than 250 vendors who will be shifted from central business areas like Harisingh Highstreet, Residency Road, Lal Chowk etc which will be declared no vending zones for strict implementation.

Similarly, authorities have also finalised the sites for more Smart Vending Zones including one at Batamaloo. (KINS)

### Office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Shopian NOTICE



Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr./Mrs **Umar Gani Khanday S/O Ab Gani Khanday R/o Gagren Shopian** (Party No 1st) as Transferor, (seller) owner of the vehicle Santro Regd. No. **JK22 4621**



And Mr./ Mrs **Mushtaq Ah Naikoo S/o Gh Mohamad Naikoo R/O Memander Shopian** (Parti No 2nd ) as Transferee (purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted vehicle from party No. 1st to 2nd

Before the case is disposed off on its merits, any body having objection regarding the proposed transfer may file his objection within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned

No any representation/ objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.

**Dated 18-03-2021**

**S/D Asst Regional Transport Officer Shopian**

ast

#### DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

#### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



#### RAILWAYS

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



#### HIGHWAY STATUS

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



**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
**05 SHABAN**  
**1442**

#### PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 12
ZUHR	12: 40
ASR	4:58
Magrib	6:45
ISHA	8:05

### This Day In History

- 1942 - General Douglas MacArthur vows "I came through and I shall return" after escaping Japanese-occupied Philippines
- 1942 - Major German assault on Malta
- 1943 - German U-384 bombed & sinks
- 1944 - Mount Vesuvius in Italy erupts
- 1945 - US 70th Infantry division and 7th Armour division attack Saar
- 1951 - Indonesian army offensive against Darul Islam on Java
- 1952 - Final ratification of peace treaty restoring sovereignty to Japan by US Senate
- 1956 - Tunisia gains independence from France
- 1956 - USSR performs nuclear test
- 1957 - Britain accepts NATO offer to mediate in Cyprus, but Greece rejects it
- 1964 - ESRO established, European Space Research Organization
- 1968 - Military intervene in South-Yemen (leftist ministers resign)
- 1977 - Communists and socialists win French municipal elections
- 1979 - Columbia flies on Shuttle carrier aircraft to Kennedy Space Center
- 1987 - NASA launches Palapa B2P.
- 1988 - Eritrean War of Independence: Having defeated the Nadew Command, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front enters the town of Afabet, victoriously concluding the Battle of Afabet.
- 1991 - Supreme Court rules unanimously employers can't exclude women from jobs where exposure to toxic chemicals could potentially damage fetus
- 2000 - Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, a former Black Panther once known as H. Rap Brown, is captured after a gun battle that leaves a Georgia sheriff's deputy dead
- 2000 - Pope John Paul II visits Holy Land - Jordan, Israel, Palestine
- 2003 - A US-led coalition launches an invasion of Iraq, beginning the Iraq War
- 2004 - Stephen Harper wins the leadership of the newly created Conservative Party of Canada, becoming the party's first leader.
- 2006 - Over 150 Chadian soldiers are killed in eastern Chad by members of the rebel UFDC. The rebel movement sought to overthrow Chadian president Idriss Deby.
- 2012 - 50 people are killed and 240 injured in a wave of terror attacks across 10 cities in Iraq
- 2013 - Pierre Deligne wins the 2013 Abel Prize in mathematics
- 2016 - Barack Obama becomes the first US President to visit Cuba since 1928, arriving for a 2 day tour
- Barack Obama
- 2017 - Indian rivers Yamuna and the Ganges declared "living entities" by court in the state of Uttarakhand

### From KO Archives

## Pak raises objections to Kishanganga project

Islamabad - Pakistan has sought an urgent meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) to discuss its three major objections to a hydroelectric project India is building in Jammu and Kashmir a newspaper reported Friday.

The Dawn said Pakistan had raised objections over the design of the dam on the Kishanganga river, known as Neelum in Pakistan, that will run through a tunnel and its negative impact on Pakistan's water use.

The PIC, of which both Pakistan and India are commissioners, was set up under the bilateral Indus Water Treaty of 1960 brokered by the World Bank on the share of inter-state river waters between the two countries.

Pakistan has already approached the World Bank to re-solve the dispute over the Baglihar dam India is building on the Chenab.

Pakistan's commissioner for PIC, Syed Jamaat Ali Shah, briefed a meeting of officials Thursday about the Kishanganga project, including alleged violations by India of the Indus Waters Treaty and Pakistan's technical objections.

Official sources told Dawri that India had been asked to hold a meeting of the commissioners of the PIC specifically on the Kishanganga project.

Unless differences over the project are resolved in two months, Pakistan would be left with no option but to approach the World Bank for appointment of a neutral expert, the sources said.

The sources said India had provided details of data and engineering design of the Kishanganga project to Pakistan at the PIC meeting last month. Islamabad, in turn conveyed its objections and asked New Delhi to resolve the issue.

They said the project would reduce the flow of the river in Pakistan by about 27 percent and the power generation capacity of the proposed 969 MW Neelum-Jhelum hydropower project in Pakistan-administered Kashmir.

According to the news reports, construction of the Kishanganga project could cause eight to nine percent water shortage in Pakistan. (Kashmir Observer, 20 March, 2005)

**از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار کریری**

عنوان: درخواست منجانب: رفیقہ بیگم زوجہ مرحوم نصیر احمد خان ساکنہ مخندمہ بغرض پسماندگان ڈپنٹ سرٹیفیکٹ بحق نصیر احمد خان متوفی

**اشتہار بمراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام**

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی۔ مطابق رپورٹ پٹواری سالک کا شوہر نصیر احمد خان ولد محمد اسد اللہ خان ساکنہ مخندمہ بتاریخ 24-08-2019 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے۔ مطابق رپورٹ پٹواری مندرجہ ذیل پسماندگان اپنے پیچھے چھوڑ گیا ہے۔

رفیقہ بیگم زوجہ نصیر احمد خان	50 سال	گھر یلو کام
مدر نصیر احمد خان ولد نصیر احمد خان	32 سال	رہبر بھیل استاد
سمرت نصیر دختر نصیر احمد خان	30 سال	گھر یلو کام
نصرت نصیر دختر نصیر احمد خان	26 سال	زیر تعلیم
فریدہ زوجہ نصیر احمد خان	21 سال	زیر تعلیم
ہارہ بیگم زوجہ محمد اسد اللہ خان	75 سال	عمر رسیدہ
نصیرہ بی زوجہ محمد نصیر احمد خان	30 سال	گھر یلو کام

مطابق رپورٹ پٹواری مندرجہ بالا پسماندگان کے علاوہ اور کوئی پسماندگان نہیں ہے۔ اگر عند مطلوبہ کے اجرا میں کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو سات دن کے اندر نامزد دفتر ہذا میں پیش کریں۔ معیاد گذرنے کے بعد کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

ajj

نائب تحصیلدار کریری

**از نیابت وگمولہ**

عنوان: مضمون درخواست رئیس احمد - عامر احمد، عمر فاروق و نیلوفر فاروق اولادان فاروق احمد گنائی ساکنہ موضع کیرگام بمزاد عطا بگی RBA تحت SRO294 اشتہار بمزاد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ تقوالات ریکارڈ طلب کے لئے جس سے مہماں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل سالک موضع کیرگام کا سکونت دار ہے کہہہ کی سالانہ آمدنی مبلغ 42000 روپے تک ہے۔ کہہہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

فاروق احمد گنائی ولد شاد اللہ گنائی	سرکاری ملازم	41 سال
فریدہ بیگم زوجہ فاروق احمد	گھر یلو کام	40
ریش احمد گنائی پسر	زیر تعلیم	21
عافر احمد گنائی پسر	زیر تعلیم	20
عمر فاروق گنائی پسر	زیر تعلیم	19
نیلوفر فاروق دختر	زیر تعلیم	18

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کہہہ نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ یوم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ معیاد گذرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

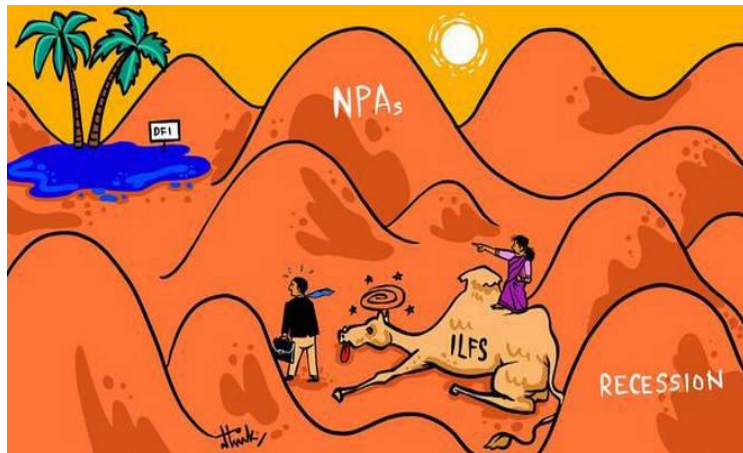
SUTL R



## KASHMIR OBSERVER

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### NO HOLDS BARRED



Being the biggest spender with big pockets and a deep borrowing capacity, GoJK's effectiveness or lack of it in policy formulation & implementation can make or break the already limping economy of J&K. The infra-structural push is expected to create a multiplier effect and trickle down to the lower strata of the economic layers. A sustained commitment towards the health sector too is a decision in the right direction

# Economy Central Demystifying J&K's Budget 2021-22



EJAZ AYOUB  
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Far from the democratic ruins of the ghostly legislative assembly of the erstwhile state, Jammu and Kashmir's annual fiscal policy was again presented in the citadels of New Delhi for the second consecutive year. Terming it an era of hope and positivity for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the union finance minister spoke at length, as to how the new bureaucratic run arrangement has checked corruption, strengthened Grass-root democracy, transformed governance & accelerated development.

