



P3 CITY

## SIKH GIRL RESTORED TO FAMILY, MARRIED TO MAN FROM COMMUNITY

A Sikh woman, who was restored to her family from her alleged kidnapper amid allegations of forced conversion, was Tuesday married off to a man from the Sikh community....

P6

## FORLORN STACK: RTI APPEALS FROM J&K PILE UP AT CIC

After enactment of J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019 dozens erstwhile state laws of Jammu & Kashmir were repealed and a large number of central laws were also extended to J&K. Under this legislation, almost 160 laws of the



P10 NEWS

## FEMALE HEALTH WORKER COMMITS SUICIDE IN BUDGAM

A female health worker allegedly committed suicide by consuming some poisonous substance at her home in Dalipora area of Nagam in Central Kashmir's Budgam district



...MALOORA ENCOUNTER ENDS

## Arrested Militant Among 2 Killed



Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** A day after his arrest, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander Nadeem Abrar and a Pakistani national were killed by government forces in Maloora area of the city outskirts, police said on Tuesday.

Giving details of the incident, a police spokesman said Abrar

— a top commander of LeT involved in many killings — was arrested during checking of vehicles at Parimpora on Monday and put on sustained interrogation.

The LeT commander disclosed the location where he had kept his AK-47 rifle in Maloora locality, the spokesman said.

There ● More On P10

## Security Up Around Vital Installations: IGP

Muhammad Raafi

Two days after a vital security installation, Air Force Station Jammu, was targeted and payload was dropped with two drones, the Jammu and Kashmir police chief Vijay Kumar Tuesday said that drones are a new threat and all the security installations and LoC in the Valley ● More On P10

## NIA To Probe Drone Attack In Jammu

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) was on Tuesday given the charge of investigation into ● More On P10

## LG Directs Officials To Speed Up Work On PMDP Projects



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday directed officials to accelerate pace of work on the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) projects and give special attention to strengthening

road connectivity besides adhering to the committed timelines.

Chairing a high-level meeting to review the PMDP projects, the LG pushed for quick resolution of issues, if any, to speed up the progress of mega infrastructure projects in the Union Territory, ● More On P10

## 'Govt Ready For Possible Third Wave'

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday said that the Union Territory administration is ● More On P10

## J&K Sees 308 New Cases, 6 Corona Deaths

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** With 308 fresh cases, Jammu and Kashmir's COVID-19 tally climbed to 3,15,298 on Tuesday, while six more fatalities pushed the death toll due to the viral disease to 4,316 in the Union Territory, officials said.

Of the fresh cases, 99 were from the Jammu division and 209 from the Kashmir division, they added.

The officials said Srinagar district

recorded the highest number of 84 fresh cases, followed by 29 in Baramulla district.

The number of active coronavirus cases has dropped to 4,805 in the Union Territory, while 3,06,177 patients have recovered from the infection so far, they said.

The death toll due to the viral disease has climbed to 4,316 in Jammu and Kashmir with six patients succumbing to it in the last 24 hours. The officials said there are ● More On P10

## PC Disowns Muzaffar Baig 3 Months After He Joined Party

Zaid Bin Shabir

**SRINAGAR:** Senior Peoples Conference (PC) leader Imran Ansari on Tuesday courted controversy after claiming that former Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister, Muzaffar Hussain Baig was never part of the party and that what he stated during and after PM Modi's all party meet last week was his (Baig's) personal opinion and not that of the PC.

Imran Ansari, who is PC's General Secretary, said that Baig had never



joined the Peoples Conference and was not even a member of the party, contrary to the PC's tweet ● More On P10

## Safina Stares At No-Confidence Motion

After distancing itself from Muzaffar Baig, Peoples Conference is likely to withdraw support to his wife Safina Baig, who is chairperson of the district development council, Baramulla. Sources said that PC leadership has begun efforts to oust Safina as chairperson of DDC, Baramulla. "We will hold confabulations with our ● More On P10

J&K DELIMITATION PROCESS

## Panel Meeting Today To Take Call On Consulting Parties

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The delimitation commission tasked with re-drawing parliamentary and assembly constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir is likely to hold an internal meeting on Wednesday to finalise its plans on consultations with political parties soon.

