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#### P3 CITY

#### **P6** LIMITS OF NAYA KASHMIR

By now, it seems that the stirrings of a political process in Jammu and Kashmir may have less to do with the latest version of the great game that is drawing to a chaotic climax in the region, or with the Biden administration's gentle reminders about the need to restore



#### P7 STATE

#### **IST CENSUS OF NOMADS STARTS IN SHOPIAN**

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya Monday kick started the first census of nomads in the district from Sirmal here by interacting with the Nomads so that the survey teams will facilitate them in every respect by



# ....HIGH ALERT IN JAMMU **Soldiers Foil Fresh Drone Attack On Garrison**

**UNVACCINATED SHOPPERS TO UNDERGO COVID** 

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad

Monday said that all unvaccinated persons visiting any Shopping

Store/Complex/ Malls in Srinagar will have to undergo for...

TEST AT ENTRY OF SHOPPING STORES

#### **Press Trust Of India**

**JAMMU:** A fresh attempt to attack a military installation with the help of drones was foiled by alert Army sentries at the Ratnuchak-Kaluchak station who fired at the unmanned aerial vehicles that flew away, an incident that came hours after an IAF station saw the first militant attack using quadcopters.

The first drone was spotted at around 11.45 pm on Sunday followed by another at 2.40 am over which the military station, was witness to a militant attack in 2002 in which 31 people were killed, including 10 children.

Officials on Monday said that alert Army troops fired nearly two dozen rounds to bring down the drones hovering over its brigade headquarters.

"...two separate drone activities were spotted over Ratnuchak-Kaluchak military area by alert troops," Jammubased Army PRO Lt Col Devender Anand said in a statement here.

He said a high alert was sounded immediately and Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs) engaged the drones with firing. the drones flew away. A major threat was thwarted by the alertness and proactive approach 
More On P10

LeT Commander Caught In Parimpora: Police

"Both

olice on Monday claimed to have arrested a top commander of Lashkare-Taiba (LeT) from Parimpora area of the city outskirts. According to police, Nadeem Abrar was on board an Alto car when he was intercepted by the forces near Parimpora crossing on Monday afternoon and taken into custody. Abar, as per the police was involved in several attacks 
More On P10



#### **Encounter Breaks Out In** Srinagar Outskirts

Asst Commandant Among 3 CRPF Personnel Injured, 2 Militants Believed To Be Trapped

#### Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: Three Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel, including a senior officer were injured in an ongoing encounter with militants in Maloora area of the city outskirts, police said Monday. Around 5pm Monday, Special Operations Group

(SOG) of police assisted by paramilitary CRPF per-sonnel laid a siege around Maloora area of the city outskirts and launched a cordon and search opera-tion (CASO) on the basis of inputs suggesting pres-ence of militants in the area, a police officer told Kashmir Observer. He said

#### **Slain SPO's** Daughter Succumbs, Toll 3

#### **Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: A 23-year-old girl who was injured along with her parents after firing by suspected militants at their residence in Awantipora area of south Kashmir's Pulwama succumbed at a hospital here, officials said on Monday. Her parents- SPO Fayaz Ahmad (Father) and Raja Begum (Mother) were killed in the incident late last night.

A senior police officer said that Rafiya (23) succumbed to the wounds at SKIMS Soura, according to 
More On P10

#### **Gupkar Alliance Puts Off Today's Meet**

SRINAGAR: A meeting of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) -- an amalgam of six mainstream political parties in Jammu and Kashmir seeking the restoration of the special status of the erstwhile state which was scheduled to take place on Tuesday here has been postponed.

The meeting has been postponed because of some prior "personal" engagement of the alliance's 
More On P10

# LG Launches Property **Management Portal**

Maximum Time For Delivery Of Any Service Capped At 21 Days



**Observer News Service** SRINAGAR: Jammu and

Kashmir administration on

Monday launched the prop-

erty management portal

allowing people to avail a

host of services and ease of access with maximum time for delivery of any service capped at 21 days. Setting a new benchmark of accountability & transparency in 
More On P10

#### Pays Obeisance at Amarnath Shrine

mmu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday fered prayers at the Amarnath cave shrine in south Ka nantnag district. According to an official spokesperson, the LG accompanied by Lt Gen DP Pandey, General Officer Commanding (GOC) 15 Corps; Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Dr. Piyus gla, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag; Abdul Jabbar, DIG South Kash mir Range (SKR); Anup Kumar Soni, Additional Chief Executive Officer SASB besides officers of Army, Police, CRPF and the Shrine Board and performed puja at the cave shrine. • More On P10





DIPK-NB-1448/21



# FREE FOR ALL

# WORLD'S LARGEST **FREE VACCINATION CAMPAIGN**

**VACCINES FOR ALL** 



So far, free vaccines were available for people above 45 years of age. From June 21st, free vaccines available for everyone above 18 years in government centres. Visit www.cowin.gov.in to register and find vaccination centres near you!

Issued in Public Interest by: Health and Medical Education Department, J&K



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Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm) No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir



نام کی درستی	از نیابت مثن بااجلاس څکه انثرف میر نائب تحصلید ادمثن	Office Of The Assistant Regional	Office Of The Assistant Regional
غلطی سے میرانام اورایڈر س میری ڈرایؤنگ لاسنس میں عاصف احمد اینوولد عبدل رشید اینوسا کنہ چک	مضمون درخواست منجاب: تمهرش عباس دفتر محد عباس واني جانب عباس ولد محمد عباس واني ساكنه مچھ	Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir	Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir
مونگہال اندراج ہوا ہے جبکہ میر اصلی نام عاصف احد تلو کر ولد علی محد تلو کر ساکنہ روانت ناگ ہے	ايون مخصيل مثن ضلع انت ناگ .	NOTICE	NOTICE
_اباس کی در تی کرانی مطلوب ہے اس بارے میں اگر سی تخص کوکوئی اعتراض ہوتو وہ سات دن کے	برادعطاً بی EWS س <sup>ش</sup> یفک		Whereas, an application has been received from one Tamriza Ali D Ali Mohammad Mir R/o Madina Colony, Phase 2 Kralpora- Kanipo
اندراندرا پنااعتراض ائے آر ٹی ادائنٹ ناگ کے دفتر میں چیش کریں۔ بعد از معیاد کوئی بھی اعتراض	معامله مندرجه عنوان الصدريين سائل نے ايک درخواست بغرض حصول EWS سرفنگيك دفتر بذاميس	Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from	Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Reg . no jk4d- 2210 for cancell
قابل ټول نېيں ہوگا۔	پین کیا ہے۔ اس بارے میں عملہ فیلڈ ۔ روی د طلب کیا گیا جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکل کا کنبہ دھ	one. Shri : Salman Ashraf Matoo	tion of Hire Purchase agreement with M/S Mahindra And Mahind Finance Services B/O Srinagar.
بذريعةٌ: عاصف احمد تفوكر ولد على تحد تقو	الی میں جب کا جرف کر بید سے مرکز کر جب یہ یہ کا میں جد کا کا بیر کر ایک میں کا بیر کر استفادہ کا بیر کر استفادہ احدا میں گزشتہ سالوں سے رہائش پذیر ہے اور سکان کے والدکودھ ہذا میں رقبہ تعداد ک × زیر قبضہ و	S/o: Mohammad Ashraf Matoo R/o: Kandhama Beerwah Budgam (Transferor) of LMV. Vehicle bearing registra-	Now it is therefore noticed to general information that objection: any to the proposed cancellation purchase agreement shall be fil
بلغية مع	الند میں جان کے باد ہیں کا پنچ ہے۔ کاغذات ہے اس کے علادہ سرکاری یا غیرسرکا می نملاز م موضود نہیں ہے ادر ساکل کا کند بد ذیل ہے۔	tion number JK04E - 1709. Chasis number 407443 Engine	in writing in the office assistant Regional Transport Office Budga
	المبرثار بام افراد کنید (مرافق پر کرون که در این محمد مرافق میدون)	no. 4949162 Model 2017. in favour of Miss Mehak S/o.	Within a period fo 12 days from the publication of this notice . No. ARTO/BUD/796
اطلاع عام		Muneer Ahmad Mir R/o Mohalla Saderbal Hazratbal Sgr. (Tranferee)	Dated 22/07/2021 Sd/ Assistant Region
میراالیشن کارڈ زیر نیبرMXP03585880 کہیں ریم ہواہے۔اب اس کاڈو پلیکیٹ نکالنا		Now therefore it is notified for the information of the gen-	gty Transport Officer, B udga
مطکوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کٹی شخص کوکوئی اعتراض ہوتو دہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندرا ندرا پنااعتراض	02 دل افروزه زوجة ثمة عباس 49 سال گھريلوکام	eral public that objections if any to the proposed transfer	
پیش کریں فیصورت دیگر کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول میں ہوگا۔	03 مېرش عباس دختر محمد عباس دانې 22 سال زېريعليم	of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the As- sistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a	PUBLIC NOTICE
يناصي بدريعه جمع تمريم ولداطا محدمه	04 جانب عبااس ولد محمد عباس واني 17 سال زير تعليم	period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice	plied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any obj
ساكنه نيوقاض بال	اس كےعلادہ اوركوئى افرادكنبه موجوذ بيس ہے بكنبہ كي آمد في زرعى وغيرہ بملغ=/72000 رو پہ يہ ہے	in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.845	tion in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the off of the Hanfaya Modal School Herdaboura . within a period
RNA	لبدازير بحث سرنفكيك اجراءكر في ميں اگر كم شخص كوكوئي عذر يااعتر اض بوتو وہ سات دن كے اندراندر	Dated 26/06/2021 Assistant Regional Transport	seven days from the date of publication of this notice. At that no objection shall be entertained.
	ا پنااعتراض معہ وجو ہات پیش کرے۔ میعاد گذرنے کے بعد کوئی عذریا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔	officer Budgam Kashmir	Furkan Ahamd Mir S/o Farooq Ahamd Mir
ازنیابت ساگام مااجلاس نائب تصلید ارساگام	نائب تصليدار RNA	mcb	R/o Aboura Tehsil Kharhuma b
مضمون درخواست منجاب: ملک داؤد پسرغلام حسن ملک ساکنه بلزآ ریامة سطح ابنت ناگ		GOVERNMENT OF JA	MMU AND KASHMIR
بمرادعطانی RBA سر ٹیفکٹ تحت SRO 294	h h ha da wat du mura na a	Jammu and Kashmir	Power Transmission
معاملہ مندرد بحنوانُ الصدر ميں سائل نے ايک درخواست بغرض حصول بيک دار ڈاريا سرفنگيٹ دفتر ہذ	از نیابت اننت ناگ با اجلاس ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ		
یں پیش کیا ہے۔ میں پیش کیا ہے۔اس بارے میں عملہ فیلڈ سے رپورٹ طلب کیا گیا جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا کنبہ	مون در تواست سخاب براجه با توروجه مرتوم عبل رئيسيدوان ورقيقه المر دلمر مرتوم عبل رئيسيدوان	Corporation Ltd Office of	
دھھذا میں گزشتہ پندرہ سالوں سے رہائش پذیر ہےاور سائل کا کنبہ بذیل ہے۔	سما ليدقا في بال المت ما ك		rision-I (TLMD-I), Bemina, Srinagar.
انمبرشار بامافرادکنیه علم پیشه آمدنی	بر ل سول Legal heir " من بير تعريفييت	Ph. No. 0194-2492427, Email: xentlmd1p	
	اشتهار بمراد آگابی بر خاص و عام	INVITATION	FOR E-BIDs For
	معاملہ مندرد بیخوان الصدر کی نسبت سائل کے کاغذات بغرض حصول legal heir سرفنگیٹ دفتر ہزا	E-NIT No: TLMD-I/TS/11 o	f 2021; dated: 21.06.2021.
02 محموده اختر زدجه غلام حسن ملک 45 سال گھریلوکام		Executive Engineer, TLMD-I, Bemina, J&K Power Transmissi	
03 آلينه حسن دختر غلام حسن ملک 27 سال =	عبدل رشيدوانی مورخه20-07-21 کوفوت ہو دچکا ہے متوافی مزکورہ کے دارثان جائز بزیل ہے	to as "the Employer" for and on behalf of Lieutenant Govern ply of electrical spares and other store/hardware items fro	
04 ملکداؤدولدغلام حسن ملک 22سال زیریعلیم	نمبر ثار نام وولدیت رشته بمراه متونی پیشہ عمر	dealers /local representatives or local SSI unit holders or reg	
05 جھمیراجان دختر غلام <sup>حس</sup> ن ملک 20 سال زیریعلیم		The tender documents consisting of qualifying info	
06 مسرت جان دختر غلام حسن ملک 14 سال =	01 راجه بانوز وجه مرحوم عبدل رشيدوانی از وجه توانی گھريلو کام 22 سال	(BOQ), set of Terms and Conditions of contract etc. is availa may view, download the E-Bid document, seek clarification	
07 الفظا جان دختر غلام حسن 14 سال =	02 رفيقه اختر مزحوم عندل رشيدوانى بيثي متوافى گھريلوكام 24سال	tioned in the table below:	
اسطور کنبہ 07افراد پر شتمل ہے ۔ اور کنبہ کی سالا نہ آمد ٹی زراعی وغیرہ تقریباً ایک لاکھ تک ہے کہذ	اسطور متوفى کےصرف دوہ بی وارثان جایئز موجود ہے اس کےعلاوہ اورکو کی ءوارث جا ئز موجود نہیں	E-NIT NO: Bid	Security Declaration Cost of tender document (in Rs.)
۲۰ ورسبه که از در په ۳۵ جه که ارد بیدن کوکې کوکې که بدن دواض و یاره کریې یک طالع که به په دوان کے اندرا ندرا پ زیر بحث سرگفکیک اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوکوئی عذر یا اعتر اض ہوتو وہ سات دن کے اندرا ندرا پ			per clause No: 04 of ENIT 500.00
ر یہ بل سر سیف جن او جن میں او جن ک ووں عدر دیا طراف ک دودہ علی کر میں اور دودہ جات دی جسر العرب پر مرکز میں اع اعتراض معدد جو مات میں کرے۔ میعاد گذر نے بعد کو کی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔		from	bidding documents can be downloaded from http://jktenders.gov.in n 23.06.2021 (09.00 Hrs onwards)
ا مرا ک معدد دو باغ بی کر سے میں دلکر سے جنگ دوں عکر دیا اس کو کا یک دونا ہے۔ نائب تصلیدا	نيى ہوگا۔ RNA	Last Date for submission of hard copy of original Instruments of 08.0	06.2021 from 10.00 Hrs 07.2021 up to 16.00 Hrs
		Techno-Commercial Bids (Tender Fee and Bid Security Declara- tion)	
		E-BID submission (end) date & time 07.0	17.2021 up to 14.00 Hrs
PUBLIC NOTICE Deptt. of	Indian Systems of Medicine &		07.2021 from 14.00 Hrs Office of the Executive Engineer, Transmission Line Maintenance

## PUBLIC NOTICE

My name was wrongly mentioned in Policy document of PNB Metife (policy no :20310338) as Mrs Arifa Magbool whereas my correct name as per the documents is Arifa Jan. I want to correct it now to Arifa jan.lf anybody having objection in this regard he/ she may

### Deptt. of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homeopathic (AYUSH) District Anantnag.

AYUSH Immune Booster Medicine Distributed at village Soaf-shali Anantnag from ISM Dispy. Soaf-shali Anantnag



Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Sub-Division Magam

DIPK-NB-1397/21

Division-I. PDD Complex. Bemina. SRINAGAR-190018.

**Executive Engineer,** 

Transmission Line Maintenance Division-I

Transmission (Kashmir), JKPTCL, Bemina, Sgr.

Fresh Short Term Tender Notice No: 28 / R&B of 2021-22.

For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory the Executive Engineer R&B Sub-Division Magam/GDA Tangmarg invites sealed tenders affixed with four rupees Revenue stamps from registered PWD contractors for the works as mentioned be-

contact PNB MetLife Office Baghat Barzulla Srinagar within 5 days of publication of this notice .

Name : Arifa Jan W/o: Mohammad Maqbool R/O: Hakeem Bagh, Rawalpora, Srinagar ako

On 28/06/2021 The Directions of Director Indian Systems of Medicine (AYUSH) J & K & ADMO ISM Anantnag/ DNO ISM AYUSH Anantnag . FREE AYUSH Immune Booster Medicines were distributed at Village Soaf-shali Anantnag and also importance of COVID SoPs and vaccination was explained in detail From Govt.ISM Dispensary Soaf-Shali Anantnag 283 beneficiaries received immunity boosting drugs mia

#### Government of Jammu and Kashmir J&K Services Selection Board,

Hema Complex, Channi Himmat, Sector -03, Jammu.

#### (www.jkssb.nic.in) FINAL NOTICE

The Board issued selection list of the candidates for the post of Jr.Staff Nurse (Health and Medical Education Department) (GMC Doda), Divisional Cadre Jammu vide Advertised Notice No. 08 of 2019 under item No.008 and was forwarded to the indenting Department vide letter No. No. SSB/Secy/Sel/J/76/2020/2552-58 Dated 02-04-2020, for further course of action.

The selection of below mentioned candidate was kept withheld figuring at S.NO. 22 under OM/Wait category for want certain clarification ...

Name of the candidate with parentage.	Catgeory/ Sel.S.NO.	Address
Kirtti Mary D/O	22/Wait/OM	P.O Gharota , Bhalwal
Johney		Jammu.

The above said candidate has not submitted the requisite documents till date and hence the recommendation has not been cleared by the Board.

In view of the above position, the above said candidate is hereby given the Last and final opportunity to submit the requisite documents in Central office of JKSSB, Hema Complex, Channi Himmat, Sector -03, Jammu with in 15 day's from the date of issuance of this notice falling which their selection/recommendation against the post of Jr.Staff Nurse (Health and Medical Education Department) (GMC Doda), Divisional Cadre Jammu shall stand cancelled without further notice. n

DIPK-3710/21

No.SSB/Secy/Sel/76/2020/J/4631-34

Dated: 24-06-2021

low on terms and conditions shown hereunder. The tenders should reach the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Sub-Div-Magam/GDA Tangmarg by or before 01-07-2021 upto 2pm and will be opened on the same date or any other date convenient to the tender opening Authority in presence of the Tenderers or their authorized representatives who wish to be present there.

S.	No Name of Work	Adv. Cost in Lacs	Class	Time for Completion	Cost of TD.	M. Head
1	Bush Cutting on NTR Km 1 <sup>st</sup> to 13 <sup>th</sup> at required spots	0.60	DEE	15	200/-	M&R
2	Bush Cutting on NTR Km 14 <sup>th</sup> to 24.50 at required spots	0.50	DEE	15	200/-	M&R

#### **Terms and Conditions:**

No: TLMD-I/TS/811-15;

Dated: 21.06.2021.

The tenders should be addressed to the Executive Engineer R&B Sub-Division Magam/GDA Tangmarg which should reach the office by or before 01-07-2021 2 pm in a properly sealed envelope with name of work, name of contractor.

The Treasury Challan only will be entertained as the cost of tender document charges as per the format enclosed.

2) 3) All bidders has to submit bid security declaration form instead of earnest money deposit (EMD) as per the circular of finance Department (Bid security form is as per Annexure "A" below). 4) 5) 6)

If the receiving date is declared as holiday the tenders will be received on next working day.

The offered rates should be covered with transparent tape; otherwise the tenders will be rejected.

"GST, Income Tax & Labour cess will be deducted at the time of payment as per the rates as in vogue.

The tender document shall be issued to the contractors personally / authorized representative after verification of capacity 7) /validity of their registration card on the production of same for purchase of tender documents and production of attested Photostat copies of permanent account PAN/ GST Regd. Nos.

8) The Tender documents of the work shall be issued against the Treasury Challan (M.H 0059) mentioned with, Name of con-tractor, registration No., phone No., NIT No. and S. No. of work as shown above from 29-06-2021 to 30-06-2021

The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount of equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR 9) within 02 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.

