

# KASHMIR OBSERVER

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**P3 CITY**

## RISE IN SUICIDE CASES A GRAVE CONCERN; AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS NEEDED: MMU

All the members of the leading amalgam of socio-religious organisations Mutahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU) Jammu Kashmir led by the incarcerated Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, have expressed

**THINK**

**P4 CHINA'S CUTE AMBASSADORS**

Recently, giant panda Shin Shin gave birth to twin cubs at Tokyo's Ueno Zoo. Shin Shin and her partner Ri Ri, on loan from China to Japan, arrived at the zoo in 2011. Their cubs are property of China that would need to be returned to China after four years as per



**P7 STATE**

## COURT REJECTS COP'S BAIL IN ABETMENT TO SUICIDE OF WOULD-BE WIFE

A local court in Anantnag on Saturday rejected the bail plea of a policeman who has been booked for abetting his would-be wife's suicide earlier this month in the south Kashmir district.



**Quote!**  
Don't worry about failure; you only have to be right once.  
—Drew Houston

**NEWS DIGEST**

**Petrol Bomb Hurlled On Police**

**SRINAGAR:** Unknown persons on Saturday evening hurled a petrol bomb at a police party in Chandkote Hygam area in Sopore town of north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Official sources told GNS that there was casualty reported in the incident. Soon, reinforcements of police and other security forces reached the spot and cordoned off the area in a bid to nab the attackers. Confirming it, a senior police officer told GNS. **More On P10**

**Man Arrested Over Shrine Theft**

**JAMMU:** A man was arrested for allegedly trying to steal valuables from a religious place in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Saturday, police said. Arif Hussain, a resident of Darhal-Kurhad, has been arrested in the case, a police official said. He was trying to steal valuables from Peer Baba Ziarat at Ghambr-Brahmana in the Manjakote area, he said. During questioning, the official said, the accused also confessed to committing theft of about Rs 600 at a temple in the same area during. **More On P10**

**5 Cops Injured As Vehicle Overturns**

**SRINAGAR:** Five policemen including an Assistant Sub Inspector were injured when a vehicle they were travelling in turned turtle in Kunzer area of Baramulla district on Saturday, officials said. They said the accident took place near Pinjoora village of Kunzer as the driver of the vehicle lost control over the vehicle—mobile bunker of the Special Operation Group (SOG). The injured have been identified as Harvander Singh (ASI), Mukhtar Ahmad (driver/SPO), Ajaz Ahmad (SPO), Firdous Ahmad (constable), Imtiaz Ahmad (SPO). Confirming the accident,

**Two Held Over Teen's Murder**

**JAMMU:** A 19-year-old man was killed in a scuffle over some issue in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, even as both the accused were arrested within hours of the crime, police said. Balvinder Singh, a resident of Kreeri village of Khwas, was allegedly attacked by Kuldeep Singh and Kaka, both residents of Basal-Jatan, causing grievous injuries to him, a police official said. He said Singh was rushed to hospital but succumbed to injuries. Soon after the incident, police rushed to the scene and the accused were identified and arrested within

## Civilian Killed, In Srinagar Grenade Blast

3 Others Injured, Third Attack In Capital City In Last 10 Days



Security personnel in action at the grenade blast site in Barbarshah area of the city on Saturday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

**Zaid Bin Shabir**

**SRINAGAR:** A civilian was killed and three others, including a non-local woman injured on Saturday in a grenade attack aimed at a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) bunker in Barbarshah area of this capital city.

Around 5:55, an unidentified militant lobbed a hand grenade towards a mobile bunker of CRPF in Barbarshah area of the city that missed the intended

target and exploded on the roadside leaving as many as four people, including a non-local woman injured, a police officer told Kashmir Observer. The grenade, he said, also caused damage to a few shops, while the militant managed to flee through a narrow lane.

The injured identified as Hilal Ahmad of Elahi Bagh, Mudasar Ahmad of Gund Beerwah, Budgam, Shahid Nazir of. **More On P10**

**ON JUNE 17, MILITANTS SHOT DEAD A POLICEMAN**

Javaid Ahmad Tambi outside his house in Saidpora locality of Eidgah. Five days later, Pervaiz Ahmad Dar, an inspector of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police was shot dead by two pistol-borne militants when he was on his way to a local mosque in Kanipora locality of Nowgam to offer prayers.

## 20 More Seats Okayed For GMCs, District Hospitals

**Press Trust Of India**

**SRINAGAR:** In a major boost to the healthcare sector in Jammu and Kashmir, 20 more seats have been approved by the National Board of Examinations (NBE) for Government Medical Colleges and district hospitals of the Union Territory, an official spokesman said here on Saturday.

The spokesman said the move would mean that accredited institutions will get two post-graduate candidates in the certified stream every year.

Till now, 39 superspeciality and broad specialty courses have been approved by the NBE which are likely to give 81 seats to the UT which is over and above the. **More On P10**

**...DELIMITATION PROCESS**

## 18 Seats May Be Reserved For SCs, STs In J&K Assembly

**Agencies**

**SRINAGAR:** At least 18 seats are likely to be reserved for scheduled castes (SCs) and scheduled tribes (STs) in Assembly of Jammu & Kashmir. Officials said that as many as seven seats are likely to be reserved for SCs and 11 for STs.

They said the proportionate representation of SCs in the 90-member Assembly works out to 6.64 seats as they constitute 7.38 percent of J&K's population.

"As their share works out to 6.64 seats, they will get 7 seats as a fraction more than one-half is counted as one," they said. According to them, the

## Farooq Rues Delhi's Broken Promises On Kashmir

**Press Trust Of India**

**SRINAGAR:** National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah Saturday said there was "a level of mistrust" in Jammu and Kashmir and it was for the Centre to remove it, even as his son and former chief minister Omar Abdullah demanded restoring Jammu and Kashmir's statehood before holding Assembly polls.

Speaking to reporters upon their return from Delhi after attending an all-party meet convened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on J&K, Farooq said



NC Patron Farooq Abdullah addressing a presser with his son Omar after their return from New Delhi on Saturday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

he would hold discussions with his party leaders and PAGD constituents before

making any further statement on the meeting. He said the. **More On P10**

**IT TOOK 70 YEARS FOR THE BJP** to succeed in their agenda of abrogation of Article 370. We won't back off from our mission, even if it takes us 70 weeks or 70 months or more time," **Omar Abdullah**

## Calling Statehood Basic Issue Misleading: Soz

**SRINAGAR:** Senior Congress leader Saifuddin Soz on Saturday said the abrogation of Article 370, which accorded special status to Jammu and Kashmir, was a big mistake by the Centre. "While the Home Minister Shri Amit Shah is free to say what he said recently on our internal autonomy as enshrined by Article 370 of the. **More On P10**

## BJP Says Art-370 Can't Be Restored Till Doomsday

**SRINAGAR:** Some leaders are still dreaming about the restoration of Article 370 which is "next to impossible", Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina said Saturday, advising political parties to leave the chapter behind and take part in assembly polls whenever they are held. Speaking to reporters at his. **More On P10**

## Now, Govt Invites Kargil Parties For Talks

**Agencies**

**KARGIL:** Barely three days after the leaders of different political parties of J&K held talks with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the leadership of the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) has received an invitation from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for talks on July 1 in New Delhi.

The MHA in January in the ensuing year announced the formation of a committee headed



by MoS Home GK Reddy to hold deliberations with the leaders based in the twin districts of Ladakh about the demands and

possibilities of UT's inclusion into the 6th schedule.

A year after the central government revoked. **More On P10**

## 15 Ex-IPS Officers Back PM's J&K Move

Fifteen retired IPS officers Saturday wrote an open letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, lauding him for his government's "courageous and decisive" efforts to resolve the complex Kashmir issue, and termed "exemplary" the recent initiative by the Centre to reach out to political stakeholders there. The signatories, 10 of whom have served as state DGPs, said the complete integration of Kashmir with the Union of India was an unfinished. **More On P10**

## Man Critical After 'Thrashed' By Soldiers

**Press Trust Of India**

**SRINAGAR:** A 47-year-old man who was allegedly beaten up by security forces in Magam area of Budgam district of Jammu and Kashmir was hospitalised in a critical condition on Saturday, officials said.

Mohammad Ramzan, a resident of Redbugh in Magam area of Budgam, was brought to SMHS hospital here in an unconscious state, the officials said. They said his family members alleged that he was beaten up by Army personnel deployed at Arpanthan in Magam area.

Army officials said they were not aware of the incident and would comment only after gathering information from the ground.

## J&K Taking Firm Stance Against Drug Abuse: LG

**Observer Monitoring Desk**

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Saturday that his administration is fully committed to strengthening action-framework and taking a firm stance against drug abuse, besides providing practical solutions like evidence-based prevention, treatment, and care to emerge as a winner in achieving the goal of a drug-free society.

In his message on International Day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking, the LG called upon the people from all walks of life to complement the government's efforts in the fight against the



menace of drug abuse.

"On this International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, let us all reaffirm our resolve and work together to eliminate the evil of drug addiction from the society," Sinha said, as per an official spokesperson. "J&K Govt. **More On P10**

## Ahangar Gets 6-Month Extension As SKIMS Head

**Observer News Service**

**SRINAGAR:** The government on Saturday extended the tenure of Dr. A. G. Ahangar, Director, Director Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) and ex-Officio Secretary to the Government till the end of this year.

"In view of the situation arising due to COVID-19, it is hereby ordered that Prof. A. G. Ahangar, Director, SKIMS and Ex-Officio Secretary to the Government, who was to retire on attaining the age of 65 years on 25.06.2021, shall continue to hold the post of Director, SKIMS and Ex-Officio Secretary to the Government till 31.12.2021, in terms of Government Order No.358 dated 04.05.2021 issued by H&ME. **More On P10**

## 'BJP Won't Restore Article 370, But May Provide Article 371'

**Augib Javeed**

The instant outcome of Delhi dialogue has vindicated the stand of many political observers — who had termed the talks as an ice-breaker bereft of any major breakthrough.

But the three-hour-long deliberation revolving around delimitation exercise did recreate the old Delhi-Srinagar get-together in the capital where the Kashmiri unionists were once again swarmed by shutterbugs for their statement of purpose.

However, between the expectations and the end-results of the talks, many Delhi-based political pundits are junking the campaign of some Kashmiri unionists around the restoration of Article 370.

"BJP will not restore Article 370," says Manoj Joshi, a Distinguished Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation, an

independent global think tank based in Delhi. "Perhaps they may provide Article 371 which gives special rights to several other states."

Joshi is a seasoned commentator who was most recently a member of the Task Force on National Security. As a scribe, he has written on Pakistan, China, Kashmir and Punjab. He's the author of two books on the Kashmir issue.

An old hand at Kashmir, Joshi in a candid chat with Kashmir Observer talks about the latest dialogue driven by "a legal setback in the Indian apex court and American pressure".

**How do you see the latest political developments in J&K?**

They are a good first step to find a way back from the very difficult situation the state has been since August 5, 2019.



But what prompted New Delhi to reach out to mainstream political leaders in Kashmir now?

This is a bit of a mystery. I am not sure. There could be several factors—the possibility of a legal setback in the Supreme Court, US pressure on India

and Pakistan.

**How do you interpret the outcome of the Delhi dialogue?**

They have helped check the political drift between New Delhi and Srinagar. A first round of talks has occurred, certain commitments on restoring statehood have been made.

**If the Kashmiri leaders had said no to talks, what could have been the repercussions?**

They would have been the losers, because as of now they are powerless and have few options to deal with the situation. This way they had an opportunity to put their point of view before the people of the country and the world.

**After jailing, humiliating and taunting Kashmiri leaders, how do you see BJP's talking of removing 'Dil ki Doori'?**

This is a political statement. It doesn't mean much.

**But how can New Delhi remove 'Dil ki Doori' for Kashmir in real essence?**

By restoring status quo ante, and by constituting the J-K Assembly at the earliest and restoring political power to the duly elected state government.

BJP didn't mention anything related to restoration of Article 370 in the meeting, rather spoke about the delimitation process, elections in J&K etc. Is the win-win situation for New Delhi? **More On P10**



**از نیابت رنمبر پورہ با اجلاس امتیاز احمد ذرا صاحب**  
 مضمون درخواست منجانب: نذیر احمد شیش و لد علی محمد شیش ساکنہ رنمبر پورہ ضلع انتہ ناگ بغرض حصول ڈیپنڈنٹ شپٹیکٹ  
 اشتہار بمراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔  
 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور کی نسبت ساکن کے کاغذات بغرض حصول ڈیپنڈنٹ شپٹیکٹ دفتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے جس سے یہ عیاں ہے کہ  
 ساکن کی بیوی سہماہ شاہ حسینہ زوجہ نذیر احمد شیش ساکنہ رنمبر پورہ کبی عرصہ سے ایک بیماری میں مبتلا ہیں اور ساکن Dependent سرٹیفکٹ  
 حاصل کرنا چاہتی ہے کیونکہ تنصیل بذیل یوں ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	علی محمد ولد غلام نبی شیش	79 سال	دوکاندار	1500/=
02	سارہ زوجہ علی محمد شیش	75 سال	عمر رسیدہ	
03	نذیر احمد شیش ولد علی محمد شیش	57 سال	سرکاری ملازم	LPC
04	سہماہ حسینہ زوجہ نذیر احمد شیش	55 سال	گھریلو کام	
05	محمد امین پسر نذیر احمد شیش	40 سال	زمینداری	5000/=
06	یاسمینہ زوجہ محمد امین شیش	38 سال	گھریلو کام	
07	اطہرا امین ولد محمد امین شیش	10 سال	زیر تعلیم	
08	عیان امین ولد محمد امین شیش	07 سال	=	
09	راقیب نذیر احمد شیش	28 سال	گھریلو کام	
10	انجنا احمد شیش ولد نذیر احمد شیش	25 سال	مزدوری	
11	افیہ اختر زوجہ انجنا احمد	22 سال	گھریلو کام	
12	باسطہ انجنا پسر انجنا احمد	05 سال	نا بالغ	

موتی کا نمبر 12 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ مگر ساکن سرکاری ملازم موجود ہے اور ساکن کی بیوی سہماہ شاہ حسینہ اختر ساکن پر Dependent ہے  
 سائل کو دفتر ہذا ڈیپنڈنٹ شپٹیکٹ دکھانے کے لئے اس کاغذات بغرض حصول ڈیپنڈنٹ شپٹیکٹ کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ دفتر ہذا میں سات دن کے اندر اندر پیش  
 کریں۔ بعد ازاں معیاد کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔  
 RNA

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 I Haji AbGani Misgar running a unit namely JavidMetal Works B-8 industrial estate Anantnag is going to held a partnership with Shagufta Khan c/o Naibasti Anantnag. Of the above said unit. If anybody having objection regarding this he/she shall file objections within a week.no objection shall be entertained.  
 RNA

از نیابت نائب تحصیلدار قاضی آباد  
 مضمون کاغذات درخواست منجانب: برہان الاسلام و عدنان الاسلام پسران محمد جمیل  
 وانی ساکنہ موضع قاضی آباد کراچی برآمد عطا گئی RBA تحت 294  
 SRO  
 اشتہار بمراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام  
 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں درخواست ساکن دفتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس سلسلے میں  
 پڑی مقررہ وقت سے روٹ ٹولڈ رکھا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن مبین  
 قاضی آباد کراچی میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبہ بذیل افراد پیش ہیں  
 محمد جمیل وانی ولد محمد یوسف دکا مداری 48 سال سربہ کبہ  
 جنید نکم زوجہ محمد جمیل گھریلو کام 45 سال  
 رفیقہ بیگم 23 سال  
 عدنان الاسلام زینت علیہم 18 سال  
 برہان الاسلام زینت علیہم 17 سال  
 اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد نمبر نہیں ہے ساکن کے کبہ کی ماہوار آمدنی 50,000  
 ہے۔ شپٹیکٹ اجرائی کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا  
 اعتراض ساتھ ہی مندرجہ ذیل دفتر ہذا میں پیش کرے۔ معیاد کے بعد کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض  
 قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا  
 نائب تحصیلدار sult

**Department of (AYUSH) Govt. of J & K District Anantnag.**  
**AYUSH Immune Booster Medicine Distributed**  
**at Village Gurdraman from Govt. ISM Dispensary**  
**Gurdraman Anantnag UT.**

On 26/06/2021 Following the Protocol of AYUSH Department Ministry of AYUSH Govt. of India and the Orders of Director ISM J&K Dr Mohan Singh just and by the guidelines of ADMO MADAM Dr. Nuzhat Bashir & District Nodal officer Ayush Dr. Mir Javaid Hussain sahib an awareness programme and distribution of immune booster medicines was organized at at Village Gurdraman Anantnag from Govt. AYUSH Dispensary Gurdraman Anantnag 270 beneficiaries received immunity boosting drugs also were briefed about importance of Ayush immunity boosters in enhancement of human immunity to combat Covid 19 panoramic along other importance preventive measures.  
 mja

**Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.**  
**Office of the Executive Engineer,**  
**(Jal Shakti) PHE, Mechanical Rural Division, Sgr.**  
**GIST of Short term e-Tender.**  
**E-N.I.T. No:- PHE/MRD/TS/17 of 06/2021**

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Short term e-tenders are invited in two cover system on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors/workshop holders registered for similar nature of works with J&K Govt., Railway and other State/Central Government Organizations for the following work:-

Sr.	Nature of Work	Name of the Water Supply Scheme	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Tender Doc.	Time of Completion	Program me
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Electrical repairs to be carried out	Filtration plant Mammur	0.181	50/=	03 days	M&R
B	Urgent Electro-mechanical repairs	Satboni Gulab Bagh	0.2911	50/=	03 days	M&R

**Critical Dates/Information.**

Sr.	Item	24-06-2021 (5:00 PM)
1.	Publishing Date	24-06-2021 (5:00 PM) to 30-06-2021 (5:00 P.M)
2.	Period of Downloading of Bids	24-06-2021 (5:00 PM) to 30-06-2021 (5:00 P.M)
3.	Period of Submission of bids	24-06-2021 (5:00 PM) to 30-06-2021 (5:00 P.M)
4.	Date of opening of Tender/Timing	01-07-2021 at (11:00 A.M)
5.	Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer , (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar	
6.	Document Cost : Non-Refundable in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt shall be deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar( at Saddar Treasury Srinagar) (The firm shall specify the e-NIT No. & name of work for which applied)	
7.	Bid Validity Period: 90 Days	
8.	The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on <a href="http://www.jktenders.gov.in">www.jktenders.gov.in</a>	
09	Instead of EMD the firm has to furnish "Bid Security Declaration", format of the declaration is mentioned in the Bid Document	

Note:- The tenderer who is declared as L1 after opening of price bid will deposit 3% of the Estimated cost of the work before allotment is issued in his favour.  
 No:- PHE/MRD/TS/645-50  
 DT:- 24-06-2021  
 Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar.  
 DIPK-3552/21