At a meeting with leaders of mainstream political parties from Jammu and Kashmir last week, Prime Minister Narendra

Modi had stressed that the delimitation exercise has to happen quickly so that polls can be held in the union territory.

The three-member delimitation commission headed by former Supreme Court judge Ranjana Desai was appointed in February last year. It could not complete its work within the allotted time of one year and has now been given an extension of one year.

A full meeting of the commission including ● More On P10



GOVERNMENT OF UNI ON TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMI R

## Department of Horticulture



## Scheme for Development of High Density Plantation Nurseries in Jammu & Kashmir for Mass Production

DIPK-NB-1482/21

### FEATURES OF THE SCHEME:

- Department Shall register/ Authorize Nurseries having the eligibility criteria.
- Assistance to the tune of 50% of the cost of planting material will be given directly to the farmers through DBT mode on purchase from these authorised nurseries.
- The cost of plants shall be fixed by the high level expert committee.
- The Assistance shall be provided after verification of Plantation.
- To facilitate the scheme an online Monitoring Information System (MIS) shall be started for registration , availability and sale of plants



Issued in Public Interest by:

DI RECTOR GENERAL HORTI CULTURE KASHMI R

### DETAILS CAN BE HELD FROM:

Office of Director General Horticulture Kashmir/  
Directorate of Horticulture Jammu/ All Chief  
Horticulture officers of J&K

(K): 0194-2311484 (J):0191-2501219



File: DIPK-3727/21

*Sd/-*  
**Executive Engineer,**  
Lake Division 2<sup>nd</sup>

## Observer News Service

He appealed to people to maintain the age-old commu-

and demanded that they be returned to their families.

The woman (26) and her

The court had directed Satwari SHO not to take any coercive action based on the complaint. It had also asked the Budgam police chief to ensure the implementation of the directions in letter and spirit.

According to the information available on UNESCO's website, the UCCN was created in 2004 to promote cooperation with and among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development.

According to the website of UNESCO, the Creative City Network involves seven creative

Observer News Service



They said that Junaaid was on the function in the interiors of Dal and was returning to his residence when the incident took place. (KDC)

Police sources said that the cavalcade of Mayor was attacked with some stones by

Observer News Service

In various meetings held by the Committee of Experts appointed by the Hon'ble High Court J&K it was decided as pilot project the J&K Lakes and Waterways Development Authority, Srinagar shall take up providing 100 number Bio-Digesters free of cost to the individual household in Telbal area

The main purpose of these bio-digesters was to scientifically take care of the sewage generated from the households which otherwise was directly going into one of the main inflow channels of the Dal lake.

## DIAL-EMMA



- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES :  
2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

## AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



## RAILWAYS



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

## HIGHWAY STATUS

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



## This Day in History

- 1548 - Augsburg Interim issued by Charles V becomes law - orders Lutherans to return to Catholic practices with some concessions
- 1559 - King Henry II of France is seriously injured in a jousting match against Gabriel de Montgomery
- 1596 - English and Dutch fleet reach Cadiz
- 1598 - King Philip II moves to Escorial palace Philip II
- 1607 - Annales Ecclesiastici (Scientific History of Catholicism) published
- 1690- Battle of Beachy Head: French under Tourville beat Dutch/ English fleet
- 1758- Seven Years' War: The Battle of Domstadt takes place.
- 1859- Charles Blondin is 1st to cross Niagara Falls on a tightrope
- Event of interestEvent of Interest
- 1860- Famous debate on Charles Darwin's theory of evolution held at the Oxford University Museum and dominated by arguments between Thomas Henry Huxley and Bishop Samuel Wilberforce
- 1876- Serbia declares war on Turkey
- 1893- Excelsior diamond (blue-white 995 carats) discovered
- 1894- Korea declares independence from China, asks for Japanese aid
- 1914- Mahatma Gandhi's 1st arrest after campaigning for Indian rights in South Africa
- 1930- 1st round-the-world radio broadcast Schenectady NY
- 1938- Superman 1st appears in DC Comics' Action Comics Series Issue #1
- 1940- German troops begin the invasion of the undefended Channel Islands.
- 1941- Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) declare Ukraine independent
- 1941-World War II: Operation Barbarossa - Germany captures Lviv, Ukraine.
- 1942- US bombs Celebes & Timor
- 1944- French Cotentin Peninsula in allied hands
- 1944- Universal strike against Nazi terror in Copenhagen
- 1944-World War II: The Battle of Cherbourg ends with the fall of the strategically valuable port to American forces.
- 1948- Last British troops leave Israel
- 1949- Dutch troops evacuate Jakarta
- 1950- US Gen MacArthur visits front in South Korea/asks for US troops
- 1961- NASA Explorer Micrometeoroid research mission fails to reach Earth orbit
- 1963-International Labour Organisation excludes South Africa from its two-day meeting because of its apartheid policies
- 1964- Centaur 3 launch vehicle fails to make Earth orbit
- 1971- Crew of Russian space mission Soyuz 11 found dead upon arrival on earth (only people to die in space)
- 2012- Mohamed Morsi is sworn in as President of Egypt



**HIJRI**  
**CALENDAR**

19

**ZIQA'DA'**  
**-UL-**  
**HARAAM**

1442

## PRAYERS

FAJR  
3: 38  
ZUHR  
12: 34  
ASR  
5:34  
MAGRIB  
7:50  
ISHA  
9:31

From KO Archives

# Peace Process With India Irreversible: Pak

The visit of the Kashmiri separatist leaders was part of Pakistan's effort to "involve" them in the dialogue process, he said, adding "we assured them Pakistan will continue consultations with the real representatives of Kashmiri people" Aziz's address was attended among others by AK President Gen (Retd) Anwar Khan, AK Prime Minister Sikandar Hayat and several Pakistani ministers, including information minister Sheikh Rashid.

(Kashmir Observer, 30 June, 2005)

## Current Covid Vaccines May Be Less Effective Against Beta Variant: Study

**BOSTON:** A study of the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2, the virus which cause COVID-19, suggests that current vaccines may be less effective against the Beta variant first identified in South Africa.

Present on the surface of SARS-CoV-2, spike proteins enable the virus to attach to and enter our cells, and all current vaccines are directed against them.

The study, published in the journal Science on June 24, used cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM) to compare the spike protein from the original virus found in China in 2019, with that of the

resistant to the current vaccines, and we think a booster with the new genetic sequence can be beneficial for protecting against this variant," Chen added.

The researchers also found that mutations in the Beta variant make the spike less effective in binding to ACE2 -- suggesting that this variant is less transmissible than the Alpha variant.

As for the Alpha variant (B.1.1.7), the study confirms that a genetic change in the spike helps the virus bind better to ACE2 receptors, making it more infectious.

However, testing indicates that



Beta variant, and the Alpha variant first identified in the UK.

Cryo-Em is an imaging technique used to determine the biomolecular structures at near-atomic resolution.

The findings led by researchers at Boston Children's Hospital in the US indicate that mutations in the Beta variant, also known as B.1.351, change the shape of the spike surface at certain locations.

As a result, neutralising antibodies induced by current vaccines are less able to bind to the Beta virus, which may allow it to evade the immune system even when people are vaccinated.

"The mutations make antibodies stimulated by the current vaccine less effective," said Bing Chen, from the division of Molecular Medicine at Boston Children's.

"The Beta variant is somewhat

antibodies elicited by existing vaccines can still neutralise this variant, according to the researchers.