The rectification of damages if any that may occur from the date of start of work to the site or apartment / structures shall 10) be responsibility of the contractor and nothing extra shall be paid for the same.

The Tenderer shall quote their rate in a single percentage above / below of SSR 2020 applicable to all the advertised items, 11) excl. the items where the tenderer have been asked to quote their own rates.

The rectification of damages to the completed work within DLP period under rules from the date of completion of work shall 12) be responsibility of the contractor and nothing extra shall be paid for the same.

The work has to be executed strictly as per PWD specifications within the stipulated time failing which, penalty shall be 13) imposed & action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against the agency / contractor.

14) The Departmental material if any to be lifted from Divisional store premises shall be deducted as per the stock rate issued.

15) The registration card dully renewed, PAN, GST registration with latest GST clearance (GSTR-3B) should be attached with the tender documents.

The Successful bidders have to start the work within 07 days from date of issue of LOI / Allotment, otherwise action shall be 16) taken as per the norms.

The tenders for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of tenders.

18) The successful agency has to execute the agreement within 10 days after fixation of contract.

19) Penalty for delay in completion:-In case of delay in completion of work beyond stipulated period of completion, penalty upto maximum of 10% of the contract shall be imposed.

The tender receiving authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason 20) thereof.

Restoration of work:- On completion of contract the contractor shall be responsible to remove all un-used material and re-21) store all work in its original position at his own cost.

Traffic regulations:-The contractor is bound to adhere to traffic regulations as is applicable from time to time and ensure 22) arrang nents of smooth regulation of traffic during execution of work.

23) ALL KEY CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL SHALL HAVE TO BE STRICTLY AS PER PRESCRIBED SPECIFICATIONS AND APPROVAL OF THE ENGINEER IN-CHARGE.

24) IN CASE ANY NEW CIRCULAR/INSTRUCTIONS/ORDER IS ISSUED BY THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES DURING THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, THE SAME SHALL BE IMPLE-

MENTED/TREATED IN FORCE ON ALL THE TENDERS FLOATED FROM TIME TO TIME.

ALL OTHER TERMS CONDITIONS ARE AS PER PWD FORM 25 (DOUBLE AGREEMENT FORM)

THE PAYMENT WILL BE MADE ONLY AFTER FUNDS WILL BE AVAILABLE WITH THE DEPARTMENT.

THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS SHOWN IN THIS NIT NO. 01/ R&B OF 2021-22 ARE APPLICABLE FOR OFFLINE TENDERS ONLY.

FOR & ON BEHALF OF LT. GOVERNOR OF J&K

(Sachin Jamwal) KAS Secretary J&Kservices Selection Board,	No: R&B/Divn/Magam/1532-52 Dated: 26/06/2021	DIPK-3677/21	sd/- Executive Engineer, R&B Sub Div, Magam
Jammu.		DIPK-36///21	R&B SUB DIV. MAGAM

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17)



# **Sikh Leaders Seek Muslim Help To Rescue 'Abducted' Girls**



**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR:-Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Monday said that some vested interconversion issue" and were giving it a political colour.

Sirsa, who landed in Srinagar on Sunday after the Sikh community held a protest demonstration against the alleged "forced conversation" of two Sikh girls from Srinagar.

He alleged that two more young women of their community have been "kidnapped" while only one was handed over to family the other one was still untraceable.

Sirsa, who is also the president of Delhi Gurudwara Prabhandak Committee, joined the protesters in Srinagar.

The incident has been given a political colour, with Sikhs demanding the introduction of anti-conversion law in Jammu and Kashmir, as has been implemented in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

However while addressing a press conference, Sirsa told reporters that he has apprised his community that some wested interests were trying to hijack the incident and bring out their own agenda.

The communal harmony among the Kashmiri Sikhs and Muslims should not be damaged. Some people will try a meeting today and I have informed to which he readily agreed upon.

our people that we don't have to allow ' Sirsa told reporters.

He however said that the people from the majority community should stand by them as they have always ests were trying to hijack the "forced come to rescue of Kashmiri Muslims. "It is unfortunate that the majority community is silent on the issue. We

have stood behind the Kashmiris during every good and bad time," he said. Sirsa further said the people from other communities are taunting them for rescuing Kashmiris in distress times as the community failed to speak on the incident.

He also slammed unionist leaders including the separatists for not speaking out on the issue.

While slamming the court order, Sirsa alleged the order was biased and they have strongly condemned it.

'We have sought a meeting with the Chief justice of India and we will register our protest regarding the order," he said.

Sirsa also demanded an anti-conversion law in the Valley which would mandate parents' permission for the marriage.

"We also expressed the demand of having an anti-conversion law which would mandate parents' permission," Mr Sirsa said.

He added that a Sikh delegation also discussed the issue of the local gurdto make it a different issue. But we had wara land in the meeting with LG Sinha

**Unvaccinated Shoppers To** 

**Undergo Covid Test At Entry** 

# **Forced Conversion Claims In Interfaith Marriage Denied**

Kashmir Observer that they does not want to reconvert received a complaint from a and neither does she want to

was "abducted" by a person about the reported abduction

from Khanyar nearby locality. and religious conversion of

abduction and recovered the romani Gurdwara Praband-

girl and the boy," the officer hak Committee (SGPC) presi-

"We registered cases of two Sikh girls in Kashmir, Shi-

Police officer also refused that one of the two, who was

the claims that the man was married off to a Muslim man,

60-year old and has forceful- does not want to reconvert

ly converted the girl to Islam. and neither does she want to

before police as well as the Patiala said, "As Sikhs, it is the

ed abduction and religious family and relatives had ap-

"The boy is 29-years old come back to her family.

Speaking to the media

dent Bibi Jagir Kaur informed

According to a report by The

Tribune, the SGPC president,

while addressing the media in

family's duty to educate and

encourage their children to fol-

low the Sikh way of life. We, as

the SGPC can only preach about

the religion but no one can

She informed that the girl's

force a religion on someone."

Sikh family of Rainawari al- come back to her family.

leging that their daughter

said, wishing anonymity.

and is right now behind bars.

There is nothing like forced

conversion. The girl confessed

court that she had willingly

escaped with the boy," he said

adding that "after recording

the statements, the girl was

the media about the report-

Meanwhile speaking to

#### Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday assured action after Sikh groups in Jammu and Kashmir held protests, alleging that two young women were kidnapped, converted and married off to elderly men charges that have been contested by authorities. Police sources said on

Monday that the allegations of forced conversion of a Sikh girl are false and that the girl has been recovered and handed over to her parents. A section of the Sikh com-

munity staged protested against the alleged forced marriage and conversion of an 18-year-old Sikh woman with disabilities with a man from a handed over her parents." different religion in Srinagar. While the police handed

over the woman to her parents and arrested the man conversion of two Sikh girls proached SGPC, requesting on charges of kidnapping in Kashmir, Shiromani Gurd- them to try and convince their on Sunday, the woman in a wara Prabandhak Commit- daughter to revert to Sikhism statement before the court tee (SGPC) president Bibi and come back home. "The has said that she married Jagir Kaur informed that one girl instead did not relent and him out of her own free will. of the two, who was mar- as such, we can't force any-A top police official told ried off to a Muslim man, thing on her," Jagir Kaur said.

#### No Place For 'Forcible Conversion' In Islam: Grand Mufti

said that Sikhs were part and parcel of Kashmiri society and that there was no place for "forcible conversion in Islam". Reacting to what he ports" that a Sikh girl has been allegedly abducted and

SRINAGAR: Kashmir's Grand religion and then married to of Kashmiri community and Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam Monday man from another religion, no one will be allowed to disis no place for conversion by



**DIAL-EMMA** 

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Tuesday | 29-06-202





dents said that they have made Hanoi & Haiphong for 1st time repeated calls to authorities

1966-US bombs fuel storage facilities near North Vietnamese cities

Covid-19 SOPs to save themselves, their family and the whole society from deadly coronavirus. While interacting with the owners of various business establishments, the DC stressed them to ensure that no customer is given entry in their shops who

# **City Subscribers Rue Poor Jio Network**

**Observer News Service** is made, it reverts false bells.

Meanwhile, students at-SRINAGAR: The subscribers of tending online classes amid Jio in Srinagar city are aghast covid situation have also been with the poor network and in- facing problems as the signal ternet services in the capital city. keeps breaking.

The subscribers alleged the Slow Internet service provider is playing down Speed? the issue despite

Mufti said: "First of all, there respect their faith in the Valley. "Let there be an impartial enforce in Islam. Conversion to quiry into the matter," he said.



**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Monday said that all unvaccinated persons visiting any Shopping Store/Complex/ Malls in Sri- stressed that no positive person nagar will have to undergo for should mix with other people and Covid-19 testing and after his said necessary action under law report comes negative will be will be taken against such persons. given entry in the said shopping The DC urged the general public Srinagar district a samall. Those having a prior 48 to cooperate with the administra- regard to Covid-19.

hours Negative report will not be subjected to repeat testing. He said that the decision has been taken in the interest of larger public benefit so that no Covid-19 infected person puts the life of other people at risk. He also The DC urged the general public Srinagar district a safe place with

re unvaccinated. He also asked them to maintain proper inventory of the customers with necessary details.

tion for the larger public interest

and ensure strict adherence to

He said anti Covid Vaccination and Covid Appropriate Behavior is the only weapon with us to defeat Covid-19 pandemic and make us strong enough to fight the expected 3rd wave of Covid-19 as predicted by health experts. He urged all left out eligible persons of the district to get vaccinated at an earliest to make

being brought to the notice of the officials.

of Jio. "Nothing has been done to mitigate the is-

Aggrieved subscribers of sue," they said.

lio said they have been facing The subscribers urged the problems due to frequent disofficials to take their comruptions in voice and internet services.

Many subscribers of Jio said that they face problems at vari- tions Officer of Jio, Anjali Kachroo ous locations in the Srinagar told Kashmiri observer that evcity particularly in Dalgate, erything is fine on their end. "I have got it checked and Boulevard, and Nishat.

They said that each time a call there is no issue," she said.

- 1967- Israel removes barricades, re-unifying Jerusalem
- 1972- USSR launches Prognoz 2 into earth orbit (549/200,000 km)
- 1981- Bomb attack on headquarters of Islamic Party in Teheran, 72 killed
- 1985-NASA launches Intelsat VA F-11
- 2002- Naval clashes between South Korea and North Korea lead to the death of six South Korean sailors and sinking of a North Korean vessel.
- 2008- Thomas Beatie, the world's first pregnant man, gives birth to a daughter
- 2012 15,000 Japanese anti-nuclear protesters blockade the Japanese Prime Minister's office in Tokyo
- 2015- Beijing Times reports 30% of the Great Wall of China has disappeared due to natural forces and stealing of bricks

#### **Div Com Stresses On Speedy Transfer Of Land Parcels To SDA** The Div Com took stock of

#### **Observer News Service**

**SRINAGAR:** The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole Monday stressed on expediting the transfer of land parcels and instructed concerned to ensure Kanihama. Rakh Arath Be-500 Kanals of land transfer mina and other land parcels. weekly to ensure speedy completion of the process.

more land transfers for develunder the housing mission.

He emphasised on the concerned to expedite the He directed DCs to identify transfer of these land parcels and ensure removal of opment of housing colonies encroachments if any on war footing.

the land transfer progress of

various land parcels includ-

ing Khushipora, Shalteng

Achin, Khushalsar Sazgaripo-

ra, Gandalf Dara, Chadpora,

Noorbagh,

Shonglipora

#### Four Training Courses Begin At Srinagar IMPARD Campus

#### **Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: Director General J&K Institute of Manageand Rural Development (IMday inaugurated four trainings courses at IMPARD's in these training courses. main campus here.

Geospatial technologies in gain administrative skills

rural development; Social welfare administration and Civil Services Rules.

The officers and officials ment, Public Administration from the departments of Rural Development, Horticul-PARD), Saurabh Bhagat Mon- ture, School Education, Social Welfare etc are participating

Director General stressed the The training courses which importance of training modwere inaugurated by the DG ules and updating new initia-IMPARD include Disaster tives in training so that the ofmanagement with reference ficers and officials will remain to flash floods and landslides; abreast with recent trends to

# LG Advisor Directs Officers To Expedite **Works At City Shrines**

#### **Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan Monday took stock of various developmental projects undertaken under centrally sponsored Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spirituality Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) scheme at different shrines in Srinagar.

At Hazratbal the Advisor inspected the works carried out for beautification of Gate and Ornamental fencing carried out by the Tourism department. The Advisor asked the officers to complete the works before the end of next month and directed them to stick to the timeline

strictly. He also inspected the wuzu khana (ablution centre) and asked them to make it functional within 15 days by connecting it to the reliable water supply.

The Advisor also visited the construction site of multi level parking at Hazratbal shrine. The Advisor directed them to complete it before the year ending. He said that the facility is going to streamline the traffic on this busy route especially on the auspicious days of Eid Milad and other festivals.

The Advisor directed the Wakf Board officers to have the beautifi-



the exterior facilities are being augmented. It was given that the project's estimated cost is about Rs 4.15 crore.

The Advisor asked them to install all the fire fighting equipments like fire hydrants, smoke alarms besides lightening conductors in the shrine so that the heritage site remains safe from any accidental damage.

He advised the officers to look for acquisition of the land and building in front of the gate and explore options for relocation of electric transformer there. He asked them to develop the ghat on the river flowing behind the shrine so cation of the surroundings done by Advisor was informed that the paper- that devotees take the benefit of water

# From KO Archives

## Ravishankar & APHC Brewing A New Recipe For Kashmir

**SRINAGAR** - The attendance by separatist Hurriyat leaders at an international peace conference in Srinagar addressed by spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravishankar, famed for his 'Art of living' has sparked off a debate.

And the debate will be lively, given the fact that the two entities, Hurriyat and Ravishankar are as different from each other as 'chalk and cheese'.

While the Hurriyat is a conglomeration of 20 odd separatist groups, Ravishankar is a spiritual leader preaching the gospel of peace and amicable livelihood among people.

Âlso interesting is the fact that Hurrivat in spite of refusing to take part in the electoral process in Jammu and Kashmir, claims itself to be the sole representatives of the Kashmiris.

It is in this perspective that the attendance by these separatist leaders at the peace conference has generated heat in the cool climate of Srinagar.

Following Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf's frank statement that,-Islamabad cannot force New Delhi to accommodate Hurriyat into Indo-Pak bilateral dialogue, and his subsequent advice to them to separately hold talks with India, the Hurriyat is awaiting call from New Delhi.

Politicians from Pakistan controlled Kashmi (PcK) have in recent times, said that Kashmir talks should include Kashmiri Pandits and Ladakhis.

It may be that by attending a peace conference by a guru like Sri Sri Ravishankar, the Hurriyat is trying to gain acceptability among the Kashmiris including the minority Kashmiri Hindus.

Hurriyat leader Maulana Abbas Ansari said in the backdrop of the conference: "We should not put emphasis on the person but the content of the speech. He spoke on my religion in his own way. As we are all human beings, we would have love to-wards each other but it is not so." (ANI)

#### (Kashmir Observer, 29 June, 2005)

around the Hazratbal shrine. At Gurudwara Chatti Padshahi, Rainawari the Advisor asked the Director

to accommodate the demands of the Gurudwara committee so that the religious shrine has all the facilities available to make the devotees comfortable. He asked them to complete the canopy work forthwith and invite tenders in a week's time for other beautification works like parking lot, devri path, illumination and khatambandh. He urged upon them to complete all the works within three months.

At Khan-kahi-Moulla sufi shrine the aesthetically landscaping the area machie work has been completed and transport facility to be started soon.

plaint seriously and address the issue at the earliest. Meanwhile, the Public Rela-

World

# **US Raids Slammed As 'Blatant** Violation' Of Iraq's Sovereignty

#### Agencies

raq's Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi has condemned the overnight US air attack on Iranbacked armed groups in Iraq and Syria which a monitor said killed at least seven fighters.

In a statement on Sunday, the US military said it targeted operational and weapons storage facilities at two locations in Syria and one location in Iraq in response to drone attacks against the US personnel and facilities in Iraq.

The attacks came at the direction of US President Joe Biden, the second time he has ordered retaliatory attacks against Iran-backed militia since taking office five months ago.

"We condemn the US air attack that targeted a site last night on the Iraqi-Syrian border, which represents a blatant and unacceptable vi- have been more than 40 attacks

Human Rights said at least seven fighters were killed and several others wounded. Syria's state-run SANA news agency said one child had been killed and at

least three other people were wounded. **Threat of retaliation** Two Iraqi militia officials told The Associated Press news agency in Baghdad that four militiamen were killed in the air attacks near the bor-

der with Syria. Armed groups aligned with Iran in a statement named four members of the Kataib Sayyid al-Shuhada faction they said were killed in the attack on the Syria-Iraq border. They pledged to retaliate. "We will remain the shield defending our beloved nation, and we

are fully ready ... to respond and take revenge," it said. Since the start of the year, there



olation of Iraqi sovereignty and Iraqi national security," said a statement from the Iraqi PM's office.

John Kirby, a spokesman for the Pentagon, said in a statement that the Kataib Hezbollah and Kataib Sayvid al-Shuhada military factions were among the "several Iran-backed militia groups" that had used the targeted facilities.

"The United States took necessary, appropriate, and deliberate action designed to limit the risk of escalation – but also to send a clear and unambiguous deterrent message," Kirby said, adding that the targets were selected because "these facilities are utilized by Iran-backed militias that are engaged in unmanned aerial vehicle [UAV] attacks against US personnel and facilities in Iraq".

The statement did not say wheththe UK-based Syrian Observatory for the language of force," he said.

against US interests in Iraq, where 2,500 American troops are deployed as part of an international coalition to fight the armed group ISIL (ISIS). Saeed Khatibzadeh, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman, also reacted to the attacks.

"The US still continues the wrong path in the region. What we see today is not only the sanctions but also following the wrong policies of the previous administration with actions they carry out in the region," said Khatibzadeh.

Al Jazeera's Mahmoud Abdelwahed, reporting from the Iraqi capital Baghdad, described the US attacks as "significant".

"The PMF say that they will attack American military facilities with missiles. Politicians affiliated with the PMF have also been tweeting, saving er anyone was killed or injured, but the United States only understands

# Iran's Drones Can Travel **Over 7,000Km: State Media**

Agencies

ran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Commander Major General Hossein Salaami on Sunday announced that the country had drones with a range of 7,000 km. "They can fly, return home, and make landing wherever they are planned to," General Salami said at the Baqiyatallah University of Medi-

cal Sciences in Tehran. Iran has had expe



Iran is known to have supplied

drones to allied militias like Hezbol-

Simorgh and Saegheh UAVS.

**European Union Revives Travel With Covid Pass Agence France-Presse BRUSSELS:** An European Union

**Delta Threat Looms As** 

(EU)-wide Covid certificate for easier travel comes into force on Thursday, just in time for Europe's busy summer vacation period, but the more-infectious Delta variant is already threatening to curtail its use.

The EU document -- sporting a QR code and available in digital form on smartphones or hard copy -- shows whether the bearer is vaccinated with one of the EU's approved jabs (from BioN-Tech/Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson), has recovered from an infection, or has a recent negative Covid test. Under an EU law adopted this

month, the certificate does away with the need for quarantines or concern on the continent. further testing when travelling between the EU's 27 countries or four associated European nations (Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein).

Twenty EU countries have already started issuing and ac- cess to the entire passportcepting it, with the others expected to follow suit shortly. But a surge in the Delta vari-

ant, first detected in India and now rampant in former EU member Britain, could trigger an "emergency brake" provision suspending its acceptance. With Delta becoming dominant in Portugal, Germany has

announced a ban on incoming travellers from there except for its own citizens or residents. Even they are required to quar-

antine for two weeks, regardless of vaccination or test status. Portugal and Spain on Mon-

day abruptly announced entry restrictions for travellers from Britain, with Lisbon requiring them to be fully vaccinated and Madrid demanding proof of vaccination or a negative Covid test.