**اطلاع عام**  
 ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ میں فاروق احمد ملک ولد عبدالحی ملک ساکنہ قمر پوری ناگ ضلع انتہ ناگ اپنے بچوں کی تاریخ پیدائش DOB اپنے نزدیکی پولیس سٹیشن ڈور میں درج کرانا چاہتا ہوں جن کے نام یوں ہے نواز احمد، رینیس احمد ملک، امتیاز احمد، جنید احمد ملک، عارف احمد ملک۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر نزدیکی پولیس سٹیشن ڈور میں پیش کریں۔ بصورت دیگر کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔  
 بذریعہ: فاروق احمد ملک ولد عبدالحی ملک ساکنہ قمر پوری ناگ۔  
 RNA

**از عدالت ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول (تخصیصہ ادارت ناگ) با اجلاس**  
 درخواست منجانب: امتیاز احمد و گے دلہ محمد یوسف و گے والد - KHIRUN NISSA  
 نISSA ساکنہ سرٹل انتہ ناگ بغرض اجرائی تاریخ پیدائش شپٹیکٹ بنام KHIRUN NISSA  
 اشتہار بمراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام  
 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں ساکن اساتذہ مذکورہ بلانے عدالت میں ایک درخواست حلقی بیان پیش کیا ہے ساکن دفتر ہذا تاریخ پیدائش 20-10-2014 سے اس ضمن میں شپٹیکٹ پیدائش نکالنے کا خواہ ہے لہذا شپٹیکٹ مذکورہ کو اجرائی کرنے میں کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر نزدیکی دفتر ہذا میں پیش کرے بصورت دیگر کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔  
 ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول (تخصیصہ ادارت ناگ) RNA

**از عدالت ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول (تخصیصہ ادارت ناگ) با اجلاس**  
 درخواست منجانب: یونس احمد و گے دلہ محمد یوسف و گے والد زاہرہ یونس ساکنہ سرٹل انتہ ناگ بغرض اجرائی تاریخ پیدائش شپٹیکٹ بنام زاہرہ یونس  
 اشتہار بمراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام  
 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں ساکن اساتذہ مذکورہ بلانے عدالت میں ایک درخواست حلقی بیان پیش کیا ہے ساکن دفتر ہذا تاریخ پیدائش 17-09-2013 سے اس ضمن میں شپٹیکٹ پیدائش نکالنے کا خواہ ہے لہذا شپٹیکٹ مذکورہ کو اجرائی کرنے میں کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر نزدیکی دفتر ہذا میں پیش کرے بصورت دیگر کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔  
 ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول (تخصیصہ ادارت ناگ) RNA

**J&K SERVICES SELECTION BOARD,**  
 Hema Complex, Adjacent to Gauri Shanker Mandir, Channi Himmat, Sect 03, Jammu.  
 (www.jkssb.nic.in)  
**NOTIFICATION**

It is notified for the information of all concerned that:  
 1. The Document Verification-cum Interview of the candidates, who have qualified the Shorthand and Type Test for the below mentioned posts shall be conducted on 06<sup>th</sup> of July, 2021, 2020, at Central Office of the J&K Services Selection Board, Zum Zum Building, Rambagh, Srinagar at 10.30 A.M as per the list of the candidates annexed as Annexure "A" to this notification.

Sl. No.	Deptt.	Cadre	Post	Item No.	Notice No.
1	General Administration Department	State	Junior Stenographer	268	03 of 2014
2	General Administration Department/Technical Education/YSS Department/labour & Employment	State	Junior Stenographer	3	01 of 2016

1. The Select List for the above said posts shall be drawn up exclusively in accordance with the SRO 407 dated 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2013.  
 2. The Document Verification - Cum Interview schedule and particulars of the eligible candidates will also be available in the offices of the Administrative Officer, J&K Services selection Board, Jammu /Srinagar  
 3. The qualifications / reserved category certificate, if any acquired by the candidate after the last date of receipt of application forms shall not be entertained;  
 4. Mere figuring of name in the list does not entitle the candidate to appear in the document verification as it shall be subject to the scrutiny of all testimonials of the candidates shortlisted.  
 5. No further Document Verification - Cum Interview call letter shall be issued to any candidate whose names figure in the said list and they are required to appear before the Document Verification - Cum Interview committee on the schedule date & time. Failure of a candidate for appearing in the Document Verification - Cum Interview on the given date shall not be considered later and shall forfeit his/her right of consideration  
 6. In case of any deficiency with reference to eligibility etc is established at the time of document verification, the candidate shall not be allowed to appear before Interview Committee, or if any deficiency is found subsequently the candidate shall not be considered for selection and will be treated as disqualified.  
 7. The candidate shall have to produce all original certificates / testimonials as asked for vide above referred to advertisement notification before the Document Verification - Cum Interview Committee at the time of document verification. The candidates who fail to produce such certificates / testimonials may forfeit their candidature.  
 8. Any candidate found guilty of impersonating or submitting fabricated / tampered documents / testimonials or making false, incorrect or suppressing material information shall render him / her liable for criminal prosecution under law and may be debarred permanently or for a specific period for consideration of any or all recruitments made by the Board. Also canvassing / lobbying in any form will entail disqualification of the candidate.  
 9. No TA/DA shall be paid for participation in the interview.  
 10. The candidates are advised to wear proper masks and follow social distancing norms for safety & health, as per the guidelines issued by the J&K Government in this regard from time to time.  
 Note:- (1) The candidates are advised to bring Photostat copy of each certificate self-attested by the candidate for depositing with the Board on the scheduled date and time of interview in addition to original documents, failing which no claim / objection in this regard shall be entertained.  
 (2) The candidate(s) who fail to appear in the interview on the given date shall not be interviewed later and shall forfeit his right of consideration.  
 (3) The candidates are hereby directed that Wearing of masks is mandatory during interview and also advised to carry hand sanitizer for their personal use.  
 (4) Mobile phone is not allowed in the office premises.  
 By order Secretary J&K Services Selection Board, Jammu

No. SSB/Secy/Sel/2021/2643-50 Dated:- 26.06.2021  
**DIPK-3536/21**

**Annexure "A"**

**List of the candidate who had qualify Shorthand and Type test and called for document verification cum Interview for the post of JUNIOR SCALE STENOGRAPHER (General Administration Deptt.), State cadre, advertised vide Avdt. Notification No. 03 OF 2014. Item No. 268**

S.No	BRN	NAME	FATHERNAME	ADDRESS	DOB	CAT	Date of Document Verification	Venue
1	1503268000035	WASEEM RAJA	BASHIR AHMAD MAGRAY	badipora Chadoora Budgam	04-10-1988	RBA	06 <sup>th</sup> of July 2021	10.30 am at Central Office of J&K Services Selection Board, Zum Zum Building Rambagh Srinagar

**List of the candidates who had qualify Shorthand and Type test and called for document verification cum Interview for the post of JUNIOR STENOGRAPHER (General Administration Department / Technical Education/YSS Department / labour & Employment / Revenue Deptt), State Cadre, advertised vide avdt. no. 01 of 2016 dated 01.06.2016, ITEM NO. 3**

S.No	BRN	NAME	FATHERNAME	ADDRESS	DOB	CAT	Date of Document Verification	Venue
1	1601003000011	NADEEM BASHIR	BASHIR AHMAD RATHER	RANGER CHADOORA BUDGAM	04-01-1994	RBA	06 <sup>th</sup> of July 2021	10.30 am at Central Office of J&K Services Selection Board, Zum Zum Building Rambagh Srinagar
2	1601003000017	SHABIR AHMAD WANI	AB AZIZ WANI	REPORA CHADOORA BUDGAM	21/03/1981	RBA	06 <sup>th</sup> of July 2021	

**Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECHANICAL DIVISION SOUTH AWANTIPORA**  
 Tele/fax: 01933/295537; Email Id: phemechsouth@gmail.com  
**GIST of e- NIT**  
**JSD/PHE/MDSA/ e-NIT No: 07 of 2021-22 Dated: 26/06/2021**

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory Jammu and Kashmir fresh online e-tenders are invited in Single Cover System on item rate basis from registered and experienced contractors/firms whose registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules and are active for execution of the following Works:

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost Rs. Lac	Cost of T/Doc (Rs)	Time of Comp	Class of Contractor	Programme/ Funds/ AA Accord No/ Technical Sanction No.
1	Fabrication of Y junction etc. at WSS Kakapora Nawa Bulbul Nag	0.35	50/-	05 days	Electrical / Mechanical contractors with GST registration.	M&R
2	Complete Rewinding of 3 HP, 1400 rpm, 10.60lps Horizontal mono-block induction motor (Make Kirloskar) at W.S.S. Khadermoolh (F/W).	0.06	50/-	05 days	Electrical / Mechanical contractors with GST registration.	M&R
3	Replacement of column pipes at water supply scheme Ahgam.	0.15	50/-	05 days	Electrical / Mechanical contractors with GST registration.	M&R
4	Complete Rewinding of 20 HP Horizontal Squirrel cage induction motor at Water Supply Scheme Gallander F/W Standby unit.	0.13	50/-	05 days	Electrical / Mechanical contractors with GST registration.	M&R
5	Complete Rewinding of 20 HP Horizontal Squirrel cage induction motor (Make: ABB) at Water Supply Scheme W.S.S. Trich R/W.	0.13	50/-	05 days	Electrical / Mechanical contractors with GST registration.	M&R

The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, and bill of quantities (B.O.Qs) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen /downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and [www.phekashmir.com](http://www.phekashmir.com) as per schedule of dates given below:-

Sl. No.	Item	26-06-2021 (04:00 PM)
01	Publish Date	26-06-2021 (04:00 PM)
02	Start of downloading of tender documents	26-06-2021 (04:00 PM)
03	On line bid uploading start date	26-06-2021 (04:00 PM)
04	Last date of uploading of bid	05-07-2021 (04:00 PM)
05	Date and time of opening of Tech bids (online)	06-07-2021 (11:00 AM)
06	Date and time of opening of Price bid	To be notified

Note:- CDR & Treasury Receipt/e-Challan mentioning NIT No and Work shall be pledged to Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora as per the format annexed, Head 0215 - Revenue & Miscellaneous. All other details can be had from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and [www.phekashmir.com](http://www.phekashmir.com)

**DIPK-3625/21**  
 Sd/- Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division (South) Awantipora  
 No: JSD/PHE/MDSA/480 Dated: 26/06/2021



## Seek Ties With US Like They Have With India "Right Now": Imran Khan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is seeking a "civilised" and "even-handed" relationship with Washington like the one that existed between the US and the UK or with India "right now", Prime Minister Imran Khan has said, underlining the role Islamabad could play in the region, including in Afghanistan after America leaves the war-torn country.

Mr Khan made the comments during an interview with The New York Times in which he also expressed his disappointment that his bid to normalise ties with India did not make any progress though he approached Prime Minister Narendra Modi soon after assuming office in August 2018.

In the interview that comes as US President Joe Biden had his first face-to-face meeting with

effectively drawing curtains on America's longest war.

Asked if Pakistan will continue to have any strategic relevance to the US after the pullout, Mr Khan said: "I don't know, really. I haven't thought about it in that way, that Pakistan should have some strategic relevance to the US."

Mr Khan said he could not predict the future of the military and security relationship between Pakistan and the US.

"Post the US withdrawal, I don't know what sort of military relationship it will be. But right now, the relationship should be based on this common objective that there is a political solution in Afghanistan before the United States leaves," he stressed.

Asked if Pakistan was still using its leverage with the Taliban to move the peace talks towards



his Afghan counterpart Ashraf Ghani at the White House on Friday, Mr Khan recalled that Pakistan has had a closer relationship with the US than other nations in the region, such as India, and was a US partner in the war against terrorism, Dawn newspaper reported.

"Now, after the US leaves Afghanistan, basically Pakistan would want a civilised relationship, which you have between nations, and we would like to improve our trading relationship with the US," he said.

Asked to elaborate his concept of a civilised relationship, Mr Khan said he was seeking relations like the one that existed "between the US and Britain, or between US and India right now. So, a relationship which is even-handed".

"Unfortunately, the relationship during the war on terror was a bit lopsided," he said.

"It was a lopsided relationship because the US felt that they were giving aid to Pakistan, they felt that Pakistan then had to do US bidding.

"And what Pakistan did in terms of trying to do the US bidding cost Pakistan a lot ... 70,000 Pakistanis died, and over \$150 billion were lost to the economy because there were suicide bombings and bombs going on all over the country," he said.

The main problem with this lopsided relationship was that "Pakistani governments tried to deliver what they were not capable of," and it led to a "mistrust between the two countries," Mr Khan said.

"And people in Pakistan felt they paid a heavy, heavy price for this relationship. And the US thought Pakistan had not done enough."

The prime minister said that his government wanted the future relationship to be based on trust and common objectives, including a peaceful and stable Afghanistan.

The US and the Taliban have signed a landmark deal in Doha on February 29, 2020 following multiple rounds of negotiations to bring lasting peace in war-torn Afghanistan and allow US troops to return home,

a deal, Mr Khan said, "Pakistan has used the maximum leverage it could on the Taliban."

He said the US decision to fix a date for withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan also diminished Pakistan's leverage on the Taliban.

"Given that the US gave a date of withdrawal, from then onward, our leverage diminished on the Taliban. And the reason is that the moment the United States gave a date of exit, the Taliban basically claimed victory," Mr Khan said.

"They're thinking that they won the war. And so, therefore, our ability to influence them diminishes the stronger they feel."

Mr Khan said Pakistan has been emphasising to the Taliban that they should not go for a military victory because it would only lead to a protracted civil war.

In the interview, Mr Khan also claimed that Pakistan would have had a better relationship with India if it had a different government and they would have resolved all their differences through dialogue.

"When I assumed office, the first thing I did was I made this approach to Prime Minister Modi (to seek) a normal, civilised trading relationship... We tried but didn't get anywhere," he said.

"Had there been another Indian leadership, I think we would have had a good relationship with them. And yes, we would have resolved all our differences through dialogue," Mr Khan claimed.

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

On the Status quo in Kashmir, Mr Khan said, "I think it's a disaster for India because it will just mean that this conflict festers on and on ... and (prevents) any relationship — normal relationship — between Pakistan and India."

India has told Pakistan that it desires normal neighbourly relations with it in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence.

## Delta 'Most Transmissible' Of Variants Identified So Far, Spreading Rapidly Among Unvaccinated Populations: WHO Chief



United Nations/Geneva, June 26

The Delta variant of Covid, identified in at least 85 countries, is the "most transmissible" of the variants identified so far and is spreading rapidly among unvaccinated populations, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has warned.

"I know that globally there is currently a lot of concern about the Delta variant, and

the WHO is concerned about it too," Director-General Ghebreyesus said at a WHO press briefing on Friday.

The Delta variant was first identified in India.

"Delta is the most transmissible of the variants identified so far, has been identified in at least 85 countries, and is spreading rapidly among unvaccinated populations," he said in Geneva.

He noted with concern that

as some countries ease public health and social measures, "we are starting to see increases in transmission around the world. "More cases means more hospitalisations, further stretching health workers and health systems, which increases the risk of death," he said.

While pointing out that new Covid variants are expected and will continue to be reported, "that's what viruses do, they evolve - but we can prevent the emergence of variants by preventing transmission".

In a strong warning, Dr Maria Van Kerkhove, Covid Technical Lead at the WHO, said the Delta variant is a "dangerous" virus and is more transmissible than the Alpha variant, which was itself extremely transmissible across Europe and any country that it entered.

"The Delta variant is even more transmissible," she said, adding that the WHO is seeing trajectories of incidents that are almost "vertical" in a number of countries around the world. PTI

## Trudeau: Pope Should Apologize On Canadian Soil For Church's Role In Residential Schools

Agencies

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on Friday he has asked the pope to come to Canada to apologize for the Catholic Church's role in running residential schools for indigenous children, after nearly 1,000 bodies were found in two mass graves.

"I have spoken personally directly with His Holiness Pope Francis to press upon him how important it is not just that he makes an apology but that he makes an apology to indigenous Canadians on Canadian soil," Trudeau told reporters in Ottawa.

"I know that the Catholic church leadership is looking and very actively engaged in what next steps can be taken."



Cowessess First Nation said on Thursday some 751 unmarked graves had been found at the site of Marieval Residential School in Saskatchewan, just weeks after 215 unmarked graves were discovered at a former school in British Columbia.

The residential school system, which operated between 1831 and 1996, removed about

150,000 indigenous children from their families and brought them to Christian residential schools, mostly Catholic, run on behalf of the federal government.

A federal commission's report found the residential school system enacted cultural genocide on Canada's indigenous people.

"I have heard directly from many Catholics across this country who want to see the church play a positive role in this," Trudeau added.

Earlier this month, Pope Francis stopped short of a direct apology but said he was pained by the discovery of the remains of 215 children and called for respect for the rights and cultures of native peoples.

## India An "Incredibly Important" Partner To The United States: White House

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON: India is an "incredibly important" partner to the US in the region and globally, the White House has said, underlining that America is working with the country on wide-ranging issues like economic, strategic, and security.

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki on Friday said that the US took a range of steps to help India to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

"India is an incredibly important partner to the United States in the region and globally. We work with India on a range of issues, as you well know -- economic, strategic, security," White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters at her daily news conference.

"The United States certainly took a range of steps, as India was at the early stages of dealing with a rise in the pandemic, to help provide a range



of assistance, and we will continue to do that moving forward," Psaki said in response to a question.

In April and May, India struggled with the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic with more than 3,00,000 daily new cases. Hospitals were reeling under a shortage of medical oxygen and beds. In mid-May, new coronavirus cases in India hit a record daily high with 4,12,262 new infections.

In May, President Joe Biden announced USD 100 million worth of COVID-19 assistance to India.

The US-India Chambers of Commerce Foundation has raised more than USD 1.2 mil-

lion for coronavirus-related efforts in India.

With record-breaking fundraising, the US-India Chambers of Commerce Foundation has shipped or en route nearly 120 ventilators and over 1,000 oxygen concentrators, a release said on June 3.

Also, India will be a significant recipient of the US vaccines after Biden announced details of his administration's decision to send 25 million COVID-19 shots to countries across the globe.

India has been included in both the identified categories - direct supply to neighbours and partner countries, and under the COVAX initiative.

On June 4, Vice President Kamala Harris personally made a call to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inform him about the administration's decision to send tens of thousands of doses of life-saving COVID-19 vaccines to India.

**THE UNITED STATES CERTAINLY TOOK A RANGE OF STEPS, as India was at the early stages of dealing with a rise in the pandemic, to help provide a range of assistance, and we will continue to do that moving forward,"**

## Derek Chauvin Gets 22.5 Years In Prison For Murder Of George Floyd

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin was sentenced to 22 1/2 years in prison for the murder of George Floyd, whose dying gasps under Chauvin's knee led to the biggest outcry against racial injustice in the US in generations.

The punishment - which fell short of the 30 years that prosecutors had requested - came after Chauvin broke his more than yearlong silence in court to offer condolences to the Floyd family and say he hopes more information coming out will eventually give them "some peace of mind." With good behavior, Chauvin, 45, could be paroled after serving two-thirds of his sentence, or about 15 years.

In imposing the punishment, Judge Peter Cahill went beyond the 12 1/2-year sentence prescribed under state guidelines, citing "your abuse of a position of trust and authority and also the particular cruelty" shown to Floyd.