They said to be a heightened threat, a SARS-CoV-2 variant would need to do three things: spread more easily, evade the immune system in vaccinated people or those previously exposed to COVID-19, and cause more severe disease.

However, the researchers said the Alpha and Beta variants do not meet all these criteria.

"Our data suggest that the most problematic combination of such mutations is not yet present in the existing variants examined here," they added.

The research team is now analysing the structures of other variants of concern, including the Delta variant (B.1.617.2), first identified in India. **PTI**

## River Ganges Gives Up Its Coronavirus Dead

Partly hidden between long reeds of grass, bodies shrouded in saffron cloth float silently down the holy Ganges river, a reminder of how India's ferocious coronavirus wave overwhelmed hospitals and crematoriums.

Families in India's north and east gave up the bodies of their loved ones to the river or buried them in shallow graves on its banks, unable to afford the cost of funeral pyres at the height of the outbreak in April and May.

But the start of seasonal monsoon flooding has caused strong currents to surge through the 2,500-kilometre (1,550-mile) long waterway, dislodging some of the bodies buried on its banks.

Officials in Allahabad -- one of Hinduism's holiest cities, where millions visit to perform funeral rites -- say almost 150 bodies that floated up in the past three weeks have been cremated.

Funeral pyres line riverside embankments beside piles of wood waiting for new bodies to

be retrieved.

When AFP visited the surrounding areas, there were dozens of partially submerged corpses in the river.

Officials estimate that up to 600 bodies were buried along the Ganges in the city during the virus surge.

But locals believe that is a fraction of the real number and fear that more could be dislodged from the sandy banks by rapid waters in the coming weeks.

Sonu Chandel, a boatman who works with a riverside crematorium, was shaken

by the sight of families burying their dead two months ago. He said a sense of uneasiness returned to him as the waters rose to cover the banks.

"It was really sad to see poor people burying their loved ones in an undignified manner, but the rising water level has made it worse," Chandel told AFP.

"There is always the fear of (a body) hitting the oar or (my boat) running over a dead body as the water level goes up."



## Inaugurating Embassy In UAE, Israel Tells Region: "We're Here To Stay"

By Lisa Barrington

**DUBAI:** Israel's new foreign minister inaugurated its embassy in the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday and offered an olive branch to other former adversaries, saying: "We're here to stay."

Yair Lapid's two-day visit is the first to the Gulf state by an Israeli cabinet minister since the countries established ties last year. He was due to sign a bilateral agreement on economic cooperation and open an Israeli consulate in Dubai on Wednesday.

The trip is also an opportunity for the two-week-old Israeli government of Naftali Bennett, a nationalist who heads an improbable cross-partisan coalition, to make diplomatic inroads despite long-stymied talks with the Palestinians.

"Israel wants peace with its neighbours -- with all its neighbours. We aren't going anywhere. The Middle East is our home," Lapid said during the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Abu Dhabi high-rise office serving as a temporary embassy.

"We're here to stay. We call on all the countries of the region to recognise that and to

come to talk to us," he said.

Brought together by shared worries about Iran and hopes for commercial boons, the UAE and Bahrain normalised relations with Israel last year under so-called "Abraham Accords" crafted by then U.S.-President Donald Trump. Sudan and Morocco have since also moved to establish ties with Israel.

The regional rapprochement was deplored by the Palestinians, who want their demands for statehood free of Israeli occupation addressed first.

President Mahmoud Abbas dismissed the Abraham Accords as "an illusion" and asserted that colonial powers had "implant(ed) Israel as a foreign body in this region in order to fragment it and keep it weak," according to a report on Tuesday by the official Palestinian news service WAFA.

Tuesday's agreement will be the 12th between Israel and the UAE, Lior Hiaht, spokesman for Israel's Foreign Ministry, said. Lapid is also set to visit the site of Expo 2020 Dubai, a world fair opening in October where Israel has built a pavilion.