Britain's Delta Problem A European Commission spokesman said on Monday that Britain "is now working with us" on aligning international Covid travel require-



ments with the aim of having nations keep down infections, mutually accepted documents. hospitalisations and deaths even But Britain's rise in Delta infrom the Delta variant will be fections -- giving it an infection decisive for its impact on the EU rate more than four times that Covid certificate, from scupperof the EU -- is generating deep ing the programme altogether to simply adding a note of caution At an EU summit last week. German Chancellor Angela

Merkel criticised southern EU countries for allowing in Britons with few, if any, Covid checks. case numbers.

Conservative party argue that vaccinations have "broken the link" between infection and deaths and the country should drop all Covid

But many EU leaders are were urged to allow in only more cautious, hoping to slow fully vaccinated travellers from the spread of the Delta variant outside the bloc, or those with to give time for more jabs.

Governments recall how But Portugal, Spain and surges in past variants saw lags Greece initially opted for a laisof many weeks between spikes sez-faire attitude, hoping to rein infections and death rates.

vive their vital tourist sectors. AFP statistics collating official health data from across the EU That calculation is now changing under pressure from show that 49.6 per cent of the bloc's population has now received Germany's decisions and realiat least one vaccine dose (comsation that Delta infection rates in the EU could match current pared with 65.3 per cent in Britain).

So far, 31.5 per cent in the EU A second European Comare considered completely vacmission spokesman said that cinated. an EU panel composed of rep-

Covid experts had initially believed "herd immunity" could be reached with 70 per cent of a population fully vaccinated, but now judge it would need 80 per cent or more immunised, given Delta's infectiousness and the fact vaccines are less effective against it.

About 3,907 people were hos-

# Vaccination Against Covid-19 May Not Be Enough, Masks, Distancing **Must Continue: WHO**

vacationing Europeans.

urgent reasons to visit.

British levels within weeks.

# **Fighting Around Afghan City Displaces** Thousands **Of Families**

Kashmir Observer

Tuesday | 29-06-2021

#### Agencies

ays of fighting between the Taliban and Afghanistan's government forces have made about 5,000 families flee from their homes in Kunduz, officials said Saturday, with the insurgents continuing to surround the key northern city.

The Taliban briefly seized the city twice in recent years but have now captured the surrounding districts and a nearby border crossing with Tajikistan. "About 5,000 families have been displaced by the fighting," Ghulam

Sakhi Rasouli, director of the Kunduz Refugees and Repatriation Department, told Agence France-Presse (AFP). He said up to 2,000 of those families had fled to Kabul and other provinces.

Many people took refuge in a school in the city and had been provided with food and other relief items, Kunduz provincial council member Ghulam Rabbani Rabbani said.

displaced across the province of Kunduz following a month of sporadic clashes between the insurgents and government forces, Rasouli added.

He said authorities were unable to provide relief items to all the displaced families across the province.

Kunduz city's public health director Ehsanullah Fazli said that since the fighting erupted more than a week ago, 29 civilians have been killed and 225 wounded.

Fighting has raged across Kunduz province for days, with the Taliban and Afghan forces engaged in bloody battles.

On Tuesday the insurgents captured Shir Khan Bandar, Afghanistan's main border crossing with Tajikistan, in one of their most significant gains in recent months.

Since early May, the Taliban have launched several major offensives targeting government forces across



Video footage taken by AFP showed the rugged countryside and say they dozens of people, many of them women and children, sitting inside tents set up in a school compound.

'We are six families living together here for three days ... you can see my children are sitting on the ground," Juma Khan, who fled with his family, told AFP.

"We have still not received any help. A team came today to survey some families but after a few minutes they left," said Akhtar Mohammad, who has also taken refuge in the school.

of its last remaining 2,500 troops from the country to meet the Sept. 11 deadline announced by President Joe Biden to end America's longest-ever war. Peace talks between the two warring sides remain dead-

have seized nearly 90 of the coun-

Many of their claims are disputed

Violence surged after the United

by the government and difficult to

States military began the withdrawal

try's more than 400 districts.

independently verify.

Another 8,000 families have been locked in Qatar.

## **Israel Demolishes Palestinian Bedouin Village Of Al-Aragib For 189Th Time**



denied access to the national water and electricity grids, lack basic infrastructure, and receive no health and educational services.

## emergency brake". **Vaccination Hope** Evidence on whether vacci-

resentatives of member states and the Brussels executive was meeting on Monday to discuss "the possible application of the

to the summer rollout. Britain, which registered its sudden rise in Delta infections in April, still has relatively low Some MPs in the governing

The move gives Brits acfree Schengen zone and has brought them in proximity to Under non-binding EU restrictions on July 19. guidelines, all member states

drones since the war with Iraq in Yemen, including "kamikaze UAVs' the 1980s. However, in recent times, Iranian-made drones have been gets. According to a Reuters report, used by Iranian proxies across the Iranian proxies like the Houthies middle east. The 2019 Abqaiq-Kh- manufacture their weapons locally urais attack on Saudi Aramco facilities that crippled the country's oil production abilities for days-purportedly carried out by the Houthis that the kingdom was at war against in Yemen-reportedly featured Iranmade missiles and drones, Saudi Arabia claimed afterwards.

While Iranian drones like the Shahed 129 are known to have a ferry range of under 2,000km with an endurance of 24. the existence of a conflict zones in the world. India on 7,000km-range drone has not yet been confirmed by Iran. In May, the an IED-laden blown striking a mili-IRGC unveiled its Ghazzeh armed tary airport in Jammu and Kashmir. drone, touting a flight time of 2,000km with the ability to carry 13 of suicide drones it claimed could hit bombs. However, in 2011, a US-made targets 4,000km away. Last year, the RQ-170 Sentinel was captured by Ira- IRGC unveiled fast-attack boats that nian forces, granting Iran access to were equipped with Ababil-2 suicide sophisticated UAV technology. Iran drones that it deployed to the Sea of later displayed seemingly reverse en- Oman and Persian Gulf.

lah in Lebanon and the Houthis in designed to crash into their tarusing foreign expertise and parts smuggled in from Iran. Drone attacks by Iran-backed militias in Iraq have also increased, prompting concern from US military officials. These fixed wing drones fly low so as not to be picked up by defensive systems. Such drone strikes have targeted US facilities in recent times. The use of armed drones by proxies has increasingly spread around

Sunday witnessed its first instance of In January, Iran had unveiled a range

s the highly contagious Delta variant of coronavirus disease Lis spreading rapidly across the globe, being vaccinated may not be enough, people must continue wearing masks, maintain social distancing and other Covid-appropriate behaviours, the World Health Organization (WHO) has said. According to the global agency.

the Delta variant (B16172), first detected in India in October last year, has now spread to at least 92 countries, CNBC reported. It is becoming the dominant variant of the disease worldwide. "People cannot feel safe just munity transmission ongoing,"

because they had the two doses. Simao said. They still need to protect themselves," Mariangela Simao, WHO assistant director-general for access to medicines and health products, was quoted as saying during a news briefing. "Vaccine alone won't stop com-

munity transmission. report said.

pitalised with Covid after twodoses of vaccinations, but more than 1,000 of those patients were asymptomatic or their hospitalisations weren't related to Covid-19, the CDC said. Similarly, 142 of 750 deaths of fully vaccinated people after Covid, were asymptomatic or unrelated to Covid-19, according to the CDC data.

Even as Covid vaccines helped "People need to continue to use masks consistently, be in ventidrive down the number of new lated spaces, hand hygiene ... the infections and deaths, many counphysical distance, avoid crowdtries, including the US and Ising. This still continues to be exrael, have largely done away with masks and pandemic-related retremely important, even if you're vaccinated when you have a comstrictions.

Israel had lifted the mandate on masks on June 15, following one Meanwhile, according to new of the world' fastest successful data from the US Centers for vaccine roll out. However, about 50 per cent of vaccinated adults Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 4,100 people in the country have now been inhave been hospitalised or died fected with the Delta variant, forcwith Covid-19 in the country, even ing it to re-impose wearing face after being fully vaccinated, the masks indoors, the Wall Street Journal reported.

Agencies

The Palestinian Information Cen-

ter, citing local sources, reported

on Monday that Israeli troops

raided the village in the Negev region

with bulldozers and destroyed every

Dozens of its inhabitants, includ-

ing children and elderly people,

have become displaced and should

suffer from the harsh weather of the

desert for a while before they could

The residents of Araqib village live

in a constant state of fear due to the

fact that Israeli troops may raid and

raze their homes at any moment af-

ter they manage to build them again.

However, Israel's criminal policy of

forced displacement of Palestinians has strengthened the residents' resolve to

rebuild their villages even if Israel de-

Al-Araqib is one of the 35 Bed-

ouin villages considered "unrec-

molishes them a thousand times.

build new makeshift homes.

single Palestinian house.

Israeli authorities have been carrying out forced evacuations against Bedouins since 1949.

The demolition of Bedouin homes is part of the regime's massive landgrab policy, which will forcefully displace thousands of people.

Tel Aviv has so far refused to recognize the rights of Palestinian Bedouins and denies them access to basic services. Rights groups accuse Tel Aviv of pursuing a policy of transferring the indigenous Palestinian population from the Negev region to other areas in a bid to make room for the expansion of illegal settlements. More than 600,000 Israelis live in over 230 settlements built since the 1967 Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories of the West Bank and East Jerusalem al-Quds.

All Israeli settlements are illegal under international law as they are built on occupied land. The UN Security Council has condemned Israel's settlement activities in the occupied ognized" by Israel. The areas are territories in several resolutions.

#### NEWS MAKERS

#### Man Jumps From Moving Plane At Los Angeles Airport **Catalans Jeer Spanish King Amid Efforts To Ease Tensions**



#### **By Associated Press**

passenger was taken to the hospital Friday night after jumping out of a moving plane at Los Angeles Interna-United Express flight 5365, op-

erated by SkyWest, was pulling away from a gate shortly after 7 p.m. when the man unsuccessfully tried to breach the cockpit. then managed to open the service door and jumped down the tional Airport, authorities said. emergency slide onto the tarmac, according to the airport and Sky-

#### West.

The man was taken into custody on the taxiway, treated for injuries that were not life-threatening and taken to the hospital, authorities said. The twin-engine Embraer 175, which was headed to Salt Lake City, returned to its gate, the airport said.

It was still there hours later. Nobody else aboard the plane was injured.

The FBI was investigating. It was the second disruption at LAX n two days

On Thursday, a driver plowed through a chain-link fence at a FedEx cargo facility and went onto the airfield, crossing runways as police chased the car.

Police said the driver was detained and no injuries were reported. Two runways were briefly closed.

upporters of independence for Catalonia protested Sunday against a visit to its regional capital Barcelona by Spain's King Felipe VI, as high-level efforts to allay tensions there gain new momentum.

The king was in Barcelona to help mark the opening of a major international wireless trade fair, called Mobile World Congress, which begins Monday.

Demonstrations against visits to Catalonia by the monarch, who is a symbol of rule from Madrid and who has criticized separatist movements, are common.

Demonstrations against vis- from Madrid and who has its to Catalonia by the mon- criticized separatist movearch, who is a symbol of rule ments, are common.



EMONSTRATIONS AGAINST VISITS to Catalonia by the monarch, who is a symbol of rule from Madrid and who has criticized separatist movements, are common.

> The Catalan regional president, Pere Aragonès, who supports Catalan independence,

is due to meet in Madrid on Tuesday with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez. It will be their first encounter since Aragonès became regional chief earlier this year.

The talks come exactly a week after Sánchez's government pardoned nine Catalan separatists who were in prison because of their attempts to break their region away from Spain.

The pardons were seen as a goodwill gesture by Sánchez as he seeks a breakthrough on an issue that has dogged Spain for decades.

Catalonia's separatist movement, which is supported by roughly half the 7.5 million residents in the region, wants to create a republic for the wealthy northeast corner of Spain.-AP

**BJP Seeks Early Assembly** 

# **J&K Govt Committed To Protecting Rights Of** Women, Minorities: LG

Delegation Of Shiromani Akali Dal Delhi Calls On LG



**Decision To Bifurcate J&K** 

**Into UTs Bolstered National** 

**Security: Defence Minister** 

#### **Observer News Service**

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu & Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Monday said that the Union Territory has remained home to diverse religious and cultural beliefs which have deeply enriched its pluralistic ethos

be taken against those who are disturbing the peaceful tradition of communal harmony and brotherhood in the region.

hi (SADD) Monday who called ment of J&K is committed to on him at Raj Bhavan.

bandhak Committee; United propriate measures shall be tak-Sikh Forum and social activ- en to safeguard their interests.

ists were also present on the occasion.

dum to the Lt Governor pertaining to the demand of protection of rights of Women of Sikh community, implementation of In-He said stringent action will ter-religious Marriage Act, and e taken against those who are a legal mechanism of judicial testimonies for interfaith marriages in the region. The Lt Governor, while listen-

He was speaking to a delega-tion of Shiromani Akali Dal Del-tion observed that the governprotecting the rights of women Members of Gurdwara Pra- and minorities in the UT and ap**'Over 300 Drone Sightings Post J&K Special Status Abrogation Along Pak Border'** 

#### Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Over 300 drones and unidentified flying objects have been sighted along the sensitive border with Pakistan post the 2019 abrogation of Article 370, central security agencies have said, even as they grapple to find a suitable technology to check these lethal sky-floaters.

A multitude of border security agencies have also been testing some indigenouslycounter-drone techbuilt nologies in the rough jungle terrains, desert and marshes along the western front but have had little success till date, officials told PTI Monday. The lead security agency

-- the Border Security Force (BSF) -- and the frontier units of various police units along the 3,323-km-long front have since adopted a standard operating procedure of 'sight and blight' in case a drone, an unidentified flying object or a remotely-operated aerial vehicle is spotted in the air.

The existing system to kill an enemy drone is that the security guard has to be vigilant on the ground and the sky and as soon as a drone is sighted, it has to be blighted or neutralised by plain shooting from the service weapon like INSAS rifles," a se-

nior officer explained. Data prepared and shared by the central security agencies with the government said over 300 "definite sightings" were made by the BSF and other police units after August 5, 2019, when Jammu and Kashmir's

bifurcated into two Union Ter- a military installation or cam-



Jammu-Kashmir ritories of and Ladakh

There were 167 sightings of drones along the western front (largely Jammu and Punjab) in 2019, 77 last year and about 60 this year till now, as per the data. These are minimum or to

say the confirmed sightings by BSF troops and other security agencies personnel along the India-Pakistan border," a senior officer in the security establishment said.

There could be 50-60 more such sightings which are not included in the data for reasons like capturing only the whirring sound of the drone, difficulty to differentiate between a balloon and a drone and un-specified suspicious flying objects, the officer said. Officials said the BSF also tested a prototype of a counter-drone system along this front in October, 2019 while some similar trials were held

at its campus in Bhondsi near here around the same time. The latter was part of a multi-stakeholder national conference held by the central police think tank-- the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD).

What is largely available technology at present is a circuspecial status under Article lar counter-drone security sys-370 was withdrawn and it was tem that is suited well to secure

pus," another officer said on the condition of anonymity.

"What is required for border security is a linear 'sky fence' like interception, jamming and destruction system which is not available as of now.'

Indian habitations and important bases all along the Pakistan border are the most vulnerable when it comes to attacks by a single or a swarm of drones, he said.

This is because, the officer said, infiltration has become very tough due to the effective domination by security forces in anticipation of the militant designs post August, 2019, regular unearthing and plugging of the under-ground tunnels and a ceasefire recently agreed upon by the two neighbours, he said.

On Sunday, two drones are stated to have dropped their explosive payload at the IAF station in Jammu making it the first case of an UAV attack on a military base in the country. The internal security establishment, as per official sources, is analysing some specific anti-drone techniques like sky fence, drone gun, ATHENA, drone catcher and Skywall 100 to intercept and immobilise suspicious and lethal remotecontrolled aerial platforms.

ATHENA, which stands for Advanced Test High Energy Asset, is another weapon under analysis as it works by firing a high energy laser beam on a rogue drone resulting in its complete destruction in the air. A counter-UAV technol-

ogy called drone catcher-- that swiftly approaches an enemy drone and grabs it by throwing a net around it-- is also being thought upon.

**IAMMU:** Days after the all party meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir BJP on

Monday held its Working Committee meeting and passed a political resolution, requesting for early completion of delimitation process and holding of assembly elections in the union territory.

Polls In J&K

**Observer News Service** 

The meeting also requested Lt Governor Manoj Sinha to ensure an end to illegal mining and fix prices of minor minerals including sand and address the long pending demands of daily wagers, village defence committees, home guards, Special Police Officers and other sections of the society, J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina said.

Talking to reporters after the meeting at the party headquarters here, Raina said the meeting unanimously passed a political resolution requesting the delimitation commission to complete the assigned task early to pave the way for the holding of assembly elections and a popular government.

Addressing the party leaders Raina said the party has a big mission before it to form the next government in Jammu and Kashmir.

We have to prepare for the elections from today itself and move together for the success of our mission, which is to form the next government with the BJP chief minister in chair with full majority... I am sure that with your efforts, we will cross all hurdles and will emerge victorious whenever the elections are held, the BJP leader said.

He briefed the workers about the all party meeting chaired by the Prime Minister on June 24 and said it ended the political deadlock in J&K as all the 14 invited leaders from eight promi-

nent parties attended it. The BIP leader also condemned the unabated terror attacks and said no terrorist will be spared by our brave police

and other security forces". They have once again shed innocent blood by killing

a SPO along with his wife and a daughter in south Kashmir's Pulwama district. The cowardly Pakistani terrorists want J&K to turn into a graveyard but our security forces will not

allow them to succeed in their nefarious designs. They will be done to death, Raina said.

He said BJP is a party of nationalists and the nationalists across the country should feel safe under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi.

Our security forces and workers kept the national flag flying high and sacrificed their lives for the country. We salute them, he added. Raina said the Working Committee expressed concern over illegal mining activities and skyrocketing rates of minor

minerals and sand. We request the intervention of the Lt Governor to put an end to illegal mining and bring down the escalating prices. We will not hes-

itate in launching an agitation in the interest of the public, he said. He said the committee also appealed to the Lt Governor to address the long pending demands of over one lakh daily wagers, casual and need based workers who are working in 28 different government departments and waiting for their regularisation over the past three decades.

The meeting also called for addressing the issues of Village Defence Committee and Special Police Officers who fought alongside security agencies to wipe out terrorism from difficult and mountainous districts of Jammu province and the home guards.

## **Rates Of Sale Price For Minor Minerals Fixed In Kulgam**



**Observer News Service** 

KULGAM: District Level Task Force Committee (DLTFC) Kulgam under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Monday held a meeting for the fixation of sale price of sand, Nallah bajri, Nallah boulders, Nallamukh, Crushed Bajri (10 mm) and the rates were proposed on the basis of present market rates. As per the details, the rate for sand per tipper/4.25 CMT at source level has been fixed at Rs.4202, while as Nallah Bairi per tipper at Rs.1914, Nallah Boulder stone at Rs.900 per tipper, Nallamukh Rs.750 per tipper, Crushed Bajri (10mm) Rs.2701 per tipper. The DC directed the concerned officers to implement the rates of minor minerals at source level in letter and spirit so that common people and the stakeholders do not face the brunt of exorbitant rates. The DC emphasised upon the concerned agencies to strengthen the mechanism of checking illegal excavation of sand and other minerals from river beds and directed for immediate installation of nakas at already identified locations. Later, the DC convened a separate meeting of Municipal Committee Kulgam to discuss the modalities for decongestion of Main town.