Chauvin was immediately led back to prison. As with the verdicts in April, he showed little emotion when the judge pronounced the sentence. His eyes moved rapidly around the courtroom, his COVID-19 mask obscuring much of his face.

The fired white officer was convicted of second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter for pressing his knee against Floyd's neck for up to 9 1/2 minutes as the 46-year-old Black man gasped that he couldn't breathe and went limp on May 25, 2020.

Bystander video of Floyd's arrest on suspicion of passing a counterfeit USD 20 bill at a corner store prompted protests around the world and led to scattered violence in Minneapolis and beyond.

On Friday, Chauvin, who did not testify at his trial, removed his mask and turned toward the Floyd family, speaking only briefly because of what he called "some additional legal matters at hand" - an apparent reference to the federal civil rights trial he still faces.

"But very briefly, though, I do want to give my condolences to the Floyd family. There's going to be some other information in the future that would be of interest. And I hope things will give you some some peace of mind," he said, without elaborating.

In asking that Chauvin be left off probation, defense attorney Eric Nelson called Floyd's death "tragic" and said that Chauvin's "brain is littered with what-ifs" from that day: "What if I just did not agree to go in that day? What if things had gone differently?"



What if I never responded to that call? What if what if what if?" Floyd's family members took the stand and expressed sorrow about his death. They asked for the maximum penalty.

"We don't want to see no more slaps on the wrist. We've been through that already," said a tearful Terrence Floyd, one of Floyd's brothers.

Floyd's nephew Brandon Williams said: "Our family is forever broken."

And Floyd's 7-year-old daughter, Gianna, in a video played in court, said that if she could say something to her father now, it would be: "I miss you and I love you." Prosecutor Matthew Frank asked the judge to exceed sentencing guidelines and give Chauvin 30 years in prison, saying "tortured is the right word" for what the officer did to Floyd.

"This is not a momentary gunshot, punch to the face. This is 9 1/2 minutes of cruelty to a man who was helpless and just begging for his life," Frank said.

Chauvin's mother, Carolyn Pawlenty, appeared in court to plead for mercy for son, saying his reputation has been unfairly reduced to that of "an aggressive, heartless and uncaring person" and a racist.

"I can tell you that is far from the truth," she told the judge. "I want this court to know that none of these things are true and that my son is a good man." She added: "Derek, I want you to know I have always believed in your innocence, and I will never waver from that." "I will be here for you when you come home," she said.

The concrete barricades, razor wire and National Guard patrols at the courthouse during Chauvin's three-week trial in the spring were gone Friday, reflecting an easing of tensions since the verdict in April.

## Five Pak Paramilitary Soldiers Killed In Attack On Security Forces In Balochistan



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Terrorists ambushed security forces patrolling a remote district in southwestern Pakistan, killing five of them before fleeing the scene, according to a media report.

Heavy losses were inflicted on terrorists during the exchange of

fire in the Sangan area of District Sibi in Balochistan, Dawn newspaper reported.

Five soldiers of Frontier Corps Balochistan were in an exchange of fire, according to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the Pakistan armed forces.

A search operation is also in progress to block the escape routes of the terrorists and apprehend the perpetrators, the ISPR said.

Earlier this month, four soldiers from FC Balochistan were killed in a blast on the Margat-Quetta Road.

Resource-rich Balochistan for a long time has witnessed violence by the Taliban and Baloch nationalists.

### NEWS MAKERS

## Software Entrepreneur John McAfee's Widow Blames US For Death

Agencies

SANT ESTEVE SESROVIRE, SPAIN: The widow of US software mogul John McAfee blamed US authorities on Friday for his death in a Spanish prison where he was awaiting extradition to the United States and said he was not suicidal.

Janice McAfee said she wanted a thorough investigation into the circumstances of the death of the 75-year-old, which happened in his prison cell on Wednesday in what the authorities said was an apparent suicide by hanging.

Dressed in black and wearing dark sunglasses, she told reporters outside the Barcelona-area Brians 2 jail, where her husband had been held since October, that she had last spoken to him a few hours before he was found dead. "His last words to me were 'I love



you and I will call you in the evening", those words are not words of someone who is suicidal," she said, holding back tears.

"I blame the US authorities for this tragedy. Because of these politically motivated charges against him, my husband is now dead," she said, adding that he planned to appeal against Spain's high court ruling, published a few hours before his death, that authorised his extradition on tax

evasion charges. A U.S. embassy spokesperson said: "We are closely monitoring local authorities' investigation into the cause of death, and stand ready to provide all appropriate assistance to the family. Out of respect to the family during this difficult time, we have no further comment."

British-born McAfee, who launched the world's first commercial anti-virus in 1987, was detained last October at the Barcelona airport. He had lived for years on the run from U.S. authorities, some of that time aboard a megayacht.

He was indicted in Tennessee on tax evasion charges and was charged in a cryptocurrency fraud case in New York. Calling her husband a fighter who "had hope things would work out", Janice McAfee added: "I don't believe he did this, I will get answers."

## Abu Dhabi Opens Up Free Covid-19 Vaccines To Tourists

Agencies

Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), is offering tourists free Covid-19 vaccinations that were previously restricted to UAE citizens and residency visa holders.

There is no indication that the change applies to Dubai, the most populous emirate, or the other five emirates that make up the UAE.

Visitors with visas issued by Abu Dhabi and passport holders eligible for tourist visas when they arrive in the UAE through Abu Dhabi can book free vaccines, according to information provided by the Abu Dhabi Health Services Company (SEHA), which operates the emirate's public



health infrastructure. Holders of expired residency or entry visas are also eligible for free vaccinations, Abu Dhabi Media Office said on June 11.

Job losses and travel restrictions during the pandemic mean some people's residency visas have expired or have

been cancelled when they were made redundant.

UAE Health authorities said this month nearly 85 per cent of the eligible population had received at least one vaccine dose, but did not say how many had had two doses.

Infections have risen in the UAE in the past month,

and Abu Dhabi still has restrictions on entry, including home quarantine and PCR testing at intervals after arrival. People driving from other emirates are tested to show they are not infected.

Travellers from 27 countries including China, Germany and the United States can enter without quarantine on arrival.

SEHA offers Covid-19 vaccines by China's state-owned drugmaker Sinopharm and by Pfizer/BioNTech in Abu Dhabi. Dubai Media Office did not immediately respond to a request for comment on whether eligibility criteria was to change. Dubai Health Authority information says vaccines are given only to citizens and holders of valid Dubai residency visas.

## Court Rejects Cop's Bail In Abetment To Suicide Of Would-Be Wife



Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** A local court in Anantnag on Saturday rejected the bail plea of a policeman who has been booked for abetting his would-be wife's suicide earlier this month in the south Kashmir district.

"Investigation of case is in progress and at infancy stage and certain more recoveries are expected, and in case accused will be enlarged on bail then there is every apprehension that (he) will not cooperate with the investigating agency and can influence the prosecution witnesses," Additional Special Mobile Magistrate Pahalgam Manmohan Kumar said and turned down plea for the plea by the accused cop—Amir Ahmad Khanday of Krangsoo Anantnag. "The statements under section 164 Crpc were yet to be recorded and the applicant being a member of the police force may try to deter or threaten the witnesses misusing his official position."

Even otherwise, the court said, the nature of allegations levelled against the accused

suggests that he has "acted in a quite pre-meditated manner."

"As such, the consideration for bail in their favour at this stage amounts to miscarriage of justice," the court said as per GNS, adding, "Hence in the given circumstances, I do not find any ground for extending the concession of bail to the accused Amir Ahmad Khanday at this stage. Hence the bail petition is rejected." Prosecution in the case was represented by Assistant Public Prosecutor Muhamad Yaseen Najar.

The police said that 15 June this year, a written application was received that one girl (name withheld) from Batkoot has ended her life in mysterious circumstances. Subsequently it said it started investigation under section 174 Crpc. "During investigation it was found that deceased was engaged with the accused in the year 2018 and the same was broken due to misunderstanding in the two families. But in 2019 the father of the accused again strengthened the relationship by going to the girl's house but the accused did not talk to the girl properly on the phone and used to say that you are a poor girl and I will never marry you," police said as recorded in the court order. "The deceased was mentally harassed due to which she hanged herself and ended her life." (GNS)

## Div Com Inspects Z-morh, Zojila tunnel projects, visits Baltal Base Camp

KO NEWS DESK

**GANDERBAL:** The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole today inspected various ongoing works under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) to have first-hand appraisal about the progress on these roads in the district.



During the visit, the Div Com was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Kritika Jyotsna, Additional Deputy Commissioner Farooq Ahmad Baba, ACR, Chief Engineer Kashmir PMGSY, SE PMGSY, Executive Engineer PMGSY and other concerned officers.

On the occasion, the Div Com inspected several roads of PMGSY including Kullian-Bota Kullian, NHW-Sarbal, NHW-Bhat Mohalla and Sumbal Bala-Check Gund roads.

While inspecting the progress on Kullian to Bota Kullian road, the Executive Engineer informed the Div Com that the sanctioned length of this road is 3.40 km at sanctioned cost Rs 454.90 lakh and a total of 60 percent physical work has been completed so far. Similarly 50 percent physical work on Sumbal bala to Check gund road is also completed and is sanctioned at cost of Rs 738.21 lakh. Besides, progress on other projects is also in full swing, he informed.

While highlighting the benefits of better road connectivity for development of rural areas, the Div Com stressed for redoubling efforts and regular monitoring of such roads so that they could be completed well in time without any hurdles.

He directed the concerned officers to immediately settle all issues that are hampering the progress of projects like land

compensation, court cases (if any), shifting of utilities, forest issues etc so that road infrastructure in rural areas is developed in the shortest possible time.

He also directed the officers of PMGSY to expedite the work progress on all ongoing/pending schemes so that they get completed in a time bound manner.

The Div Com exhorted for optimum utilizing this working season and stressed for greater coordination among the line departments for removing all bottlenecks that are hampering the progress of Road projects in the district in larger public interest.

Later, the Div Com visited Baltal Base Camp where he chaired a preliminary meeting with district officers to review the arrangements put in place in view of the visit of Lieutenant Governor on 28 June to Amarnath holy cave. He also inspected the facilities available at the Baltal Base camp Hospital.

Meanwhile, the Div Com also visited the Z-morh and Zojila tunnel project sites and inspected the work progress of both the projects.

The Div Com directed the concerned to expedite the work progress and stressed that all stakeholders shall work with synergy to complete both projects in a time bound manner which on completion will provide all weather connectivity and facilitate Socio-economic boost to the UT.

## INTERNATIONAL DRUG DE-ADDICTION DAY

# Six ATF Centres To Come Up Across Kashmir Hospitals:Govt

KO NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR:** Marking the observance of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Rather on Saturday said DSHK is coming up with six Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATF) in district hospitals in collaboration with National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC), AIIMS.

A spokesperson of Directorate of Health Services Kashmir said, the director in his message delivered on the day said "we don't have to be in denial about substance use disorders in our society."

The director said within a short time the DSHK is coming up with 6 Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATF) in district hospitals in collaboration with NDDTC, AIIMS.

"The work on this project is going on. These centers would be soon established," he said.

"We are sitting on volcano of substance use. Our society has moved from soft to hard drugs in short span and being in denial about same is catastrophic," he said.



**WE ARE SITTING on volcano of substance use. Our society has moved from soft to hard drugs in short span and being in denial about same is catastrophic.**

The International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is a United Nations International Day against drug abuse and the illegal drug trade. It is observed annually on 26 June, since 1989.

Dr Mushtaq said this year's theme is "Share Facts On Drugs, Save Lives" saying that "we should fight the drug addiction from multiple angles and talk to our children."

"From medical point of view we recognize the problem and are taking steps for mitigation of same. We need to fight this issue from multiple sides," the

director said.

"Substance Use Disorder patient will not need to travel to Srinagar for their treatment; it will be available to them in their own Districts through proper and professional way, which will include medical management and counseling," Dr Mushtaq said.

He said the foremost thing is that parents should talk to their children and communicate with them. "They should not let them be in isolation. Parents should see how their children are studying, behavior pattern. They should seek medical help if needed," he said.

The director said from society level Masjid committees, Gurduwara committees, Mandir committees they should also play their own part in counseling and identifying these people and seeking help.

"Those involved or affected by the drug abuse should not be left alone or stigmatized. Instead they need our love, care and affection so that we help them in coming out from addiction," the director said.

He requested all stake holders to fight this menace from multiple dimensions.

## "Menace Of Drug Abuse An Existential Threat For Our Youth"

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President and Member of Parliament Dr. Farooq Abdullah on Saturday said the menace of drug abuse is an existential threat for our youth, saying that the need of the hour calls for evolving a well thought out strategy on multiple fronts to deal with the menace.

According to a statement, in his message on the international day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking, the party president said, "It is alarming to hear about the scathing increase



in the cases of drug abuse in Kashmir. The state government should rise up to the occasion before the trend morphs into a

dire catastrophe."

He further added, "The need of the hour calls for effective policing against narcotic smuggling, besides having more drug de-addiction centers in all the districts of Jammu and Kashmir. The challenge has to be confronted at multiple levels, and of them all basic awareness at school, college and university level is a must. The parents and civil society also must put in their efforts to curb the menace. The menace has to be tackled at societal level"

## Govt Imposes Rs. 86 Lacs On Violators Of Covid SOPs In Kashmir In Two Weeks

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir Government has imposed a fine of Rs. 86,20,006 on violators of Covid-19 SOPs across 10 districts of Kashmir in the last two weeks.

As per the details, shared by Divisional Covid Control Room Kashmir (DCCR), an amount of Rs. 82,14,716 fines have been imposed alone on people for not wearing masks in the past two weeks in the Valley.

The Srinagar district followed by Kulgam topped the list for realizing a fine of Rs. 2,29,30,60 and Rs. 13,45,500 accordingly from the offenders between June-11 to June-24.

The joint checking squads and teams constituted by respective Deputy Commissioners deployed across all districts have intensified the inspections and action against violations of laid down guidelines to ensure covid SOPs are followed religiously to contain the spread of virus.

During the anti-covid SOPs violations operation, the flying squads held as many as 2,79,25 inspections, arrested nearly 300 persons, while as nearly 1,000 shops including some restaurants and hotels were sealed for resorting to violations of covid SOPs.

During the campaign, the fine was imposed for violations of wearing face mask/ spitting, social distancing and violations done by shopkeepers, restaurant operators, religious places, wedding halls, workshops, other business establishments and during gatherings and others.

## CS Appeals Public To Observe Covid Appropriate Behaviour

**SRINAGAR:** The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta today chaired a meeting to oversee the preparation of action plan for the rollout of a dedicated IEC campaign to generate awareness among the masses to prevent the subsequent waves of COVID pandemic in Jammu and Kashmir.

Administrative Secretaries of departments of Health & Medical Education, Information, Higher Education, School Education, Youth Services & Sports, besides Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), and Director Information participated in the meeting.

The Chief Secretary appealed to the general public to observe strict discipline and COVID appropriate behavior while visiting public places to keep themselves safe from the infection while asking the violators to follow the SOPs too. "Resurgence of COVID can be prevented in J&K if the citizens take upon themselves to abide by the laid down healthy practices during social

interactions and taking vaccination at an earliest", he added.

It was decided that an extensive IEC campaign will be rolled out directly to reach approximately 80 lakh population of Jammu and Kashmir. The campaign will aim at generating awareness on COVID containment and promoting COVID Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) to prevent further spread of infection.

The Chief Secretary asked the Information Department to formulate the IEC campaign focusing on mass awareness about the good practices, CAB, and Dos & Don'ts in public places; in consultation with Health & Medical Higher Education Department, School Education Department, Youth Services & Sports Departments, and banks. The Departments were asked to display such information at all prominent places, markets, public spaces, besides giving them wider publicity through mass media-print, social media, television, radio, and advertising.

About 50 lakh people will be reached through bulk text messages after utilizing the database of banks operating in J&K, in addition to voice-messages on improving public health through caller tones. Additionally, all Government websites and offices, banks and ATMs will be required to display informative hoardings and banners.

The departments of Higher Education, School Education and Youth Services & Sports were asked to coordinate and roll out similar campaigns to reach out to approximately 25 lakh students and their families with the message of responsible citizenry towards successful containment of the pandemic in the Union territory. They were asked to dedicatedly spread this message through the student associations of the National Cadet Corps (NCC), Nation Service Scheme (NSS) and Bharat Scouts and Guides, besides including knowledge on COVID appropriate behavior, a part of the curriculum of ongoing online classes.

## 8 Including 4 Sarpanchs Booked In Bhaderwah For Protesting To Demand Road Connectivity

Agencies

**BHADERWAH:** At least eight persons including four sarpanchs and a government teacher have been booked in Bhaderwah for staging a protest to demand road connectivity to their respective villages during an official visit of Farooq Khan, advisor to LG Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday.

An official told the news agency, that they have been booked under Epidemic Disease Act 1997 for violating Covid-19 restrictions imposed in the district.

He said the several locals of various panchayats of Bhaderwah had assembled on Bhaderwah-Pul Doda road and blocked the road, demanding road connectivity to their panchayats.

The locals and sarpanchs have been booked under FIR NO. 118/2021 U/S 188 IPC, 51 DM Act 2005 R/W Sec-3 Epidemic Disease Act 1997 for blocking the road at Kulshari near Petrol pump when Farooq Khan, advisor to LG was on way to Bhaderwah on an official visit to address public issues—(KNO)

## Govt. Refutes News Regarding Absence Of Forensics Narcotics Division In JK

KO NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR:** Strongly refuting news published in an English daily newspaper regarding absence of a full-fledged Forensics Narcotics Division in J&K Forensic Science Laboratories in Jammu and Srinagar besides inadequate availability of manpower and other facilities, the Home department has termed the reporting as baseless and manipulated.

As per a communiqué issued here today by the department, the organizational structure of FSL is the replica of other Forensic Science laboratories of the country which has been customized to meet the local needs, on the advice of the consultant, engaged by the Government, for this purpose. The nomenclature of the division and the job to be performed by each of the divisions has been decided by Forensic Experts only.

Besides, a full-fledged Narcotic Division comprising Assistant Scientific Officer, assisted by supporting officials including Lab Assistant and Lab attendant is operational in both Jammu as well as Kashmir division. This division

functions under the overall control of Deputy Director, Narcotics / Chemical, the setup approved vide government order number 1075-Home of 2019 dated 24-10-2019, both for Jammu as well as Kashmir province.

It was further clarified that the department has been facing a manpower shortage because of retirements and couldn't afford to close down the specialties. Hence re-engagement of retired Deputy Director, Narcotics/ Chemical was made in divisional office of FSL, Jammu for one year, within which it is expected that direct recruitment for the available vacancies shall take place; the process of recruitment is at different stages. The re-engagement is a transient measure and to ensure the functionality of C&T Division which would have been closed down but for the re-engagement of Pawan Abrol.

Since his engagement in April this year, 571 cases including 250 NDPS cases stand disposed of by the expert. Besides, a proposal to engage FACT qualified candidates is under active consideration of the government.