Lapid's plane transited

through Saudi airspace. Riyadh, although not having normalised relations with Israel, last year opened its skies to Israel-UAE flights.

The UAE formally opened its embassy in Israel, temporarily located in the Tel Aviv stock exchange, to little fanfare this month.

Israel's Abu Dhabi embassy still has only three diplomats and a head of mission, Eitan Na'eh, who has yet to be confirmed as full ambassador. The consulate in Dubai is similarly located in temporary premises.

Lapid was conciliatory toward former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whose attempts to organise a trip to the UAE while in office were scotched by COVID-19 restrictions and who has sought to cast his ouster by Bennett as illegitimate.

Thanking Netanyahu as "the architect of the Abraham Accords", Lapid said: "This moment is his, no less than it is ours."

(Reporting by Ari Rabinovitch and Dan Williams; Additional reporting by Nidal Al-Mughhrabi; Writing by Lisa Barrington; Editing by Clarence Fernandez, John Stonestreet, Nick Macfie, William Maclean)

## Hamas Chief Travels To Beirut, Meets Hassan Nasrallah

Agencies

**BEIRUT**—The top leaders of Hezbollah and Hamas held talks in Beirut on Tuesday about last month's 11-day war with Israel in the Gaza Strip.

Ismail Haniyeh, the leader of the Palestinian Hamas, arrived in Lebanon on Sunday and met several top officials, including President Michel Aoun and Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri.

On Tuesday, Haniyeh and Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah discussed how they can build on the experience of the latest round of fighting in Gaza. The bruising war had caused widespread destruction in the Gaza Strip, brought life in much of Israel to a standstill and killed at least 254 people.

During the war, Hamas and Islamic Jihad fired over 4,000 rockets into Israel with dozens of projectiles flying as far north as Tel Aviv, the country's bustling commercial and cultural capital forcing Israel to seek ceasefire. Israeli airstrikes and shelling caused wide destruction in Gaza.



Haniyeh and Nasrallah discussed ways of leveraging the gains through "utilizing all capabilities in a bid to reach the final and decisive victory," a statement issued after the meeting said.

It was the first between the two since September.

According to a Hamas' official, the two leaders underlined that resistance was the "strategic option" to be used towards Pales-

tine's liberation and also underscored the Palestinian refugees' right to return to their homeland.

"The two sides laid emphasis on the strength of their brotherly relations, which they said have an important role in the consistency of the regional resistance axis", Hezbollah's Al Manar TV reported.

Hezbollah and Israel fought a 34-day war in 2006 that ended in an embarrassment for the Israelis.

## Indonesia 'On Edge Of Catastrophe' As Covid Lockdown Looms

AL JAZEERA

The Red Cross has warned that Indonesia is "on the edge of catastrophe", as coronavirus infections fuelled by the deadlier Delta variant surge across the country are pushing the health system towards collapse.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) said on Tuesday that urgent increases are needed in medical care, testing and vaccinations in the Southeast Asian nation as it faces a medical emergency that is already overwhelming hospitals and threatening the supply of medical oxygen in the capital, Jakarta, and other areas.

"Every day we are seeing this Delta variant driving Indonesia closer to the edge of a COVID-19 catastrophe," Jan Gelfand, head of the IFRC in Indonesia said in a statement.

"We need lightning-fast action globally so that countries like Indonesia have access to the vaccines needed to avert tens of thousands of deaths. We must focus on getting vaccinations into the arms of those most at-risk and all adults everywhere to contain this virus."

The latest numbers from the Indonesian COVID task force on Monday showed almost 20,700 new cases in one day, pushing the total since the start of the pandemic to more than 2.1 million. A further 423 people died from the coronavirus taking the death toll to more than 57,500.

Adding to the dire situation is the country's slow pace of vaccination, with less than 5 percent of its 270 million population fully vaccinated -- or about 13.1 million people, according to the health ministry. At least 274 million have received the first dose.