For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of J&K e-tenders (One cover System) on Item Rate Basis including the main tenance cost for a period of Three Years which includes 12months of DL Paneinvited from Reputed and resourceful contractors/ Firms/Companies/Joint Ventures of repute in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD /Railway sand other state Governments for the following works, which hold be uploaded on the Procurement webportalititp:// Interders.gov. in for the subjected work(s)referred below to be received by the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti FBI Division Tangmarg and as per the details mention dinghies-tender notification and to who mall the terms and condition so detailed-NIT/Tender Documents/ PWD Form No:- 25double are accepted. The detailed tender document and Specifications etc. can be downloaded on the e-procurement portal http://jktenders.gov.in. The cost of tender documents (Non-refundable/Non-Transferable) should be in the shape of e-Challanor Treasury Challan/ Receipt in favour Executive Engineer Jal Shakti FBI Division Tangmarg.

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#### **Press Trust of India**

NEW DELHI: The Union government's decision to bifurcate Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh as two separate union territories have bolstered national security and led to a major reduction in militant activities, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday.

Speaking at an event in Ladakh, Singh also referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent outreach to political leadcontinue in the region for long.

Prime Minister

who earlier questioned Modi's intent for Jammu and Kasmir and Ladakh, saying they had

vested interests. The government's "historic decision" around two years ago has brought socio-economic development to the region as well as helped in containing militant activities, the defence minister said.

"He wants that political process to start in Jammu and Kashmir as well as in Ladakh. And ers of Jammu and Kashmir, and he is going to speak (to people said that the government does from) here. He has spoken to not want the "same situation" to people of J and K. We do not want the same situation to prevail for a long time. Singh also said that significant success has been achieved Kashmir, nearly two years after in containing militancy and the withdrawal of its special sta- boosting socio-economic detus and bifurcation of the state velopment. "Two years is not a long period of time...Our gov-"The Union government's de- ernment has initiated several The defence minister also laudfor socio-economic develop- ment of the situation in Jammu Singh said the government The defence minister, on a has been significantly focusthree-day visit to Ladakh from ing on enhancing connectivity The defence minister also visbridges built by Border Roads ited the Thiksay Monastery in Ladakh. He inaugurated Shesrab Skyad Tsal Ling library during Singh also criticised those the visit.

Thursday held talks with top political leaders of Jammu and into two union territories.

cision to bifurcate Jammu and steps for infrastructure devel-Kashmir and Ladakh as two opment and to promote investseparate UTs has bolstered na- ment," he added. tional security and led to major reduction in militant activities ed the armed forces for their conand also opened new avenues tribution to the overall improvement of the people in both the and Kashmir and Ladakh. regions," Singh said.

Sunday, made these remarks af- which is paying rich dividends. ter dedicating to the nation 63 Organisation (BRO) in six states and two UTs.

# Kamili Calls For Effective Implementation **Of ICDS Scheme**

**Observer News Service** 

ANANTNAG: Accompanied by senior officers, Mission Director ICPS and Women Empowerment, Shabnum Shah Kamili Monday said result oriented approach is important for achieving on ground and realistic progress on child protection and women empowerment.

He was speaking during a meeting at Anantnag.

Hailing the role of officials for making progress on women and child welfare in the district, she enjoined upon them to work in consonance with the guidelines so that better outcomes are delivered.

The MD exhorted for generating massive awareness regarding active schemes especially in far flung areas besides prompt psychological, legal, medical and counselling support to the vulnerable/ affected women and children.



Kamili emphasized the need for effective coordination among converging departments like Police, Health, Social Welfare and Law to ensure emergency response and rescue services to the women and children in distress.

Impressing upon the stakeholders to work in synergy, the Mission Director assured every possible assistance for making all units effective, robust and vibrant.

BBBP, Social Welfare, RDD, Agriculture, Industries and ITI schemes, and also took onspot assessment of she said that women empower- the functioning of these offices.

ment has to be perceived through outcomes like education, skill development, income generation & employability of women besides other deliverable parameters.

Kamili also directed for fast disposal of cases taken by JJB adding that the future of children is directly inked to the progress on these cases.

She called for weeding out of ineligible cases in Sponsorship Schemes and directed for enrollment of pending eligible cases in a time bound manner.

Regarding Child Covid Care, the MD passed directions to the concerned to implement the latest Govt/ expert guidelines on the subject in letter and spirit.

Later, the MD visited OSC, MSK, site for proposed child protection Stressing on the importance of home and MFM Bon Dialgam, where she interacted with the beneficiaries

S.No	Name of work		tion	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender document (Amount in Ruppe)	Ac- count	Ref. to AAA NO.	Position O Fund
1	Construction of RCC jacketing of SR at Gratbaldaji repairs renovation of slow sand filtration plant at Botu and laying and fitting mains submains disstt. imptt. stabilization of existing pipe network WSS Hajibal Shalgam NRDWP JJM	51.74 lacs	30 days	ANY	1600/-	MIL	CE/PHE/DB/109 of 12/2020 dated:- 30-12- 2020	Assured
2	Providing Laying fitting of mains sub mains and distribution system included improvements stabilization of old iaid system at spots for WSS Branar Khalpora WSS KHalpora Old under JJM	38.14 lacs	30 days	AAY/ BEE	1000/-	ШM	CE-107/PHE/ DB/of 12/2020 Dated:- 30-12- 2020	Assured
3	Laying and fitting of mains sub-mains distribution system including improvements to existing pipe network of various areas villages of WSS Nambal- nar Sateriseeran under JIM Programme NROWP	29.13 tacs	30 days	AAY/ BEE	1000/-	MIL	PHE/DB/03 of 2014 dated 06 -03-2014	Assured
4	Laying and fitting of pipes with necessary improve- ment to existing pipe network of water supply scheme Walloo Kralpora	26.83 lacs	30 days	AAY	1000/-	JJM	CE/PHE/DB/108 of 12 2020 dat- ed:-30-12-202	Assured

2	Publishing date:	26-06-2021	04:00 PM	
4	Downipad date start:	26-06-2021	05 00 PM	
5	flid Submission date start:	27-05-2021	10:00 AM	
	Hid Submission date Ends:	05-07-2021	G4:00 PM	
	Hid opening date	06-07-2021	TL:00 AM	

#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document non-refundable /non-transferable) to be deposited under M.H.0215 Rev. Misc in the shape of Treasury challan /e-challan (mentioning therein NIT No. 5.No of work and Adv. Cost of work) to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti FBI Division Tangmarg and date on it must be prior to date of issuance of this tender notice, and Bid security declaration form duty Notarized/self-attested instead of bid scarcity(EMD) as per finance department. J&K. Civil Secretariat. Jammu/Srinagar circular issued vide No.A/Misc(2018-111-895/J. However, is case of compelling circumstances the same shall be obtained from the success for bidder by this department.

2The NIT shall deem to include / incorporate all the conditions/specifications/norms etc. of Jal Jeevan Mission Programme whether mentioned herein or not. Therefore, the tendener /agency is advised to read carefully the same and tender rates accordingly.

This NIT shall, deem to be covered by the Govt, order No. 460-PW(Pkyd) of 2019, dated: -06 3.

12-2019 regarding the reform of the tendering process in the PHE //&FC department.

4. The Contractor shall arrange key construction materials, all Dia pipe material etc required for the completion of the work as soon as the work is allotted /LDF is issued to the agency. However, the said materials if available wholly or partly in the departmental stores of this division, shall be issued to the contractor on stock issued rates prevalent at the time of such asue supplies.

No tender document will qualify if the tendered cost of the works, works out below 35% of adv. cost the said tender will be rejected out rightly.

8. The tenderer should in his own interest impect and examine the site, its surroundings /topography, nature of ground, climatic conditions, accessibility or other relevant information at his own expenses and responsibility. To satisfy himself before Tendering for the advertised work. The bidder will have to execute part each of the work i.e. GvI/Electro-Mechanical part under the close supervision of the respective Engineer- in Charges of Civil & Mechanical Wings In-charge of the Scheme.

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Allot the work to the other willing Lowest bidder likeL2 ,L3,L4 and EMD additional Security Performance (IFANY

years for participating in the e-Nit's issued by the kmr. PHE Department Srinaga. Under compelling circumstances) of the lowest bidder shall be forfeited, besides debarring the Contractor for a period of two

The tender documents can be down loaded one-procurement Portal http://jktenders.gov.in The tender documents can be down loaded as per schedule shown in thee-rit, Thee-tender so uploaded shallbeaccompanied with ae-Challano Treasury Challan/Sovt. Receipt drawn in favour of Executive Engineer JSD FBI Division Tangmarg towards the cost of the lander documents (Non-transferable /Non-refundable) as shown against each work above in thee-NIT, which shall not be refunded and shall be submitted up to the date mentioned above To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" asperinformationTechnologyAct2000. Bidd escargot digital certificate for approve vendor. The bidders have to submit their Bids online in electronic form at with digital signa. true No. financial bid will be accepted in physical form. Bidders are advised to down load bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well As from "Bidders Manual Kit" on Website http: //ktenders. gov in acquaint bid submission process.

Noc-FBID/CC/1932-52 Dated -26-06-2021

Executive Engineer, (JSD)FBI Division Tangmarg

DIPK-3651/21

Tuesday| 29-06-2021

# KASHMIR OBSERVER

# KASHMIR

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#### KO VIEW

# Point of the **PM's meeting**

lot has been written about the June 24 meeting between prime minister Narendra Modi and J&K leaders. The drift of the analyses hasn't set much store by the meeting, terming it more an exercise in public relations than a genuine outreach to Kashmir. And it's true: the takeaway of the meeting isn't cause for any celebration.

In his statement, the PM stressed expediting the delimitation exercise that is expected to enhance the seats of J&K assembly. More of these are believed to go to the former state's Jammu division. To this end a delimitation commission has already been in place since the last over a year and it may soon complete its exercise.

The enhancement of the Assembly seats, the PM's statement indicates, will be followed by holding of the elections within the union territory framework. Though the statement does not say it, the statehood is hoped to be followed by the elections. And it is not clear whether this statehood would be full or a truncated one where the real power would vest with the governor.

So actually there is nothing concrete that has come out of this meeting. The centre has more or less stayed true to its ideological course on Kashmir and ironically wants now Kashmiri leaders to be its partners in this pursuit.

In Kashmir, the run up to the meeting was marked by a hectic political activity. The leaders of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration met at the residence of the alliance's chairman and National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah to decide their course of action. Earlier, the parties had held consultations within their own ranks on Delhi's outreach. It didn't take them much time to decide to attend the meeting.

In their interaction with the media, the PAGD leaders reiterated that the restoration of Article 370 is their single point agenda. But what reportedly happened during the meeting with the PM hasn't given any confidence that they have stayed true to their word. Going by the reports in the media, the accent in the meeting has been on the return of statehood. Leaders have generally eschewed demanding the restoration of Article 370. The PAGD members also are reported to have talked about the repealed constitutional provision in subdued tones. This has not gone down well in Kashmir where people expected the PAGD and the other leaders to forcefully raise their issues, particularly the withdrawal of J&K autonomy.

On its part the centre hasn't departed even marginally from its Kashmir agenda. Only difference now is that it wants to take the entire spectrum of mainstream politicians on board its Kashmir project. And the latter, it appears, is willing to play the ball.



# **PAGD's Meet with PM: An Opportunity Lost**

#### Altaf Hussain

he recent meet of Kashmiri leaders with prime minister Narendra Modi was both an opportunity and challenge for leaders of the PAGD (People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration) or Gupkar Alliance, for short.

These leaders had already lost much of their relevance and credibility after the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A. At least Farooq Abdullah and his son . Omar had had a meeting with the prime minister, a couple of days before the Modi govt took the extreme step of withdrawing the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and breaking the state into two Union territories. It is hard to believe that the father-son duo were too naive to size up the situation. But they fumbled for a proper response. All they and other leaders of the Gupkar Alliance, including Mehbooba Mufti, did was to commit themselves to protecting Art. 370 or Jammu and Kashmir's internal sovereignty. For this, they resolved to seek an audience with the President of India, the Prime Minister and leaders of the Opposition parties across India.

An interesting thing happened then. A few workers of the National Conference told a photo journalist at Farooq Abdullah's residence that they had been pleading with Omar Abdullah to give a call for Eidgah Chalo or March to Eidgah. They lamented that he was not listening to them. Such was their desperation that they asked the photojournalist to intervene which he politely refused.

Many suspect that the subsequent arrest of Farooq, Omar, Mehbooba and other leaders of the PAGD was actually a face-saving for suspicion became stronger when nor leaders did anything of consequence release from prison. The only decisio wrong, they took was to participate in t Development Council polls with the ap to prevent BJP from making inroads i Valley and secular constituencies else

cious were people of the government's intentions that even the cancellation of this year's Amsrnsth Yatra was seen , by many, as a step dictated by considerations of politics and law and order rather than by the Covid situation. Some people fled the Valley for fear that the internet might be suspended again.

There fears of a fresh lockdown or internet blockade have not come true., But the PAGD leadership has not generated any hope either. The only outcome of their meeting with the PM is that the govt will complete the delimitation process and then hold elections to the Assembly. Restoration of statehood will, if at all, happen later. As for Articles 370 or 35A, nothing has been heard about them.

It is important to note that the delimitation process evokes strong fears among ordinary Kashmiris who see it as part of a conspiracy to give more seats to Hindu majority Jammu region. What makes the people more suspicious is that while all over India delimitation is due only in 2026, it has been advanced only in Jammu and Kashmir

Coming back to Article 370. Omar Abdullah said in an interview that NC has not given up its demand about J&K's special status. But he emphasised that his party would not take the law into its own hands. He said the fight for J&K's special status would be fought in the Supreme Court. He hasn't answered the question as to how many people share his optimism about the Supreme Court restoring Article 370. In any case, it is for the lawyers to fight it out in the judiciary. Omar Abdullah is a politician and is, as such, supposed

**The crisis in** Ladakh happened immediately after the abrogation of J&K's special status. India now faces the threat of two front war (with China and Pakistan). This, according to observers, has prompted India to resume back channel diplomacy with Pakistan

was telling: "Kashmir is one area where we have urged them to return to normalcy as quickly as possible. We've seen some steps taken: the release of prisoners, the restoration of 4G access, things of that nature. There are other -- electoral -- steps we'd like to see them take and that we have encouraged them to do and will continue to do so.'

Then there is the China factor. The crisis in Ladakh happened immediately after the abrogation of J&K's special status. India now faces the threat of two front war (with China and Pakistan). This, according to observers, has prompted India to resume back channel diplomacy with Pakistan. Late last year, Pakistan PM Imran Khan's National Security Advisor, Moeed Yusuf

#### OTHER OPINON

# Future State: On Centre's J&K outreach

estoration of Statehood should be at the start of the revival of the democratic process in J&K Political leaders from Jammu and Kashmir J&K) who attended a meeting called by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday came away with a sense of optimism: restoration of Statehood is somewhere on the horizon, even if a total reversal of the withdrawal of the special status remains unlikely. The meeting itself was a surprise, and came at a time when expectations of any quick resolution were very low. But the fact that a spectrum of political leaders got the invitation from the Centre without any set pre-conditions had raised hopes of progress. Eventually, the meeting gave reason to Kashmir's political class to believe in possibilities that did not seem to exist just a week earlier. But restoration of Statehood to J&K, which was reorganised as should be the first step in the revival email 0

cal process and not the culmination of meeting as an "important step in the ongoing efforts towards a developed and progressive J&K". While committing to strengthen grassroots democracy, he called for quick delimitation of constituencies, after which legislative polls could be held. Home Minister Amit Shah insisted the restoration of Statehood will follow delimitation and elections. Not surprisingly, many participants were not convinced by this sequence suggested by the Centre. But the positives are that the long meeting was freewheeling, without rancour and all parties were united in the demand for the restoration of Statehood. Most participants also sought an assurance to return the domiciliary rights concerning land and State services, but considering the BJP's strident position, this might be difficult.

As Mr. Modi argued, the focus must be on the future, but this will have to be built on the trust and cooperation of the people of J&K. Decades of turmoil have created unique problems of governance and mistrust. The NC and the PDP, with all their deficiencies, remain India's best messengers to the people of the Valley. In deciding to engage them, and other parties, the Centre has made a departure from its earlier position. By seizing the opportunity, these parties also showed maturity. Global and domestic factors might have nudged the Centre towards what appears to be a tentative accommodation of other viewpoints. But the political challenge to its decision to hollow out Article 370 is all but fading. The restoration of Statehood has been placed so far down the path that any discussion on special status is unthinkable in the near future. In that sense, the Centre and the BJP have irreversibly reset the conversation on J&K. That success should not blind them to the resentment among the people. Mr. Modi and Mr. Shah will have to look forward to the future rather than being bound by their past rhetoric on Kashmir. The Hindu

**Omar Abdullah** is a politician and is, as such, supposed to put up a political fight. He has, instead, been indulging in escapism. Mehbooba Mufti has apparently taken a tougher stand. But in her case too, it is rhetoric sans (without) any practical plans.

Ahead of their meeting with the PM, the PAGD leaders spoke with huge energy and enthusiasm to assure ordinary people of Kashmir that they would represent their sentiment. . They said they would demand what was rightfully theirs and had been wrongfully snatched from them. This was in sharp contrast with the suspicions and wariness of ordinary people who feared a security lockdown like the one in 2019 on the day of the meeting or immediately after. Rumours flew fast and thick that the Muslim-majority Kashmir Valley might be dismembered. So suspi-



india in geopolitical churn, PM Narendra Modi forced to dial back" Sushant Singh, Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research writes: "It is no secret that the Modi government has been at the receiving end of the Biden administration's strident advocacy of democratic principles and human rights concerns, though these tough conversations have taken place behind closed doors so far." He further writes: "Earlier this month, during a Congressional hearing on 'Democracy in the Indo-Pacific', Acting Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Dean Thompson was asked pointed questions by Congresswoman Chrissy Houlahan on Kashmir. Thompson's reply

solved between India and Pakistan through peace or through war. Even separatist political leaders have lost much of their relevance. They have kind of gone into hibernation, occasionally issuing statements on social and health issues, rather than political.

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 veteran journalist who has served as the BBC bureau chief in Srinagar



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# **Rising Suicides, Dying Future**

ne of the significant features of a conflict zone is that there is permanent chaos, confusion, hatred, mistrust, suspicion and insecurity of life. Human relations whether social, economic, political or religious are always defined in terms of negativity. Life is meaningless and the future is uncertain. Ideologies are marked

with aggression and approach towards dialogue is individualistic and self-righteous. Life here, in these societies, is less valued and considered an ordinary thing and its loss is hardly regretted.

The Valley of Kashmir, being a conflict zone, is in serious crises and its survival is at stake because its youth has pushed them-

selves towards the negative trend of suicide. We have seen an undesirable rise in suicide tendencies, attempts and deaths. This increase has shaken the hope, courage and future prospects of our collective conscience.

We need to understand that fundamentally, suicide in its essence, is actually caused by a mental health

issue and must be treated as such. If ignored, it will increase day by day. A society is as good as its youth and when it is the young suffering the most, the situation is dire and the matter most urgent

> Masood Ali Mir masoodalimir@yahoo.co.in

# Looming Droughts: An Imminent Global Crisis

Drought is a hidden global crisis that risks becoming "the next pandemic" if countries do not take urgent action on their water and land management

Asad Mirza

The Climate Change threat is really more dangerous and omnipresent. Until and unless the world's leaders act in unison and honour their commitment to raise and spend \$100 billion, to tackle the threat as per the Paris Agreement and take some coordinated and concerted measures at Glasgow, the human race may face a dire threat

recent UN report states that at least 1.5 billion people have been directly affected by drought during the current century, and its economic cost has been estimated at \$124bn (£89bn). The true cost is likely to be many times higher as estimates do not include much of the impact in developing countries.

The report, "Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk reduction: Special Report on Drought 2021", published earlier this month will be part of discussions at the next climate talks known as COP26, which are scheduled to take place in Glasgow, UK in November.