This is how budgets, central as well as at the state levels, have always been presented. Laden in the velvet of rhetoric and glossed with a selectively chosen set of numbers, the idea is to project an image of achievement, progress and growth while carefully working around the not-so-pleasing statistics in order to maintain the public confidence in the policies. Given the complexity of this financially technical document, it is important that we demystify this enigma so that the debate penetrates into day to day conversation of commoners. Since the authority to decide on taxes stands surrendered by the states to the GST council in 2017, state/UT budgets are mostly limited to deciding on the spending and borrowing program. These two data points will therefore remain the focus of this column.

#### Fiscal Hindsight:

Since the difference between announcements and achievements is only getting wider, therefore, before embarking on the projected Rs. 1.08 Lakh crore budget announced for financial year 2021-22, let us take a brief look at the achievements of the current financial year.

Compared to the projected budget estimate of RS.1.01 lakh crore for FY 2020-21, the revised estimate shows that the actual spending has been limited to Rs. 92,341 only i.e less by Rs. 9087 crore which is around 9% less. This contraction has been driven by a drastic drop in revenue receipts which fell short by Rs. 15,197 crore i.e. around 16.68% less than what was projected for the current financial year. Break-up shows that GST collections have fallen short by 23.42%, sales tax by 19.33% and excise duty & tax on goods by 29.05%. To further aggravate the choke on receipts, the entitled resources from the center which included GST compensation, fell short by a whopping Rs. 14521 Crore i.e. around 20.80% of the projected number.

The revenue expenditure on the other hand has almost remained the same. This means that the axe of this unprecedented shortfall in receipts had to be compensated by either compromising on the allocations towards capital expenditure or through raising more debt or both. This is exactly what has happened. The revised budget for FY 2020-21 witnessed around 31% drop in capital expenditure i.e. a curtailment of spending by Rs. 8803 crore. Since this curtailment falls woefully short of the requirement to match the shrinking receipts, the Govt. had to go for a borrowing spree. Compared to a projected borrowing program of Rs. 7917 crore for FY 2020-21, the revised estimates show that the Govt. had to borrow an additional Rs. 6413 crore i.e. a spike of 81% on the projected estimates, in order to balance the falling revenues. Pertinent to mention that this is besides the debt of Rs. 11,025 crore raised during the current financial year for clearing power purchase liabilities under the Atma Nirbhar Abhiyan.

This disruption of fiscal math on account of sluggish receipts has resulted in a sharp rise of around 53.41% on the projected fiscal deficit which as per revised estimates stands at Rs.15710 crore as against the project value of Rs.

10240 crore. Therefore, the fiscal picture which is emerging for FY 2020-21 is a lot uglier than the one conceived by GoJK while drafting the budget last year.

#### Expenditure projections:

Although the structural impediment of having to support a disproportionately bloated Govt. sector does eat away the major portion of J&K's resources, however, focusing on the allocation towards creation of public assets, no matter how small, is extremely essential in improving the standard of living and holistic economic well-being. As already discussed, the projected allocation towards capital expenditure in the current financial year had to be drastically downsized due to squeeze in receipts. The projections for 2021-22, however, have been made almost at a level similar to budgeted estimates of the current financial year. Against a projection of Rs. 38,764 crore for current financial year, the projections for next financial year have been pinned at Rs. 39,817 crore, i.e. an increase of only 2.71%. When compared to the revised spending of only Rs. 29,855 crore for FY 2020-21, the projections for 2021-22 are far bigger at 33.36%. That's how the low base effect works. The growth in allocation is almost entirely driven by the Infrastructure sector with allocations towards sub-component public health engineering (PHE) projected at an exponential growth of 410.26%.

In case of Rural Development which includes expenditure on implementation of various rural development schemes, such as the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, and the Swachh Bharat Mission J&K's total projected expenditure for FY 2021-22 is around Rs. 5531.31 crore. This is around 5.09 % of the total budget. During the 2015-20 period, states across India on an average have spent 6% of their budget on rural development.

Education sector has been allocated a combined revenue plus capital allocation of Rs. 14,254.75 Crore which is 13.12 % of the total expenditure side. Pertinent to mention that J&K's average allocation towards education in the last 5 years have been around 15% of the spending. During the same period, states across India on an average have spent 16% of their budget on the education sector. The prevailing educational infrastructural gaps in the region ironically deserved a much liberal spending in capital allocation, however, the same is not reflecting in number. A similar dismal allocation of only Rs. 105.91 crore towards science and technology too has been a disappointment.

Health sector has been the prime focus across the globe in wake of the pandemic. This sector witnessed a surge in expenditure in the current financial year with revised expenditure higher than what was projected. A somewhat similar

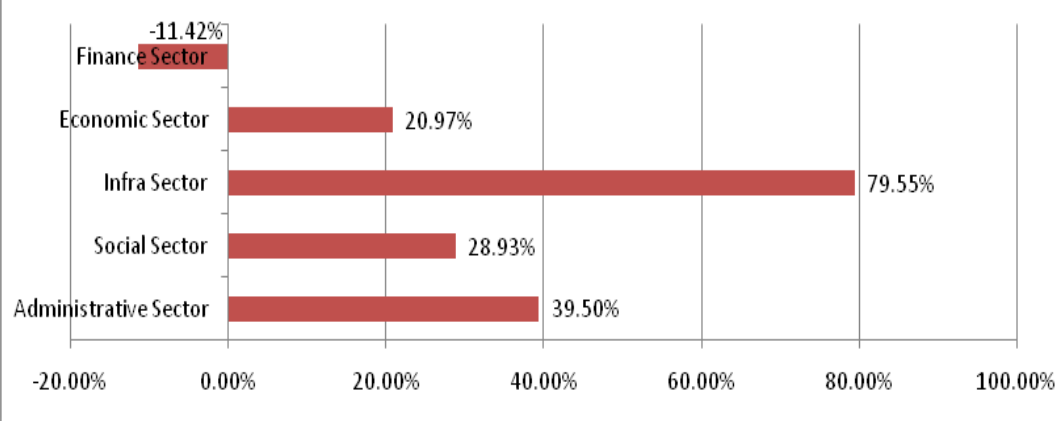
i.e. 15.7% during the last five years on energy compared to average of only 6.2% spent by other states during the same period.

#### Debt:

Borrowing is an essential public finance tool used to create revenue generating assets and public infrastructure. As long as it's not used as an escape route to fulfill revenue gaps and not availed beyond the state's capacity to repay, it can be a healthy catalyst for revving up growth. J&K's pile of debt is one of the highest in the country when compared to the UT's economic size. A debt to GSDP ratio of around 48% is quite unhealthy. This was made even worse by a whopping 81% escalation in borrowing in the current financial year. At an average more than 42% of the own revenue receipts in GoJK's annual budget were consumed in debt servicing in the last 5 years. All India average for all the states combined was only 23%.

The total annual interest payments for FY 2021-22 have been projected at Rs.7692 crore under revenue expenditure and an amount of Rs. 4226 has been allocated for loan repayments under capital expenditure. Therefore, a total of Rs. 11,918 crore is leaking annually towards interest servicing and debt repayment. To put things into perspective, this amount is around 73% of the UT's own tax base. This is besides the debt of Rs. 11,025 crore raised during the current financial year for clearing power purchase liabilities under the Atma Nirbhar Abhiyan. This is how serving debt

### YOY Growth in Capital Expenditure



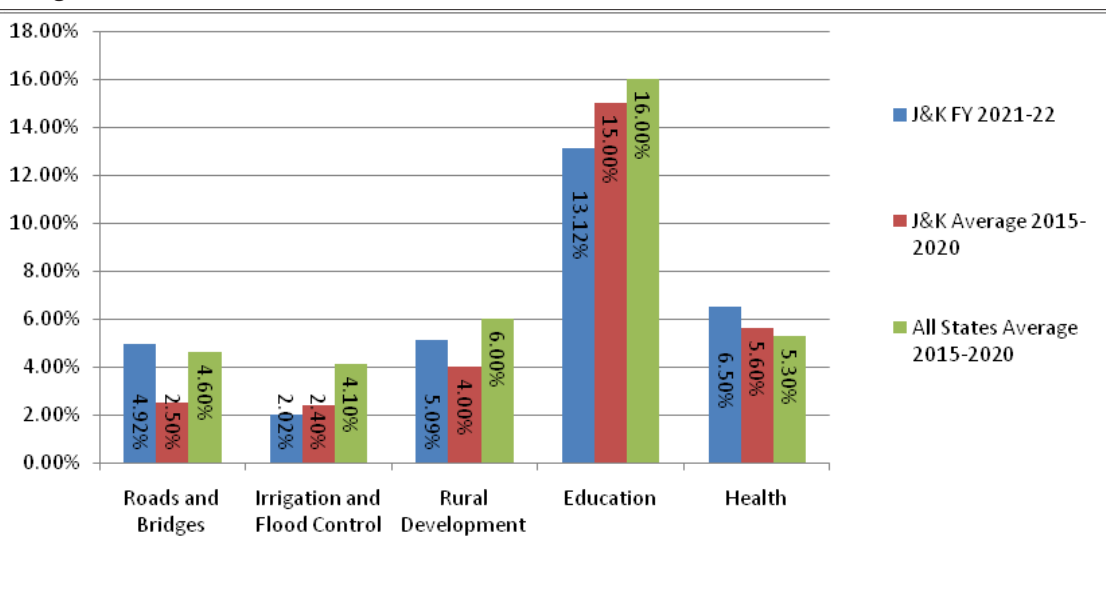
#### Comparison of key sector spending with other state averages:

For economic backbone i.e. Roads and bridges, the combined revenue and capital allocations of Rs. 5354.93 crore for FY 2021-22 is around 4.92% of the total expenditure. To put things into perspective, states across India have spent around 4.60 % at an average of their budget size on roads and bridges during the last 5 years. J&K's allocation during the same period was around 2.5% only.