Indonesia is mostly using the Sinovac vaccine from China to inoculate its population, after taking part in a late-stage trial of the jab.



The IFRC noted that Indonesia faces global vaccine inequity in acquiring the 360 million doses it needs to vaccinate at least 70 percent of its citizens -- the ideal threshold set by the World Health Organization to achieve herd immunity.

With cases surging, the administration of President Joko Widodo is reportedly mulling plans to impose a lockdown, Singapore's Straits Times reported on Tuesday. Widodo is expected to meet health officials later on Tuesday to consider the plan, the paper said.

**'Close to collapse'**

On Friday, medical officials in the province of West Java, just outside of Jakarta, said bed occupancy rates in hospitals had exceeded 90 percent,

with some hospitals exceeding 100 percent, pushing the health system "close to collapse".

In Jakarta, the surge in cases has forced hospitals to set up emergency tents, according to the Detik news website.

There have also been appeals to the government to turn the Gelora Bung Karno sports complex in the capital into an emergency hospital, Kompas TV reported on Tuesday.

There have also been reports that nearly 1,000 Indonesian health workers have died from the virus since the pandemic started, with the country's medical association confirming on Friday the 401 deaths among the medical doctors, including 14 who were fully vaccinated.

This month, more than 300 vaccinated doctors and healthcare workers in Central Java were also found to have been infected with COVID-19.

More than 20 percent of COVID-19 tests in Indonesia are positive, according to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, indicating that the number of people who are sick and infected is likely to be even more widespread than the headline figures suggest.

## Iraqi Fighters Mourn Comrades Killed In US Air Strikes

Agencies

Thousands of members of Iraq's Hashd al-Shabi paramilitary alliance gathered in Baghdad on Tuesday to mourn comrades killed in American air attacks along the Syrian border.

The US raids early on Monday sparked an exchange of fire between pro-Iranian militias and the United States-led coalition in eastern Syria, as well as fears of a new US-Iran escalation amid faltering efforts to revive Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

With chants of "Death to America" and "Vengeance for the martyrs", they massed in Freedom Square near the capital's high-security Green Zone -- the site of the US embassy.

Security forces were deployed in large numbers, sealing the Green Zone after a string of recent incursions by armed groups backed by Washington's archenemy Tehran.

Ahmad al-Maqsusi -- a commander with the Sayid al-Shuhada militia, which has vowed "open war" with US troops -- said it was time for the Americans to leave. "Since the parliament passed a resolution the presence of foreign troops in the country is unlawful," said al-Maqsusi. "They are here since 2014 and they did

nothing to the Iraqis but destruction."

Several high-ranking Hashd commanders took part in the symbolic funeral, including its top commander Faleh al-Fayyadh and Hadi al-Ameri, head of one of its main factions, the Badr Organisation.

The mourners, accompanied by vehicles full of gunmen, wore black and held up signs reading: "Attacks on the Hashd must speed up the withdrawal of American troops from Iraq."

Others carried pictures of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani and Hashd



second-in-command Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis who were killed in a US drone strike near Baghdad airport last year.

"The rifles and drones of the resistance will move

now. The time has come to avenge the death of our heroes including Qassem Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis," said one fighter Haydar Karrar.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor said seven fighters had been killed and at least six more wounded in the raids on both sides of the Iraqi-Syrian border. The Hashd, most of whose commanders are backed by Tehran and which has become the main powerbroker in Baghdad, said four of its fighters were killed in the Qaim region near the border.

### NEWS MAKERS

## Woman Wilfully Converts To Islam, Faces Threats; Moves Delhi HC For Protection

**NEW DELHI:** A woman has approached the Delhi High Court seeking protection for herself and her family claiming that they are facing life-threats and being witch hunted by the UP police, media and vigilante groups after her wilful conversion from Hinduism to Islam.