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION BARAMULLA.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No:- 28/2941-50/2021-22/RnB/Bla Dated 24.06.2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors Regd. With J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account	Position of AAA	Position of funds
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Palhalan main link road upto Wussan crossing by way of P/L Nallah Muck, WBM Grade-III & 20mm thick OGPC in patches/ Stretches including laying of RCC Spun Pipes	2.53	200/-	20days	DEE	MH-3054-M&R	Accorded	Available
2.	Restoration of Pattan Trikhal road by way of P/L WBM Grade II, Grade-III & 20mm thick OGPC in patches/ Stretches	5.09	300/-	20days	C&D	MH-3054-M&R	Accorded	Available
3.	Restoration of Hanjiwera Shalboni road by way of P/L WBM Grade-III & 20mm thick OGPC in patches/ Stretches	3.37	200/-	20days	DEE	MH-3054-M&R	Accorded	Available
4.	Restoration of link road near Hanjiwera Bridge (Baghi Firdous Colony from N.H way upto Masjid shari) by way of P/L WBM Grade-II in patches/ stretches	1.07	200/-	10days	DEE	MH-3054-M&R	Accorded	Available
5.	Restoration of link road at Nowran Chukkar by way of P/L WBM Grade-II in patches/ stretches	2.10	200/-	20days	DEE	MH-3054-M&R	Accorded	Available
6.	Restoration of Pattan Baba Reshi Sahib road KM 10th & 15th by way of construction of grate protection bund	4.66	200/-	20days	DEE	MH-3054-M&R	Accorded	Available
7.	Restoration of Nihalpora Darveshbagh road by way of construction of R/wall in KM 1st	2.76	200/-	20days	DEE	MH-3054-M&R	Accorded	Available
8.	providing RCC Jaketing & grate protection work to 1X7 Mtr span RCC culvert in KM 15th of Pattan Babareshi Sahib road	5.50	300/-	20days	C&D	MH-3054-M&R	Accorded	Available

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per the scheduled date given below.

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	24.06.2021
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 26.06.2021 to 05.07.2021 4:00PM
3	Bid submission Start date	28.06.2021
4	Bid Submission End Date	06.07.2021 upto 4:00PM
5	Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online)	07.07.2021 upto 11:00AM in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document fee in shape of treasury challan/receipt mentioning therein name of work and NIT No. in favour of the Executive Engineer, R&B Division Baramulla (Tender Inviting Authority).
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site at the office of the Executive Engineer, R&B Division Baramulla.
- All the bidders has to submit bid security form instead of earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below)
- The 1<sup>st</sup> lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 02 days after opening of financial bid and shall be released after successful completion of DLP as per norms.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.
- The bidder shall be debarred for tendering process if:-
  - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
  - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
  - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.**
  - Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint bid submission process.
  - To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
  - The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
  - Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
  - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Besides, original documents related to bid be submitted physically by the bidder who is declared as LI immediately after opening of financial bid.
  - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of necessary documents in terms of soft copies with the technical bid & no documents in terms of hard copies shall be entertained. However, in case of any clarification, the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.
    - Extension of time shall be admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.

- The department will not be responsible for any damage/destruction caused to the work or any material for the work during its execution (by flood, fire, earth quake/theft or any other reason what so ever and other natural climates) contractor has to arrange watch & ward of the material and shall be responsible for the safety/ custody of departmental supplies from the time of issuance to its consumption at site.

3. The tender/ bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill requirements as laid down in NIT.

4. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

No. 2941-50  
Dated 24.06.2021

DIPK-3642/21

Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Baramulla

KASHMIR  
OBSERVER

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NO HOLDS BARRED



Pandas are like special Chinese ambassadors to its major trading partners. When the relationships are cordial, they keep them sending. However, when the relationship deteriorates, China recalls its special ambassadors. Aiming for space, China in April 2021 sent its special ambassador in the form of a 3D-printed giant panda model into space along with nine commercial satellites onboard China's Long March-6 rocket

# China's Cute Ambassadors

Haris Rashid

They are the softest power that China yields by using them as an instrument of public diplomacy all over the world. There are just 70 pandas outside China. All of them anywhere in the world, including their future cubs and all their biological material—blood, semen, fur etc. are owned by China

Recently, giant panda Shin Shin gave birth to twin cubs at Tokyo's Ueno Zoo. Shin Shin and her partner Ri Ri, on loan from China to Japan, arrived at the zoo in 2011. Their cubs are property of China that would need to be returned to China after four years as per the loan agreement. Pandas are interesting. Besides being cute and adorable creatures, they are kind of diplomats sent by China to their major trade partners. They are the softest power that China yields by using them as an instrument of public diplomacy all over the world. There are just 70 pandas outside China. All of them anywhere in the world, including their future cubs and all their biological material—blood, semen, fur etc. are owned by China. At present, all of them are on loan from China. Before being loaned they were treated as commercial goods that were sold to other countries, and before that, they were offered as gifts. At present, they come in pairs at the annual fee of \$1 million. It takes major trade agreements and official visits to China along with personal requests to Xi Jinping to approve the panda loan. According to data available for 2019, pandas were present in 19 countries outside China and 13 of them were the top 15 trading partners of China. Other countries like Australia, France and Canada, all received pandas after agreeing to sell nuclear technology and uranium to China.

Initially, during 1957-1982, China would give pandas to other countries. Seven years after the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance was signed between the two countries, Soviet Union became the first country to receive a panda as a gift in 1957. Then North Korea, who fought with China against America during the Korean War from 1950 – 53, received a total of five pandas from China from 1965 – 1980. During President Richard Nixon's famous visit to China in 1972, China's Premier Zhou Enlai announced the offering of a pair of pandas to the United States in his meeting with President Nixon. It was the first time that China sent pandas to a Western country. China then sent a total of 16 pandas to seven countries in the West from 1972 to 1982. Besides the United States, the other six countries were Japan, France, the United Kingdom, West Germany, Mexico, and Spain.

Despite hostility between China and the US, the US currently has the second-highest number of pandas outside of China. Even though no new pandas have been sent to the US in recent years, China had allowed the US to keep the newborn pandas for an extended period of time after there were efforts to im-



prove the bilateral relationship in the form of official visits of heads of both the states- President Xi's 2013 California visit and President Obama's 2014 Beijing visit. In 2015, the naming ceremony of US-born panda Bao Bao at Smithsonian National Zoo was attended by China's first lady Peng Liyuan and the former US first lady Michelle Obama. During the naming ceremony, the Chinese ambassador to the US Cui Tiankai, remarked, "Many people don't realize it, but there are actually two Chinese ambassadors in Washington: me and the panda cub at the National Zoo". However, after Donald Trump escalated the trade war and increased tariffs on Chinese imports, China scrapped its loan agreement with the US and recalled two giant pandas that were located in San Diego Zoo.

Japan now has the highest number of pandas outside China. When the relationship between China and Japan was cordial, Japan received many pandas. However, after the relationship deteriorated due to the dispute over the South China Sea, China stopped sending pandas to Japan despite several requests from the Japanese government. When Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing in 2018, the first visit of a

Japanese prime minister to Beijing in seven years, President Xi Jinping said that the bilateral relations between China and Japan "have returned to normal" and that the two share "common interests and concerns" in the global environment. One of the important agenda of the visit was the request for pandas and during this meeting between the two heads of state, a broad agreement for a panda loan was reached.

Pandas are like special Chinese ambassadors to its major trading partners. When the relationships are cordial, they keep them sending. However, when the relationship deteriorates, China recalls its special ambassadors. Aiming for space, China in April 2021 sent its special ambassador in the form of a 3D-printed giant panda model into space along with nine commercial satellites onboard China's Long March-6 rocket.

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

The author is a student at Ashoka University

## The era of US-Russia 'resets' is over

The Biden-Putin summit made it clear that US-Russian ties will not improve but small-step diplomacy still matters.

Dimitar Bechev

It is about our mutual self-interest," said United States President Joe Biden at a press conference following his June 16 meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin. His observation says it all.

The long-awaited summit held in Geneva did not bring about a sea change in US-Russian relations. There was no expectation, on either side, that much would be done to repair ties, which are currently at their worst in decades.

Moscow and Washington look at one another as rivals and that will remain the case going forward. There is no way around it, for strategic as well as ideological reasons. "Resets" are a thing of the past. Donald Trump's overtures to the Russians, notably the ill-fated summit in Helsinki back in July 2018, only made matters worse.

By contrast, the three-hour-long meeting between Putin and Biden seems to have gone relatively fine. With the bar set so low, the two leaders agreed on a handful of small steps which, if followed through, will lower the temperature between Washington and Moscow. It is a simple formula: set to one side contentious issues and pursue areas where some give-and-take is possible as well as desirable.

The summit yielded a brief joint statement that highlighted the achieve-

ments of Russian-American cooperation on strategic arms control from earlier this year. In a phone call on January 26, Putin and Biden agreed to extend the New Start treaty, which was due to expire in February, for another five years. This gave both sides time to work out a replacement agreement.

Furthermore, the two presidents agreed to send back their ambassadors to the respective capitals, restoring normal diplomatic relations. Both diplomats were recalled by their governments in March-April, ostensibly "for consultations".

The test case of how far engagement can go is the greater Middle East. There are several issues that were discussed during the meeting. In Syria, the US government wants a coordinated strategy for delivering humanitarian aid, possibly through a crossing on the Syrian-Turkish border.

The Iranian nuclear deal is another issue that was raised and that Washington and Moscow could cooperate on. The Biden administration has restarted talks with Tehran about the modalities of the US return to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Russia, as one of the signatories to the agreement and a partner of Iran, has a clear stake.

Post-withdrawal Afghanistan might turn out to be yet another area of mutual interest. Neither the US nor Russia would want to see the Taliban return to

power in Kabul. With the Western troops gone and Moscow more apprehensive about a surge in radicalism in the region than American expansionism, cooperation is more likely.

If Russians and Americans find common ground on these critical issues, history will judge favourably the Geneva summit.

There is no scope for agreement on fundamental matters, however. Pragmatically minded as they are, Team Biden signalled they are loathe to cut the

Kremlin any slack on either the clamp-down on domestic opposition in Russia or on the war in Ukraine. The US has to strike a fine balancing act: on the one hand, sticking for democratic principles and on the other, engaging with Russia and treating it as a fellow great power. Biden's reference to Putin as a "worthy adversary" is music to the Kremlin's ears in that it signals respect.

However, Washington will not switch to realpolitik and throw by the wayside values and principles. Tellingly, the summit yielded next to nothing on Ukraine which, weeks ago, dominated the headlines. There is simply no scope for a geopolitical tradeoff between the US and Russia of the kind Putin would possibly like to see.

As a result, the Moscow establishment will continue to look at America with suspicion and fault it for promoting "regime change" and "colour revolutions", as it has done pretty much since the mid-2000s. The US, in the meantime, will view Russia as a flag-bearer of global authoritarianism alongside China.

Part of Biden's mission in Geneva was to convey a message that the US government would fight back against any attempt by the Russians to stir trouble in the American homeland, whether it is through cyberattacks or other forms of political interference, as in the run-up to the 2016 presidential elections.

Can this minimalist formula of bi-

lateral relations championed by Biden but also endorsed by the Kremlin work? Only time will tell.

The hostility and distrust on both sides leave plenty of ground for scepticism. It will not take much to prompt fresh tensions between Moscow and Washington. Even though the US would rather be focusing on China and the Kremlin would rather put its energies on shoring up political support at home, the rivalry has developed a life of its own and is very much institutionalised.

But one takeaway from Geneva is that conditional engagement is not a lost cause. It is not for nothing that both Biden and Putin emerged from the summit in a visibly upbeat mood. Russia got some of what it wanted: being treated as a peer by the US. The Biden administration, too, got mileage out of the meeting which it originally proposed back in April. The US president appeared to stand up to Putin but also likely extracted commitments.

Looking at the bigger picture, the era of failed resets between Russia and the US, spanning the Bush, Obama and Trump presidencies, is over. What we have now, as the Russian foreign policy observer Vladimir Frolov notes, is "respectful hostility". There is a good chance this state of affairs will prove durable.

Al Jazeera

# Palestinian Digital Dissent

Neha Sheikh

**What is happening to the Palestinian people cannot be classified as merely a 'conflict' or a 'clash' between two forces. When one force has weaponry worth billions of dollars and the other is scrambling for ways to survive, the escalation of violence is not an aftermath of retaliation. It's the outcome of brutal oppression**

73 years ago, in 1948, the Palestinian Catastrophe, also known as the Nakba, comprised the start of an exodus that created 750,000 Palestinian refugees and saw Zionist entities seize 78% of historic Palestinian land. The period between 1947-1949 saw the Balat-al-Sheikh, Sa'sa' and Deir Yassin Massacre, destruction of 530 villages and cities and death of 15,000 Palestinians. The Nakba, which is marked on 15th May, also highlights the formation of the 'Israeli State' that was established by slaughtering thousands of innocent Palestinian women, children and men. 73 years later the situation in Palestine has not changed. With recent news of mass dispossession in Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan, the world is witnessing a shift in the response towards the Palestinian cause, and this is mainly attributable to social media. With a steady increase in solidarity protests across the world the increased involvement of the present generation has helped the Palestinian cause gain momentum.

Mohammed al-Kurd and Muna Kurd, the vocal brother and sister duo, are two prominent Palestine voices who have been using their social media handles to provide the world with on-the-ground information and footage of the oppression taking place in Palestine. A resident of Sheikh Jarrah himself, Kurd has released various videos of who he calls Israeli 'occupation forces' carrying out violent crackdowns on peaceful protests. A video uploaded on May 4th on Kurd's Instagram feed shows these forces raiding the houses of the residents of Sheikh Jarrah. Kurd also reported the constant use of grenades and skunk water by Israeli forces on protesters to curb them from carrying out demonstrations. In another video released on May 15th, by Kurd, Israeli forces are seen entering another house, in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood of occupied East Jerusalem, and dragging out an Odai Abu Seir by the neck whilst applying brute force to restrain him from moving. June 6th, however, witnessed the arrest of Muna al-Kurd from her home in Sheikh Jarrah by Israeli forces. Her father Nabil al-Kurd informed people about the summons warrant that was put out for her brother Mohammed al-Kurd who was not present at home during Muna's arrest. However, later that day Mohammed handed himself to the Israeli authorities for interrogation after his house was raided while Muna was getting detained. These actions carried out by Israeli occupation forces to clamp down on vocal advocates of Palestine's freedom struggle are not in isolation. The recent arrest of Al Jazeera veteran journalist Givara



Boudeiri, on 5th June, in Sheikh Jarrah is an example of that. Despite Boudeiri wearing a jacket labelled 'press', the Israeli forces were seen assaulting her as she yelled "don't touch" in vain. Boudeiri was dragged to a government armoured vehicle and then sent to jail. While Boudeiri was released a few hours later, the constant arrests and dispossession of civilians in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood of occupied East Jerusalem still continues.

The wide support that the Palestinian cause has amassed, especially in the West, is not solely restrictive to Muna and Mohammed's influential presence. There has been a gradual increase in solidarity amongst world renowned actors, singers and models as well. The Hadid family, who come from Palestinian heritage, are one such presence who are not privy of their opinions regarding the Palestinian cause. Gigi and Bella Hadid, the sisters who have taken the modelling world by storm have been very vocal in demanding for the freedom of Palestine and using their platform to raise awareness on the United States' backing of Israel, in carrying out crimes against innocent Palestinian civilians. This brought attention to the signing of the 2016 military aid package between Israel and the

States, the most aid provided to any country in US history. For the next 10 years the States will provide Israel with a cumulative amount of \$38 billion, amounting to almost \$3.8 billion a year. This includes the \$500 million per year that the US shells to fund the Israeli defence system. However, a cumulative following account of approximately 112 million on Instagram alone, has opened the Hadid sisters to immense scrutiny. Regarding their stance in favour of freeing Palestine, Bella Hadid in particular has not been immune to backlash. The half Palestinian, 24 year old supermodel was featured in a tweet on the official page of Israel's Twitter account, after she took part in a pro-Palestinian solidarity march conducted in New York City. The tweet stated "When celebrities like @BellaHadid advocate for throwing Jews into the sea, they are advocating for the elimination of the Jewish State. This shouldn't be an Israeli-Palestinian issue. This should be a human issue. Shame on you. #IsraelUnderAttackZ". There were also reports of Bella Hadid's family address being released in addition to her receiving threats. However this did not appear to make a dent on Bella Hadid's perseverance as till this day she continues standing in

solidarity with Palestine.

While Israel's occupation of Palestine continues, various influential platforms continue raising their voices. Many have brought into attention the power dynamics between Israel and Palestine, in addition to saying why this cannot be termed as a conflict but an oppression. On one hand Israel prides itself with its billion dollar defense system while on the other Palestine stands with no legitimate army, local protection or leader. Hence, what is happening to the Palestinian people cannot be classified merely as a 'conflict' or a 'clash' between two forces. When one force has weaponry worth billions of dollars and the other is scrambling for ways to survive, the escalation of violence is not an aftermath of retaliation but the outcome of brutal oppression. This lack of empathy to the Palestinian cause can also be reflected in the Israelis who stood against their previous Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, the man who has been at the helm of Palestinian occupation for over a decade. When on June 2nd the news of a new coalition to oust Benjamin Netanyahu, the longest serving Prime Minister of Israel broke, social media was thrown into a frenzy with distinct opinions on what this could mean for Palestine. Bennett Neftali, the current Prime Minister of Israel, led this coalition of eight political parties, which is an amalgamation of left to far right ideologues. Known to be an ultranationalist himself, Neftali, was Netanyahu's former chief of staff and the chief executive of the Yesha council, an umbrella organization. The Yesha council consider themselves the promoters and guardians of the Jewish Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank, which is illegal under international law. Bennett espouses an ideology synonymous with Netanyahu's. However, the major difference lies in the leadership capacity he wishes to hold. Identifying as a religious leader and not a secular one has been a major unprecedented move by Bennett. The first among the previous 12 Israeli Prime Ministers to do so, Bennett is also the first to have lived in the occupied West Bank in Jewish settler communities. Bennett's history plays a huge role in amassing support from his fellow settlers. The celebrations, as witnessed on social media, that broke out in Israel upon the announcement of Netanyahu's inevitable defeat raises concerns on the lack of empathy that millions of Israelis harbour.

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During the excavation of a sanctuary in ancient Pyrgi, Italy during 1964, three gold plates that date back to 500 BC were found. Although two of these are written in Etruscan text and one written in Phoenician, historians gathered that these were letters of dedication and love from King Thefarie Velianas to the Phoenician goddess Astarte. Containing holes around the edges, scholars think they were once bound together, making it one of the first books to ever be known to mankind. The goddess Astarte was said to have treasured these letters and read them frequently.