For Irrigation and flood control, the allocations at 2197.54 crore (revenue plus capital) is only 2.02% of the total spending program. States across India have spent around 4.1% at an average of their budget size on this essential sector in the last 5 years. J&K's average for the last 5 years for this segment has been around 2.4%. Given the geographical and climatic risks that J&K is exposed to, these miserly and continuously dwindling allocations deserve to be revisited for sure.

projection has been made for the coming financial year as well. J&K in the last five years has been spending around 5.6 % of its total expenditure on health and family welfare. The average for all states combined has been only 5.3%. For FY 2021-22, the combined allocation under revenue and capital heads for health sector arrives at an impressive 6.5% of the total expenditure.

The two main resource drags in J&K's budget comprise of the energy sector and the expenditure on police. Compared to an average spending of only 4.1% by all states during the 2015-20 period, J&K spent around 9.3% of its average budget on police for the same period. The projections for FY 2021-22 are no exception. In case of expenditure on energy which includes subsidy to consumers, allocation for power projects, and assistance to discoms under UDAY scheme, J&K has spent the highest percentage of its budget



Laden in the velvet of rhetoric and glossed with a selectively chosen set of numbers, the idea is to project an image of achievement, progress and growth while carefully working around the not-so-pleasing statistics in order to maintain the public confidence in the policies

is leading to shrinking elbow room for the already starved developmental expenditure.

Given the very small role played by J&K's private sector in the economy, Govt's annual budgetary allocations are systemically essential drivers which alone have the ability to chug the rusted wheels of the economy smoothly. Being the biggest spender with big pockets and a deep borrowing capacity, GoJK's effectiveness or lack of it in policy formulation & implementation can make or break the already limping economy of J&K. The infrastructural push is expected to create a multiplier effect and trickle down to the lower strata of the economic layers. A sustained commitment towards the health sector too is a decision in the right direction. Piling debt is a serious concern which can shrink the UT's room for developmental expenditure in future. Leaking revenue on costly energy purchases, sustaining a huge security apparatus and serving interest deserve to be addressed consciously in order to create a more fiscal space for public good. However, skepticism arises when one looks at the optimistic projections of yesteryears and then compares it with the unfolded reality. Hope this time it's different and the projections do not deviate much from the expectations and deliver holistically on good governance, inclusive public welfare and sustained economic well-being.

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

OLIVER BAUMANN  
JESSICA MCFADYEN

**Many studies have investigated how memory might be affected by passing through doorways. Astoundingly, these studies show doorways cause forgetting, and this effect is so consistent it has come to be known as the “doorway effect”**



**I**magine you're in the middle of watching a riveting episode of your favourite TV show. You decide the situation calls for popcorn, so you get up and head to the kitchen. But when you arrive in the kitchen you suddenly stop and think to yourself:

#### Why did I come in here?

Perplexed, you walk back into the living room. As soon as you sit down, you remember you wanted to make popcorn. You go back into the kitchen, this time with a newfound determination.

#### The doorway effect

We've all experienced a situation like this. Although these lapses in memory might seem entirely random, some researchers have identified the culprit as the actual doorways.

Many studies have investigated how memory might be affected by passing through doorways.

Astoundingly, these studies show doorways cause forgetting, and this effect is so consistent it has come to be known as the “doorway effect”.

When we move from one room to another, the doorway represents the boundary between one context (such as the living room) and another (the kitchen). We use boundaries to help segment our experience into separate events, so we can more easily remember them later.

These “event boundaries” also help define what might be important in one situation from what might be important in another. Hence, when a new event begins, we essentially flush out the information from the previous event because it might not be relevant anymore.

In other words, our desire for popcorn is connected with the event in the living room (the TV show) and that connection is disrupted once we arrive in the kitchen.

#### Let's put this to the test

If the doorway effect is so powerful, why are these memory lapses at home actually quite rare? We decided to look into this effect more closely.

We had 29 people wear a virtual reality headset and move through different rooms in a 3D virtual environment (see image below).

The task was to memorise objects (a yellow cross, a blue cone, and so on) on tables within each room and then move from one table to the next. Crucially, sometimes the next table was in the same room, and at other times people had to move through an automatic sliding door into another room.

To our surprise, we found the doorways had no effect on memory. That is, people very rarely forgot the objects, whether they went through a doorway or not.

#### Let's make the memory test harder

We decided to repeat the experiment, but this time we had 45 people perform a difficult counting task at the same time, to increase the pressure on the task.

Under these more difficult conditions, this time we confirmed the doorway effect. That is, passing through doorways impaired people's memory of the various objects. Specifically, people were more likely to mistake a similar object for the one they were supposed to have memorised.

Essentially, the counting task overloaded people's memory, making it more susceptible to the interference caused by the doorway.

This finding more closely resembles everyday experience, where we most often forget what we came into a room to do when we are distracted and thinking about something else.

#### Is the doorway to blame?

Why is our result so different to the powerful doorway effect reported by previous studies?

We believe it's because we designed the rooms

to be visually identical. There was no change in context, and there was no surprise by how the next room looked. This means it's not so much the doorway by itself that causes forgetting, but more about the change of environment.

Imagine you are in a shopping centre. Taking the lift from the car park to a retail level should lead to more forgetting than taking the lift simply to move between two retail levels.

So how might we improve our ability to remember what we're doing as we move about from room to room?

Our results suggest the more we multitask, the more likely our memory will be flushed out by doorways.

We can only hold a certain amount of information in mind at a time. When we're distracted by thoughts about other things, our working memory can more easily become overloaded.

Also, it's not only doorways. Our brain engages in “event segmentation” in all facets of life, whether it's in physical space or in a more abstract sense.

#### So what can we do?

In most cases, our tendency to segment our lives into distinct events is actually advantageous. Our information capacity is limited so we can't remember too much information in one go.

Thus, it's more efficient for us only to retrieve information about the current situation, rather than remembering all the information from everything we've recently experienced.

But if we want to escape the enchantment of the doorway, our best chance is to keep a focused mind. So keep thinking about popcorn the next time you want to get some to eat while watching your favourite TV show.

By arrangemtns with  
The Conversation

## Getting my first antivirus shot in India

My job as a journo had unfortunately turned me into a cynic and suspicious of everyone

MAHMOOD SABERI

**T**he security guard at the private hospital in Bengaluru greeted us with folded hands and a ‘namaste’ and asked whether we had come to get our coronavirus vaccination.

Yes! I said to myself, we were finally getting our shots against this crazy virus. After the front line workers, it was now our turn; the over 60s and elders with comorbidities.

I had always thought that ‘morbid’ meant horrible like in, “Man, he has a morbid sense of humour”. Then, I found out that morbidity meant suffering from a certain illness. But, comorbidities, I thought, was a solid word, describing someone with immense powers.

After peeking into an online dictionary, I found that comorbidity meant having two or more diseases.

“But I have only high blood pressure, hypertension, both mean the same thing, not two diseases,” I told my wife, a couple of weeks earlier, trying not to get vaccinated and to just sit out the pandemic inside my flat.

Like the group that firmly believe that masks do not work in keeping the bugs at bay, there is a second group of cynics who are certain that vaccination is some sort of a ploy.

For the first time in the history of the world, politicians of various hues and shades, had finally united in this evil plot, according to the anti-vaxxers, who also believe that the vaccines have the actual coronavirus. Of course all this is misconception and misinformation.

“I have the doctor's certificate,” said my wife, who finally persuaded me to get vaccinated as just one of us being virus-free was not going to change the situa-



tion inside our home.

It is said that India is a young country, with the mean age of 29 years. Same was the case with the Arab Gulf state where we were working — a very young population. But in that state, one barely saw any older people.

That was the first question my wife's mother, asked when she landed in that country. It must have seemed like landing in a futuristic universe where everyone is eternally young.

#### Retirees paradise

At the hospital, it seemed like all the old folk in the city, that was once known as a “retirees paradise”, had come out of their homes at the same time.

I spoke to the receptionist in a whisper, so as to not alarm anyone: “Have there been any adverse reactions?” I asked.

“No, sir. Not at all. Everything is going smoothly,” she said.

“Touch-wood,” said my wife, knocking on the fake wood of the receptionist's desk. (My wife is superstitious and had even selected the ‘good time’ to get vac-

inated).

My job as a journo had unfortunately turned me into a cynic and suspicious of everyone, especially those in power, like this young lady who had the power of the vaccination over us.

“I am asking because some countries in Europe have stopped giving this particular vaccine, which you are offering, after several people had blood clots,” I persisted.

“No, don't worry, we did not have a single adverse case,” she said cheerfully. “You see, unlike the foreigners, we Indi-

ans have more immunity,” she said.

“Let's go,” said my wife.

The male nurse said the shot would be slightly painful, but not to massage that part of the arm.

My wife started arguing that it was better to massage as it would help spread the vaccine swiftly through the arm muscle.

The nurse looked at her strangely

**For the first time in the history of the world, politicians of various hues and shades, had finally united in this evil plot, according to the anti-vaxxers, who also believe that the vaccines have the actual coronavirus. Of course all this is misconception and misinformation**

and said, “No exercise till two hours after the vaccination”, and my wife giggled. “We don't exercise,” I said.

“No beverages,” he said, and that made my wife even more giggly. “Come back after 28 days for the second dose”.

Gulf News



# Pak's Delegation To Visit India Next Week For Talks On Water-Related Issues

Press Trust Of India

**Islamabad:** Pakistan on Friday said that its delegation of water experts would visit India next week to attend the meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission and discuss various water-related issues.

The 116th meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission will be held in New Delhi on March 23 and 24, Foreign Office spokesperson Zahid Hafeez

Chaudhry said at the weekly briefing here.

A host of issues under the treaty, including our objections on the designs of Pakal Dul and Lower Kalnai Hydroelectric Plants, supply of information on new Indian projects on the western rivers and supply of flood data by India, will be discussed, he said.