The woman, who is working in Delhi and belongs to Shahjahanpur in Uttar Pradesh, sought protection for her and her family as also her right to privacy, saying that because of her conversion she and her family are being targeted and malicious content is being published in media which should be stopped immediately.

"The petitioner (woman) is an adult and she is protected by the Constitution to choose her own faith and she cannot be targeted and harassed for the choice she makes with



regard to the religion she follows," the petition said.

Advocate Kamlesh Kumar Mishra, who represents the woman, said the petition is likely to come up for hearing on Wednesday.

The plea said Renu Gangwar alias Ayesha Alvi converted to Islam on May 27 in Delhi and since June 23, when she was in Shahjahanpur, she started getting calls from media persons requesting to a meeting which she refused.

It said media persons came to her place without her permission and took her photographs and videos and

she started getting calls threatening that her conversion news will be published in media and she would be arrested and demanded money.

Thereafter, one of them forcibly took Rs 20,000 while others too tried to extort money from her and her family, the plea alleged, adding that absurd and imaginary details are being reported in media regarding her conversion.

The woman, in her plea, said she gave a complaint to the Delhi Police Commissioner on June 24, seeking immediate intervention for her protection with regard to her conversion to Islam on her own free will and without any threat or coercion from anyone but no action has been taken on her complaint yet.

"There is no other option other than approaching this court for immediate directions to stop the harass-

ment of the petitioner," said the plea, filed through advocate Kamlesh Kumar Mishra and Nitin Kumar Nayak.

It sought to direct the authorities to ensure that the woman is not taken away from Delhi by force or coercion by any government agency or person and she and her family be granted protection and not harassed or interrogated regarding her conversion.

The plea further sought direction to the media not to publish or broadcast any malicious content regarding her and not to divulge her personal details and also remove the contents already shown.

It sought to direct the UP agencies to not harass the woman or any other person who have not converted in the state of UP and on whom the provisions of the UP Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion Ordinance, 2020 does not apply. **PTI**

## South African Govt's Proposal To Let Woman Have Multiple Husbands Faces Backlash

By FPJ Web Desk

A proposal in South Africa to permit women to have multiple husbands has led to uproar among the many conservative part of the nation's society. The inexperienced paper containing the proposal has been ready by the nation's residence division.

South Africa already has one of the world's most liberal constitutions, allowing same-sex marriages for all and polygamy for men. Gender rights activists have been petitioning the government to legalise polyandrous unions -- women having more than one husband -- in the interest of equality and choice.

The proposal comes in a green paper from South Africa's Department of Home Affairs and has sparked outrage from conservative voices in the Rain-



bow Nation. Polygamy, the practice of men taking multiple wives, is legal and part of some indigenous traditions.

"South Africa inherited a marriage regime that was based on the Calvinist Christian and Western traditions," the paper notes, adding that the current marriage laws are "not informed by an overarching policy that is based on constitutional values and the understanding of modern society dynamics."

Expressing opposition to polyandry in the strongest terms, TV personality Musa Mseleku, who has four

wives, told the BBC, "This will destroy African culture. What about the children of those people? How will they know their identity? The woman cannot now take the role of the man. It's unheard of. Will the man be expected to take her surname?"

In polyandry, the woman often initiates the relationships, and invites the husbands to join her union. Some pay the bride price, others opt to contribute to her livelihood. She has the power to remove a co-husband if she believes he is destabilising her other relationships.

Reverend Kenneth Meshoe, the leader of the African Christian Democratic Party, said that polygamy is "an accepted practice", but polyandry is not. He said during an interview that a marriage with multiple husbands cannot work because "men are jealous and possessive".

# DDC Shopian Stresses On Optimum Utilisation Of Working Season

Observer News Service

Meanwhile, Commissioner Secretary planted a Maple sapling in the premises of the Nursery.