Mami Mizutori, the UN secretary general's special representative for disaster risk reduction in the foreword of the report says that drought is on the verge of becoming the next pandemic and there is no vaccine to cure it. Most of the world will be living with water stress in the next few years. Demand will outstrip supply during certain periods. Drought is a major factor in land degradation and the decline of yields for major crops.

She says many people had an image of drought as affecting desert regions in Africa, but that this was not the case. Drought is now widespread, and by the end of the century all but a handful of countries will experience it in some form.

She further says that people have been living with drought for 5,000 years, but what we are seeing now is very different. Human activities are exacerbating drought and increasing the impact, threatening to derail progress on lifting people from poverty.

Developed countries too have not been immune to drought. The US, Australia and southern Europe have experienced drought in recent years. Drought costs more than \$6bn a year in direct impacts in the US, and about 9bn (£7.7bn) in the EU.

A senior scientist at the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and a co-author of the report, Roger Pulwarty has been quoted as saying that drought also goes beyond agriculture. He gives the example of River Danube in Europe, where recurring drought has affected transport, tourism, industry and energy generation. He further opines that we need to have a look at how to manage resources such as rivers and large water basins.

A common scientific theory opines that changing rainfall patterns as a result of climate breakdown is a key driver of drought, but the report also identifies the inefficient use of water resources and the degradation of land under intensive agriculture and poor farming practices as playing a major role. Deforestation, overuse of fertilisers and pesticides, overgrazing and over-extraction of water for farming are also major problems, identified in the report.

Mizutori has called for governments to take action to help prevent drought by reforming and regulating how water is extracted, stored and used, and how land is managed. She says early warning systems could do much to help people in danger. She stressed on working with local people and techniques, as local and indigenous knowledge could help to inform where and how to store water and how to predict the impact of dry periods.



KASHMIR OBSERVER

search, details of which were released earlier this month, the earth is trapping nearly twice as much heat as it did in 2005, described as an 'unprecedented' increase amid the climate crisis.

'Energy imbalance' refers to the difference between how much of the Sun's 'radiative energy' is absorbed by Earth's atmosphere and surface, compared to how much 'thermal infrared radiation' bounces back into space. In a statement about this study NASA said that, "A positive energy imbalance means the Earth system is gaining energy, causing the planet to heat up, and the trends we found were quite alarming in a sense".

Any increase in greenhouse gas emissions keeps heat in earth's atmosphere, trapping radiation that would otherwise move into space. This warming spurs other changes, including ice and snow melt. Any increase in water vapour, and changes to clouds, could further exacerbate this warming, NASA says.

The study found that this doubling is the result, in part, by an increase in greenhouse gases and water vapour, as well as decreases in clouds and ice. Researchers also said that a 'naturally occurring' shift in the Pacific Ocean from a cool phase to a warm one probably had a significant role in amplifying this energy imbalance.

The study also determined that unless the rate of heat uptake slows, greater shifts in climate patterns should be expected. the Belgian state had committed an offence under Belgian's civil law and breached the European convention on human rights.

By not taking all "necessary measures" to prevent the "detrimental" effects of climate change, the court said, Belgian authorities had breached the right to life (Article 2) and the right to respect for private and family life (Article 8).

The NGO, Klimaatzaak - which means climate case in Dutch, and which brought the case hailed the judgment as historic, both in the nature of the decision and the court's recognition of 58,000 citizens as co-plaintiffs.

The legal victory in Belgium follows similar rulings in the Netherlands, Germany and France, where judges have condemned governments for inadequate responses to the climate crisis or failing to keep their promises.

According to the European Commission, Belgium, the first continental European country to undergo the industrial revolution, is on track to miss its emission reduction targets for 2030.

What all these three news put together mean is that the Climate Change threat is really more dangerous and omnipresent. Until and unless the world's leaders act in unison and honour their commitment to raise and spend \$100 billion, to tackle the threat as per the Paris Agreement and take some coordinated and concerted measures at Glasgow, the human race may face a dire threat

#### Energy Imbalance

Meanwhile, in another related alarm, scientists from NASA and NOAA say that earth's 'energy imbalance' roughly doubled from 2005 to 2019 in an 'alarming' manner. According to a new re-

#### Some cheer for activists

On the other hand, in an historical judgement, a Belgian court has ruled that Belgium's climate failures violate human rights. In the latest legal victory against public authorities that have broken promises to tackle the climate emergency,

Belgian Judges said the state's failure to meet climate targets breaches civil law and human rights conventions.

The Brussels court of first instance declared

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

Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. He was also associated with BBC Urdu Service and Khaleej Times of Dubai. He writes on Muslims, educational, international affairs, interfaith and current affairs. Email: asad.mirza. nd@gmail.com

hen you get the AstraZeneca vaccine, or an mRNA vaccine such as Pfizer, it directs your body to make the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein at the injection site. This prompts an immune response, which recognises and remembers this spike protein. But the vaccines don't make the spike protein for very long, nor do they spread it. This restricts the size of the immune response.

Limiting each dose and delivering it twice generally leads to better and longer-lasting immune responses than a single dose.

Just like your own memory, which improves by repeated viewing or listening with a break in between, our immune memory generally improves with repeated exposure to something it needs to protect us against.

#### When should you get your second dose?

The recommended interval between doses of AstraZeneca is 12 weeks, while the minimum is four weeks after the first dose.

This is based on clinical trial data which showed around 73% "efficacy" after the first dose. This means in experimental studies, the first dose of the vaccine reduced the risk of getting COVID19 caused by the original strain by 73%.

When people received their second dose after 12 weeks or more, the efficacy reached 81%.

In these trials, a longer duration between the first and second doses -12 weeks, rather than eight or less - resulted in higher levels of antibodies which can stop the virus.

These antibodies will inevitably fall over time, but starting at a higher level after the last dose means it will take longer for them to fall to levels where protection is compromised.

#### How well does AstraZeneca protect against variants?

When the Alpha variant is dominant, the AstraZeneca vaccine provides 55-70% protection after

# Should I Get my Second AstraZeneca Dose?

Meru Sheel, Cyra Patel, David Tscharke



one dose and 65-90% after two doses.

#### What about blood clots following second dose?

Thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) is a rare clotting condition that can occur after AstraZeneca vaccination because of an abnormal immune response. The risk of TTS is smaller following the second dose of AstraZeneca than the first dose.

Of the nearly 16 million people who received the second dose of AstraZeneca in the UK, 23 developed TTS, a rate of 1.5 per million people vaccinated. This compares with 14.2 per million for a first dose. The risk of death from TTS is further reduced. If you received your first dose of AZ vaccine without developing TTS, you are even less likely to get it with the second dose.

That's why health authorities recommend people who safely received their first dose of Astra-Zeneca vaccine have their second dose and protect themselves optimally.

The goal is full vaccination

The best way out of this pandemic is to ensure everyone is vaccinated as quickly as possible. Full protection kicks in about two weeks after completing vaccination.

#### Limiting each dose and

delivering it twice generally leads to better and longer-lasting immune responses than a single dose. Just like your own memory, which improves by repeated viewing or listening with a break in between, our immune memory generally improves with repeated exposure to something it needs to protect us against.

While one dose offers some protection, it's not as high as two doses. And we don't know how long the protection from one dose will last.

Right now, a second dose of AstraZeneca vaccine is ready and waiting for everyone who had their first dose 12 weeks ago. So if you're eligible, get both doses of the vaccine brand available to you, rather than settling for second-best and incomplete protection.

> By Arrangement with The Conversation

# LIFE & TIMES

# Tuesday 29-06-2021 KASHMIR OBSERVER

# Powerful people less likely to be understanding when mistakes are made: Study

#### Agencies

ccording to a new study, those with power, such as the wealthy are more likely to blame others for having shortcomings and they are also less troubled by reports of inequality.

The findings of the study were published in the journal 'Social Psychological and Personality Science'. The research was led by the University of California San Diego's Rady School of Management.

The study defines power as control over valuable resources. The paper found that people in positions of power are more likely to adopt a "choice-mindset," which means that although they have more choices (the definition of power in many cases) they still see others with less power as having lots of choices, regardless of their situation.

Consequently, high-power individuals are more likely to blame others if they perform poorly and they are also more likely to punish them.

"Being in a choice-mindset changes how individuals think, feel and behave," said Yidan Yin, the first author of the paper and recent PhD graduate from the Rady School.

"Compared to low-power people, high-power people are less likely to be aware of others' constraints. As a result they assign more blame when people make mistakes or have shortcomings. Thus, they see the current hierarchy as more justified." added Yin.

The results from the research were derived from three different studies the authors conducted to replicate the findings in different settings.

Research findings hold up in three robust study settings

The first study was conducted via a survey in which the researchers measured the sense of power of 363 members of the general public recruited through the platform Prolific.

They also asked the participants to complete a separate survey, claiming it was unrelated, in which they were crowdsourcing how to resolve a human resources issue at the university. The survey explained that their academic department was weighing whether to give an administrative assistant a bonus though they had missed a deadline on a big project due to conflicting priorities.

The survey participants who measured as having a greater sense of power overwhelming responded the administrative assistant did not deserve the bonus and that their excuses were without merit.

The second study was conducted with the platform Amazon Mechanical Turk involving 393 members of the general public who were randomly assigned to roles as supervisors and subordinates in completing various tasks. Though the assigned ranks were random, supervisors were told they earned the role for their proficiencies and subordinates were told they were designated as such because they were outperformed by supervisors.

The two groups had to judge the performance of an anonymous individual, who by

design, made mistakes in completing their tasks. Once again, the researchers found that those with a greater sense of power (supervisors) were harsher, less understanding with their judgment and recommended punishment more than subordinates.

The third study was done in a lab with UC San Diego undergraduates and mirrored the second experiment. The main difference was that both supervisors and subordinates knew that the target person they had to judge had the rank of a subordinate and therefore less choices. The results from the first two studies held up with subjects that had more power assigning more blame and recommending more punishment.

"Each study was designed to build on the others," Yidan and co-author Pamela K. Smith, associate professor of economics and strategic management at the Rady School wrote. "In study one, we were mea-

suring power, in study two, we manipulated power and in study three, we created a world in which the judges knew the target person had less power and less choices. We wanted to see if the perceptions remained consistent in all three settings. It was a combination of replication and adding these additional twists and turns," Yidan and K. Smith further wrote.

Implications for more equitable public policy and workplace environments

The results from the study have significant implications for public policy, according to the authors.

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Hence Objections if any are invited from all and Sunday to the aforesaid claim ,by or before next date of hearing I.e07-07-21 falling which matter shall be determined on merits Issued under my hand seal of the court on 28/06/21

Principal District judge RNA

#### مضمون كاغذات درخوات منجانب بربان الاسلام وعدنا دانی ساکنه موضع راجواره بمرادعطا گی RBA<sup>:</sup> اشتهار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص معامله مندجه عنوان الصدر ميں درخواست سائل دفتر مذامير پٹواری حلقہ سےر پورٹ بشمولہر ریکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس . راجوره میں رہایش پذیر ہے اور تسمبہ بذیل افر د پر محمه مقبول وانى ولدمحه يوسف دكاندارى 48 <u>گھریلوکام</u> حبينه بيكم زوجه محمد مقبول 45 ز رتعلیم ز رتعلیم فيضان ااسلام يسر 23 18 مدنان الاسلام بربان الاسلام 17 س کےعلادہ' کوئی افراد تہمہ نہیں ہےسائل کے کمیہ کی ہے سرٹفیکیٹ اجرا کرنے میں اگرکسی شخص کوکئی عذریا ا عتراض ساتھ یوم اندردفتر ہذامیں پیش کرے معیاد گر۔ قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا sultr اظهارتعزيت ا نالتٰد وًا نا البرّراجع بهم جناب مرحوم بشير احمد سلطان ولدمحد قاسم سلطان ساكية عشائي بار غانواد بے خصوصاً محمد عمران سلطان ، مد پر حسین سلطان ،اور دامادگلزا سلیت پیش کرتے ہیںاوران کےاس دلخراش غم میں برابر کے شر للد تعالى مرحوم كوكروث كروث جنت اورلواحقين كوصبرجميل عطافر دعاگو\_\_

JBLIC NOTICE

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**UMMAR ALI KHAN** 

Mansar Samba (Party no ist) as

lina, Srinagar on 05-07-2021 at 09:00 AM



transferor (seller) owner of the

vehicle HUV Truck bearing registration No Jk03B

0501(commercial /non-commercial) covering under R/p No 1320/Gc/ ANG and MrZahoor Ahmad Wani S/o MohdAkramWani R/o WayunPampore (party no 2<sup>nd</sup>) as transferee (purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted vehicle from party ni 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> and cancellation of hire purchase agreement with

Before the case is disposed off on its merits, anybody having any objection regarding the proposed transfer may file his objection within 7 days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned .No any representation /objection shall be entertained after sitipulated period.

No: 7033/ARTO/Ang

Dated : 28/06/21Assistant Regional Transport

Officer Anantnag

## THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (BOPEE)

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar): 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in E-mail: coejakbopee@gmail.com/helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com

Subject:-Extension of date for submission of online Application Forms for Common Entrance Test (CET) for Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing Course 2021.

Reference:-Notification No.065-BOPEE of 2021 dated 09-06-2021.

Notice No. 054-BOPEE of 2021 Dated: 26-06-2021

It is notified for information of all such eligible interested candidates who are willing to apply for admission to Common Entrance Test (CET) for Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing Course 2021 that the Board has decided to extend the last date for submission of online Application Forms for the said courses from 26-06-2021 to 12-07-2021 (mid-night).

The other terms and conditions shall remain the same as notified in the e-information Brochure and the Notification No. 065-BOPEE of 2021 dated 09-06-2021. E&OE

HE J & K BOARD U

No. BOPEE/Exam-16/2021 Dated: 26-06-2021

DIPK-NB-1437/21 Sd/- (Dr. Sunil Gupta) Controller of Examinations **J&K BOPEE** 

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# 09 KASHMIR OBSERVER

# Sri Lanka Cricketers Suspended For Bio-Bubble Breach In England



#### Press Trust of India

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) on Monday suspended three players, including batsman Kusal Mendis and wicketkeeper Niroshan Dickwella, for breaching the bio-bubble during their ongoing tour of England and ordered their immediate return to the country.

The two, along with opener Danushka Gunathilaka, were seen roaming the streets of Durham after the final T20 international on Sunday night, which Sri Lanka lost by a massive 89 runs.

All three players were a part of the playing XI in the game.

"Sri Lanka Cricket executive Committee has suspended Kusal Mendis, Danushka Gunathilaka & Niroshan Dickwella for breaching the bio- bubble and they will be

immediately recalled to Sri Lanka," SLC secretary Mohan De Silva said in a statement.

Reacting to the video, which was posted by a Sri Lankan fan, SLC chief Shammi Silva said, "an investigation is underway as they have breached the (code of) conduct."

Sri Lanka went down 0-3 in the T20 series that ended on Sunday. This was the island nation's fifth straight series loss in T20 internationals since October 2020.

The defeat led to former greats such as Sanath Jayasuriya, Muttiah Muralitharan, Roshan Mahanama, Hashan Thilakaratne and Tillekaratne Dilshan expressing dismay at the poor performance. Sri Lanka will play the first of

three ODIs with England tomorrow at Chester le Street

# **England Vs Sri Lanka** Match Referee Tests **Positive For COVID-19**

#### **Press Trust of India**

LONDON: Phil Whitticase, the match referee who officiated in the three-match T20I series between England and Sri Lanka, has tested positive for COVID-19, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said on Sunday.

The 56-year-old is asymptomatic and will now isolate himself for 10 days. No members of the two teams were impacted.

"Following a PCR test administered on Friday 25 June at the Ageas Bowl, Southampton, ICC Match Referee Phil Whitticase has tested positive for COVID-19," the ECB said in a statement. "Whitticase, who was officiating during the three-match Vitality IT20 Series between England and Sri Lanka, is well and is asymptomatic.

"He will now observe a period of 10-days of self-isolation from 25 June, in accordance with the UK Government's protocol on quarantine."

There are, however, no threats to the opening ODI of the threematch series between the two teams at Chester-le-Street scheduled for June 29.

"Alternative arrangements will be put in place to ensure Tuesday's ODI goes ahead as planned," the ECB said.

"Seven other members from the match officials and anti-corruption unit teams were deemed close contacts, including five members due to officiate at the first ODI on Tuesday, 29 June at Emirates Riverside, Durham.

"Those impacted will have to self-isolate for 10-days until July 7. No members of the two teams were impacted," the statement said. England won the T20I series against Sri Lanka 3-0.

Sensational Rahi Grabs Gold At Shooting World Cup

# T20 World Cup Shifted From India To UAE, Confirms BCCI President Ganguly

held in Muscat, which will give

ideal time to the pitches in UAE

to freshen up after 31 remaining

games of IPL are held till October 15.

UAE, it was a foregone conclusion

that the T20 World Cup will move

too given the looming concerns

about a possible third wave of CO-

VID-19 infection around that time.

wave in April-May with scarcity of es-

sential medical supplies adding to the

horror that unfolded with over 4 lakh

an eight-team IPL in September,

how could it have hosted World

T20 within a month? Also now we

have a new variant (Delta 3) and

there is every possibility of a third

aware that it won't be practically

feasible," an ICC board member told

PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"The BCCI brass was always well

Also, India is on the 'Red List' of

It is also understood that most

countries like England and Austra-

lia and travelling could be an issue

if the rules are not relaxed by then.

wave in the country in October.

"If the BCCI is unable to host

daily cases at the peak of the crisis.

India was ravaged by the second

Once the IPL was shifted to the

Tuesday | 29.06.2021

#### Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The T20 World Cup scheduled to be held in India is being shifted to the UAE owing to the health safety concerns posed by COVID-19, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly told PTI on Monday, ending weeks of speculation surrounding the mega-event in October-November.

"We have officially intimated the ICC that the T20 World Cup can be shifted to the United Arab Emirates. The details are being chalked out," Ganguly said.

"The decision was taken keeping health safety concerns of all stakeholders in mind," he added. The BCCI will, however, remain the hosts of the showpiece.

Asked if October 17 has been finalised as the start date of the tournament, Ganguly said: "We will be able to finalise itinerary details in some days. October 17 start hasn't yet been finalised." Even an ICC spokesperson con-

firmed that the global body is yet to zero in on a final schedule. The ICC, at the start of the

month, had given BCCI a fourweek window to decide and inform whether India could host the marquee event considering the COVID-19 situation in the country. PTI was first to report on May 4 that the tournament was being

shifted to the UAE. This was after the pandemic forced the postponement of IPL, the second part of which is also

being held in the UAE in September-October It was a foregone conclusion that India will find it difficult to host a 16-country tournament across nine cities with so many layers of health

security concerns being there. In fact, the ICC had already started its preparations and logistics for the tournament which will be held in Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi.



of the member nations were comfortable playing the IPL in the UAE after multiple cases of bubble breach happened during the postponed edition in India.

Also the 2020 IPL in the UAE was a humongous success with a tight bio-bubble.

The BCCI was also mulling if Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Pune could host a three-city event with the final at the Narendra Modi Stadium. But there were several complications on that front too.

"Pakistan playing in Mumbai or Pune would have always been an issue. So there were multiple factors. In IPL, multiple players got infected by COVID-19, you can have good replacements.

"But what about the weaker teams? What if they lose five or six top players? They won't have ready replacements," the source reasoned

The Indian team, with its T20 players, will reach Dubai from Manchester on September 15 aboard a charter flight to play in the IPL.

It will be based in the country for close to two months till the second week of November when the T20 World Cup ends.

# **Euro 2020 Elimination Caps Lackluster Season For Cristiano Ronaldo**



#### Agencies

SEVILLE: Cristiano Ronaldo was slowly walking off the field when Romelu Lulaku came over to give him a hug. The two embraced for a few moments, with Lukaku speaking into the Portugal great's ear. Ronaldo politely thanked him, but quickly made his way back to the tunnel.