Pakistan's Commissioner for Indus Waters Syed Muhammad Meher Ali Shah will lead the

delegation. The Indian delegation will be led by India's Indus Commissioner P K Saxena with his advisors from the Central Water Commission, Central Electricity Authority and National Hydroelectric Power Corporation.

This will be the annual meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission. Under the provisions of the Indus Water Treaty, both the commissioners are required to meet at least once

a year alternately in India and Pakistan.

This will also be the first meeting between the two commissioners after the nullification of special provisions under Article 370 that gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir. The state was later carved into two union territories -- Ladakh, and Jammu and Kashmir.

Since then, India has cleared several hydropower projects in Ladakh.

## SC Asks Centre To Apprise It On Proposal For Law On Mandatory Pre-Litigation Mediation

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court Friday asked the Centre to apprise it whether the government is contemplating any law for mandatory pre-litigation' mediation of disputes in order to reduce huge pendency of cases in the judiciary.

Pre-litigation' mediation is an attempt to resolve the dispute among the parties amicably with the help of neutral third party called mediator before moving the court or even

before filing litigation or sending a notice.

A bench Chief Justice Bobde and Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that they have heard the government is contemplating legislation on pre-litigation mediation.

Mehta said that he needs to seek instruction in this regard and sought some time to apprise the court on the move of the government. The bench then posted the matter for further hearing on March 25.

On October 13 last year, the top court had sought responses from the Centre and all the high courts on the plea filed by the NGO, Youth Bar Association of India', which sought directions for taking appropriate measures to provide for mandatory Pre-litigation' mediation.

It has also sought issuance of guidelines or formulation of a Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) so as to give immediate effect to the functioning of mandatory Pre-Litigation Mediation' pan India.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### J&K's Debt Piles

the past, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has pulled up Jammu & Kashmir Government for rising debt burden.

The debt raises questions about J&K government's oft-repeated claims about fiscal discipline and initiating expenditure reforms.

It is worthwhile to mention that financial liabilities of the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir have been apportioned between UTs of J&K and Ladakh.

On the recommendations of a high-level panel constituted by the Government of India in 2019, financial liabilities of Rs. 2504.46 crore were transferred to the UT of Ladakh

### Major Reshuffle

posted as SP Handwara vice Dr. G.V. Sundeeep Chakravathy (IPS).

Sheema Nabi Qasba (IPS), SP East, Srinagar has been transferred and posted as SP Rajouri vice Chandan Kohli (IPS).

P.D. Nitya, IPS, SP North, Jammu has been transferred and posted as SP Ramban vice Haseeb ur-Rehman.

Tanushree (IPS) has been posted as SP East, Srinagar vice Ms. Sheema Nabi Qasba (IPS).

"Javid Iqbal Matoo, AIG (Buildings) PHQ shall hold the additional charge of the post of AIG (P&T) PHQ," the order says.

Suhail Munawar Mir, SSP CID SB Kashmir has been transferred and posted as SP Ganderbal vice Khalil Ahmad Poswal.

Shailendra Singh, SSP Crime, Jammu has been transferred and posted as SP Reasi vice Rashmi Wazir.

Imtiyaz Hussain Mir, SSP Security, Kashmir has been transferred and posted as SP Anantnag vice Sandeep Choudhary (IPS).

Sheikh Zulfikar Azad, SP Security, J&K has been asked to hold the additional charge of SSP security Kashmir.

Tahir Saleem Khan, SP Awantipora has been transferred and posted as SP Budgam vice Amod Nagpure, (IPS).

Mohd. Zaid, CO IR-9th Bn has been transferred and posted as SP, Bandipora vice Rahul Malik (IPS).

Mohd. Yousef, Addl SP, Kulgam has been transferred and posted as SP Awantipora vice Tahir Saleem Khan.

Ramesh Chander Kotwal, SP APCR Jammu has been transferred and posted as SP Kathua vice Shailendra Mishra (IPS).

Shafqat Hussain, SP Railways, Kashmir has been transferred and posted as SP, Kishtwar vice Harmeet Singh.

Paramvir Singh, awaiting orders, has been posted as Additional Secretary (Technical) on deputation to Road Safety Council vice R.K. Bhat, who has been asked, pending investigation in FIR registered against him, to remain attached in the Home Department.

Shahzad Ahmad Salaria, SP West, Srinagar has been transferred and posted as SP APCR, Jammu vice Ramesh Chander Kotwal.

Perbeet Singh, Addl. SP Anantnag has been transferred and posted as SP (West), Srinagar vice Shahzad Ahmad Salaria.

Mubasher Hussain, Addl. SP, Security Kashmir has been transferred and posted as SP (North), Srinagar vice Sandeep Gupta (IPS).

"Shailendra Mishra IPS, Rahul Malik, IPS, Shridhar Patil, PS, Ambarkar Shriram Dinkar, IPS, Amod Nagpure, IPS, Dr. Mohd. Haseeb Mughal, Haseeb ur-Rehman, Abdul Qayoom, Ms. Rashmi Wazir, Ramesh Kumar Angral, Harmeet Singh, Javid Iqbal and Khalil Ahmad Poswal shall report to the PHQ and await further posting orders," the order reads, adding,

"Irrshad Hussain Rather, SO to DIG, CKR Srinagar is transferred and posted as SP Hazratbal Srinagar vice Sudhanshu Verma (IPS).

15 IPS Officers Promoted

Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday ordered promotion of fifteen IPS officers, four of them as Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) in the Higher Administrative Grade (HAG)- Level 15 of Pay Matrix, with effect from 1 January this year.

The officers promoted as ADGPs include Mukesh Singh, M. K. Sinha, Sunil Kumar (on proforma basis) and Danesh Rana.

"One post of the ADGP in the HAG - Level 15 of Pay Matrix is added temporarily in terms of proviso second below Rule 4 of IPS (Cadre) Rules, 1954," reads an order issued by the Home Department on the directions by Lieutenant Governor.

Also, four officers of 2007 batch have been promoted to the grade of Super Time Scale-(I)-DIG (Level-13A of the Pay Matrix) with effect from January 1. They include Dr. Sunil Gupta (on proforma basis), Sujit Kumar, Vivek Gupta and Mohammad Suleman Choudhary.

Three officer of 2008 batch have been promoted to Selection Grade of IPS (Level 13 of the Pay Matrix) with January 1 and include Tejinder Singh (on proforma basis), Abdul Jabbar and Udayabhaskar Billa.

Also, four officers of 2017 batch have been promoted to the Senior Time Scale of IPS (Level-11 of the Pay Matrix) with effect from January 1 and include Anayat Ali Choudhary, Mohita Sharma (subject to completion of "CSWT Indore attachment" component of training, Nikhil Borkar (subject to passing of the Swimming Test and receipt of final assessment report from SVP, NPA Hyderabad" and

Tanushree subject to passing of the Swimming Test and receipt of final assessment report from SVP, NPA Hyderabad.

### Night Flights

time in the history of Indian aviation that a night flight has taken off and our aim is to start a daily night flight as a scheduled flight," a senior Go Air official told Kashmir Observer.

"We have those category of pilots who are able to fly in rough terrain," he said.

He further said that the airliner will add more night flights if the customers show positive response

"Flights are run on demand. We can operate two, three or four more flights, if the customers demand so," he said.

When asked about the arrangements in place for night operations at the Srinagar airport, the official said that safety comes first for the airlines before starting operations

"There should be night landing system at the runway, ground staff and other safety measures in place. Today, if the flight has taken off then obviously everything is in place," he said.

Meanwhile, sources said that Indigo, one of the leading airliner in the aviation industry is also starting night flights from Srinagar and the first trial flight will depart from Srinagar airport at around 8.30 pm on Saturday. More private players are also likely to start night operations from here soon.

### Court Refuses

Jasmeet Singh said they are not granting any relief to the PDP leader.

The 61-year-old leader, who was released last year after more than a year in detention following the scrapping of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, has been served notice to appear at the ED headquarters in the national capital.

The court asked the ED to file a short note of submission along with compilation of judgements relied upon by them before the next date on April 16.

It also asked Mufti's counsel to file their short note. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the ED, said Mufti just has to appear before the officials.

The ED, which had earlier summoned Mufti for March 15, had not insisted for her personal appearance at that time.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister has been now summoned for March 22 by the ED, also represented through Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma and advocate Amit Mahajan.

Senior advocate Nitya Ramakrishnan, representing Mufti, urged the court to ask ED not to insist for her personal presence as was done earlier.

To this, the bench said, "We are not giving any stay. We are not granting any relief."

Mufti has sought quashing of summons issued to her by the ED in a money laundering case.

She has also sought to declare section 50 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act as void and inoperative, being unfairly discriminatory, bereft of safeguards, and violative of Article 20(3) of the Constitution.

Section 50 of the Act empowers the authority, that is, officers of ED, to summon any person to give evidence or produce records. All persons summoned are bound to answer the questions put to them and to produce the documents as required by the ED officers, failing which they can be penalized under the Act.

She has also sought an interim stay on the summons until the question of law in relation to constitutionality of Section 50 of the Act is decided.

During the hearing, Mehta said there was no need to issue formal notice to them as they are already appearing before the court and said they will file a short note on the issue of question of law.

Mufti, in her petition, said she has received summons from the ED under the provisions of the PMLA, purporting to call for 'evidence' on pain of punishment, whereas she is, to all intents and purposes, a subject of investigation.

"She has not been informed if she is being summoned as an accused or as a witness. She has also not been informed of what she is being summoned in connection with and the scheduled offence under the PMLA which gave rise to the proceedings in respect of which impugned summons has been issued to her. The petitioner is not the subject of investigation, nor is she an accused, in any of the scheduled offences to the best of her knowledge, the plea said.