As the doors of the New York library closed shut behind me the powerful musk of sensitive, untouched spines, alarmed my senses. Colours – all I could see were hues; shades; pigments of colours peppered across dominoes of fragrant wooden shelves. They were weeping; the books were weeping. It was the 16th of February 2017 and thanks to TV programmes like Gossip Girl and Law & Order, I had visualised this institution to be largely occupied with an influx of people wanting to study, read or even simply admire the plethora of books available. I wandered around the entire library at 5 o'clock on a Sunday afternoon and spotted only five people actually, physically reading a book. I should say that three of those people were simultaneously distracted by their phones. Upon seeing this, a series of questions were planted in my head: did this mean that books were becoming obsolete? Had the act of reading become an unbearable, forced chore rather than a cosmic journey of catharsis? Or simply, was it just not de rigeur for people to read for themselves anymore? As far as we all know, the internet could have provided abundant responses and solutions to those questions. I resisted the urge and decided to look for answers by doing what history taught and encouraged us to do most: read.

Reading Isn't Linear

## The Forgotten Art of Reading: An English Teachers Guide

SUSAN ALNAJAFI

Reading is not a linear practice – it is a spiraling process, with one book overlapping another and reincarnating experiences (which you thought you had forgotten) as if you felt them only an hour ago. Curricula teach you that there is a right and wrong way to read. Do not confuse literacy with reading. They are separate entities which stand strongly together. You build literacy through reading. Reading for knowledge, sheer escapism or for no reason at all – you are still learning, expanding your comfort zone and releasing the cap on your potential. The Learning Zone Model, which was developed by the German adventure pedagogue Tom Senninger, is a helpful model to illustrate how we can identify our learning zones. In the process of learning, we have the following:

- 'Comfort Zone' – this is the zone where you remain within the limits of what you are comfortable with.
- 'Stretch Zone' – this is the zone where you dare to try new things, particularly those that you are either awkward with or are somewhat apprehensive of.
- 'Panic Zone' – this is the zone that you do not want to be in. Moving into this zone simply causes severe fear and can put you off stretching your comfort zone for long periods.

Perhaps your experiences of reading have placed you in the panic zone and you no longer want to touch a book. Or you may feel so at ease and comfortable with it that it no longer exhilarates you. Most brain power is used in the 'Stretch Zone' where learning is more

likely to take place. The calibre of books and material that you read should be new and fresh to your liking. But again, maybe you simply do not want to leave your comfort zone as reading does compel perseverance and dedication; traits which many find difficult to remain consistent with. Many of my students have told me that they feel anxious about reading because they may lose interest, be too slow and form inconsistencies with it. This may be a contributing factor to why many to look to Wikipedia. I encourage the act of reading as refining a skill and to develop a skill, practice is required. In reality, sometimes taking a step back can also result in taking a step forward. If you need to re-read a page ten times, do it. If you get stuck on a word and can't move on without finding its meaning, search it. Whatever you do, however long you take, the pages will await your return.

### My Relationship With Books

My relationship with reading has fluctuated more than the economy altogether. Although neither of my parents went to university, they were both skilled in the fields of literacy and comprehension because they were always reading a book. Being raised in a multilingual household, my mother used to read to me in different languages. At the age of 13, I remember stumbling upon the books that she used to read to me. I realised something extremely peculiar that I had never noticed before. That whole time, she was reading the exact same storybook to me but in different languages. I asked her why she did this

**From the ancient era until now, the act of reading can birth, reincarnate or even erase experiences for the reader. This is all part of the journey of learning and purifying your academic, social and emotional intelligence**

and she replied: "Why is it that a book can be written from different perspectives but not read from different perspectives?". As clichéd as it sounds, my mother was right. Although it was the exact same story, each edition served different words, different images, and a whole different experience. It was from this moment that I began my affinity with etymology – the root meaning of words. A book that has transformed

my understanding of language and has me pivoting in the stretch zone is 'The Etymologicon' by Mark Forsyth (also known as The Inky Fool). Having read this book, I can now relate an abundance of words in the English language to its equivalent in another language but through its root meaning.

### My Anxiety

Many might say that I read this to build academic intelligence – although that happened, it wasn't the sole purpose. My social and emotional intelligence have been built just as much by understanding the historical and socio-cultural underpinnings of words. Another area that I have an affection for is understanding mental health. Upon being diagnosed with an anxiety disorder, my passion for reading dipped and I turned to the internet for instant comfort, validation, and information. Although I found some useful tools, everything I read on there just made me more anxious. I felt a huge disconnection with so many unfiltered and ambiguous search results and self-destructive comments. Who encouraged me to turn to knowledge rather than information? That's right, my mother. I began to read a book called 'On Edge: A Journey Through Anxiety' by Andrea Petersen. My several moments of catharsis during this book created a small but sure breakthrough for my understanding of what anxiety disorders are and what they can do. To experience catharsis, there needs to be a connection with the topic at hand. What we seem to forget is that reading about topics that you are passionate about is not something that has evolved recently.

From the ancient era until now, the act of reading can birth, reincarnate or even erase experiences for the reader. This is all part of the journey of learning and purifying your academic, social and emotional intelligence.

Amaliah

# Scientists in UK find markers to broken heart syndrome

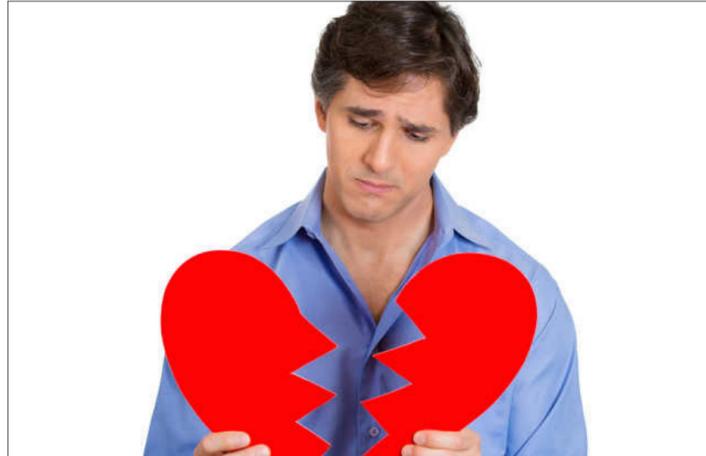
Press Trust Of India

Scientists in the UK have identified two key molecules which play a role in the development of Takotsubo syndrome, commonly referred to as broken heart syndrome, causing heart attack-like symptoms and even heart failure in extreme cases.

Researchers from Imperial College London found that increased levels of two small molecules that regulate how genes are decoded, called microRNAs, increase the chance of suffering from Takotsubo syndrome, often linked with a sudden episode of emotional trauma such as the death of a loved one.

The latest research, funded by the British Heart Foundation and published in the journal 'Cardiovascular Research' on Monday, may help scientists to better understand the disease as well as potentially leading to new ways to identify and treat those at risk.

"Takotsubo syndrome is a serious condition, but until now the way it occurs has remained a mystery. We don't understand why some people respond in this way to a sudden emotional shock while many do not," said Sian Harding, Professor of Cardiac Pharmacology at Imperial's National



heart & Lung Institute.

"This study confirms that prior stress, and the microRNAs associated with it, can predispose a person to developing takotsubo syndrome in situations of future stress. Stress comes in many forms and we

need further research to understand these chronic stress processes," Prof Harding said.

The two microRNAs, named -16 and -26a, have previously been detected in the blood of patients with Takotsubo syndrome,

but it was not known until now if they were involved in the development of the disease.

Takotsubo syndrome is a sudden form of acute heart failure which is estimated to affect around 2,500 people in the UK each year and is mainly seen in post-menopausal women.

It can cause the same symptoms as a heart attack, and although the coronary arteries are not blocked, the risk of complications is similar to those of an actual heart attack.

It's not yet fully understood what causes Takotsubo syndrome, but it is usually brought on by emotional or physical stress such as the loss of a loved one, leading to its common name of "broken heart syndrome".

Sharp rises in adrenaline caused by acute stress like bereavement are known to be the trigger for a loss of movement in part of the heart wall, which then causes the acute heart failure.

There are currently no treatments to prevent a repeat attack, which can occur in these patients.

In the latest study, researchers looked at both human and rat heart cells, measuring how they respond to adrenaline after exposure to the two molecules.

When they looked at heart cells that had

been treated with the microRNAs, they saw the cells were more sensitive to adrenaline and more likely than to develop loss of contraction.

Takotsubo-like changes were therefore seen at lower levels of adrenaline.

The team explains that in the future, a blood test measuring levels of these molecules could be developed for use in identifying those at risk of an episode of Takotsubo syndrome.

The microRNAs could also be used as a potential drug target.

Professor Metin Avkiran, Associate Medical Director at British Heart Foundation, said: "Takotsubo syndrome is a sudden and potentially catastrophic heart problem but our knowledge about what causes it remains limited. As such, it is vital that we learn more about this neglected condition and develop new ways of preventing and treating it.

"This research is not only a crucial step towards better understanding of this mysterious disease but also could provide new ways to identify and treat those at risk of Takotsubo. We now need further research to determine if drugs that block these microRNAs could be the key to avoiding broken hearts."

## Making Money from Forex in 2021 — Best Tips for Dummies

Forex has been around for decades, and it is still a magnet for millions of people. Since the 1990s, experts have developed plenty of trading strategies for this largest financial market. Still, making the first step may be daunting. Follow these simple tips to get a head start.

### How to Use a Demo

Every aspiring trader should master the simulator. This market has many variables, so preparation is mandatory. Creating an account is a piece of cake — just enter your basic contact details, and the broker will generate a log-in and password. Learn how to create Olymp Trade demo account in this guide, and start practising immediately.

Different brokers offer different software, but the core functionality is the same. Your demo credentials will unlock the terminal and the training mode. You will be able to use any features, and the broker will provide virtual money to work with. No deposit is required, and no profit will be made at this point.

A demo is a priceless opportunity to see how trading works in practice. The market is constantly changing, and making decisions with real capital is stressful. Build

confidence in the trading simulator, and switch to a live account when you are ready. There is no pressure, as this service is absolutely free.

### 2. What Strategies to Choose

The diversity of Forex strategies may be frustrating. Unfortunately,

the most convenient. Begin with the safest methods, and always protect what you have. Stop Loss is a given for any position. Keep a journal to keep track of performance. If the current system does not seem to work, try another one.

### 3. How to Limit Risks

Risk is the biggest drawback of Forex trading. This market is moved by fundamental forces which are beyond anyone's control. Your financial results depend on your foresight, but even professionals face losses sometimes.

To limit exposure, use stop loss and diversify your assets. Never risk more than 1% of capital per trade. Do not focus on a single currency pair, either.

As you become more experienced, add more instruments gradually to assemble a solid portfolio across markets. This way, you will compensate for losses with profits from other instruments.

### Final Words

Education, strategy and risk are crucial aspects for any beginner. Register a demo with a trusted brokerage, and take advantage of free educational resources. Learn from the best and monitor your own performance to see which techniques work best.



## Government of Jammu and Kashmir Mechanical Engineering Department Kashmir. Mechanical Division Anantnag.

Gist of short term tender Notice No MDA/TS/Tender/58 of 2021-22 dated: 24-06-2021.

On behalf of Lieutenant Governor of UT J&K, sealed Tenders affixed with Rs.6/= revenue stamps are invited from Contractors having valid GST registration, for repairs to Diesel Road Roller DRR 476 (W) field sub Division Anantnag.

S No	Particulars of work	Advertise cost (RS)	Bid security Declaration	Cost of tender document	Sale of tender documents from	Last date of Submission of tender.	Date of Opening	Position of AA	Technical Sanction
01	Repairs to Diesel Road Roller DRR 476 (W) field sub Division Anantnag.	33100.00	To be submitted with BOQ	200.00	26-06-2021 TO 05-07-2021 UP TO 2:00 PM	07-07-2021 up to 2.00 pm	07-07-2021	Accorded	yes

The detailed tender documents containing complete specifications, terms and conditions of this tender notice can be had from the office of the undersigned on any working day during office hours from 26-06-2021 to 05-07-2021 2:00 PM) against the cash payment of Rs:-200.00 (Non-refundable) as document cost. The documents shall be issued after production of following certificates.

01. Original valid registration certificate from competent authority.
02. PAN card.
03. GST clearance of previous quarter.

The Tender should be submitted in the office of Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Anantnag on or before 07-07-2021 up to 2 PM and shall be opened on the same day or any other working day convenient to The Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Anantnag. The tenderer who wish to participate in the bidding process shall remain present at the time of opening of tenders. The Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Anantnag reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof

No:-MDA/TS-820/2604-06  
Dated:- 24-06-2021

DIPK-3567/21

sd  
Executive Engineer,  
Mechanical Division Anantnag.

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU KASHMIR Office of The Executive Engineer P.H.E Division Budgam H.Q: Budgam.

NOTICE INVITING E – TENDERS:

**Short Terme– NIT No: 25/PHE/Bud/Civilof 2021–22.**

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu Kashmir U.T., g – tenders are invited (in Two Cover System) on "item rate basis" from Registered/Approved and valid Civil class of contractors/agencies registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments and whose registrations are renewed for current financial year for the following works:

S. No	Name of work	Estt. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of tender doc. (In -)	Amount of earnest money (in -)	Time for completion (in Days)	Class of contractor	Major head of account	Tender Call
1	Safe Drinking water facility and requirement of Spring tank , water supply Block Narbal Gram Panchayat Manzham.	6.15	300/-	12,300/-	12 Days	D & C	B2V2 Prog.	1 <sup>st</sup>

Position of AAA:-Accorded; Position of funds:- Available; Position of TS:-Submitted;  
The Bidding Documents and other details can be downloaded from the website: <https://jktenders.gov.in>  
From 26.06.2021 (10:00 a.m) 02.07.2021 (04:00 p.m)

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

TABLE (I)		
01	Date of publishing of Tender Notice	26.06.2021
02	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 26.06.2021 10:00 a.m. To 02.07.2021 04:00 p.m.
03	Bid Submission Start Date	26.06.2021 10:00 a.m.
04	Bid submission End Date	02.07.2021 Upto 04:00 p.m.
06	Date and time of opening of Bids (Online)	02.07.2021 at 11:00 a.m. in the office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Budgam (H.Q. Budgam)

1. Bids must be accompanied by bid security viz: Earnest Money, CDR/FDR and Treasury Receipt (mentioning therein the NIT No., S. No. of work and Advertised Cost as per the NIT) under M.H 0215 to be pledged in favor of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Budgam (as specified in the table (I) (Page 1st). Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding documents and shall be valid for 90 Days after opening of bid. Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Budgam (H.Q. Budgam) on 02.07.2021 at 11:00 a.m. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

All other terms and conditions shall be the same as are laid down in P.W.D Form No: 25 / 33 - Double with due modifications (if any) made by the U.T Government from time to time.

No:- PHE/Bud/1903-37  
Dated:- 24.06.2021

DIPK-3608/21

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

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION PULWAMA

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

FOR MACADAM WORKS

e-NIT No. Fresh 54 /EEP/RNB of 2021-22/2772-82

DATED: 24 /06/2021

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Bid Security Declaration	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Restoration of considerable Pot holes by way of P.L. GSB/NM/ WBM G-II, 50mm thick Bituminous Macadam and 25mm thick semisand with 6mm thick seal coat in Patches / Stretches on road leading to Primary Health Centre Litter (Jamia masjid link bunpora) . (to be laid on mechanically). BW	3.66. Incl. C/o Bitumen	200/-	3% of quoted cost within 3 days after opening of financial Bid.	10 (Working Days)	5475-Capital Outlay	AAV/A ay with HMPO/ HMPO
2.	Restoration of Pitpora Panjran Alipora B.W.O providing and laying of 25mm thick Semisand in patches/stretches (to be laid Mechanically).	5.00. Incl. C/o Bitumen	200/-	3% of quoted cost within 3 days after opening of financial Bid.	10 (Working Days)	3054-M&R	AAV/A ay with HMPO/ HMPO

Position of Approval: S.No:1 (BW) S.No:2.Sanctioned vide Chief Engineer R&B Kashmir's No: 5448-49 Dated 20.05.2021

### Position of funds: Available

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	24 /06/2021
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	24 /06/2021 from 10.00 AM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	24 /06/2021 from 10.00 AM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	02 /07/2021 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	03 /07/2021 at 11:00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama (tender inviting authority) and Bid security Declaration as per format given in SBD. The EMD has to be submitted by the lowest bidder L1 (3% of quoted cost) within the period as specified in SBD.

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama (tender receiving authority).

All other terms and conditions shall be available in website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)

Head Draftsman

DIPK-3541/21

Technical Officer

Executive Engineer,  
R&B Division Pulwama

## I-League To Begin From December, Kolkata Likely Venue: AIFF



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Kolkata is set to stage the next edition of the Hero I-League and the domestic football tournament is likely to kick off in December later this year, the AIFF said on Saturday.

The AIFF League Committee took this decision during its virtual meeting on Saturday.

League CEO Sunando Dhar apprised the Committee that the I-League will be played among 13 teams this season.

"The format of the League will be the same as the last edition with all teams playing each other once, and then divided into two groups," Dhar said in a release.

"While the top half vying for the Championship will comprise 7 teams, the bottom half which will be battling it out for the relegation will have 6 teams. The number of matches will also be more this edition — a rise from 80 to 114.

"We are looking at a tentative date of mid-December onwards for kicking-off the Hero I-League. We are in talks with the Indian Football Association (Bengal), and also the Government of West Bengal to successfully organise the League in Kolkata and its suburbs like the last edition."

The Committee also deliberated on the relegation rule and decided that it "will be applied to the Hero I-League 2021-22 irrespective of

the current situation, and there won't be any change in the regulation once the League kicks-off."

Keeping in view the logistical and financial feasibility in wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee said "a maximum of 10 teams will be participating in the Hero I-League Qualifiers which are proposed to be held at a single venue.

"The Committee approved Bengaluru as the venue for the qualifiers to be held in September 2021."

The committee also said that a decision on the Indian Women's League, which had to be postponed due to COVID-19, will be taken soon after detailed discussions with Odisha Sports, the hosts of the final round of the HIWL.

"With an Indian club set to feature in the AFC Women's Club Championship 2021 — a pilot tournament being implemented by the Asian Football Confederation — the champions of the HIWL will be granted an entry to the Championship.

"However, in case the HIWL cannot be held owing to the pandemic situation, the champions of the previous edition will participate in the AFC Championship."

The Committee also discussed hosting the Futsal Club Championship in October 2021 in Shillong adhering to all health protocols. The meeting, chaired by AIFF senior vice president Subrata Dutta, was also attended by AIFF General Secretary Kushal Das.

## WTC Champions New Zealand Return Home With ICC Mace

Press Trust of India

**AUCKLAND:** The triumphant New Zealand cricket team on Saturday returned home after outplaying India in the final of the inaugural World Test Championship in Southampton.

However, the team's inspirational skipper Kane Williamson and a few others were not part of the group that landed here on Saturday morning.

While Williamson stayed back to play The Hundred with Birmingham Phoenix starting July 21, Devon Conway (Somerset), Kyle Jamieson (Surrey) and Colin de Grandhomme (Hampshire) remained in England for the Twenty20 Blast.

Eleven cricketers and eight support staff members returned to Auckland via Singapore.

New Zealand were awarded the ICC mace after they defeated India by eight wickets in Southampton on Wednesday to claim the inaugural World Test Championship crown.