He wasn't in much of a chatting mood. While Lukaku was moving on to the European Championship quarterfinals with Belgium, Ronaldo was heading home after a disappointing end to his tournament – and to his season.

There was no repeat European title. There was no world scoring record. And there probably won't be a player of the year award, either.

The 36-year-old Ronaldo capped a lackluster season in Portugal's 1-0 loss to Belgium in the round of 16 at Euro 2020 on Sunday.

Even though he scored more than 40 goals with his club and his country, his numbers were far from impressive by his standards. He failed to win the Italian league with Juventus, where his future remains uncertain with his contract ending next year. His only

titles in 2021 came in the Italian Cup and the Italian Super Cup. Ronaldo got off to a fantastic start at Euro 2020, though, scoring five goals in the first three matches to move level with former Iran striker Ali Daei as the men's alltime top scorer with 109 goals.

If he kept scoring, and if Portugal stayed on track for another title, he could have been back in the conversation for player of the year. It didn't happen. Ronaldo

threw his captain's armband to the ground after the final whistle against Belgium, then was one of the first to walk off.

Portugal had several chances throughout the match at La Cartuja Stadium in Seville, but Ronaldo himself wasn't much of a threat. He had a few chances off free kicks in each half, and with a shot from inside the area near the end of the match.

Ronaldo was backed by a talented Portugal squad that included Bernardo Silva, Bruno Fernandes and Diogo Jota, among others. But they also faltered in attack on Sunday, and Thorgan Hazard's first-half goal ended up being enough to send Belgium to the quarterfinals.

Portugal lost at the same stage at the 2018 World Cup, two years after winning its first major title at Euro 2016. The team's other triumph was winning the inaugural Nations League in 2019.

"It's a big disappointment for us because we believed we could win, like we did in 2016," Portugal coach Fernando Santos said.

"But there are things to look forward to. In 2018, we were eliminated as well but then in 2019 we won the Nations League. Now we will try to win the World Cup (in 2022)."

Ronaldo will be 37 by then, and most likely will already have broken the international scoring record. For now, he could still take solace from having a chance to finish as the top scorer at Euro 2020. He remains the tournament's leading scorer with five goals, one more than Patrick Schick of the Czech Republic, who has advanced to the quarterfinals.

# **Tour de France Spectators Blamed For Two Huge Crashes, Police Investigates**

#### Agencies

PERROS-GUIREC: A roadside spectator holding a cardboard sign caused a massive pile-up during the first stage of the Tour de France, which left several top iders being held up on Saturday while another huge pileup with 7.5 km left brought down Chris Froome and others. In the first crash, German Tony Martin was sent tumbling when he rode straight into the sign, which said "Allez Opi-Omi" (Come on granddad-granny, in a mix of French and German) amid scenes of chaos with 47 km left. Overall contenders Tao Geoghegan Hart of Britain, as well as Colombian Miguel Angel Lopez, were among the riders being held up and lost considerable time on the opening day of the three-week race. Belgian Wout van Aert, one of the favourites for the stage win, was also slowed down but made it back to the main bunch after a long effort, just like eventual stage winner Julian Alaphilippe, who had blood dripping from his knee when he crossed the line.

It's nice to see the fans back on the side of the road, but please be careful," said Alaphilippe.

German Jasha Suetterlin of Team DSM was consequently the first rider to abandon the race after being sent to the ground by the crash. The second crash

'Second-String' India Squad **Arrives In Sri Lanka For ODI Series** 



# **SPORTS**



#### **Press Trust of India**

**OSIJEK:** Olympic-bound Rahi Sarnobat displayed sensational form to clinch the women's 25m pistol gold medal at the ISSF shooting World Cup here on Monday but teen sensation Manu Bhaker ended seventh in the same event.

Sarnobat's gold is India's first in the ongoing edition after the country secured one silver and two bronze medals earlier in the tournament.

The 30-year-old Sarnobat fired a final score of 39 after qualifying second with a total of 591. Her stupendous performance in the final included perfect scores in the third, fourth, fifth and the sixth series.

"After I got assurance about the gold, it was more about technicalities for me in the last few series as I wanted to try out a few things so I was doing that," she said about her stellar performance.

"This competition was absolutely not about performance or medal because I was trying out a few things which I am going to do in the Olympic Games and this is the final competition before that.

"It was more about trying out things and finalising every thing before the Olympics for the last time and that was just that," she added.

Nonetheless, winning a gold here has given Sarnobat the belief that her preparations are on the right track for the Tokyo Games.

"...I have to keep working on this up to and after the Olympic Games as well," she said.

The silver went to France's Mathilde Lamolle, who scored 31 in the final. Rio Olympics silver-medallist in the 10m air pistol, Russian Vitalina Batsarashkina, won bronze with 28 hits, bowing out after the ninth five-shot series

In the qualification, Sarnobat fired a brilliant 296 in the rapid fire round on Monday. Her precision score was an equally impressive 295 on Sunday.

Bhaker recorded a total of 588 to qualify third after firing a 296 in the rapid fire round on Monday following an impressive 292 in the precision round on Sunday.

However, she was eliminated early in the final with a disappointing score of 11, losing a shoot-off to Bulgaria's Viktoria Chaika.

There was disappointment for India in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions competition as both Tejaswini Sawant and Anjum Moudgil failed to make the finals.

Sawant ended 20th in qualification with a score of 1168, while Moudgil was further down at 32nd after firing 1162. The top eight shooters from qualification make the final cut.

Earlier in the tournament, Bhaker had teamed up with Saurabh Chaudhary for the 10m air pistol mixed team silver.

She had earlier clinched the women's 10m air pistol team bronze with Sarnobat and Yashaswini Deswal. Before that, Chaudhary had won

the men's 10m air pistol individual bronze medal. This is the last competitive outing for the Olympicbound shooters, who will go to Tokyo after their stint here.



Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal from

Ruturaj Gaikwad and rookie pacer

Chetan Sakariya expectedly feature

in the side that also has two wick-

et-keeper batsmen in the young Is-

A day prior to the departure, Dha-

According to the Sri Lanka

wan had said that this was "a nice

Cricket website, the Indian team

will be in room quarantine from

June 29 to July 1 and then there

will be phased out training from

han Kishan and Sanju Samson.

blend of experience and youth."

Young guns like Devdutt Pa-

the senior lot.

#### Press Trust of India

**COLOMBO:** The India white-ball team led by Shikhar Dhawan, featuring as many as six uncapped players, arrived here from Mumbai for their four-week tour which will feature six limited overs games against Sri Lanka, starting July 13. Senior all-rounder Hardik Pandya

shared an Instagra story captioned: "Touchdown, Sri Lanka, Colombo." The Dhawan-led team will play three ODIs and three T20 Interna-

tionals in the island nation. With regular skipper Virat Kohli and the red ball side, currently tour-

ing England, Dhawan will have pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar as his deputy. The BCCI had named a 20-member squad for the Sri Lanka tour July 2 to 4 and subsequently team that has all-rounder Hardik Pantraining from July 5. dya and the spin duo of Kuldeep

They will also play intra-squad simulated games for better idea.

Squad: Shikhar Dhawan (Capdikkal, Prithvi Shaw, Nitish Rana, tain), Prithvi Shaw, Devdutt Padikkal, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Suryakumar Yadav, Manish Pandey, Hardik Pandya, Nitish Rana, Ishan Kishan (wicket-keeper), Sanju Samson (wicket-keeper), Yuzvendra Chahal, Rahul Chahar, K Gowtham, Krunal Pandya, Kuldeep Yadav, Varun Chakravarthy, Bhuvneshwar Kumar (Vice-captain), Deepak Chahar, Navdeep Saini, Chetan Sakariya.

Net Bowlers: Ishan Porel, Sandeep Warrier, Arshdeep Singh, Sai Kishore, Simarjeet Singh.

"I hope everyone is OK. I'm calling on the fans to be careful.

down Froome and many others including Marc Haller, Andre Greipel and Ion Izagirre as bikes were sent flying to the side of the road.

Froome climbed back on his bike after being attended to by a race doctor but looked in considerable pain when he crossed the line 14:37 behind Alaphilippe.

The Briton, a four-time Tour champion, was back on the race after missing the last two editions following a horrific crash in June 2019.

Even before the crash he had little hope of winning the race, having failed to recover his best form. Meanwhile the French police on Sunday said they were still looking for the spectator with the cardboard sign.

"The Landerneau police are investigating and we haven't heard back from them yet," Tour deputy director Pierre-Yves Thouault said. The statement came after the organisers ASO filed a lawsuit against the unidentified spectator.

#### BWF Cancels India Open, Hyderabad Open; Shifts Sudirman Cup & World Tour Finals From China

#### **Press Trust of India**

NEW DELHI: The India Open Super 500 and Hyderabad Open Super 100 tournaments were on Monday cancelled by the Badminton World Federation (BWF), which announced a revamped international calender to salvage the remaining season affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The USD 400,000 India Open, which was supposed to be one of the qualifiers for the Tokyo Olympics, was scheduled to be held from May 11 to 16 but was postponed in April due to rising COVID cases in the national capital. The USD 1,00,000 Hyderabad Open was slated to be held from August 24 to 29.

However, Syed Modi India International Super 300 tournament, scheduled to be held in Lucknow from October 12 to 17. remained on course as of now, according to the new calender. "A number of tournaments pre-

viously classified as postponed from Q1 and Q2 or originally slated for Q3 and Q4 of 2021 have subse-



quently been cancelled," BWF said in a statement.

nals will be staged in Indonesia.

In other announcements, the world body on Monday said that Finland will host the Sudirman Cup

meant it is not feasible to conduct tournaments in China this year. Therefore, alternative host cities have been identified for the TotalEnergies BWF Sudirman Cup Finals 2021 and the HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2021," BWF said.

"Vantaa, Finland is the new host of the TotalEnergies BWF Sudirman Cup Finals 2021 in Week 39 (26 September 3 October 2021)."

Action will then shift to Denmark which will host the Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2020 in Aarhus (October 9-17), which was postponed last year. It will be followed by back-toback World Tour events -- DANISA Denmark Open in Odense (October 19-24), YONEX French Open in Paris (October 26-31) and SaarLorLux Open in Saarbr cken, Germany (November 2-7)

The governing body will then create a bio-bubble in Indonesia, similar to Thailand, to host a threetournament Asian Leg in Bali, including the World Tour Finals.

The Indonesia Masters and Indonesia Open will be held from November 16-21 and November 23-28, followed by the World Tour Finals from December 1-5.

"The final tournament of the calendar year will be the TotalEnergies BWF World Championships in Huelva, Spain in Week 50 (12-19 De-

cember 2021)." the world body said. Talking about the new calender, BWF secretary general Thomas Lund said: "...we have been able to work with the Badminton Association of Indonesia (PBSI) to present a comprehensive plan for a threeweek bubble-style setup in Bali similar to what we saw at the Asian Leg in Bangkok earlier this year.

'...Unfortunately, though, we won't be able to conduct any tournaments in China, and therefore won't be able to host the HSBC BWF World Tour Finals in its spiritual home in Guangzhou."

"We are also very grateful to Badminton Finland for coming to us with a solution to stage the TotalEnergies BWF Sudirman Cup Finals 2021 in Vantaa instead of in China.

"We also thank those hosts who have committed to this new plan and accommodated any necessary changes, including the Spanish Badminton Federation which has agreed to push back the TotalEnergies BWF World Championships by two weeks," he added.

be held in Spain, by two weeks. Finals in September-October while

try due to COVID-19 restrictions. The apex body also decided to push the prestigious World Championships, to "COVID-19 restrictions have

the season-ending World Tour Fi-China was scheduled to host both the Sudirman Cup Final and the World Tour Finals but BWF decided to move both the events out of the coun-

# NEWS

# LG Reviews Functioning Of J&K Sports Council, YSS Department

SRINAGAR: Giving special impetus on the involvement of more youth in sports activities, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday set this year's target for the Department of Youth Services & Sports and J&K Sports Council for engaging 17.5 lakh boys & girls from across the UT in different sports disciplines.

The Lt Governor was chairing a meeting to review the functioning of the Department of Youth Services & Sports and J&K Sports Council here at Civil Secretariat.

While taking a detailed assessment of the activities, achievements, and targets for 2021-22, the Lt Governor advised the concerned functionaries to encourage youth to take up sports by adopting multi-pronged strategy - developing Sports Infrastructure, conducting Sports Activities and imparting Training/Coaching; besides ensuring full utilization of the assets and the available human resources.

The chair was informed that

play-fields are being developed in 1628 panchayats and for the rest of the panchayats, school grounds will be utilized for the sporting activities for the time-being. The Lt Governor directed the Department of Youth Services & Sports for maintaining an inventory online, besides preparing the data of sports equipment distributed at various levels. Identify sportspersons working in different departments and rope them in for training and coaching purposes, the Lt Governor asked the Sports Council.

For the first time, J&K is going to host 17 National events in different sports disciplines with a target participation of around 12000 athletes from other States/ UTs, which will go a long way in promoting sports amongst the younger generation in the UT, remarked the Lt Governor. Laying special emphasis on in-

volving more youth from sensitive and rural areas, the Lt Governor asked the officials to link the

youth engagement activities in

these areas with Youth clubs. On being informed that a total of 6,27,166 sportspersons had participated in 2020-21 under Departmental Activities; Back To Village-3; Trekking; My Town My Pride; 24th National Youth Festival; Snow Skiing and Fit India, Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, the Lt Governor asked the Youth Services and Sports Department to prepare a database of the sportspersons participating in various sports activities being organized by the department. Identify more trekking routes and put the details on the official website for the public view, he added. Stressing on extending all the basic amenities to the sportspersons, the Lt Governor called for putting a dedicated focus on the up-gradation of existing infrastructure with facilities like drinking water, change room, approach road, seating arrangement, parking etc.

On IEC activities on Covid-19 pandemic, the Lt Governor asked the department to run a vibrant campaign regarding Vaccination and Covid Appropriate Behaviour. In order to facilitate the Sports coaches and sportspersons (above 18 years), the Lt Governor directed for their inclusion in priority groups for vaccination.

He further asked the department to set a self-target for rejuvenating important water bodies of J&K. The Lt Governor asked the Sports department to continue providing sustained handholding to the young budding sportspersons of the UT and lay a solid platform for them to display their talent at higher level.

Taking serious note of delays in projects, the Lt Governor passed strict directions for the completion of all projects within the set timelines. He further instructed for completion of all sanctioned PMDP projects by the end of this year.

# KASHMIR OBSERVER **<** 10

# HC Quashes 3 PSA **Detention Orders**

#### **Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Monday quashed detention order under Public Safety Act (PSA) against three detainees and ordered their release from custody "forthwith"

A bench of Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey quashed the detection orders against Assadullah

Bhat of Dadsara Tral district Pulwama (at present Chattabal Srinagar), Majid Ahmad Bhat of Karimabad Tehsil Pulwama and Javaid Ahmad Bhat of Khanu Babagund in Kralgund Kupwara.

Majid and Assadullah were booked under PSA on the orders by District Magistrate Pulwama on 9 and 11 November 2020 respectively while Javaid was detained under the legislation on the orders by District Magistrate Kupwara



on 19 October 2019. All of them had challenged the detention orders among other grounds on non-communication of the ground of detention.

"So far as the ground taken i.e non communication of the grounds of detention is concerned, perusal of file reveals, that there is nothing to show or suggest that the grounds of detention couched in English language were explained to the (detainees) in a language understood by him, as there is no material to that effect on record," the court said. Subsequently, the court quashed the detention or-

der against all three of them with the direction to release them forthwith. (GNS)

## **Teenager Tourist Dies While Taking Selfie**

SRINAGAR: A teenage girl from Uttar Pradesh died while attempting to click a selfie in the tourist resort of Doodhpathri in central Kashmir's Budgam district.

14-year-old Arohi Morya and her 26-year-old sister Anmol, daughters of Ramesh Singh from Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow city slipped into Shali Ganga stream on Monday while taking selfies, a police officer told Kashmir Observer. While Anmol was rescued by the police and locals in injured condition and rushed to the hospital in Khansahib for treatment, her sister Arohi could not make it out alive from the gushing waters.

"Unfortunately, one of the two sisters died of drowning while the second one was rescued by the timely action of police and locals. She was shifted to Khansahib hospital and later SMHS hospital for treatment," the officer added.

The women, he said, were on a day visit to the famous tourist resort with their family.

#### **Afghan Parliamentarian** Calls On LG

SRINAGAR: Ms. Naheed A. Farid, Member of Afghanistan Parliament on Monday called on Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha here at Raj Bhavan, an official spokesperson said.

Ms. Farid discussed with the Lt Governor about various issues of public importance, he said, adding that the visiting Parliamentarian also shared her views on the present development scenario of Jammu & Kashmir.

#### **Baby Dies Of Electric Shock**

SRINAGAR: A thirteen-month-old baby girl died of electric shock on Monday in south Kashmir's Shopian district. 13-month old Zaira Nazir, daughter of Nazir Ahmad received a shock after she came in contact with a live wire while playing at her residence in Landoora village of Shopian district on Monday afternoon, officials said. The baby succumbed minutes after she was admitted to the hospital.

### J&K Bank Directed Not To Release **Payments Of Unvaccinated Beneficiaries In Kupwara Village**

**Observer News Service** 

KUPWARA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara. Imam Din Monday directed the officers to intensify the door to door vaccination drive and ensure the achievement of the target within the stipulated time frame. He directed the Manager J&K Bank Vilgam to stop the payment to beneficiaries without vaccination certificate.

He also asked all the stakeholders to support the vaccination drive to ensure

pandemic from the district. He also visited various areas of the district to take stock of the ongoing vaccination

complete eradication of Covid

process. During the visit, the DC inspected vaccination centres established at Gushi, Kralpora and Ramhal block.

At Ramhal, the DC chaired a joint meeting of officers, field functionaries and PRIs in which thorough awareness was provided regarding benefits of vaccination and intensifying of vaccination drive.

Man Ends Life In Kulgam; Woman, **Teenage Girl Attempt Suicide In Sopore** 

#### **Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: A 40-year-old man committed suicide after consuming some poisonous substance in Kulgam, while a woman and a teenage girl attempted to end their lives in Nothr Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Officials said that a man (name withheld) son of Asadullah Bhat, a resident of YK Pora Kulgam died after consuming poison at his home.

They said after consuming poison, family members shifted him to hospital where doctors declared him brought dead.

Police have taken cognisance of the incident and registered a

case to investigate the reason. Meanwhile, in North Kashmir's Sopore town, a woman and a teenage girl attempted to end their lives by consuming poison at their homes. Officials said that a woman (name withheld) wife of Muhammad Ramzan Bhat, a resident of Check Shutloo Rafiabad was shifted to GMC Baramulla after she

attempted suicide. She is undergoing treatment at GMC Baramulla. An 18-year-old girl (name with-held) daughter of Akbar Malla attempted suicide at Tarzoo Sopore. The girl is also undergoing treatment at GMC Baramulla.

Police have taken cognisance of both incidents and registered cases. (Agencies)

### J&K Logs Lowest 259 Cases, 6 Deaths

#### Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 259 coronavirus cases Monday, taking the total number of infections to 3,14,990, while six deaths pushed the toll to 4,310, officials said. Out of the fresh cases, 90 were from the Jammu division and 169 from the Kashmir division of the union territory, they said. They said Srinagar district recorded the highest 64 cases, followed by 31 in Kupwara district. The number of active cases has dropped to 4,996 in the union territorv. while 3,05,684 patients have recovered so far, the officials said. The death toll in the union territory due to the pandemic rose to 4,310 as six patients died in the past 24 hours.

Meanwhile, the officials said, there were 29 confirmed cases of Mucormycosis (black fungus) in the union territory as no fresh case was reported since last evening.

#### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### **Soldiers Foil**

of troops," he said, adding the security forces are on high alert and the search operation is in progress.

The officials said the whole area outside the military station was cordoned off immediately and a massive search operation was going on when the last reports were received.

Nothing objectionable has been found on the ground so far, the officials said.

The latest incident comes hours after a drone, in a first-of-its kind strike, dropped two bombs at Indian Air Force (IAF) station here, causing minor s to two personn

"As the encounter raged on, two more CRPF men, including an Sub-Inspector Shivam Kumar of quick reaction team (QRT) got wounded. Both of them were removed to the army's Badamibagh cantonment hospital for treatment," the officer said, adding "The militants also declined surrender offer and engaged the search team in a gun-battle.

Pertinently, the encounter broke out nearly an hour after police claimed a big success by arresting Lashkar-e-Taiba's commander Nadeem Abrar in the nearby area of Parimpora.

According to the police officer, two militants, including a Pakistani are beeved to be trapped in the area "We suspected Lashkar militant Junaid was hiding in the house. If we are successful in eliminating him, it will be a huge blow to the outfit as he's considered to be the backbone of the militant organization," the police officer added. However, he quickly added that the holed-up militants were possibly carrying huge cache arms and ammunition with them. The police officer further said that the arrest of LeT commander and the encounter in Maloora were indicating that the militants were planning a big strike against state forces. Meanwhile, gunshots continue to rattle the area when the last reports came in. Many civilians, as per reports have also been evacuated by the joint forces as the encounter has intensified. The army also joined the anti-miliAhmad, his wife and their 23-year-old daughter. It is a dastardly, inhuman act and a blot on the security scenario in Kashmir," the NC said on its Twitter handle.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said no words were strong enough to condemn the cowardly attack.

"No words are strong enough to condemn the cowardly attack in Awantipora that claimed the lives of a JKP officer Fayaz Ahmad, his wife and daughter. May Allah Ta'aala grant them maghfirat and their loved ones the fortitude to bear this loss (sic)," Mufti tweeted.

Peoples Conference (PC) chairman aiad I one said the news of the killing was "extremely distressing" and called the perpetrators "thugs of violence".

held at the alliance's chairperson Farooq Abdullah's residence in Gupkar area of the city at 11 am.

Earlier, the PAGD spokesperson had said the meeting will discuss the allparty meet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on June 24, and the way forward for the alliance. PTI

#### LG Launches the working of the Administration,

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday launched the portal developed by the J&K Housing Board here at

Civil Secretariat. Speaking on the occasion, the LG, as per an official spokesperson said that

the process of availing Building permission online by Srinagar Municipal Corporation" the official spokesperson said.

He further said that Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department briefed the chair about the services provided to the residents of 18 colonies under its administrative control in an efficient and transparent manner.

"He informed that the portal will cater to around 14500 allotees in 18 colonies of the J&K Housing Board in Jammu, Srinagar, Udhampur, Kathua, Reasi, Bijbehara and Baramulla including 210 shops, 380 commercial sites and 429 flats and will be applicable to the colonies being administered by the JDA and SDA in due course. He also mentioned that the process flow of the application for availing the services being provided by the J&K Housing Board has been squeezed to three levels against the existing twelve levels," he added.

However, respecting the sentiments of the devotees, the Shrine Board has arranged live telecast of the morning and evening Aarti from the Holy Cave shrine, besides all the traditional religious rituals shall be performed at the Holy Cave Shrine as per past practice," he added.

The official spokesperson further said that the J&K government has taken a slew of measures to reduce the spread of infection and every arrangement has been made to ensure that the Covid Appropriate Behaviour is being followed during Aarti and other rituals.

"Let us resolve to effectively deal with the pandemic by following Covid guidelines and work towards furthering human welfare," Sinha said, as per official spokesperson. He further said that both morning telecast of Aarti at 6 AM and evening Aarti at 5 PM. each for 30 minutes, is to be live-streamed on Shri Amarnath ji Shrine board official website and the app specifically dedicated for the devotees. "The devotees can pay their virtual obeisance to the Holy Ice Lingam online through the Shrine Board's link www.shriamarnathjishrine.com/ AartiLive.html. The same may also be streamed through the Shrine Board's mobile based application which may be downloaded through the link http://play.google.com/store/apps/ details?id=com.ncog.shriamarnath from the Google play store," he added.

The military station at Kaluchak has been on high alert ever since the 2002 attack. Thirty-one people, including three military personnel, 16 Army family members -- women and children -- and 11 civilians were killed in the attack. Forty eight people, including 13 Army personnel, 20 Army family members and 15 civilians were injured

RDX Used In IAF Station Attack

A preliminary analysis of the payload carried by the two drones used in attacking the IAF station here Sunday indicates that a cocktail of chemicals including RDX may have been used, officials said Monday, with investigators yet to establish the flight path of the unmanned aerial vehicles.

The IAF station located at Jammu airport continued to remain out of bounds for all but probe teams, including one from the National Investigation Agency, which picked up every bit of evidence available on the ground.

The officials said the explosive material dropped by the drones might have been manufactured using a cocktail consisting of RDX but a final confirmation was still awaited.

#### **LeT Commander**

on the state forces. As per reports, a pistol and a grenade were recovered from Abrar, who is blamed by police for the killing three CRPF men in an ambush in Lawaypora area earlier this year. "Top LeT commander Nadeem Abrar arrested. He was involved in several killings. Big success for us," a police spokesperson quoted Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, Vijay

#### Kumar as saying.

#### **Encounter Breaks**

the joint team started advancing towards the suspected spot, the militants hiding in a residential house fired upon them in a bid to break their dragnet and escape from the besieged area.

The officer said that the forces returned the fire setting off an encounter. In the initial exchange of fire. he said, an Assistant Commandant Satender Kumar of CRPF 21 battalion was injured.

tancy operation when the last reports came in.

#### Slain SPOs

news agency GNS.

On Sunday night, suspected militants forced their entry into the house of Fayaz Ahmad (SPO) at Hariparigam area of Awantipora, and fired indiscriminately, injuring the trio.

Fayaz Ahmad died on way to hospital while his wife Raja Begum succumbed to the wounds at GMC Anantnag.

Police has already registered a case and started further investigation into the incident.

mainstream politi-Meanwhile, cal parties in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday condemned the killing, calling it "dastardly and cowardly" and a blot on the security scenario in the valley

"I unreservedly condemn the dastardly & cowardly militant attack on the J&K police SPO Fayaz Ahmed, his wife and his young daughter at their home last night. I pray they receive their place in Jannat and their loved ones find strength during this terrible time," National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah wrote on Twitter.

The NC called the incident a blot on the security scenario in Kashmir.

"JKNC unequivocally condemns the barbaric killing of ex-SPO Fayaz

"Woke up to extremely distressing news of violence. An entire family fell to bullets. No respite from these thugs of violence. May they rest in peace. May the family muster courage to bear this loss," Lone said in a tweet.

BJP's J&K spokesman Altaf Thakur also condemned the attack as cowardly and barbaric, saying barging into the house of a cop and killing him and his family members is nothing but a pure form of militancy.

"The act deserves the strongest condemnation and that those behind the act will meet the same fate. What was the fault of the innocent wife and daughter of the policeman? The killing (of) women is (in) no way bravery, but a pure cowardly attack which deserves the highest form of condemnation," Thakur said.

He expressed sympathies with the bereaved family and urged the police to bring the perpetrators of the crime to justice as soon as possible.

Senior CPI(M) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami said killing unarmed civilians cannot be justified in any way.

"Killing innocents, including women, is highly condemnable and such incidents have no place in the civilised world. Attacking civilians by the combatants is an act of cowardice and must be condemned by all in one voice," Tarigami said.

He said cycles of violence have been going on in Kashmir for the more than three decades, "but what has been achieved so far?"

"Whom does violence suit? There is a need to ponder over the persistent violence, and society must come out and express itself against such brutal acts of violence," he said.

He expressed condolences to the bereaved family.

#### **Gupkar Alliance**

Vice-Chairperson and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti.

"PAGD meeting which was scheduled for tomorrow is postponed because of personal engagement of Mtr Mehbooba Mufti," PAGD spokesperson M Y Tarigami said.

The meeting was scheduled to be

the initiative is aimed at simplifying the process, making delivery of services time-bound with accountability.

"He appreciated the functionaries of the Housing and Urban Development Department for bringing transformation in the functioning of the Housing board and asked for adopting the same for other departments as well," he said. Highlighting the key features of the

portal, Sinha, he said, observed that the complete data of all colonies has been authenticated, digitized, and hosted on cloud for security and ease of access with maximum time for delivery of any service capped at 21 days.

According to the official spokesperson, timelines have been fixed for the submission and approval of applications at various levels. At every level of processing of the application, the applicant will get the message (through SMS).

"The applicant will have option to clarify/ rebut the adverse proposal, if any, within the given time frame of three days at every level. Open file process is there to make the system more participatory and transparent through which an applicant can see and participate in decision making, first of its kind in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir," the LG said, as per official spokesperson.

"Now, the people can avail ser-vices like transfer of Leasehold Rights, transfer of Leasehold Rights to Freehold Rights, transfer of Leasehold Rights in favour of Legal Heirs of original Allottee/Transferee, extension of Leasehold Rights, transfer of Ownership Rights, transfer of Ownership Rights for Legal Heirs and transfer of Leasehold rights in favour of Legal Heirs of Attorney Holder through the portal which were being provided manually. Besides Online payment & SMS gateways were also provided to facilitate the people," he added.

Meanwhile, the LG directed the Housing Department to explore all the possibilities to develop Housing colony in Srinagar and laid special emphasis on bringing more transparency in the working of Municipal Corporations and Development Authorities.

"He further instructed for making

#### **Pays Obeisance**

"May the divine blessings of Lord Shiva ensure good health and happiness in everyone's life and bless us with strength to overcome the ongoing health crisis," prayed the LG.

The annual pilgrimage testifies to the tradition of the wonderful cultural syncretism of Jammu and Kashmir. But, considering the ongoing situation due to Covid-19 pandemic, Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra has been cancelled.

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# **Business**

# **Covid Relief: Economic Relief Measures Worth Over Rs 6 Lakh Cr**

**NEW DELHI:** The Centre on en once the visa issuance start. Monday announced eight economic relief measures for India manirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yo-Inc, state governments as well as micro finance credit users. Accordingly, Finance Min- ernment PF liability of employ-

ister Nirmala Sitharaman ees and employers depending announced relief measures on the size of the organisation. worth Rs 6,28,993 crore.

The schemes entail enhancement of existing relief Export Insurance Account (NEIA) measure such as ECGLS and worth Rs 33,000 crore for project support for state governments. exports from India.

Besides, a total of four new measures were announced to provide extended to ECGC (Export loans to micro finance credit users as well as tourism industry.

On exports, the FM announced support extended to National Similarly, support has been

Apart from these the At-

jana has been extended till

March 31, 2022 entailing gov-

Credit Guarantee Corporation of India) worth Rs 88,000 crore



nounced Rs 50,000 crore guaranteed loan for creation of medical infrastructure. She said that ECLGS scheme will

be enhanced by Rs 1.5 lakh crore. Furthermore, she announced ing PLI scheme has been exa Rs 1.1 lakh crore loan gurantee tended.

scheme for Covid affected sectors. She said that first 5 lakh come out with a new streamtourist visas will be issued free line policy for PPP and asset



scale electronics manufactur-In addition, the Centre will

of charge. This step will be tak- monetisation.--IANS

## **Twitter Interim Grievance Officer For India Quits**



**NEW DELHI:** Twitter's interim ing complaints from the users resident grievance officer for or victims. India has stepped down, leaving

the micro-blogging site without dia companies, with over 50 a grievance official as mandated lakh user base shall appoint a by the new IT rules to address grievance officer to deal with complaints from Indian sub-

All significant social me-

such complaints and share the



# **CS Reviews Employment Generation Avenues In J&K**

**KO NEWS DESK** 

**SRINAGAR:** The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Monday chaired a meeting to review the project-wise potential for employment generation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Administrative Secretaries of departments of Rural Development, Housing & Urban Development, Skill Development, Animal & Sheep Husbandry, Labour & Employment, Social Welfare, besides Chief Executive Officer, Mission Youth, Mission Director, Livelihood Mission and concerned officers participated in the meeting. The Chief Secretary asked

the departments to prioritize employment generation in the Union territory with a special focus on private sector jobs and self-employment opportunities. Reviewing PM Kashual Vikas Yojna, the Chief Secretary asked the Skill Development Department to train 20,000 youth in market-driven skills so that they can be linked with gainful em-

ployment in various sectors. It was informed that Mission Social Welfare Department to of the economy.

through various systematic interventions. The Department was asked to ensure convergence with other departments and establish forward and backward linkages with the skill training so as to provide end-to-end as-

sistance and required handholding to the job seekers and young entrepreneurs. The Animal & Sheep Husbandry Department was directed to take up the establishment of 1000 units each in animal (dairy) and sheep sectors, besides 500 fish-

ery units to engage approximately 15,000 people during 2021-22. Under UMEED, it was informed that J&K Rural Livelihood Mission has so far linked 46,000 self-help groups to financial institutions with 591 crore worth credit line. The Chief Secretary asked the Mission to target 44,000 self help groups, reaching out to approximately 2.20 lakh beneficiaries through social and financial mobilization, during this financial year. targeted coverage of unem-The Chief Secretary asked the

# **Samoon Chairs 15Th Governing Body Meeting Of FCI**

**KO NEWS DESK** 

SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department, Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon, on Monday chaired 15th governing body meeting of Food Craft In-stitute (FCI), Jammu.

Secretary in Skill Development Department, Nazim Zai Khan; Managing Director, JKTDC, Nisar Ahmed Wani; Director Plan-Parvaiz K ning Tourism akroo

Youth will be providing liveli- target extending highly subsi-hood opportunities to 50,000 dized loans to 5000 eligible benyouth of Jammu and Kashmir eficiaries from weaker sections of the society including SC, ST, OBC and women entrepreneurs. The Industries & Commerce

Department and J&K Khadi and Village Industries Board were directed to sponsor entrepreneurs under PM Employment Generation Programme and assess their functioning through a third party assessment as per the norms of the scheme.

The J&K Bank was asked to extend financial assistance to future entrepreneurs of J&K under the MSME sector, besides expediting sanction and disbursement of loans under various schemes in favour of sector-wise beneficiaries sponsored by respective departments. The J&K Bank was also asked to ensure timely disposal of sponsored cases.

The Chief Secretary asked the Labor & Employment Department to co-ordinate employment generation activities of various departments and ensure ployed youth in various sectors

affected sectors by the pandemic, and to encourage travel activities, the government on Monday said that it would offer tourist visa free of charge till March 31, 2022. As part of the financial relief

dustry, among the worst

s part of plan to provide industry which the government has accepted. The financial imhas accepted. The financial implication of the move is expected in the range of Rs 100 crore. The scheme will be applicable till March 31, 2022 or till 5,00,000 visas are issued, whichever is earlier. The benefit will also be available only

once per tourist. package for the travel industry, About 10.93 million foreign finance minister Sitharaman tourists visited India in 2019,



announced that once visa issuance is restarted, the first 5 lakh tourists' visas will be issued free of charge. She said that this has been

spent \$30.098 billion on leisure and business. Average daily stay for a foreign tourist in India is 21 days. Average daily spending of a tourist in India is

one of the demands of the travel around \$34 (Rs 2,400).--IANS

# **Foreign E-Commerce Companies Violated** Indian Laws: Piyush Goyal



ommerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has hit out at foreign ecommerce companies which are violating Indian laws. "Unfortunately, many of these large e-commerce companies have come into India and very blatantly violated the laws of the land, in more ways than one," Goyal said Policy and Economics Club.

using capital to the detriment of small shopkeepers in India. "I read several engagements with these large companies, particularly the American ones, and I can see tion Commission of India. The a little bit of an arrogance of their being big and their ability to finance large amounts of money in the initial stages to try and capture the Indian market or larger part of the Indian market, particularly certain products, to the detriment of mom and pop stores," he added. "And I think it's very unfair that just because they are large, they have large pools of capital..., they should be allowed to get away with hurting

a billion dollars, but then it got to a loss of nearly a billion dollars in the previous two years. So all they were doing was funding the losses there and this is what prompted me to say they're not doing us a favour, or they're not, it's not a great generosity to India that they're investing a billion dollars in India," Goyal said. He added that they have to invest it because they've used that money to do predatory pricing to probably subsidise some products that capture a larger share of the market.

"As I said to the detriment of the smaller retailers and smaller shops, and when questioned about it. They keep fobbing off, they keep delaying, giving you information. And when people complain to the Competition Commission of India, they immediately started hopping in the at an event by the Stanford India Law Courts of India. So trying to go to one court, you lose in that Goyal charged the American court, go to another court," Goy-

e-commerce companies with al said, referring to e-commerce companies taking CCI to court





# Kashmir Observer Tuesday | 29-06-2021 **Government To Give**

To 500,000 Travellers

**Tourist Visa Free Of Charge** 

scribers, according to a source.

The source said Dharmendra Chatur, who was recently appointed as interim resident nies are mandated to appoint a grievance officer for India by chief compliance officer, a Nod-Twitter, has quit from the post. al Contact Person and a resident

The social media company's website no longer displays his should be resident in India. name, as required under Information Technology (Interme- final notice issued by the govdiary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021.

Twitter declined to comment on the development.

time when the micro-blogging platform has been engaged in Chatur as interim resident a tussle with the Indian govern- grievance officer for India. ment over the new social meslammed Twitter for deliberate defiance and failure to comply a US address and an email ID. with the country's new IT rules.

The new rules which came into effect from May 25 man-

Twitter now displays the dia rules. The government has company's name in the place of grievance officer for India with According to a government

name and contact details of such officers. The big social media compa-

grievance officer. All of them Twitter in response to the ernment on June 5 had said it intends to comply with the new IT rules and will share details of the chief compliance officer. In The development comes at a the meantime, the microblogging platform had appointed

official, the company has lost legal protection as an intermedate social media companies diary and will be legally held reto establish a grievance re- sponsible for all content posted dressal mechanism for resolv- by its users on the platform. PTI

Principal Institute of Hotel Management Srinagar, Qazi Shabir were present in the meeting while Director, Tourism Jammu, Vivekanand Rai; Director, Skill Development Department, Sudershan Kumar: Additional Secretary, Skill Development, Kuldeep Sapolia; Principal FCI Jammu, Jyoti Bhatti; HoD, Department of Food Science Government College for Women Gandhi Nagar, Dr Anuradha Gandotra; President, Hotel & Lodges Association Katra, Rakesh Wazir; President, All Jammu Hotel and Lodge Association, Pawan Gupta particinated online. While deliberating on agenda points it has been decided that

the Food Craft Institute, Jammu, which is the premium institute for conduct of courses in the fields of Hotel Management decided to hire bus for to and shall be upgraded to the level of Institute of Hotel Management. This will enable the students join institute in order to facilitate the the courses, after 10+2, for three students.

year degree programme in Hotel It was decided in the meeting Management which is affiliated that the construction activities with the National Council for approved during the year under the CAPEX head shall be com-Hotel Management & Catering Technology, Union Ministry of

pleted on priority basis. Besides, Tourism. The students of Food in order to bridge the skilled gap Craft Institute, Jammu can prove in the hospitality industry such programmes are conducted regthemselves to be very useful in filling up the gap of skilled man ularly in collaboration with the power in the hospitality sector. Hotel Associations and Tourism Department so that unemployed The students after passing out from FCI Jammu can be absorbed youth and unskilled workers for employment in the hotels of avail the benefit of the skill development schemes.