The plea claimed that ever since Mufti was released from the preventive detention following the formal abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, there have been a series of hostile acts by the State, against her, acquaintances and old family friends, who have all been summoned by the ED and a roving inquiry about her personal, political and financial affairs was made, in the course of which their personal devices have been seized.

She has also written a letter to the ED pointing to the roving nature of the inquiry undertaken in the case thus far and that in the event that she is questioned, she will insist on the legitimacy of the process, it said.

"As a responsible member of society, the petitioner is always ready and willing to aid the process of law. However, it is equally her duty

to bring to the notice of this court, deviations from due process in legislative and executive acts. The petitioner apprehends that the impugned notice is a means of bringing undue pressure and harassment upon her and therefore, the petitioner wishes to assert her constitutional rights in this regard, the petition said.

After receiving the ED summons, Mufti had said the Centre's "tactics to intimidate and browbeat political opponents" won't work.

"GOI's tactics to intimidate & browbeat political opponents to make them toe their line has become tediously predictable. They don't want us to raise questions about its punitive actions & policies. Such short-sighted scheming won't work," she had written on Twitter, without any mention of the ED notice.

### Bajwa's Statement

nations to set aside hostilities and find a lasting solution to the Kashmir problem.

"A good opportunity for India & Pakistan to set aside hostilities & find a long lasting solution vis-a-vis Kashmir," Mehbooba said in a tweet.

She was reacting to Pakistan Army Chief General Qamar Jawad Bajwa's statement that India and Pakistan should bury the past and move forward.

"Both countries have huge military budgets to outdo each other when the same resources can instead be used on common challenges like poverty, education & healthcare," she added.

On Thursday, Pakistan's powerful Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa said on Thursday that it was time for India and Pakistan to "bury the past and move forward", a day after Prime Minister Imran Khan made similar overtures towards New Delhi following an unexpected ceasefire announcement by the militaries of the two countries last month.

"We feel it is time to bury the past and move forward," he said, adding that the responsibility for a meaningful dialogue rested with India. Their remarks came weeks after the militaries of India and Pakistan announced on February 25 that they have agreed to strictly observe all agreements on ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir and other sectors.

India and Pakistan signed a ceasefire agreement in 2003, but it had hardly been followed in letter and spirit over the past several years with more violations than observance of the pact.

"Our neighbour will have to create a conducive environment, particularly in Kashmir, Gen Bajwa said in his address, adding that any effort to improve ties without addressing the core issue would be vulnerable to external political factors.

The Kashmir issue is at the heart of this. It is important to understand that without the resolution of the Kashmir dispute through peaceful means, the process will always remain susceptible to derailment to politically motivated bellicosity, he said.

Ties between India and Pakistan nose-dived after a militant attack on the Pathankot Air Force base in 2016. Subsequent attacks, including one on Indian Army camp in Uri, further deteriorated the relationship.

The relations further deteriorated after India announced withdrawing special powers of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcation of the state into two union territories in August, 2019.

### 169 Major

GSi in all the landslide prone States and UTs as per GSI's Standard Operating Procedure, mainly in response to the requests received from the concerned State Governments.

"For all these landslides, during field validation, GSI collected vital preliminary geoparametric attributes for each of the landslides, including studying its impacts, future vulnerability, and indicating the requirements for future detailed geo-scientific investigations, if any," said Minister for Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Earth Sciences Dr. Harsh Vardhan in a written reply in Parliament.

To a question whether the State Governments/UTs are maintaining or having National Landslide Susceptibility Mapping (NLSM) in the respective State/UT, he said the NLSM project was launched by GSI after the 2013 Uttarakhand disaster as per the directive of the Technical Advisory committee (TAC).

"With the NLSM mapping, GSI has prepared 1: 50,000 scale landslide susceptibility map of 85% of the total target area (3.63 lakh sq. km. out of 4.2 lakh sq. km.) in different landslide prone States/ UTs," he said, adding, "The work for the remaining area in Arunachal Pradesh is under execution and will be completed by Field Station (FS) 2021-22."

During NLSM, he said, GSI also collected historical information on 61287 number of landslides polygons using both Remote Sensing (RS) and field-based source data, out of which, 28831 landslides have already been field validated by GSI.

"This huge historical national landslide inventory is continuously being updated with the new landslide data collected year-wise as part of Post disaster studies," he said, adding, "Landslide Susceptibility Mapping is a specific multi-thematic geoscientific mapping exercise, carried out primarily by the specialised technical resources of Geological Survey of India."

In this geo-scientific endeavour, he said, the State Government has no specific role in mapping, other than reporting information of any new landslide incidence impacting lives and infrastructure, if any to GSI.

"While preparing the landslide susceptibility maps and updating the national landslide inventory, GSI duly considers those landslide occurrences too that are reported by any State Government. The Geographic Information System (GIS) enabled NLSM outputs - the landslide susceptibility and national landslide inventory map are already shared through Web Map Service (WMS) with NDMA, with a request to share such vital geo-data with all the landslide prone States/ UTs and other relevant stakeholders, for integrating the same in their respective landslide disaster management plans, and also for using in land-use zoning regulations in their respective landslide prone terrains."

Till date, he said, 753 registered non-GSI users from 412 different affiliations have so far downloaded the vital landslide geodata by raising 7118 different online requests to GSI in Bhukosh. "In addition, the NLSM outputs also delineates the critical and problematic areas, where further up-scaled and detailed geoscientific studies are required for undertaking site specific effective remediation and mitigation by the concerned State Governments and other relevant stakeholders (e.g., road/ rail construction and maintenance authorities)." (GNS)

### Friday Following

Muslims across the globe observed Isra va Me'raj.

Elaborate arrangements were made by the district administration as well as the traffic department here to ensure the devotees will not suffer.

Besides issuing a route plan, the traffic department had also made special parking arrangements for the devotees today.

The congregational prayers were also witnessed at Khanyar & Sarai Bala Dastgeer Sahab shrine, Khanqah-e-Maula and other major shrines and Masjids.

The religious clerics on the occasion threw light on the teachings and lifestyle of Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

Pertinently, Muslims couldn't visit the shrines and Masjids on this day last year due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, which claimed nearly 2000 lives so far in Jammu and Kashmir.

Minor Fights

for four continuous days following which her health condition deteriorated.

"Since past four days, my daughter was given expired injections. Today morning, we checked its expiry date and we all got shocked to see that the injection given to my daughter has already expired on October 20, 2020," a visibly upset father alleged.

He further alleged that he contacted all officials, even CMO but none from the hospital administration responded.

"I have now requested District Magistrate Shopian to inquire into the matter and take serious action against the persons involved in negligence," Kataria said.

However, Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Shopian, Dr Mohammed Ismail said that they have already seized the medicine and started investigations into the allegations levelled by Kataria. He also claimed that the expiry date on the pack of injection was March 2021.

"The girl is stable. Had she been given expired injection from the last four days, she would have been critical," he said, adding "The nurse who administered injection to the minor girl has been placed under suspension."

Chief Medical Officer Shopian Dr Ramesh Malla said that a committee has been constituted to enquire the matter and action will be taken against whosoever is found guilty—(With KNO inputs)

### Mercury Rises

of 0.0 degree Celsius against minus 1.5 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 minus 2.3 degree Celsius normal for this time of the year, the official said.

"There's no forecast of any major rainfall activity till March 20. As of today, it looks like 70% chance of light to moderate rain /snow during March 21-23rd with peak on 22nd in J&K and at Sonmarg -Drass axis," Director Meteorological department Sonam Lotus said. (GNS)

### US Defence

Ways to further accelerate India-US strategic ties, boosting cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, China's aggressive behaviour in eastern Ladakh, challenge of terrorism and the Afghan peace process are expected to be focus of the talks between the two sides, people familiar with Austin's visit said.

They said India's plan to procure around 30 multi-mission armed Predator drones from the US for the three services at an estimated cost of over USD 3 billion is also expected to figure in the talks.

The medium-altitude long-endurance (MALE) Predator-B drones, manufactured by US

defence major General Atomics, are capable of remaining airborne for around 35 hours and can hunt down targets at land and sea, they said.

India's plan to acquire 114 fighter jets at a cost of around USD 18 billion could also figure in the talks as American defence majors—Boeing and Lockheed —Martin—are eyeing it, the people said.

Secretary Austin is scheduled to meet National Security Adviser Ajit Doval on Friday evening, while he will have extensive talks with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday.

He is also likely to meet External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

Before his departure on Sunday, Austin is likely to call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

His visit to India came days after the top leadership of the Quad grouping of India, the US, Japan and Australia vowed to expand their cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

Ahead of Austin's visit, Senator Robert Menendez, Chairman of the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee, wrote a letter to the US Defence Secretary, urging him to take up with Indian leaders the issue of New Delhi procuring Russian S-400 missile defence system.

Though democracy and human rights issues do not come under the domain of the Pentagon, Menendez also urged Austin to raise these concerns with Indian leaders.

In October 2018, India signed a USD 5 billion deal with Russia to buy five units of the S-400 air defence missile systems, notwithstanding a warning from the Trump administration that going ahead with the contract may invite US sanctions.

Recently, the US imposed sanctions on Turkey under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) for purchase of S-400 missiles from Russia.

The evolving situation in the Indo-Pacific region in the wake of China's increasing military muscle flexing has become a major talking point among leading global powers. The US has been favouring making Quad a security architecture to check China's growing assertiveness.

The visit is also taking place at a time when India and China are looking to achieve the objective of disengagement from all friction points in eastern Ladakh after completing withdrawal of troops in the North and South banks of Pangong lake areas.

Austin and Singh had a telephonic conversation on January 27.

The Indo-US defence ties have been on an upswing in the last few years.

In June 2016, the US had designated India a "Major Defence Partner".

The two countries have also inked key defence and security pacts over the past few years, including the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016 that allows their militaries use each other's bases for repair and replenishment of supplies as well as provides for deeper cooperation.