"The boys are ecstatic. There's been a mixture of emotion and jubilation. Once we get home and through quarantine, we'll hopefully continue the celebrations," left-arm pacer Trent Boult was quoted as saying by stuff.co.nz.

The Kiwi players will now serve a two-week quarantine period be-



fore they can reunite with their families.

New Zealand Cricket chief executive David White termed the victory over India "a massive achievement, one of our great days. I'm immensely proud of the team, and the whole organisation."

White said the board plans to honour the players soon in recognition of their feats but ruled out a

parade on the streets.

"We haven't finalised that yet but we'll certainly be looking to get them together in some form to celebrate them," White said.

"I don't think there will be a parade. The current environment is challenging, but getting everyone together would be great if we could celebrate with our commercial partners and our wider cricket family."

## Two Multi-Sports Complexes To Come Up In Ladakh



Press Trust of India

**LEH:** Two multi-sports complexes with state-of-the-art facilities would be set up in Leh and Kargil with an approximate cost of Rs 60 crore and Rs 30 crore respectively, officials said on Saturday.

Ladakh's Department of Youth Services and Sports on Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with WAPCOS Limited, a central government undertaking under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

The sites have been identified and finalised for the project, they said. "Such projects will provide the platform and boost the youth of Ladakh in the sports sector," said Administrative Secretary Ravinder Kumar after signing the MoU on behalf of the department of youth services and sports.

He directed WAPCOS to come up with a world-class facility with international standards and complete the project within the stipulated time.

## Jamieson Will Become A Leading All-Rounder In World Cricket: Tendulkar

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Kyle Jamieson has the ability to become one of the leading all-rounders in world cricket in days to come, reckons legendary Sachin Tendulkar after watching the giant Black Cap torment India's best batsmen in the recently concluded World Test Championship Final.

In New Zealand's emphatic title triumph, Jamieson played a major role with match figures of 7 for 61 in 44 overs along with 21 valuable runs in his team's first essay.

"Kyle Jamieson is a fantastic all-rounder. He is going to go on and become one of the leading all-rounders in world cricket," Tendulkar said on his YouTube channel.

"When I had seen him last year in NZ, he impressed me," the maestro said.

He then elaborated on why playing Jamieson in English conditions made him even more lethal.

"If you see his bowling, he is very tall and more than swinging, he likes to bowl seaming deliveries. He is a different bowler compared to Tim Southee, Trent Boult and Neil Wagner.

"Jamieson hits the deck hard and whatever he does, is off the



seam. There were variations which he used where he angled his wrists and bowled big inswingers. There was reasonable variation in his bowling and what I liked was consistency," Tendulkar

said. Tendulkar also liked how Jamieson used his height to play the big shots.

"His partnership with Williamson was critical one for New Zealand. He chose to attack from ball one and used his height beautifully. A tall batter, who can get on to the front-foot and makes a big statement.

"That kind of unsettles bowler and they have to pull back their lengths because batter is using his height. When the ball has to come chin high, then length has to be short and that gives batter chance to play horizontal bat shots and that's what Jamieson exactly did. Anything off length, he used his height beautifully, stood tall and played most of them."

On the Indian front, Tendulkar felt that Virat Kohli and Cheteshwar Pujara's dismissal in the first hour on sixth day became decisive.

"On the last day, it was very important to at least bat till the first drinks break. Then we had the firepower to accelerate and play shots. The rest of the players also when they realise that we are in safe zone and New Zealand can't chase, then mind set changes. So a partnership at the start was critical," Tendulkar said.

## Rijju Urges People To Support Olympic-Bound Athletes, Announces 'Cheer Up' Campaign

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Sports Minister Kiren Rijju on Saturday announced a 'Cheer Up' campaign for the Olympic-bound Indian athletes across the country and urged people to come out in support of the sportspersons, who will be competing at the Tokyo Games beginning July 23.

Over 100 athletes from India have so far qualified for the Games and Rijju said over 6000 selfie points will be set up in the country for people to show their support.

"I have spoken to Railway Minister Piyush Goyal and he immediately deployed space across 6000 railway stations across the country where Olympics Selfie Points have been set up," Rijju said at a virtual interaction organised by CII-Sportscom Industry Confederation.

"The Chief Minister of Haryana has also clicked a selfie photograph with the symbol to encourage others to join the campaign and encourage the Tokyo-bound players.

"I wanted the Olympics movement and the importance of Olympics to be understood by everyone, spread across the length and breadth of India. Sports is the biggest soft power of a nation," he said in a release.

Chief national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand said the Tokyo-bound Indian athletes are more confident this time around than their compatriots in the past.

"Today I can confidently say that



every member of the team is training to be in their best form and possibly win a medal and if they don't have a medal or have good performances, I am sure they are going to be very disappointed," he said.

The sports minister also stressed on the role that the government has played along with federations and players in creating a conducive atmosphere for the sportspersons to strive for excellence.

Former hockey international MM Somaya said: "We have some of the world's best coaches involved with hockey these days and our boys and girls are in good hands."

The session was also attended by key speakers including Jalaj Dani, President Sportscom Industry Confederation, Deepa Malik, Rio 2016 silver medalist and President of Paralympics Committee of India, Gagan Narang, bronze medalist of London Olympics (2012).

## Was Taken Aback When Umpires Called Off Play On Final Day Of England Test: Mithali Raj

Press Trust of India

**BRISTOL:** Indian women's team skipper Mithali Raj on Saturday said she was taken aback when the umpires took off the bails to abruptly end their one-off Test against England even though her teammates in the middle wanted to continue batting.

Debutants Sneha Rana and Taniya Bhatia, who had raised a match-saving 108-run partnership for the ninth wicket on the final day, were at the crease when umpires called off play due to bad light, last week.

Rana was unbeaten on 80 at that time and had a good chance to get a century on debut but was denied the opportunity despite the Indians conveying to the rival skipper Heather Knight that the batter wanted to continue playing.

"We wanted to continue, that's what we informed the opposing captain. I was also on the backfoot when I saw bails were taken off. Sneha Rana said bad light call was taken by the umpire. That's what we were told," Raj said during a virtual press conference.

"But then both the teams were congratulating each other. It is pretty much taken that the match is over. That's what I was told by Sneha Rana."

England had enforced a follow-on on the visitors after they folded for 231 while chasing hosts first innings total of 396 for nine declared.

The Indians put up a much better show in their second effort and forced a draw, ending at 344 for eight.

Deepthi Sharma scored a 168-ball 54 in the top-order while Rana, batting at number eight, top-scored with an unbeaten 80 off 154 balls to frustrate the England bowlers.

## Qatari Runner Abdalelah Haroun Dies At 24

Agencies

**DOHA:** Abdalelah Haroun, a Qatari runner who won bronze in the 400 meters at the 2017 world championships, died Saturday, the Qatar Olympic Committee said. He was 24.

The committee announced

Haroun's death on its social media accounts but did not specify how he died.

World Athletics said the former world junior champion "has died in a car crash."

Born in Sudan, Haroun gained eligibility to represent Qatar in 2015, World Athletics said.

## Finland Sees Spike In COVID Cases From Returning Football Fans

Agencies

**HELSINKI:** Finnish health authorities have detected a spike in coronavirus cases that has been traced to football fans returning from neighbouring Russia following European Championship matches in St. Petersburg.

The Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare on Saturday urged "all passengers who have travelled from St. Petersburg to Finland by any bus company to apply for a coronavirus test."

"Any bus or minibus may have been exposed," the institute said.

Finland played two of its Euro 2020 group games in St. Petersburg, facing Russia on June 16 and Belgium on Monday. At least 2,000 Finns are estimated to have travelled to the city for those matches.

The Finns finished in third place in their group and were eliminated. Russia was also eliminated after finishing last.

St. Petersburg hosted six games in the group stage of the tournament and will host one of the four quarterfinal matches on Friday.

Authorities in the Russian city tightened anti-coronavirus restrictions last week in an effort to curb a spike in new infections. That included closing food courts in the city's shopping malls and its Euro 2020 fan zone.

The Finnish health institute's director, Mika Salminen, told public broadcaster YLE that more than 120



virus cases have so far been detected from passengers returning from St. Petersburg, mostly football fans, and the number is likely to increase.

Though the Finnish Border Guard was prepared for heavy return traffic from St. Petersburg, the key Vaalimaa border station got badly jammed Tuesday with lines of dozens of buses carrying football fans and hundreds of cars waiting for the required coronavirus test after border formalities.

As the queue got longer and the border station was to be closed, Finnish authorities decided to let passengers into the country without testing, on the condition they would take one at their respective home region after arrival.

Finnish health officials said earlier this week that they traced some of the infections to a German beer hall-style restaurant in St. Petersburg.

There are two main crossing points

between the countries in eastern Finland, making it a trip of between 180-220 kilometers (112-135 miles) from the border to St. Petersburg.

The Russian city's population of more than 5 million nearly equals the entire population of Finland.

According to the latest information from Russia's national coronavirus taskforce, there were 8,457 new infection cases in Moscow and 1,247 in St. Petersburg detected in the past few days.

Finland is one of the least affected European countries by coronavirus with just under 95,000 cases and 969 deaths detected since the start of the pandemic. The 1,340-kilometer (832-mile) long Finnish-Russian land border has been closed for passenger travel from both sides since March 2020 and remains so with certain exceptions, such as traveling to Euro 2020 matches.

## Record-Chasing Italy Becoming The Team To Dearth At Euro 2020

Agencies

**LONDON:** Italy's unbeaten streak won't last forever, and Austria coach Franco Foda is plotting to be the one to stop it.

The Italians have become one of the favourites at the European Championship after winning all three of their games in the group stage, scoring seven goals and conceding none. Those three victories at Euro 2020 extended the team's unbeaten streak under coach Roberto Mancini to 30 games — matching the previous record set in the 1930s.

"Initially it seemed to be an insurmountable and impossible challenge for us, because they haven't lost for an eternity," Foda said. "But sooner or later even Mancini's team will lose."

Austria, which has reached the round of 16 at the tournament for the first time, will get its chance on Saturday at Wembley Stadium. "The team achieved something spectacular. We are in the round of 16 and now we want to put everything to take the next step to make it into the quarterfinals," Foda said Friday. "We have lots of confidence ... we're focused and prepared very well for this upcoming match against Italy."

Besides the unbeaten streak, Italy will also be trying to set another record. The team has not conceded a goal in 11 matches, a

total of 1,055 minutes. If Austria fails to score, Italy will surpass the record of 1,143 minutes set between 1972 and 1974.

For a team that failed to qualify for the 2018 World Cup, Italy's recent results are quite remarkable.

"It's something that makes us proud, especially considering what they thought of us before the tournament started," Italy forward Lorenzo Insigne said. "But we have to stay focused, calm and think about ourselves. We haven't done anything yet. Our objective is to go all the way, it wasn't just to get through the group stage."

The 30-year-old Insigne embodies Italy's transformation under Mancini.

The previous coach, Gian Piero Ventura, lost the squad's support during a World Cup playoff loss to Sweden when he left Insigne — considered the team's most talented player — on the bench.

Insigne has formed a strong partnership with Ciro Immobile, who has finally been able to translate his scoring success in Serie A to the international stage.

"It's the first time that I've played in such an important event at this level, in such an important role," Insigne said. "In the past other coaches have used formations that were less compatible with my style of play, although I have always made myself available.

"Now Mancini is using a system of play that is more suited to me and to other players' characteristics."

Insigne already has experience scoring at Wembley, in a 1-1 draw against England in a friendly in 2018.

"It was only a friendly but it was incredible," Insigne said. "I think it's everyone's dream to score in such a stadium. We will try to go to London and give a great performance, as we have always done until now.

"Our strength is that we don't change our nature ever. Austria runs a lot and creates pressure, we'll study our opponents but we will prepare for the match thinking about what we have to do."

Italy has drawn praise for its free-flowing, attacking style of play. But veteran defender Leonardo Bonucci said the team is prepared to forget "the beautiful game" in order to get a result.

"I've always said that there are situations in matches where you need to be bad and ugly," Bonucci said Friday. "And we've done that in matches when we needed to defend the result, when we've sat deep, when we've battled in front of our box."

"There are a whole host of moments in a knockout match and you need to be able to read those correctly just like in tomorrow night's game."

## 3 Teams Vying For 2 Spots In Copa America Quarterfinals

Agencies

**BUENOS AIRES:** Peru, Ecuador and Venezuela are in the fight for the last two spots in the Copa America quarterfinals. The prize is likely Lionel Messi's Argentina.

The top four in each group advance to the knockout stage of the troubled tournament in Brazil, rife with the coronavirus.

Group B has Brazil with nine points, followed by Colombia and Peru with four, Venezuela at three, and Ecuador counting two. Colombia is the only team that has already played all of its four group games.

If Peru doesn't lose to Venezuela on Sunday it will advance for sure.

Ecuador needs to beat host and defending champion Brazil. Ecuador can still advance with a defeat as long as Venezuela fails to win against Peru and the goal difference doesn't change much. After three matches, the Ecuadorians have minus one and the Venezuelans minus three.

Group A has been decided with Bolivia missing out after three defeats. Argentina leads with seven points, followed by Paraguay with six, Chile five, and Uruguay four. Whoever finishes in the fourth position will face Brazil.

Uruguay needs to beat or draw with Paraguay on Monday to leave Chile in fourth place. Chile has already played all of its four group matches.

## J&K Logs Lowest Covid-19 Cases After 3 Months

Firdaus Ali

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir reported on Saturday 342 cases of coronavirus, the lowest daily cases in nearly three months, while five more people died of infection across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

While Kashmir Valley reported 235 new cases of Covid-19 on Saturday, the remaining 107, officials said, were detected from Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 314316.

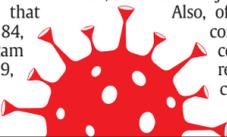
Giving district-wide details, the officials said that Srinagar reported 84, Baramulla 9, Budgam 23, Pulwama 29, Kupwara 18, Anantnag 24,

Bandipora 14, Ganderbal 18, Kulgam 15, Shopian 1, Jammu 11, Udhampur 2, Rajouri 15, Doda 10, Kathua 10, Samba 1, Kishtwar 13, Poonch 14, Ramban 12 and Reasi 19 new cases of coronavirus.

Moreover, they said, 864 more patients have recovered in the last 24 hours—375 from Jammu Division and 489 from Kashmir.

Regarding the fatalities, the officials said that Jammu division witnessed four coronavirus related deaths while the virus claimed the life of one person in the Valley. With this, officials said, the death count due to Covid-19 has reached 4296 in J&K.

Also, officials said that one new confirmed case of mucormycosis (black fungus) has been reported today, bringing the cumulative number of confirmed cases to 29 in J&K.



CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Civilian Killed,

Rainawari and Shakeela Bano, a resident of Uttar Pradesh were removed to SMHS hospital for the treatment of splinter injuries. However, the doctors at the SMHS referred Shakeela to SKIMS for advanced treatment.

"Her left side of the chest has been badly damaged by the splinters. She has been hit by a splinter in right leg too," the police official said. Hilal, as per the official, was hit by splinters in his left kidney when he was passing through the area on his motorbike.

"We have operated upon him. He had suffered loss of blood too. His condition is stable," Medical Superintendent SMHS, Dr Kanwaljeet Singh told Kashmir Observer.

However, late Saturday night 30-year-old Mudasar, a shopkeeper by profession, lost the battle with life. He had received splinter injuries in the left side of chest, an official said.

Soon after the attack, reinforcements of police and CRPF reached the spot and laid a siege around the locality to nab the attacker. The joint forces, as per witnesses, also carried out random searches.

Police also collected CCTV footage from the area to identify the militant who lobbed the grenade.

Permanently, this was the third attack by militants on government forces in this capital city in the last ten days.

On June 17, militants shot dead a policeman Javid Ahmad Tambi outside his house in Saidpora locality of Eidgah. Five days later, Pervaiz Ahmad Dar, an inspector of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police was shot dead by two pistol-borne militants when he was on his way to a local mosque in Kanipora locality of Nowgam to offer prayers.

Meanwhile, a police spokesperson in a statement issued here said that preliminary investigation has revealed that militants hurled a grenade upon a joint naka party of Police and CRPF at Barbarshah Chowk.

"Police has registered a case in this regard under relevant sections of law. Investigation is in progress and officers continue to work to establish the full circumstances of this crime. Area has been cordoned and search in the area is going on," he added.

### Farooq Rues Delhi's

country's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru promised a plebiscite to the people of J&K but went back on it. He also said that before the 1996 elections, the then prime minister P V Narasimha Rao had promised autonomy to J&K from the floor of the house.

"Narasimha Raoji before elections promised us autonomy and said sky is the limit, but not independence. We said we never asked (for) independence, we have asked for autonomy. He promised us from the floor of the house. Where is that?" Farooq asked.

"There is a level of mistrust... We should wait and see what they (the Centre) do... Whether they will remove the mistrust or let it continue," he added.

Farooq said even senior Congress leader Karan Singh has called for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir before holding elections.

He said that at the prime minister's meeting, all invited persons put forth their views. "This was the first step from their side that somehow the situation is improved in Jammu and Kashmir and a political process is restarted," he said, adding he would speak more on the meeting after consulting party members and PAGD leaders.

The Srinagar Lok Sabha MP dismissed suggestions that the June 24 meeting with the Prime Minister signalled the end of People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) -- a six-party amalgam of mainstream parties formed after the Centre abrogated Article 370 and split Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories in August 2019.

"Why should it be the end of the alliance?" Omar, meanwhile, told reporters it was made clear to the Centre during the PM's meeting that the statehood should be restored to J&K before holding Assembly polls.

"(Ghulam Nabi) Azad sahib spoke on behalf of all of us that we do not accept this timeline. We do not accept delimitation, election, statehood. We want delimitation, statehood and then election. If you want to hold polls, you will have to restore statehood first," he told reporters after his return from Delhi.

On the process of delimitation, he said the National Conference had authorised its president Farooq Abdullah to take a view as and when the party is approached by the delimitation commission again.

He also dismissed suggestions that the PAGD was weakened after the all-party meeting, saying alliance members said nothing against the spirit of the grouping.

"We maintain that we do not accept the

## Rajnath To Review India's Operational Readiness In Ladakh

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, accompanied by the Army chief, will begin a three-day visit to Ladakh from Sunday to carry out a comprehensive review of India's operational readiness amid a stalemate with China on the next stage of disengagement at several friction points in eastern Ladakh, official sources said.

Singh's visit with Army Chief Gen MM Naravane comes two days after India and China held a fresh round of diplomatic talks to resolve the prolonged military standoff that began in early May last year.

"Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh will be visiting Ladakh tomorrow for three days. During his Ladakh visit he will inaugurate infra projects constructed by BRO and also interact with troops

deployed in the region," Singh's office tweeted.

Sources said the defence minister will visit various key formations and high-altitude bases in eastern Ladakh to assess the ground situation as well as to boost the morale of the troops guarding the Line of Actual Control in a hostile environment.

The defence minister will be given a detailed briefing about the overall situation in eastern Ladakh at the Leh-based headquarters of the 14 Corps of the Army which is tasked to guard the LAC in the Ladakh sector, sources said.