The meeting approved the Dr Samoon stressed on placeagenda points put forth by the ment of pass out trainees saying Member Secretary, Jyoti Bhatti, that we should become facilitator Principal FCI Jammu, It was also for unemployed youth by helping them become entrepreneurs. He fro transportation of candidates emphasized the need for enhancfrom Bus Stand/K.C. Morh to the ing soft skills among the students apart from curriculum to make them fit for the industry.

domestic interests," Goyal said. "I remember a comment I made, which became quite a matter of debate. A large ecommerce player had spoken mandatory bargaining. Now about investing \$1 billion in India, and made a song and dance up to the reality of these large about it. But the song and dance tech and big e-commerce comhas been made about investing panies," he added. -IANS

"To my mind, is there nothing to hide. If they're doing honest business practices. Why don't they respond to the Competifact that they're trying to evade that probably only justifies that they are probably indulging in predatory pricing. They are trying to influence market behaviour, their algorithms are trying to influence consumer choice. And these are not permitted in India," Goyal said.

The Commerce Minister said the US is working on antitrust laws for e-commerce and several other countries, the UK, Luxembourg and other European countries are also working on these issues. "Australia has already passed along news media and digital platforms clearly, the world is waking

#### NEWS MAKERS

# **Even Gold-Obsessed Indians Are Now Pouring Billions Into Crypto**

#### **By: Bloomberg**

The cryptocurrency aficionados' mantra that Bitcoin is equivalent to digital gold world's biggest holders of the precious metal.

In India, where households own more than 25,000 tonnes grew from about \$200 million Study Mate India. to nearly \$40 billion in the past year, according to Chainalysis. That's despite outright hostility toward the asset class from the central bank and a proposed trading ban.

trepreneur is one of those who more than 15 million – buying swerved from gold to crypto. and selling digital coins. That's

(\$13,400) - some of it borrowed from her father – into Bitcoin, Dogecoin and Ether.

And she's been fortunate with her timing. She cashed out part is winning converts among the of her position when Bitcoin smashed through \$50,000 in February and bought back in after the recent tumble, allowing her to fund the overseas expanof gold, investments in crypto sion of her education startup

> "I'd rather put my money in crypto than gold," Sood said. "Crypto is more transparent than gold or property and returns are more in a short period of time."

She's part of a growing num-Richi Sood, a 32-year-old en- ber of Indians – now totalling



U.S. and compares with just 2.3 million in the U.K.

The growth in India is coming from the 18-35 year old cohort, says the co-founder of India's first cryptocurrency exchange. Since December, she's put catching up with the 23 million Latest World Gold Council data ed ZebPay and spent years rep-

age 34 have less appetite for gold than older consumers.

Katra, Jammu and Patnitop.

"They find it far easier to invest in crypto than gold because the process is very simple," said Sandeep Goenka, who co-foundin just over 1 million rupees traders of these assets in the indicated Indian adults under resenting the industry in discus-

sions with the government on can buy crypto, you don't have to verify it, unlike gold."

One of the biggest barri-Last year, the Supreme Court crypto trading by banking entities, resulting in a trading surge. However, authorities show

no signs of embracing cryptocurrencies. The nation's central bank says it has "major concerns" about the asset class and six months ago the Indian government proposed a ban on trading in digital coins - though it has been silent on the topic since.

"I am flying blind," said Sood. "I have a risk-taking appetite, so I'm willing to take a risk of a ban."

regulation. "You go online, you means many bigger individual investors are reluctant to speak openly about their holdings. One banker Bloomberg spoke ers preventing wider adoption to who invested more than \$1 is the regulatory uncertainty. million into crypto assets said with no clear income tax rules quashed a 2018 rule banning at present he was concerned about the possibility of retrospective tax raids if he was publicly known to be a big-ticket

crypto investor. He's already got contingency plans in place to move his trading to an offshore Singapore bank account if a ban was to be introduced.

trading – the four biggest cryp- remove anything for now."

The official hostility though to exchanges saw daily trading jump to \$102 million from \$10.6 million a year ago, according to CoinGecko. The country's \$40 billion market significantly trails China's \$161 billion, according to Chainalysis.

> For now, the increasing adoption is another sign of Indians' willingness to take risk within a consumer finance sector that's plagued with examples of regulatory short falls.

"I think over time everyone is going to adopt it in every country," said Keneth Alvares, 22, an independent digital marketer who has invested more than To be sure, the value of Indian \$1,300 in crypto so far. "Right digital asset holdings remain a now the whole thing is scary with sliver of its gold market. Still, regulation but it doesn't worry the growth is clear, especially in me because I'm not planning to

# **OUTPOST**

# SC Rejects Plea Seeking SIT Probe Into 'Forcible Conversion' **Of Hindus In Haryana's Nuh**

#### Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea seeking setting up of a special investigating team (SIT) to probe the alleged forceful conversion of Hindus in Haryana's Nuh district. Sorry, the plea is dismissed, a bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana told senior advocate Vikas Singh, who was appearing for the petitioners.

Singh told the bench, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and Hrishikesh Roy, that two of the petitioners had visited the area and met people there including the family of 21-year-old Nikita Tomar, who was shot dead outside her college in Ballabgarh in October last year.

We do not think we can entertain this petition based on newspaper reports," the bench observed. One of the accused in the mur-

der case identified as Tausif was trying to force the student to marry him.

In March this year, a fast-track court in Haryana's Faridabad had sentenced two men to life imprisonment for Tomar's murder.

The plea, filed in the apex court through advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain, had alleged that life, personal liberty and religious rights of Hindus in the areas of Nuh are being "continuously eroded" by members of the minority community who are in a "dominating position" there.

The petition, filed by a group of lawyers and a social worker based in Uttar Pradesh, had claimed that the state government, district administration and the police have failed to exercise their powers due to which the life and liberty of Hindus, particularly of women and Dalits, are in jeopardy and they are bound to lead "life under sword" of the dominant group there.

It had sought the top court's direction for constituting a SIT, comprising members from the CBI and the NIA, under the supervision of a retired apex court judge.

It had said the SIT should probe instances of alleged forceful conversion of Hindus, illegal execution of sale deeds of their properties, atrocities committed against Hindu women and girls, encroachment made on public land, conditions of temples and religious places and also cremation grounds existing in the area. It had said the authorities

should be directed to rehabilitate Hindus at their respective properties and restore all temples, places of worship and cremation grounds, which been encroached upon by any member of society, in their original form.

Referring to the Census 2011, the plea said the total population of Mewat district was 10,89,263 in which Muslim population was estimated to be 79.20 per cent, Hindus comprised 20.37 per cent and the remaining 0.43 per cent

were Sikh, Buddhist, Jains etc. "It is relevant to mention that there are about 431 villages in Mewat-Nuh. As many as 103 villages have become totally devoid of Hindus. In 82 villages, only 4-5 Hindu families are left," the plea submitted, adding, "There is significant decline of Hindu population in the district of Mewat-Nuh giving rise to a demographic change which will be disastrous

for the unity of the nation." PTI

**EU Excludes India's Covishield from New Covid 'Green Pass'** 



**NEW DELHI:** Travellers vaccinated with Covishield may not be eligible for the European Union's 'Green Pass' that will be available for use from July 1.

Many EU member states have started issuing the digital "vaccine passport" that will enable Europeans to move freely for work or tourism.

The immunity passport will serve as proof that a person has been vaccinated against the coronavirus disease (Covid-19), or recently tested negative for the virus, or has the natural immunity built up from earlier infection.

Only four vaccines-Comirnaty of Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna, Vaxzervria by AstraZeneca-Oxford and Johnson & amp; Johnson's Janssen-have been approved by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and only those vaccinated by these vaccines will be given vaccination passports and will be allowed to travel within the EU during the pandemic.

Serum Institute Seeks Govt Intervention

Serum Institute of India (SII) has

shows Jammu and Kashmir, and

The glaring distortion, which

uppears on the career section of

Ladakh as separate country.

requested the government to take up the matter of inclusion of Covishield vaccine in the EU COVID-19 Vaccination Passport with the European Union and other countries, citing this will affect students and business travellers and cause severe disruptions to the Indian and global economy

"India has a large population. However, not including Covishield into the EU COVID-19 Vaccination Passport will not allow Covishield vaccinated people to travel to European countries and this will affect students, business travellers back and forth, and cause severe disruptions to our economy and to the global economy," a source quoted Adar C Poonawalla, CEO of SII, as having communicated in a letter to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

Sources said referring to Poonawalla's letter, Director, Government and Regulatory Affairs at SII, Prakash Kumar Singh, has also sought Jaishankar's intervention at the highest level, saying, "It will be in the national interest as well as in the interest of people at large globally if Covishield vaccine is included in the EU COVID-19 Vac-

cination Passport."

Poonawalla in his letter is learnt to have mentioned that nearly 30 crore people have already been vaccinated with Covishield in India and it is expected that more than 50 per cent of Indian population will be protected with Covishield vaccine finally.

The letter also mentions that AstraZeneca-SII Covishield has been manufactured under technology transfer from Oxford/AstraZeneca and that clinical trials of the vaccine have been conducted successfully abroad and has been approved by MHRA for emergency use approval.

Poonawalla on Monday said he has taken up the issues faced by Indians who have taken the Covishield jab travelling to the European Union at highest levels and hopes to resolve them soon.

"I realise that a lot of Indians who have taken Covishield are facing issues with travel to the EU. I assure everyone, I have taken this up at the highest levels and hope to resolve this matter soon, both with regulators and at a diplomatic level with countries," Poonawalla said in a tweet

# Navjot Sidhu To Meet Rahul, Priyanka Gandhi in Delhi On Tuesday

#### Agenceis

New Delhi: Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu will meet senior party leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in Delhi on June 29, sources in his office said on Monday.

His meeting with the Gandhis comes amid the ongoing infighting in the Punjab Congress. Rahul Gandhi has been meeting party leaders from Punjab to

get their views on the political sit-

uation in the state and the steps

needed to strengthen the party

ahead of the  $202\overline{2}$  assembly polls.

gress president held one-on-one

meetings with ministers Brahm

Mohindra, Vijay Inder Singla, Bal-

bir Singh Sidhu and Rajya Sabha

member Shamsher Singh Dullo

He has already met state Con-

Sidhu, who had resigned from

esidents of Lakshadweep

on Monday staged "coconut

leaves and palm" protest

across inhabited islands against

the administration's order to levy

a fine if coconut palm leaves,

shells or trunks were found in and

Holding placards which read

"introduce mulching" and "stop

imposing fine", the islanders, un-

der the banner of Save Lakshad-

weep Forum (SLF), stood in front

of a pile of coconut leaves in the

properties urging the administra-

tion to withdraw the "anti-peo-

In their one-hour long protest,

the islanders urged the adminis-

tration to withdraw the decision

to impose fine on them and in-

troduce technology to convert the

organic materials from the coco-

nuts as compost – a mixture of

ingredients used to fertilize and

imposed on the people should be

withdrawn and a proper waste

management system should be

implemented. Unless the waste

management system is imple-

mented there is no genuine right

from the side of administration

to collect fine on falling of co-

conut leaves and other palms in

their property," Lakshadweep MP

Mohammed Faizal P P told PTI.

"Where do the people of islands

are expected to do the scientific

processing of leaves and palms,"

an islander cannot afford to have

his own scientific processing unit

or incinerator and it is the prime

duty of the Lakshadweep admin-

istration to provide such a facility.

"If such facilities are made avail-

able and people are not obeying

this, then you can impose the

fine. The primary responsibility

of the administration should be to

ensure the installation of the sci-

entific processing units like incin-

The Lok Sabha member said

"Our demand is that the fine

ple" order.

improve the soil.

he asked.

around their dwelling places.

gress chief Sunil Jakhar and Rajya

the Punjab cabinet after he was

and MLA Lakhvir Singh Lakha.

Sabha MP Partap Singh Bajwa.

On June 25, the former Con-

divested of the local bodies portfolio in 2019, has been at loggerheads with Chief Minister Amarinder Singh. He has attacked the chief minister over the alleged delay in justice in the 2015 incidents of sacrilege and subsequent police firing.

Singh had slammed Sidhu for continuously attacking him over the sacrilege issue and termed the former's outbursts "total indiscipline".



Early this month, Sidhu appeared before a three-member panel set up by the Congress to resolve the infighting within the party's state unit.

On June 22, Singh appeared before the panel, headed by leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, in Delhi. However, he returned to Chandigarh without an audience with party president Sonia Gandhi or Rahul Gandhi.

AICC general secretary incharge of Punjab affairs Harish Rawat and former MP J.P. Aggarwal are members of the panel.

## Lakshadweep Residents Stage "Coconut Leaves And Palm" Protest



**Terrorism Reduced In** Ladakh After Becoming Union **Territory: Rajnath Singh** 



**Press Trust of India** LADAKH: Defence Minister Ra-

"After Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh were made Union Territories, many doubted the inten

showing Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh outside India, triggered an-NEW DELHI: Amid a stand-off gry responses from netizens who with the Indian government over are demanding stringent action be compliance with new IT rules, initiated against the microblogging the Twitter website is displaying platform that has flouted rules on a wrong map of the country that multiple occasions in the past.

**Twitter Shows J&K As Separate Country** on its career section. The global map,

> In October last year, Twitter came under heavy criticism and faced backlash after its geotagging feature displayed "Jammu & Kashmir People's Republic of China" in a live broadcast from Leh's Hall of Fame, a war memorial for fallen soldiers in the Union Territory of Ladakh. India has issued a stern warning to Twitter that time, making it clear that any disrespect of the country's sovereignty and integrity is totally unacceptable. In November, government issued a notice to Twitter for showing Leh as part of Jammu and Kashmir instead of the Union Territory of Ladakh, as Centre lambasted the platform for disrespecting the territorial integrity of India by showing an incorrect map. apparent heavy-Twitter's handedness has come under government scrutiny when the microblogging platform did not fully complied with the new rules, called intermediary Guidelines, that mandate setting up a robust grievance redressal mechanism and appointing officers to coordi-

nate with law enforcement.

The rules became effective from May 26; and Twitter, even after the expiry of the additional time, had not appointed the requisite officers, leading to it losing the 'safe harbour' immunity.

Even in the backdrop of heightened strained relations with the Indian government, Twitter on Friday briefly blocked IT Minister Ravi ankar Prasad from accessing account over alleged violation of US copyright law - a move that was immediately slammed by the minister as being arbitrary and in gross violation of IT rules.

jnath Singh on Monday said terrorism has reduced in Ladakh after it became a Union territory.

"After becoming a Union territory, terrorism has reduced in Ladakh, There is mutual coordination among the Army, paramilitary forces and local police. We have data and figures that terrorism has reduced," said Rajnath Singh.

Rajnath Singh also revealed that many people had doubted the intention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi when Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh became a union territory by calling it a "political vested interest".

He also informed that the Centre want to re-start the political process quickly in both regions.

tion of Prime Minister as political vested interest. But he wants the political process to start in both regions. He spoke to political leaders of Jammu and Kashmir and will speak to leaders in Ladakh soon." he added.

Rajnath Singh also lauded the Army and said, "Our Army is sensitive as well. Even if the terrorists want to surrender and want to get into the mainstream then they are also given this opportunity."

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday inaugurated 63 infrastructure projects constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) from Ladakh.

Rajnath Singh is currently in Leh for a three-day visit to Ladakh.

AFTER JAMMU AND KASHMIR AND LADAKH WERE

MADE UNION TERRITORIES, many doubted the intention of Prime Minister as political vested interest. But he wants the political process to start in both regions. He spoke to political leaders of Jammu and Kashmir and will speak to leaders in Ladakh soon."

Twitter website under the header 'Tweep Life', has triggered a heavy backlash from netizens who are demanding strict action against the microblogging platform. This is not the first time that

**Press Trust of India** 

Twitter has misrepresented India's map. Earlier, it had shown Leh as part of China. A mail sent to Twitter on the issue did not elicit a response.

The US digital giant has been engaged in a tussle with the Indian government over the new social media rules. The government has confronted Twitter for deliberate defiance and failure to comply with the country's new IT rules. despite repeated reminders.

Notably, the microblogging platform has lost its legal shield as an intermediary in India, becoming liable for users posting any unlawful content. On Monday, social media users

slammed Twitter's gross misrepresentation of India's map that appears

Meanwhile, Twitter's interim grievance officer for India, Dharmendra Chatur, has quit within weeks of taking over the key role.

California-based Jeremy Kessel has now been named as India's grievance redressal officer, on the platform's website - although the appointment does not meet the requirements of new IT rules, which clearly mandate key officers including the grievance officer, to be resident in India.

Twitter and the government have been at loggerheads over multiple instances in the past months, including during the farmers' protest and later when the microblogging platform tagged political posts of several leaders of the ruling party BJP as "manipulated media", triggering a sharp rebuke from the centre.

# **Arvind Kejriwal Promises Free Electricity** In Punjab If AAP Wins

#### Agenceis

New Delhi: Ahead of assembly elections in Punjab next year, Delhi Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday promised free electricity in that state if his Aam Aadmi Party wins the polls.

A day ahead of his visit to Chandigarh, the AAP leader also claimed that women in Punjab are very unhappy with inflation.

...In Delhi we provide 200 units of free electricity to every family. The women are very happy. Women in Punjab are also very unhappy with inflation. The AAP government will also provide free electricity in Punjab. See you tomorrow in Chandigarh," Kejriwal tweeted in Punjabi.

AAP spokesperson and Delhi MLA Raghav Chadha said the Punjab Chief Minister's office has denied



the party permission to hold a press conference at a pre-decided venue. Mr Chadha said Mr Kejriwal will make a "mega announcement" in Chandigarh on Tuesday.

"@capt\_amarinder's fear of Kejriwal has reached a point where his office has denied us permission to hold press conference at the



rent to Captain and his party," Mr Chadha tweeted. Assembly elections in Punjab are

scheduled to be held in February or March next year.

# Heroin Worth Rs 126 Crore **Seized From 2 South African** Men At Delhi Airport

#### Agenceis

oin worth Rs 126 crore has been seized from two South African men at the international airport here as they were trying to smuggle it into the country, according to an official statement on Monday. cepted on Saturday upon their ar-

"On detailed personal and baggage search of the passengers, off-white colour powder/granules, found to be heroin, weighing 8 kg was recovered from one passenger and 10 kg was recovered from another," said the statement issued by the customs department.

Both of the accused were found



to be part of a syndicate, it said.

It stated that the off-white colour powder/granules, weighing 18 in total and estimated to be valued at Rs 126 crore, were ingeniously concealed inside their checked-in trolley bags.

Both the men have been arrested and a case of smuggling has been registered against them, a customs officer said. - PTI

# Agenceis

erators in the island," Faizal said.

In the order issued on June 4 on management of cleanliness and hygiene in the islands in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic, the administration has said each family of individuals who stay in any premise shall maintain cleanliness with certain standards and hygiene in and around their respective places at all times.

It said tender coconut shells, tree leaves, coconut husks, trunks etc in and around dwelling places/public places must be disposed off scientifically by the landowners without affecting hygiene to the environment.

"No persons is allowed to throw or break or spread coconuts, fruits leftovers, vegetables waste on roads, footpaths, public areas, lagoon, sea and the beaches", it said, prohibiting the disposal by burning of any type of solid waste at roadsides, beaches and in open places.

It said whoever violates or contravenes any of the aforesaid directions shall be liable for punishment with fine as per Schedule 1 of the Lakshadweep Solid Waste Management Bye-Law, 2018 and also be liable to criminal proceedings for offence punishable Under Section 188 IPC (Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant).

Lakshadweep has been witnessing a series of protests by residents for the past few weeks against Administrator Praful Khoda Patel's decision to implement reform measures in the islands. The Save Lakshadweep Forum (SLF), a platform of protesters, has alleged that the measures were being implemented without taking people of islands into confidence. Accusing the administration of going ahead with the "anti-people reform measures" in the islands, the SLF has said they would continue their protest till the administration withdraws such measures in the archipelago.

NEW DELHI: In a major catch, her-

The two accused were interrival from Johannesburg via Doha.