The two sides have also signed COMCASA (Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement) in 2018 that provides for interoperability between the two militaries and provides for sale of high end technology from the US to India.

In October last year, India and the US sealed the BECA (Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement) agreement to further boost bilateral defence ties.

The pact provides for sharing of high-end military technology, logistics and geospatial maps between the two countries.

### J&K Logs

infection, they said, Kashmir Valley reported 121, while the remaining 31 were detected in Jammu division.

Giving district-wise details, they said, Srinagar reported 69, Baramulla 15, Budgam 15, Pulwama 5, Kupwara 6, Anantnag 2, Bandipora 1, Ganderbal 3, Kulgam 1, Shopian 4, Jammu 20, Rajouri 4, Doda 2, Kathua 2 and Ramban 3 new cases of Covid-19.

Moreover, they said, 72 more patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals—06 from Jammu Division and 66 from Kashmir Valley.

### Youth Injured

youth was rushed to Sub District Hospital (SDH) Bijbehara for treatment. In the incident, a shop has also suffered damage, he said.

The official said that preliminary investigations suggest that the solar battery has got exploded inside the shop—(KNO)

### Six Gamblers Held

"They have been shifted to Police Station where they remain in custody. Accordingly, case FIR No. 52/2021 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Qazigund and investigation has been initiated," he added.

### Biker Collides

a resident of Bakhsibal Gundprang. A police officer said a case FIR No. 25/2021 under section 279, 304 IPC has been registered in concerned police station and further investigation taken up.

### Missing KU

police officials to help trace the missing student.



## People's Conference Terms Budget Anti-People

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Senior Vice President People's Conference (PC) and former minister Abdul Gani Vakil Friday slammed the central government for neglecting fruit growers in the recent budget for Jammu and Kashmir.

Terming it unfortunate, Vakil, in a statement said, Kashmir's economy is on the verge of collapse as horticulture sector has been neglected over the past several years due to back to back shutdowns and covid19 pandemic.

Addressing a delegation of fruit growers at Srinagar, he said apple industry is considered the backbone of Jammu and Kashmir economy and is estimated at Rs 8,000 crore with 22 lakh metric ton production each year. Growers are being sidelined due to the wrong policies of the government, he said.

"On Wednesday, the central government proposed Rs 1.08 lakh crore budgets for the region for the 2021-22 fiscal. In which Agriculture and Horticulture sectors have been allocated around Rs.2,008 crore for the financial

year. The low budget was aimed to divert issues from the core issues," he said

"The budget is anti-people and has neglected the middle-class income families and labor class. Most of the apple growers have faced financial problems from the past several years," he said.

"Lofty claims of Naya Kashmir were made by the central government after the abrogation of Article 370 but things have remained unchanged on the ground. There are no jobs for our youth, petrol and diesel prices are touching skies. There is no one who can speak on these issues faced by common people," he said.

"They had promised jobs, development and even apple growers are not getting good rates to their crop as policies are being framed without accessing the ground situation," the senior leader said.

Vakil said Kashmir had witnessed a massive drop in apple production by 40-45 percent last year due to the use of substandard pesticides, fertilizers. There was a complete failure of government in checking the quality of the fertilizers, pesticides, he said.

## Mutton Shop Sealed For Overpricing, FIR Registered

Observer News Service

**GANDERBAL:** A day after mutton prices were fixed, Consumer Affairs Department Friday sealed a Mutton Shop in Nagbal area of Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district for selling the meat at exorbitant prices.

A senior official of Consumer Affairs department said, "The shopkeepers was selling meat at 600 rupees per KG in Nagbal, Ganderbal of Central Kashmir". He said that an FIR was also lodged against the erring shop owner.

On Thursday Director Food department Kashmir Bashir Ahmed had announced that new rates have been agreed upon by the mutton dealers and the government.

According to him, the agreed rate for mutton is Rs 535 per kg without offal and Rs 490 with offal. (CNS)

## Jhelum Tributary In Kokernag Turning Into Garbage Dumping Site



Observer News Service

**KOKERNAG:** The historic Brenji Nallah in Larnoo, Kokernag area of South Kashmir's Anantnag has turned into a gutter due to dumping of garbage and other filthy items on its banks. The water of the Nallah has become polluted spreading the stink around.

Brenji Nallah which acts as a tributary of Jhelum consists of water from various areas which are located at the top of the Nallah.

A few days ago, a video went viral on social media in which it can be seen Brenji Nallah is turning into a filthy water body due to the filth coming out from the nearby settlements.

"Due to pollution, the existence of this Nallah is in danger. The lake water is becoming toxic due to pollution from all sides. As a result, many species of aquatic organisms and fish are becoming extinct," a group of locals said.

Mohammad Ibrahim Malik, a social worker said that selfish elements are dumping garbage in this historic Nallah, which is not only polluting the water, but also making Brenji Nallah to lose its significance.

"If it ceases to exist, future generations will not forgive us," he said. He added that the lake used to be a source of livelihood to hundreds of people as it is habitat to high quality fish.

"But now the situation is different. He said that all the water has become dirty and stinking due to dirt and filth" he lamented.

Musaib Ahmad, a resident that in order to save Brenji Nallah the most important thing is to set up a sewage system in the adjoining villages so that the effluent of the settlements would not contaminate the lake.

He cautioned that emergency measures should be taken to protect the historic Nallah to save it from destruction. (CNS)

## Thousands Protest Against Wasim Rizvi In Kargil, Demand His Arrest

Protests Also Held In Other Parts Of The Valley

Observer News Service

**KARGIL:** Thousands of Muslims staged a protest in Kargil after Friday prayers against former Shia Waqf Board chairperson Waseem Rizvi who has filed a petition in the Supreme Court of India for the removal of 26 verses from the Holy Quran.

The call for protest was given by Anjuman Jamiat-ul-Ulama Isna Asharia Kargil-Ladakh. The protest was also held in the Drass area of Kargil where Sunni and Shia clerics led the protest against Rizvi and demanded his immediate arrest.

In Kargil, the protest was led by President Anjuman Jamiat-ul-Ulama Isna Asharia Kargil-Ladakh, Sheikh Nazir Mehdi. Eyewitnesses said that thousands of people shortly after the culmination of Friday prayers hit roads and raised slogans against Waseem Rizvi. The protesters also burnt the photographs of Rizvi who they called a lunatic who has lost his state of mind.

The protesters said that nobody would be allowed to make such "anti-Quran" remarks.

They demanded the arrest of Rizvi for claiming in his plea in the Supreme Court that the 26 verses of the Quran he has sought to be removed were added "in the Holy book later and they are used to promote violence".

The protesters appealed Government of India to arrest lunatic Waseem Rizvi without any delay even they made a fervent appeal to the Supreme Court of India to reject the



petition filed by criminal and cheater Rizvi against the Holy Quran.

The protesters said that Rizvi is a criminal against whom the Central Bureau of Investigation is probing his illegal sale, purchase, and transfer of Waqf properties in Prayagraj and Kanpur districts. "The agency has also registered two FIRs against Wasim Rizvi."

Meanwhile, protests were also held in Kashmir Valley against Rizvi. A large number of people participated in these protests. They demanded the arrest of Rizvi without any delay. Protest demonstrations continued on Friday across Kashmir against the blasphemous move by former chairman of Uttar Pradesh Shia Waqf Board Waseem Rizvi.

Reports said massive protests were held in different parts of the Valley in which thousands of people participated.

Anjuman Shari Shian president

Aga Syed Hasan led a protest in Central Kashmir's Budgam. In his address, he termed Rizvi as devilish and immoral. He said that any statement or action against the dignity of the Holy Quran that hurts the feelings of the Muslims would not be tolerated.

Mirwaiz Molana Amir-ud-Din Shah led a strong and collective protest against the evil act of Wasim Rizvi in Charar-e-Sharif.

He said that Islam had always taught peace to humanity but some "satanic people" like Rizvi always try to harm peace and create disorder by misrepresenting the message of peace and humanity for their own petty interests.

Protest demonstrations against the evil act of Rizvi was also held in Pulwama, Anantnag, Kulgam, Shopian, Ganderbal, Bandipora, Baramulla, Kupwara, and parts of Srinagar. (KNT)

## Special Status Abrogation Worsened Situation In Kashmir: NC

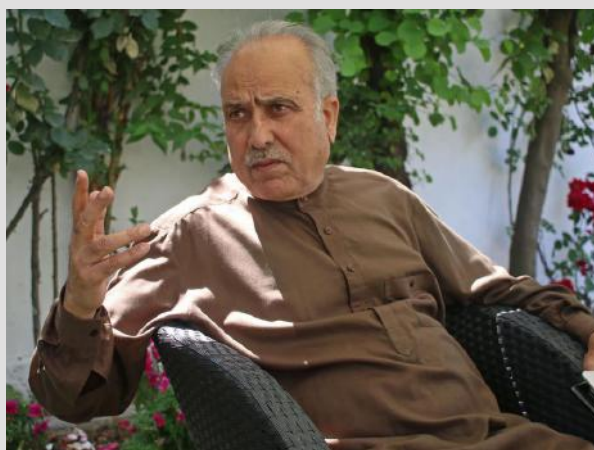
- 'Upswing In Militancy Related Incidents'
- 'People Voiced Disapproval During DDC Polls'

Observer News Service

**NEW DELHI:** The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference on Friday stated that the J&K Budget 2021-22 has failed to enthuse stakeholders, saying the budget was prepared with no public participation and consultation with stakeholders.

Speaking on the discussions on annual budgetary allocations to Jammu and Kashmir in the Lok Sabha, Party's Member of Parliament from Anantnag Hasnain Masoodi said the budget has dismayed stakeholders whose grievances were not taken into consideration before presenting the budget. He said that the 5th August unconstitutional decision had pushed Jammu and Kashmir from democracy to unrepresentative bureaucratic rule.