It will be Singh's first visit to eastern Ladakh after the Indian and Chinese militaries pulled back troops, tanks, infantry and other equipment from the Pangong lake areas in February as part of an agreement.

The disengagement process

in the remaining friction points including Hot Springs, Gogra and Depsang is deadlocked as China is reluctant to withdraw its troops from these areas.

At a virtual meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on border affairs on Friday, India and China agreed to hold the next round of military talks at an early date to achieve the objective of complete disengagement in remaining friction points.

After the WMCC meet, the external affairs ministry said, "the two sides agreed to hold the next round of the senior commanders meeting at an early date to achieve the objective of complete disengagement from all the friction points along the LAC in the western sector in accordance with the existing bilateral agreements and protocols."

The government refers to the eastern Ladakh region as the western sector.

Singh's visit to the sensitive region also comes amid fresh sparring between India and China over the standoff.

India on Thursday blamed China for the standoff saying its amassing of a large number of troops close to the border and attempts to unilaterally alter the status quo along the LAC last year were responsible for seriously disturbing peace and tranquillity in the region.

India's response came after China said its military deployment in the region is a normal defence arrangement aimed at "preventing and responding" to "encroachment and threat" on Chinese territory by India.

India and China were locked in a military standoff at multiple friction points in eastern

Ladakh since early May last year. However, the two sides completed the withdrawal of troops and weapons from the North and South banks of Pangong lake in February following a series of military and diplomatic talks.

The two sides are now engaged in talks to extend the disengagement process to the remaining friction points. India has been particularly pressing for disengagement of troops in Hot Springs, Gogra and Depsang.

According to military officials, each side currently has around 50,000 to 60,000 troops along the Line of Actual Control in the sensitive sector.

There was no visible forward movement in disengagement of troops in the remaining friction points as the Chinese side did not show flexibility in their approach on it at the 11th round of military talks.

and 35A and a separate statehood for Ladakh," he said.

### 15 Ex-IPS Officers

task since the Constitution was adopted in 1950.

The Modi government's "painstaking, courageous and decisive efforts" at attempting to resolve the complex Kashmir issue have been noticed ever since the Modi dispensation came to power seven years ago, they added.

"It is a matter of national pride that over these years, the central government tried all means possible to achieve this goal.

"The momentous decision to annul Article 35A and read-down Article 370, was efficiently implemented, with all necessary precautions to prevent the loss of life and property," the letter said.

Now, a citizen of Kashmir can proudly call himself or herself Indian and receive all benefits that the Indian State bestows on its citizens, it said.

The retired police officers also said it is a matter of great satisfaction that the government's ability to foresee future events and to plan for all kinds of possibilities led to tight control over crime, militancy and public order since August 5, 2019, when the Article 370, giving special status to Jammu and Kashmir, was abrogated and the erstwhile state was divided into two Union Territories.

They said the implementation of the plan was impeccable, given that Pakistan, the "permanent interloper" in matters regarding Kashmir, was boxed into a difficult position, given its earlier stand of non-recognition of Article 370.

"Of more interest is the fact that Pakistan is now calling for the reinstatement of Statehood for Jammu and Kashmir, which amounts to accepting Jammu and Kashmir as part of the Union of India," they said.

The retired police officers also appreciated the manner in which the government organised an impeccable system of managing external pressures such as those from western nations and multilateral bodies like the United Nations, which, they said, had been interfering in India's internal affairs regarding Kashmir for several decades.

"None of these external elements were able to create any significant impact, except the appearance of articles in media of choice. Almost two years have elapsed and the seal of integration with the Union is absolute," they said.

The Central government's most recent initiative at reaching out to political stakeholders and countering the twin elements of "Dil ki doori" and "Dilli ki doori", in order to enhance trust, is exemplary, reflecting a dynamic approach to policy-making, the letter said.

"We are hopeful that you will fulfil your promise of bringing economic development to Jammu and Kashmir, with all the robust investment plans that have been finalised," they said.

The signatories include AK Singh (IPS, Gujarat, 1985), Badri Prasad Singh (IPS, Uttar Pradesh, 1990), Geeta Johri (IPS, Gajarat, 1982), K Aravinda Rao (IPS, AP, 1977), K Rajendra Kumar (IPS, JK, 1984), KB Singh (IPS, Odisha, 1985), M Nageswara Rao (IPS, Odisha, 1986), PP Pandey (IPS, Gujarat, 1982), Prakash Mishra (IPS, Odisha, 1977).

Prime Minister Modi Thursday held an all-party meeting on Jammu and Kashmir where he said the ongoing delimitation exercise there has to happen quickly so that polls can be held to form an elected government that gives strength to its development trajectory.

The prime minister had also said he wanted to remove "Dilli ki Duri as well as 'Dil Ki Duri' (distance from Delhi as well as distance of hearts), according to the sources.

### 20 More Seats

superspeciality courses already being run in Jammu and Kashmir, the spokesman said.

These steps will drastically improve the healthcare services in the far flung districts and shall improve the services in the tertiary care institutions as well. This is also expected to markedly bring down the referral from the far flung districts to the already overburdened tertiary care institutes of the UT of J&K, the spokesman added.

### 18 Seats May

to the total number of seats in the Assembly as the population of the Scheduled Castes in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir or of the Scheduled Tribes in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, in respect of which seats are so reserved, bears to the total population of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

This is for the first time when STs will have political reservation in Jammu & Kashmir. In the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir, as many as seven seats were reserved for SCs but

there was no such reservation for STs.

It is worthwhile to mention that a delimitation commission headed by Justice (retd.) Ranjana Desai was constituted by the Government of India in March 2020 to fix boundaries for Assembly segments in Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

### J&K Taking

is fully committed to strengthening action-framework and taking a firm stance against drug abuse, besides providing practical solutions like evidence-based prevention, treatment, and care to emerge as a winner in achieving the goal of a drug-free society," he added.

The LG, he said, maintained that the Youth Clubs are being established in every Panchayat across Jammu and Kashmir for constructive activities and addressing all the concerns of young generation.

"Besides a component of Rs 10 crore for Drug De-addiction/rehabilitation centres has also been kept in this year's budget giving a much-needed impetus to the government's efforts in this regard," Sinha said, as per official spokesperson.

"Collaborative efforts on the part of every stakeholder are imperative to check the exploitation of our young population. I urge every individual, communities, and various social organizations to 'Share Facts on Drugs and Save Lives' by combating misinformation and promoting the sharing of scientific facts, raising awareness regarding the threat possessed by illicit drugs to the society," he added.

According to the official spokesperson, the LG also called upon the community elders, religious & spiritual heads, mainstream media to be the torch-bearers in spreading the message that "Drug abuse has no place in any civilized society".

"Every effort on the part of those who are playing an active role in prevention of drug addiction is praiseworthy. By motivating the youth and spreading awareness among them regarding drug de-addiction, we can save precious lives and our future," the LG said, as per official spokesperson.

He further said that Sinha also laid special emphasis on counseling of youth for addressing drug de-addiction and improving mental health through dedicated programmes.

### Ahangar Gets

Department," reads a government order. "It is further ordered that during this period, Prof. A. Ahangar will not look after the issues related to procurement and appointments in the Institute, which shall be looked after by a Committee to be constituted by the Government."

### BJP Won't Restore

BJP will not restore Article 370. Perhaps they may provide Article 371 which gives special rights to several other states.

**Do you see any role of separatists in the near future in Kashmir?**

I don't see any role for separatists, but they should be free to carry on their politics as long as they do not get involved in violence.

**Does New Delhi feel uneasy with withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan?**

Certainly, but it has no direct impact on India.

**But Srinagar-based 15 Corps Lieutenant General D P Pandey recently said that the pullout of US forces from Afghanistan may push some militants into Kashmir.**

Same thing was said in 1991 when some Afghans had come. But they were not successful. What worries India more is the use of Afghanistan for training Pakistani jihadis for operations in India.

### Petrol Bomb

that there was no loss of life or injury reported in the incident. (GNS)

### Man Arrested

the intervening night of June 12 and 13. The matters are being probed, he said.

### 5 Cops Injured

a police officer said that the injured were shifted to Sub District Hospital Magam for treatment. However, two of them—Ajaz Ahmad and Imtiaz Ahmad—have been referred to SMHS hospital here for further treatment.

### Two Held Over

a few hours of the incident, the official said. He said a case was registered against the accused and further investigation is on.

## CBSE Team Visits Kargil, Discusses Plans For Establishing School Education Board With Stakeholders



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**KARGIL:** A three-member team of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) visited the district and held detailed deliberations with LAHDC Kargil besides representatives of private schools and other experts, a spokesperson said on Saturday.

In March, Lt Governor R K Mathur had held a meeting with CBSE Chairman Manoj Ahuja and discussed the need for a school education board in Ladakh.

Mathur had also highlighted the need for an interim arrangement for the next two-three years, and asked Ahuja to consider sending a team to the union territory for a detailed survey and to discuss the road-map ahead.

Earlier, an official panel for the review of school education boards in Kargil had suggested an alternative plan due to the difficulty in managing the administrative affairs of the Jammu and Kashmir State Board of School Education.

There was a provision in the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019 for continuing with the same board but the erstwhile state was bifurcated into Union territories, making it difficult to manage the board's administrative affairs, the panel had said, adding that an alternative plan should be placed for the future.

An official spokesman said Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC, Kargil Feroz Ahmad Khan chaired the meeting held on Friday with the CBSE team comprising joint secretaries Sanjib Das, Hilal Ahmed and Shyam

Kapoor. Councillors, education experts and representatives of private schools also attended the meeting.

He said detailed deliberations were held on issues pertaining to constraints that educational institutions in the district might face in case of affiliation with the central board, administrative issues in view of the district's remote location, current as well as future academic and examination sessions, formalities regarding affiliation process, and other matters about private schools.

Khan apprised the visiting team about the major concerns of all stakeholders and stressed on the need to have a considerate view on all issues, the spokesman said.

He said the major issues underlined by the CEC Kargil included the need for a separate academic and examination session for UT Ladakh, the establishment of a CBSE sub-board office in Kargil, allocation of exam centres to ensure that no child is left behind, extended relaxation for private schools in terms of renewal of provisional affiliation, relaxed norms in respect of land and infrastructure requirements for CBSE affiliation.

The spokesman said the visiting team also put forth its views on the issues raised during the meeting, and said that the CBSE, being the most child-friendly board, would make every effort to ensure convenience of all students.

To ensure holistic development of students, the team said schools need to adhere to basic essential requirements as stipulated in the CBSE norms. However, relaxations in certain aspects may be considered keeping in view the tough terrain and remote location of the schools.

The team assured that it would put forward the stakeholders' concerns to higher authorities for redressal, the spokesman said.

## FMD Grips Livestock In North Kashmir

Over 9000 Cases Detected In Bandipora, Gurez Most Affected



Agencies

**BANDIPORA:** Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) has affected around 9520 livestock at Gurez valley in north Kashmir's Bandipora district while the concerned department is taking all the preventive measures to prevent it from spreading further.

Reports said that around 9520 FMD cases among livestock have been reported across Bandipora district, of which 651 have been recovered so far.

The data reveals that around 25,079 livestock have been vaccinated while 22 animals died due to the disease.

"So far most cases have been reported in Gurez Tehsil. We have already sent our four teams to the affected place and they are working hard to prevent the disease among livestock," an official said.

An official said that the first case was confirmed through RTPCR test which was done at Disease Investigation Laboratory Nowshera, Sri-

nager 15 days ago.

"AS of now we have formed four teams who have started vaccination among livestock in remote areas of Gurez valley," he said.

District sheep husbandry officer Bandipora, Dr Showket Ahmad has said that he is personally monitoring the situation in Gurez and all possible steps are being taken to prevent this disease.

"I am stationed at Gurez to monitor the situation and has also directed the field staff to visit the spots where most cases have been reported," he said.

"Department is taking all preventive measures to prevent the disease from further spreading to safeguard the livestock. We have also vaccinated the unaffected livestock and have started the treatment of the livestock which has contracted FMD," he said.

Showkat said that the reason behind spreading of FMD among livestock in far off areas was due to the migration of Bakerwalas who have been coming from different parts

of the UT for grazing of livestock. "Bakerwalas who have come from Rajouri, Poonch and other parts of Jammu and Kashmir have been the main reason for transmitting the FMD disease among the livestock in far off places like Gurez," he said.

A statement issued by Joint Director Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir, reads that a team of Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir comprising Joint Director Extension, District Sheep Husbandry officer Bandipora, Jr. Epidemiologist DSHK, SDO Gurez and Technical Officer Bandipora visited different alpine pastures and villages of Tulail and Gurez area.

The statement reads that the team conducted postmortem of some diseased animals and took samples from oral lesions of affected one's in viral transport medium for further confirmatory laboratory diagnosis. "Besides mass awareness was given to sheep breeders for taking preventive measures to control spread of disease," it said.

**DEPARTMENT IS TAKING ALL PREVENTIVE MEASURES TO prevent the disease from further spreading to safeguard the livestock. We have also vaccinated the unaffected livestock and have started the treatment of the livestock which has contracted FMD,"**

## COVID Impact: Zero Cancellation Products, Hygienic Staying Conditions Rank Top On Travellers Checklist

By IANS

The COVID-19 related travel curbs in different parts of the country has had a lasting impact on the travel and tourism industry. With mobility restricted, less Indians were travelling for non-essential work for most part of the last year.

Now with the Second Wave of the pandemic subsiding and people are coming out, the most pertinent question in the travel industry is whether finally leisure travel will pick up pace? What will be the trend in the post-COVID world?

A survey by Thomas Cook India and SOTC Travel as part of their Third Holiday Readiness Report has found that people's interest in travel has increased tremendously during the month with several expressing desire to start travel immediately to get over the period of relative immobility brought about by the pandemic.

A significant 69 percent of the respondents in the survey indicated keen interest to travel in 2021 post-ease in restrictions -- with 18



percent ready to travel immediately post-unlock and 51 percent within the next 3-6 months.

What has changed from pre-COVID period to now is that people are increasingly preferring travel choices that provide hygienic staying options coupled with best safety protocols. In the survey, 70 percent respondents ranked health and safety as the key consideration while re-sanitation of rooms was selected by 52 percent respondents as a key requirement.

Majority or about 66 percent of the respondents showed willingness to increase spends to ensure higher levels of health and safety on their holiday.

Another interesting trend brought out by the survey is that a whopping 81 percent respondents reiterated their need for refundable or zero

cancellation products. With the uncertainty created by the virus, people want flexible products where cancellations would be allowed as a rule.

The Thomas Cook India and SOTC Travel surveyed over 4,000 customers across India's Tier 1-3 cities to identify emerging consumer behaviours and trends that will drive travel preferences in the COVID era.

The survey covered consumers of India's top eight metros, mini metros like Pune and key Tier 2/3 markets such as Jaipur, Indore, Tiruchirappalli, Madurai, Nagpur, Surat, Baroda, Bhubaneswar, Lucknow, Chandigarh, Mysore, Coimbatore, Visakhapatnam, Guwahati, Patna etc.

What is interesting is that travellers want options for both domestic and international travel in just about equal number of preferences expressed in the survey.

Among the domestic destinations, Kashmir, Leh-Ladakh, Himachal, Andamans, Goa and Kerala have caught the fancy of the travellers, while Dubai-Abu Dhabi, Maldives, Mauritius, Thailand, Europe etc. remain hot travel destinations globally.

## Petrol, Diesel On A Roll, Rates Rise By Sharp 35 Paise/Litre

Global cues pushed fuel prices to increase again across the country on Saturday, adding more misery for the common man already grappling with rising food prices amidst shrinking income.

The retail prices of both petrol and diesel rose by a sharp 35 paise per litre on Saturday to touch new high of Rs 98.11 and Rs 88.65 per litre respectively in Delhi.

With the rise, petrol price has reached very close to hitting the century mark all across the country extending the scope of historic high prices that had already made the fuel rate cross the Rs 100 per litre mark in certain cities and towns of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh.

In the city of Mumbai, where petrol prices crossed Rs 100 mark for the first time on May 29, the fuel price reached new high of Rs 104.24 per litre on Saturday. Diesel price also increased in the city to reach Rs 96.13 a litre, the highest among metros.

Across the country as well petrol and diesel prices increased on Saturday but its retail prices varied depending on the level of local taxes in different states.



Petrol prices in three other metros apart from Mumbai have also reached closer to Rs 100 per litre mark and OMC officials said that if international oil prices continue to firm up, this mark could also be breached in other places by month end.

With Saturday's price hike, fuel prices have now increased on 30 days and remained unchanged on 27 days since May 1. The 30 increases have taken up the petrol prices by Rs 7.72 per litre in Delhi. Similarly, diesel has increased by Rs 7.92 per litre in the national capital.

With global crude prices also rising on a pick up demand and depleting inventories of world's largest fuel guzzler - the US, retail prices of fuel in India are expected to firm up further in coming days. The benchmark Brent crude reached multi year high level of over \$76 on ICE or Intercontinental Exchange. IANS

## South Africa Crypto Exchange Brothers Disappear After Client Cash Vanishes



Lawyers for investors in a cryptocurrency exchange in South Africa, which told clients in April their accounts had been hacked, say \$3.6 billion has disappeared from the platform and that the two brothers who ran it cannot be traced.

If confirmed, Africrypt's losses would rank among the biggest crypto losses yet. For the whole of 2020, losses in the crypto sector through fraud and other crime were \$1.9 billion, down from a record of \$4.5 billion in 2019, according to crypto intelligence company CipherTrace.

Africrypt COO Ameer Cajee said in a letter to clients, dated April 13, that client accounts had all been compromised due to a recent breach in its system. The letter, reviewed by Reuters, said Africrypt had halted operations and had "begun the process of attempting to retrieve stolen funds."

It gave no details of how much money was missing and warned clients that trying to get their money back using lawyers would "only delay the recovery process."

Hanekom Attorneys, a law firm hired by some of those who say they have lost money, told Reuters in a statement their investigations had so far found a total of \$3.6 bil-

lion had vanished from Africrypt. The firm did not immediately respond to a request for comment on how it reached that figure.

Reuters could not reach Africrypt for comment. Calls to Cajee's mobile phone went to voicemail and he did not respond to text messages. The exchanges' website is offline.

Darren Hanekom, a lawyer representing the investors, said that Cajee and his brother and co-founder Raess had been untraceable since the April 13 letter and that he had referred the matter to South Africa's specialist anti-corruption police, nicknamed the Hawks, on April 16.

Bitcoin reached a record high of almost \$65,000 on April 14.

Philani Nkwalase, spokesman for the Hawks, said they had so far been unable to open the case because Hanekom Attorneys is based in Western Cape and those seeking to recover their money are in other provinces.

"We advised those individuals to please open cases where they are," he said by telephone. "Go to the nearest police station."

Zakira Laher, Cajee's cousin, who said she was an Africrypt director until she quit in 2019, told Reuters the brothers had been missing since April.

"I say this on behalf of the whole family that we have no idea where they are," she said by telephone. "Around about mid-April, they just stopped talking to us. They're not responding to us in WhatsApp." -REUTERS

## Progress Under High Density Plantation In J&K Reviewed 'Clear Pending Applications In 4 Days'

**SRINAGAR:** Principal Secretary, Horticulture Department Navin Kumar Choudhary along with MD, NAFED, SK Chadda on Saturday chaired a meeting of officers of Agriculture Production & Farmers' Welfare Department (AP&FWD) and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) for the implementation of High Density plantation in Jammu and Kashmir.