"The people voiced their disapproval of 5th August decisions in DDC elections as the Party in power got mere 3 percent votes in Kashmir despite mobilisation of all resources. This apart from the statistics of the last one and half year show that the ground situation has gone from bad to worse. There has been upswing in militancy related incidents, increase in



militant ranks and of late in suicides of security forces personnel," he said.

Asking the Central Government to shun the politics of arrogance, Masoodi asked the GOI to go for introspection and realise that 5th August assault has been a misadventure and achieved nothing. He voiced concern on lesser allocation for some key sectors like labor, employment, rural development, cooperative etc.

Masoodi also took exception to the import of Apple and termed it as a conspiracy against Kashmir. Demanding increase in commercial pro-

cessing and cold storage facility to prevent loss of fresh fruit due to frequent road blockades, he expressed concern over total failure of Saffron Mission and refuted the claims that there was bumper saffron and labeled it as a conspiracy to get the saffron from other places introduced as produced in Kashmir to the detriment of local crop.

Responding to the demand for return of Kashmiri Pandit Migrants he insisted that the Government was not sincere as it wanted to keep pot boiling to harvest votes mischievously and use the community as a tool to record electoral victories.

## New Generation Must Contribute Towards Nation Building: LG



Observer News Service

**GUJARAT:** Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Friday called upon the new generation to draw inspiration from the courage and perseverance of our freedom fighters, who sacrificed their lives to protect the motherland, and contribute towards nation-building.

The Lt Governor observed that though 91 years have passed the energy of great people who took part in the Independence struggle, their consciousness, formulas for building a new India, morality, qualities, godliness are still paving our way for Aatma Nirbhar Bharat.

He was speaking after attending the "Azaadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav" celebrations and after he joined Dandi March at Surya Mandir, Borsad, Gujarat.

During his visit, the Lt Governor paid tributes to the Father of Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. "I bow down to this pious land and thank all my colleagues who are

participating in this mass festival", the Lt Governor remarked.

The Lt Governor also paid floral tributes to the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at his birthplace, Karamsad.

He also mentioned about the telegrams wrote by the British officials after the arrest of Sardar Patel and how the undeterred resolve of Mahatma Gandhi and our freedom fighters shook the very foundations of the British rule in India.

The Lt Governor further called for putting collective efforts in the same direction so that when the new generation celebrates the 100th Independence Day of the country in 2047, we have a tremendous treasure to spread our culture and rich traditions that has been raised on the occasion of 75 years of Independence.

"We have to work on new ideas for a self-reliant India and to bring glory to India. Let us all work on fulfilling our obligations for the future of golden India of 2047," concluded the Lt Governor.

## Youth Found Dead in Kulgam

**KULGAM:** A 19-year-old youth was found dead in a park at District hospital in South Kashmir's Kulgam district Friday afternoon.

The deceased youth was identified as Zubair Ahmed Bhat son of Manzoor Ahmad Khan from

Kulgam. He was working in a tea shop near Kulgam hospital.

According to the eyewitnesses, after the body was spotted, he was rushed to District Hospital Kulgam where doctors declared him brought dead.

## Class 11 Results To Be Declared In Second Week Of April: Pandita

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) is likely to declare the results for Class 11th annual regular session of Kashmir by the end of 2nd Week of April.

JKBOSE Chairperson Veena Pandita said that evaluation of Class 11th papers will take at

least 25 more days to complete.

"Many formalities are yet to be completed and as such results will be declared by the end of 2nd week of April," she said.

Pandita refuted the reports that board will declare the results of 11th class in coming few days as baseless and asked the students not to pay heed to rumours. (KNS)

## Principal Secretary I&C Interacts With Representatives Of FCIK

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Principal Secretary of Industries and Commerce (I&C) Department, Ranjan Prakash Thakur Friday reviewed the functioning of department and also held an introductory meeting of officers at Sanat Char, Bemina.

While sharing his ideas with the officers present in the meeting, Thakur impressed upon them to increase local production and export of locally made products to outside the region.

Regarding different issues raised by the officers, Principal

Secretary assured them that all the issues will be taken and resolved on priority.

At the onset of the meeting, Director I&C gave a power point presentation during which he presented an overview of the department.

Later, Principal Secretary also held a separate meeting with a delegation of valley based industrialists led by FCIK, president, Shahid Kamili during which deliberations were held over different aspects of the promotion of industrial sector particularly MSME.

## CUK's DCJ Holds Extension Lectures On Covid Impact On Media

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Department of Convergent Journalism (DCJ), Central University of Kashmir (CUK) organised two extension lectures Friday, at the varsity's Tulmulla Campus. The lectures given by noted Media expert Prof. Ujjwal Choudhry and PR and advertising expert Aditya Chatterjee was attended by the students and faculty.

Prof. Choudhry is Pro Vice Chancellor, Adams University, Kolkata and Chatterjee is Vice President, Adfactor- PR Agencies, Mumbai.

Prof. Choudhry spoke about the impact of Covid on the media and entertainment industry. He said the pandemic left many horrible imprints on the human population world over, but at the same time there were some positive fall-outs of it as well. "Globally people lost jobs, experienced death and pain because of the pandemic, but crises also taught us many important lessons. Our media production and consumption patterns were altered, we learnt the value of compassion over competition and conversation over communication," he said.

Analysing all the sectors of Me-



dia and entertainment including advertising and Public Relations, Prof. Choudhry highlighted how digital media penetration destroyed old structures and created many new structures which led to new opportunities in the media. "Limitations cannot become an excuse for growth. As young students you should not waste your time by

complaining about everything, but should try to look for opportunities to strive to put whatever little you have to the maximum possible use," Prof Choudhry remarked. He said the future of media lies in convergence. He advised students to enhance their skills and try to make engaging and impactful content.

During his session, Aditya Chat-

terjee shared his experiences and insights from the industry. He said that besides journalism, Public Relations has a promising career potential and urged students to focus on this sector as well. He advised students to take internships in the PR sector before joining the industry in order to learn the modern trends in the field. Chatterjee also discussed different case studies from the corporate sector.

Both lectures were followed by interaction sessions in which students asked questions and shared their perspectives with the experts.

Speaking on the occasion, Dean, School of Media Studies, Prof. (Dr) Shahid Rasool told students to take advantage of the new opportunities being offered by the digital platforms in the fast converging media landscape and prepare themselves well for the industry. He expressed happiness that two leading experts from academia and industry interacted with the DCJ students and assured that more such programs will be organised in future.

Head Department, DCJ, Dr. Arif Nazir conducted the proceedings and also presented the vote of thanks.

## J&K Bank Conducts Baramulla DLRC

Agenceis

**SRINAGAR:** To review achievements against Annual District Credit Plan 2020-21 for the quarter ended December 2020, J&K Bank conducted District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting of Baramulla district. DDC Baramulla Bhupinder Kumar chaired the meeting, organised by the Lead Bank Office Baramulla, attended by LDM Baramulla, DDM NABARD, Cluster Head J&K Bank and representatives of other banks and line departments.

LDM Baramulla Javid Rashid informed the house that against the District Credit Plan of Rs 3826.54 Cr for financial year 2020-21 the district has achieved 46.11 percent of the target, which in financial terms is Rs 1764.51 Cr. Out of these, Rs 1173.50 Cr have been disbursed to priority sector against the target of Rs 3233.87 Cr for the sector, while as an achievement of Rs 591.01 Cr has been made against the target of Rs 592.67 Cr under Non-Priority sector.

During the meeting, Chairman DLRC took a comprehensive re-



view of various aspects wherein he stressed on the need for 100% achievement under District Credit Plan and Aspirational District targets by the end of March 2021.

Advising all the banks and the sponsoring agencies to work with cooperation, coordination and cohesion to achieve the goals and targets of development & progress besides generation of employment for unemployed youth of the district, he emphasized upon the heads of various finan-

cial institutions to spread awareness and conduct outreach programs/camps for general people with regard to welfare schemes so that they can avail benefits for their socio economic development.

Chairman DLRC directed the participants to cover different stakeholders like ASHA and Anganwadi workers, NRLM SHG members, Labourers, MGNREGA workers, Social Welfare personnel under Social Security Schemes.



## Krishna, Pandya, Yadav Included As India Announces ODI Squad For England Series

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Karnataka pacer Prasidh Krishna, all-rounder Krunal Pandya and Suryakumar Yadav earned their maiden ODI call-up on Friday as selectors named them in India's 18-member squad for the three-match series against England.

Krishna and Krunal have been rewarded for their good performances in the recently held Vijay Hazare Trophy while Suryakumar's selection was not a surprise given his stupendous T20 debut in the fourth T20 against England.

Krishna, who has been on the radar for a while and has also earned Virat Kohli's praise, took 14 wickets in the domestic 50-over competition while Krunal, who has played 18 T20s, earned his maiden ODI call-up by scoring two hundreds and as many fifties in five games for Baroda.

All three ODIs will be played in Pune, starting March 23.

Stumper-batsman Rishabh Pant and pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar are back in the side and so is Washington Sundar, who played his only ODI in December 2017.

Bhuvneshwar, who has done well in the ongoing T20 series, is set to play his first ODI since August 2019. In the absence of the rested Jasprit Bumrah, who recently got married, and injured Mohammad Shami, the UP pacer will lead the pace attack.

Left-arm pacer T Natarajan has regained fitness and, therefore, finds a place in the squad following

an impressive outing in Australia.

It seems the squad has been picked in such a way that India continue to work on their preparation for the T20 World Cup.

Ishan Kishan has not been picked despite his impressive show in the T20s probably because the team already has two wicket-keepers in KL Rahul and Pant. Rahul opens batting in T20s but he would bat in the middle order in ODIs with Shikhar Dhawan and Rohit being team's preferred openers.

Pant would keep wickets and also bat in middle order, leaving no place for Kishan in playing XI. The players who have missed out from the previous series in Australia are Mayank Agarwal, Navdeep Saini and Manish Pandey. Pressure will be on Shikhar Dhawan to perform from game one considering India are spoilt for choice in the opening department that also has KL Rahul and Shubman Gill.

Following his impressive run in Tests, Mohammed Siraj has also been picked for the games to be played in front of empty stands. Though Ravindra Jadeja has resumed training, he is yet to regain full fitness and hence has not been included.

India's ODI squad: Virat Kohli (captain), Rohit Sharma (vice-captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Shubman Gill, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), KL Rahul (wicket-keeper), Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Krunal Pandya, Washington Sundar, T Natarajan, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna and Shardul Thakur.

## England Fined For Slow Over-Rate Against India In Fourth T20I



Press Trust of India

**AHMEDABAD:** England players have been fined 20 per cent of their match fees for maintaining a slow over-rate against India in the fourth T20 International here.

ICC elite panel match referee Javagal Srinath imposed the sanction after Eoin Morgan's side was ruled to be one over short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration at the Narendra Modi Stadium.

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 were 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 release on Friday.

India won the match by eight runs on Thursday night to level the five-match series at 2-2, paving the way for a winners-take-it-all final game at the same venue on Saturday. Morgan pleaded guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanction, so there was no need for a formal hearing. On-field umpires KN Ananthapadmanabhan, Nitin Menon, and third umpire Virender Sharma levelled the charges.

## Court Road FC Announces Trial Dates For Its Football Team

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Court Road Football Club on Friday announced fresh trial dates for aspiring footballers of all age groups looking to join the club.

The trials will be held from 28th to 29th March at Polo Ground, Srinagar.

The Club has advised all interested footballers to register themselves with the club's newly constituted management team by 26th March.

In a statement, Court Road's management committee said, "All interested players shall register them-



selves with the club by or before 26th March, 2021. The players can either call Court Road FC's management team or present themselves

daily at 9:15 am in Polo Ground."

"The management will bear the daily expenses of the selected players. Plus a monthly stipend will also be provided," the statement reads.

The Club also said that the foremost criteria for selection will be discipline.

Interested footballers can call Court Road FC's management team on the following numbers:

Khalid Iqbal (Manager, Court Road FC): 9419002491  
Imtiyaz Ahmad (Vice Chairman): 7006209407  
Gowhar Ahmad (Treasurer): 9858429275

### IND VS ENG 5TH T20, PREVIEW

## Virat Kohli's India Eye Series Win Against England

Press Trust of India

**AHMEDABAD:** Having outsmarted England in challenging conditions, a confident India will back themselves to win the series-decider here on Saturday and take another firm step towards finalising their core for the T20 World Cup.

India, who went into the series with a fresh and fearless approach in the shortest format, find themselves well-placed in their preparations for the mega event at home later this year, irrespective of what happens in the fifth game.

The Virat Kohli-led side, which did not have the depth earlier to attack in all situations, finds itself full of 'x-factor' with the emergence of Ishan Kishan and Suryakumar Yadav, whose willow bludgeoned the England bowlers, making it a dream debut on Friday.

His innings at number three was pure delight and left even the likes of Kohli "stunned", reinforcing the role of IPL in providing polished talent to the national team.

It was not a surprise that Suryakumar found a place in the squad for the upcoming ODI series.

"It's not easy to walk in at three in your first game and we all were stunned. He stamped his authority and allowed the likes of Shreyas, Hardik and Pant to do their job. I am a fan of these youngsters," said Kohli referring



to Suryakumar.

With Kishan and Suryakumar making massive impact in their maiden series, Haryana all-rounder Rahul Tewatia is the only one in the squad left to make his debut and that could happen on Saturday.

Another big plus for India in the series has been Hardik Pandya contributing with the ball regularly. He was among the star bowlers on Thursday, taking two wickets for 16 runs in four overs.

Leggie Rahul Chahar, playing in place of Yuzvendra Chahal, also did a decent job while Washington Sundar had a rare off day.

India will now be hoping K L Rahul fires at the top, having showed some form in the previous game following scores of 1, 0, 0.

Kohli must have got a lot of satisfaction out of the fact that India were able to put up a big score and defend with the dew

around in the night. It was the first time in the series that the team batting first went on to the win the game.

England, on the other hand, will expect Jos Buttler and world's number one batsman David Malan to show more consistency with the bat.

The pace duo of Jofra Archer and Mark Wood have been impressive but they have not got a lot of support from Chris Jordan, who leaked most runs in the fourth T20.

"We are just trying to learn as much as we can in this series. The progression to the World Cup in seven months is important," said Morgan following the eight-run loss.

"...We really want to play in must win games like these. Certainly all to play for now. Playing away from home and winning will be great."

## 'India-England Series A Trailer For Other Teams To Improve Ahead Of T20 WC,' Says Ramiz Raja



Press Trust of India

**KARACHI:** Former Pakistan captain Ramiz Raja has termed the ongoing series between India and England as a "trailer" for other teams, saying the five-match T20 rubber will help them to improve their skills and strategy ahead of the T20 World Cup later this year.

"I think it is a trailer for other teams on how to improve their skills, strategies for this format before the World Cup," he said in an interview on the Cricket Baaz YouTube channel.

"We have two of the best teams playing and I think England is the team to beat in the World Cup."

Ramiz heaped praise on the England team for their meteoric rise in white-ball cricket.

"Their rise in white ball cricket has been massively impressive given the fact that until some years back they didn't even give priority to ODIs or leave alone T20 cricket," he said.

"England are fearless now and playing attacking cricket in white ball format."

Ramiz also felt that England had shell shocked the quality top order of the Indian team with their express pace. The former Pakistan batsman also described Misbah-ul-Haq as the poor man's MS Dhoni, saying the Pakistan head coach needs to adopt a "modern thinking" approach to guide the team.

"Misbah's training and upbringing is different. Let me put it this way, he is the poor man's Dhoni. MS was also restrained, no expressions and not emotional. Misbah is also like this but I think now he has to go on modern thinking," he said.

"Misbah has to take a new direction because there is a need to set the GPS right for Pakistan cricket because aggression is in our DNA. I think at times he gets too protective and he gets cagey as soon as we lose a match. But if our products and talent is right we shouldn't be afraid of hiccups and setbacks."

**I THINK HE TOOK THIS ATTITUDE to the Indian team and fortunately for him the captain, Virat Kohli is also like that aggressive and expressive and this has made a big difference to the Indian team."**

## Lahore Court Orders FIA To Register Case Against Pakistan Captain Babar Azam

Press Trust of India

**KARACHI:** Pakistan captain Babar Azam's problems in his personal life continue to grow as a sessions court in Lahore has ordered the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA)'s Cyber Crime Circle to register a first information report (FIR) against him in a harassment case.

The order from Judge Hamid Hussain came on Thursday after a hearing in Lahore on a petition filed by a woman, Hamza Mukhtar who claimed she had been getting threatening messages on her WhatsApp, threatening her with dire consequences after she filed a case against

the Pakistan captain.

At the hearing the FIA officials informed the court that after Hamiza filed a complaint with the Cyber Crime Cell and they started an inquiry they found one of the numbers used to send the threatening messages belonged to Babar Azam.

Hamiza has alleged that she was constantly receiving "threatening messages" from different mobile numbers on WhatsApp and that unknown persons also used to "threaten and blackmail her that they have her objectionable pictures and videos and will upload (them) on social media in order to harm her reputation in society and ruin her life."

She said she had approached

the FIA to trace the unknown numbers and they found one of them was registered to Babar Azam and two others to two women, Maryam Ahmed and Salme BB — who were served notices to join the FIA's inquiry proceedings to record their version.

The court was told that of the three, only Ahmed appeared in front of the agency and denied knowing the petitioner or sending her abusive messages. According to the report, Ahmed had stated that she would provide her mobile phone for technical analysis but she failed to do so.

The FIA said Babar's brother Faisal Azam appeared on behalf of the cricketer and requested the FIA to "wait for some time"

to record Babar's statement.

However, Babar has not yet appeared for the inquiry, the FIA report said. In his order, the judge wrote that since a regular inquiry had already commenced on the petitioner's complaint, the "respondent is ordered to proceed further with respect to registration of FIR against the culprits within the stipulated time after [completion] of legal formalities".

Earlier this year, the Lahore High Court (LHC) had suspended the order by a sessions court to the Naseerabad police in Lahore to register a case against Babar Azam on Mukhtar's complaint.

Hamiza has also filed harassment, sexual abuse and other cases against Babar in the court.

## FC Bengaluru United, Sevilla FC Announce Five-Year Collaboration

Press Trust of India

**BENGALURU:** Spanish football club Sevilla FC and FC Bengaluru United on Friday announced a five-year collaboration.

Through this partnership, Sevilla FC will look to strengthen their presence in the Indian football ecosystem.

For FC Bengaluru United, owned by Gaurav Manchanda, this "represents a great opportunity to share Sevilla FC's vast sporting experience and know-how".

As part of the agreement, fans will be able to see FC Bengaluru United as well as their academy players in Sevilla FC's traditional white and red colours from the



start of the 2021-2022 season.

Sevilla FC and FC Bengaluru United will also explore opportunities to set up shared footballing schools in Karnataka.

As part of the endeavour, Sevilla FC will assist FC Bengaluru United in various aspects such as sports management, analysis, talent spotting, player de-

velopment and optimisation of performance and usage of sport technology.

Commenting on the partnership, Manchanda said, "Sevilla FC's desire to be part of the Indian football journey is a great validation of the growing global appeal of Indian football. Their decision to partner with us is also testimony to the potential of FC Bengaluru United."

Jose Castro Carmona, president of Sevilla FC, added: "For Sevilla FC, this partnership with FC Bengaluru United represents a step in the right direction. It is a great opportunity for Sevilla FC to grow in a country like India, a country that is key to our international expansion strategy."

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