The High Density Plantation is a flagship project of the government of J&K to enhance fruit productivity from existing 10-12 MT per hectare to 40-50 MT per hectare to increase income of farmers many times.

The HD plantation scheme, modified in March, 2021, focuses on the small and marginal farmers. Under HD plantation scheme Govt. is providing subsidy upto Rs 22.15 lakh per beneficiary. The modified HD plantation scheme is implemented with the support of NAFED.

The meeting was attended by Director General Horticulture, Kashmir; Director Horticulture, Jammu; Additional Secretary, Horticulture Department, (Nodal officer for HDP); and all Chief Horticulture Officers.

At the outset of the meeting, Managing Director, NAFED, SK Chadda gave a detailed presentation regarding the progress made by NAFED for the implementation of the High Density plantation scheme and the target achievements till now.

SK Chadda informed that NAFED has set the target of plantation on one hundred acres in Poonch in Jammu division. He further informed that ten enterprise agencies have been empanelled who would



assist in achieving the target in the stipulated time.

Besides market support, NAFED is also establishing the post harvest infrastructure facilities which includes three CA stores which includes one at Samba, in Jammu division while two other in Kashmir division, said MD, NAFED.

He added that NAFED is providing a market linkage facility, and bought 800 quintals of cherry this year through FPOs.

Meanwhile, MD, NAFED also offered marketing support for exotic vegetables and honey from of J&K.

On the occasion, the Principal Secretary directed all the CHOs to identify the eligible marginal farmers having less than four kanals of land and speed up the HD plantation, besides asking them to process the applications of farmers within four days.

Moreover, Principal Secretary directed DG, Horticulture, Kashmir and Director, Horticulture Jammu to quantify the production of exotic vegetables and honey so market linkages shall be established by NAFED for these products to maximize remuneration of farmers.

He also directed them to identify land for the establishment of a virus indexing lab for HD plantation.

### NEWS MAKERS

## Govt To Refresh IT Act

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The government plans to refresh the Information Technology Act to address the requirements of new technologies and developments in the industry, a top government official said on Friday.

Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) Secretary Ajay Prakash Sawhney, however said the government's immediate focus is on putting in place the Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill. "There is also requirement to refresh IT Act itself. The IT Act came in 2000 and was last amended in 2008," the Secretary said at an industry event.

Sawhney said there is a need

to review the IT Act because issues at present have changed significantly.

He said the new IT rules for social media platforms have strengthened the rights of users.

"The companies that we deal with have grown immensely. Completely new segments of operations have taken shape and globally there is huge amount of innovation happening in this space.

"Laws are coming up in different parts of the world. We have to strengthen our cyber security and our adjudication and many other things. The next thing will be to come up with legal framework which addresses these new devel-



opments. That is something which will also be on the an-

vil but right now we will focus on personal data privacy

bill and non-personal (data protection) policy," he said.

The Joint Committee of Parliament examining the PDP Bill was given fourth extension in the Budget Session to table the bill in Monsoon Session of Parliament.

Sawhney said non-personal data protection bill is also in the works that promote innovation and growth around data processing.

"The next big thing for us is PDP Bill. We are hoping to take it through at the earliest. Hopefully, in the next session, if we are able to get the report from that group, then we shall be pushing for early processing in Parliament," he said.

## Watershed US UFO Report Does Not Rule Out Extraterrestrial Origin'

Agenceis

A highly awaited US intelligence report on dozens of mysterious unidentified flying object (UFO) sightings said most could not be explained, but did not rule out that some could be alien spacecraft.

The unclassified report said researchers could explain only one of 144 UFO sightings by US government personnel and sources between 2004 and 2021, sightings that often were made during military training activities.

Eighteen of those, some observed from multiple angles, appeared to display unusual movements or flight characteristics that surprised those who saw them, like holding stationary in high winds at high altitude, and moving with extreme speed with no discernable means of propulsion, the report said.

Some of the 144 might be explained by natural or human made objects like birds or drones cluttering a pilot's radar, or natural atmospheric phenomena, the report said.

Others could be secret US defence tests, or unknown advanced technologies created by Russia or China, it said.

Yet others appeared to require more advanced technologies to determine what they are, it said.

The sightings of what the report calls unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP) "probably lack a single explanation," said the report from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

"We currently lack sufficient information in our dataset to attribute incidents to specific explanations."

The report made no mention of the possibility of — or rule out — that some of the objects sighted could represent extra-terrestrial life.

The military and intelligence community have conducted research on them as a potential threat.

"UAP clearly pose a safety of flight issue and may pose a challenge to US national security," the report said.

Some could be US rivals' intelligence collection operations or represent other technology so advanced that the United States military has nothing similar.

The report was ordered after more UFO sightings by military pilots became public and pilot and radar videos leaked out showing flying objects behaving strangely with no explanation.

It stressed that pilots and their aircraft are ill-equipped to identify out-of-the-ordinary objects floating around the skies.

The only one of the 144 incidents in the years covered by the report that was explained turned out to be a large deflating balloon.

The nine-page report released on Friday did not discuss any specific incidents.

It was the public version of a more detailed classified version being supplied to the armed services and intelligence committees of Congress.

Mark Warner, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said the frequency of UFO reports "appears to be increasing" since 2018.

"Today's rather inconclusive report only marks the beginning of efforts to understand and illuminate what is causing these risks to aviation in many areas around the country and the world," Warner said in a statement.

"The United States must be able to understand and mitigate threats to our pilots, whether they're from drones or weather balloons or adversary intelligence capabilities," Warner said.

At the Pentagon, Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks issued a memorandum ordering more systematic reporting of UAPs encountered during military training and testing.

"Incursions into our training ranges and designated airspace pose safety of flight and operations security concerns, and may pose national security challenges," said Pentagon spokesman John Kirby.

The department "takes reports of incursions — by any aerial object, identified or unidentified — very seriously, and investigates each one," Kirby said.

Analysts have yet to rule out an extraterrestrial origin, senior US officials told reporters, speaking on condition of anonymity. The report's language avoided explicit mentions of such possibilities.

Asked about potential alien explanations, one of the officials said: "That's not the purpose of the task force, to evaluate any sort of search for extraterrestrial life. [...] That's not what we were charged with doing."

"Of the 144 reports we are dealing with here, we have no clear indications that there is any non-terrestrial explanation for them — but we will go wherever the data takes us," the senior official added.

## Third Wave Of Coronavirus Unlikely To Be As Severe As Second: Study



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** A third wave of Covid - if it occurs - is unlikely to be as severe as the second wave given the extent of spread of coronavirus infections that has already taken place in the country, according to a study.

The study, based on mathematical modelling analysis published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research (IJMR), highlights that the emergence of a third wave of coronavirus could be substantially mitigated by the expansion of vaccination.

Presenting a vaccine ramp-up scenario where 40 per cent of the population has received two doses within three months of the second wave peak, and further that the effect of vaccination is (conservatively) to reduce severity of infection by 60 per cent, the study said it illustrates how vaccination could substantially reduce the overall burden during the possible third wave.

"Plausibility of a third wave

of Covid in India: A mathematical modelling-based analysis' has been authored by Sandip Mandal, Balram Bhargava and Samiran Panda from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), and Nimalan Arinaminpathy from the Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, MRC Centre for Global Infectious Disease Analysis, School of Public Health, Imperial College, London, UK.

Using a deterministic, compartmental model of SARS-CoV-2 transmission, four potential mechanisms - waning immunity restores previously exposed individuals to a susceptible state, emergence of a new viral variant that is capable of escaping immunity to previously circulating strains, emergence of a new viral variant that is more transmissible than the previously circulating strains and release of current lockdowns affording fresh opportunities for transmission - for a third wave were examined, the study said.

Considering the four hypotheses

for the emergence of a third wave, the study said infection-induced immunity may decay over time, permitting re-infection of those previously exposed, even if the circulating virus remains unchanged.

Previous works have shown how partially waning immunity could cause future waves of SARS-CoV-2 to be more benign, but the focus here was on the possibility of a third wave that may cause substantial public health burden, the study noted.

Therefore, a scenario where waning immunity results in a full loss of protection, rendering immune individuals susceptible again was considered, and a range of scenarios for the rate of waning were examined, it added.

Considering the hypothesis of an emergence of a full immune escape variant, the study said even if immunity remains life-long, it is theoretically possible for a new variant to emerge that is capable of escaping the immunity induced by the previously circulating strains. PTI

## "Inflated" Needs: Families Demand Fair Probe Into Delhi's Oxygen Deaths



Agenceis

**New Delhi:** A day after the Delhi government came under fire for purportedly inflating the city's need for oxygen during the devastating second wave of coronavirus, families of those who died due to the shortage in the national capital have demanded a fair probe into it.

A report of five-member sub-group constituted by the Supreme Court to audit oxygen use in hospitals in the national capital during the second wave in April-May said the Delhi government "exaggerated" oxygen consumption and made a claim of 1,140 tonnes, four times higher than the formula for bed capacity requirement of 289 tonnes. The panel said the Delhi government had made the claims for allocation of 700 tonnes of medical grade oxygen on April 30 using a "wrong formula".

Erick Massey, whose mother Delphin Massey died at the Jaipur Golden Hospital allegedly due to oxygen shortage, said he doesn't feel there was an exaggeration in requirement.

"It was not just us who were victims of the oxygen shortage. All over, there were friends and relatives who were struggling to get oxygen cylinders. Some people even bought them for 1 to 1.5 lakh."

"We don't think there was an exaggeration. There were entire families affected by the virus and there were so many hospitals who raised SOS," he said.

Gaurav Gera lost both his parents within the span of an hour, gasping for oxygen. His father, Charanjit Gera, was admitted to Jaipur Golden Hospital while his mother, Sonu Rani, was at Ambedkar Hospital.

"There are so many people who have lost their family members due to the lack of oxygen. At Jaipur Golden Hospital, we were told the patients could have been saved had there been an adequate supply of oxygen. In fact, I feel that many more people died due to oxygen shortage than the numbers which were reported," he said.

Jagjyot Singh's mother Sarabjeet Kaur was one of the 20 casualties on the fateful night of April 24 when the Jaipur Golden Hospital in the city waited for its oxygen stock to be replenished.

He held the Delhi government accountable for failing to read the situation properly.

"The Delhi government did not

have a vision and did not know how much oxygen was required to be supplied to hospitals. This meant that there was not a proper supply. There needs to be a proper investigation into the matter."

"My mother was on the path of recovery. We arranged medicines and everything that the hospital asked us for. Their job was only to give her medicines and oxygen and they could not do that," Mr Singh said.

Demanding an investigation into the loopholes which might have led to the crisis, he said they have also approached the Delhi High Court demanding a court-monitored probe.

At Batra Hospital, 12 patients, including a senior doctor of the facility, had died due to a dip in oxygen supply.

Dr Sudhanshu Bankta, Executive Director of the hospital, said there was a huge oxygen crisis at that time, but refused to comment on the report, which has put the Delhi government on the dock, contending that he is not privy to the entire data of oxygen supply and demand.

"From our own experience, we can say there wasn't an adequate amount of oxygen. It seems to be a political fight rather than something which is driven by facts."

"There was a huge oxygen crisis. There was a problem everywhere. If you go through the WhatsApp records of all hospitals which are in official Delhi government groups, everyone was crying for oxygen. I cannot comment on the motive of the report but the situation at that time was really scary," he said.

Delhi was hit severely by a brutal second wave of the Covid pandemic in April and May, claiming a massive number of lives daily, with a shortage in oxygen supply at various city hospitals adding to the misery.

The panel in its report pointed out that four model hospitals in Delhi — Singhal Hospital, Aruna Asaf Ali Hospital, ESIC Model Hospital and Liferay Hospital — have claimed extremely high oxygen consumption with very few beds and the claims appeared to be clearly "erroneous, leading to extremely skewed information and significantly higher Oxygen requirement for the entire state of Delhi".

However, AIIMS director Randeep Guleria today said the report, submitted by the Supreme Court-appointed panel headed by him, is an interim one and not the final word.

## Days After Taking Fake Covid Vaccine, TMC MP Mimi Chakraborty Falls Ill



Agenceis

**KOLKATA:** Actor-turned-TMC MP Mimi Chakraborty on Saturday fell ill, a few days after she was administered a fake COVID vaccine, sources said.

However, the doctor who attended to the Jadavpur MP said it was too early to link her illness with the fake jab that she had taken four days ago, they said.

Chakraborty became seriously ill at her residence in the morning and her maid called the family physician, sources close to the renowned actor said.

The actor, who has been suffering from gall bladder and liver-related problems, suffered from dehydration,

stomach ache and her blood pressure count dipped, they said.

"Mimi Chakraborty's condition is now stable and she is under treatment at her home. She is also suffering from hypertension. The doctor who attended to her said her illness cannot be immediately linked to the fake vaccine as she already had a liver problem," the sources said.

Chakraborty, whose alertness led to the busting of a fake vaccine racket organised by a conman posing as a civic official in Kolkata, was scheduled to undergo a test during the day to ascertain any possible adverse effects of the jab. In a video message on Thursday, she had asked people not to panic.

## India, China Agree To Maintain Dialogue To Resolve LAC Standoff In Eastern Ladakh

Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** India and China on Friday agreed to hold the next round of military talks at an early date to achieve the objective of complete disengagement in remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh amid fresh sparring between the two sides on the prolonged LAC standoff.

At a virtual meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on border affairs, the two sides had a "frank exchange" of views and decided to maintain dialogue to reach a mutually acceptable solution for withdrawal of troops in all friction points to enable progress in the overall ties, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

In a statement at the end of the talks, the MEA said both sides agreed on the need to find an early resolution to the remaining issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

The talks took place in the backdrop of a fresh round of sparring between the two sides over the standoff as well as deadlock in further movement in the disengagement process after the withdrawal of troops by both sides from the north and south banks of Pangong Lake in February.

"Both sides agreed on the need to find an early resolution to the remaining issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh keeping in view the agreement reached between the two foreign ministers in September 2020,"

the MEA statement said.

"In this regard, the two sides agreed to maintain dialogue and communication through the diplomatic and military mechanisms to reach a mutually acceptable solution for complete disengagement from all friction points so as to ensure full restoration of peace and tranquillity to enable progress in the bilateral relations," it added.

The MEA said both sides also agreed that in the interim, the two sides will continue to ensure stability on the ground and prevent any outward incident.

"The two sides agreed to hold the next round of the senior commanders meeting at an early date to achieve the objective of complete disengagement from all the friction points along the LAC in the western sector in accordance with the existing bilateral agreements and protocols," it said. India refers to the eastern Ladakh region as the western sector. The previous round of military talks (11th round) was held on April 9.

"The two sides had a frank exchange of views on the situation along the LAC in the western sector of the India-China border areas," the MEA said.

A war of words broke out between India and China on the border standoff this week.

India on Thursday blamed China for the standoff saying its amassing of a large number of troops close to the border and attempts to unilaterally alter the status quo along the LAC last year were responsible for seriously disturbing peace and

tranquillity in the region.

India's response came after China said its military deployment in the region is a normal defence arrangement aimed at "preventing and responding" to alleged "encroachment and threat" on Chinese territory by India.

The WMCC meet was co-chaired by MEA's additional secretary (East Asia) Naveen Srivastava and the director-general of the boundary and oceanic department of China's foreign ministry.

India and China had reached a five-point agreement to resolve the border standoff during talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi at a meeting in Moscow on September 10 on the sidelines of a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) conclave.

The pact included measures like quick disengagement of troops, avoiding action that could escalate tensions, adherence to all agreements and protocols on border management, and steps to restore peace along the LAC.

India and China were locked in a military standoff at multiple friction points in eastern Ladakh since early May last year. However, the two sides completed the withdrawal of troops and weapons from the North and South banks of Pangong lake in February following a series of military and diplomatic talks.

The two sides are now engaged in talks to extend the disengagement process to the remaining friction points.

### NEWS MAKERS

## Indian Rishta Ad Seeking 'Non-Burper' And 'Non-Farter' Husband Goes Viral

Agenceis

An Indian rishta hunt advertisement has gone viral online for its mockery of extremely absurd demands in conventional ads. The ad was posted by an "opinionated feminist" and has left several people in fits of laughter.

Who is this opinionated feminist? We know little about the poster, but what we do know is that they're over 30, educated, short haired, with piercings, and work in the social sector (against capitalism).

Who is she looking for? A 25 to 28-year-old man, who's handsome

and well built. The demands don't end there. If you don't have an established business, a bungalow and at least 20 acres of farm land, you will be turned away. If you have all of those things, you're one step closer to qualification.

And the last requirement has to do with your digestive system. Just how efficient it is will have a significant impact on your chances with this girl. If the machine in there is faulty, and you've got a "burpy" and "farty" situation going on, you might as well pack your bags and go home — bungalow or otherwise.

Many people on the internet

missed the point entirely and found the advertisement toxic. Tweet after tweet slammed it for being hypocritical, since the woman "fighting against capitalism" wants someone with an established business and enjoying all the privileges of capitalism. The publisher of the ad was called names and told to "make her own money."

However, as it turns out, BBC confirmed that the advertisement was obviously a joke. The ad was poking fun at rishta advertisements that are very common in India.

It was a joke between two siblings and a best friend, whom BBC

tracked down via the email address provided. It didn't reveal their true identities, however did not reveal their true identities, giving them pseudonyms. The "opinionated feminist" was called Sakshi, her brother Srijan and her best friend Damyanti.

The ad was a prank they played for the woman's 30th birthday.

"Turning 30 is a milestone, especially because of all the conversation in our society around marriage. As you turn 30, your family and society start putting pressure on you to get married and settle down," said the woman's brother.

## Fake IAS Officer Duped People Of Lakhs Of Rupees: Kolkata Police

Agenceis

**KOLKATA:** Arrested fake IAS officer Debanjan Deb has been impersonating as a joint commissioner of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) for the last four months and has duped a few people of several lakhs of rupees on the pretext of helping them get tenders of the civic body, a Kolkata Police officer said after initial probe.

Mr Deb, who lied to his family about becoming an IAS officer, might have used that money to organise fake Covid-19 vaccination

camps, pay salary to his employees and rent for the office, the officer said on Friday.

The 28-year-old man came in contact with several police officers and political leaders while participating in various programmes organised for social causes, the IPS officer said adding that four persons were called for questioning as part of the investigation.

"Deb was an IAS aspirant but could not crack the UPSC examinations. In 2018, he told his father and relatives that he passed the tests and became an IAS officer," he said.

Mr Deb told interrogators that he started a business of selling sanitiser, masks and PPE kits last year and made a "good profit" but at that time he did not identify himself as a KMC joint commissioner.

"But slowly, when people started approaching him for help in Covid-19 related needs, Deb promised them assistance as an official and started going around identifying himself as a joint commissioner of the KMC. He fell into his own trap," the officer said.

He hired a vehicle, recruited men and rented an office in Kasba area of the city, the cop said.