# Gurez Villages Lack Basic Facilities, Residents Aghast



"The major problem faced by people here is the lack of

## Observer News Service

without any hesitation and live a stress free, balanced and contented life. He expressed dismay over drug menace which is engulfing the society towards self destruction and said that it should be our prime concern to help such victims get rid of this hazard. "Establishment of such a unique helpline by the police department is really a step forward towards this direc-

## Observer News Service

Taking strong note of the leniency the general public is demonstrating, the DDC categorically reiterated that no one will be allowed to violate the directions issued by Administration. During the inspections, many shopkeepers, drivers, pedestrians and other violators of guidelines were on spot fined and also were warned to refrain themselves from violating the SOPs in future, otherwise face strict action under rules.

## Observer News Service

detailed review of the progress made on construction of individual and community bunkers in border areas of Kar-

The ADCD stressed upon the concerned officers to gear up the work and ensure completion of all the already sanctioned bunkers till ending July this year. He directed the concerned to submit a proposal for installation of new individual/community bunkers with preference to the areas located within a radius of 5 km of LoC

## Jammu &amp; Kashmir UT, Srinagar

\* A. SOCIALLY AND EDUCATIONALLY BACKWARD CLASSES:

- (I) To determine the criteria to be adopted in considering any section of the people in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir as Socially and Educationally backward classes;
  - (II) Using the criteria to examine the current list of socially and educationally backward classes notified by the Government from time to time for inclusion or exclusion of such classes in the list of socially and educationally backward classes;
  - (III) Using the criteria to examine inclusion of other socially and educationally backward classes in the list of socially and educationally backward classes;
  - (iv) To categorise the socially and educationally backward classes and examine the safeguards that should be provided to ensure balance and orderly development of all sections and classes of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir;
  - (v) To examine the overall question of providing reservation for recruitment to various posts under the Government and of selections to various posts consistent with the need of ensuring the efficiency in administration and minimum standards for job requirements;
  - (vi) To present to the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir a report setting out the facts as found by the Commission and making such recommendations as it thinks proper for categorisation of socially and educationally backward classes, as should be provided reservation for them and other communities;
  - (vii) Any other matter which the Commission finds necessary to be considered and upon arising out of the aforesaid Terms of Reference.
6. Additional Terms of Reference for SC/STs.
- (i) To examine the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order, 1956 and the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1959;

The Commission is in the process of finalizing its Report and giving consideration to the representations made by various categories of populace of the Admin. Territory via a/c Castes/Classes/Communities/Category in support of their Claim. Whereas despite many opportunities to present their case/submissions, the following castes/classes/communities/ categories have not represented to the before the Commission:-

1. Merchants whose sole livelihood depends on Makasar
2. Sulawesi
3. Minnie
4. Madan/Shupars
5. Damihah Fedir
6. Samsi
7. Sukipara
8. Giveti (Bulung)
9. Labano Community

Whereas through the medium of this notice, the representatives/members of the above stated castes/classes/categories/communities are requested to appear in person/through capacity or in person through authorized representative, before the Commission and submit their representations/memorandums in support of their claim, with prior intimation to the Secretary of the Commission on his contact No. 9419588993 and/or Private Secretary of the Hon'ble Chairperson, on his contact Nos. 9906062222, 9419582500 on WhatsApp, born 1st of July, 2021 to 15th of July, 2023, during the office hours in the Commissioners Office located at 16A, Legislature Complex, Srirangapatna. Your participation will be a great step toward to dispense fairly and just treatment to every segment of the Society in general and your own interest in particular.

DHPK-3B11/Z1

S&T Backward Classes Commission, 38-11 Sonapat

# OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CITY DRAINAGE CIVIL DIVISION SMC

**4B-Samender Bagh Srinagar.**  
Phone: 0194-2480388, Fax: 0194-480366 / email: oecdd@smc.govt.in@gmail.com

## NOTICE INVITING TENDERS e-TNT NO. 05/CDC SMC OF 2021-22

The e-tenders of the work, described at A/E/OT as specified are invited on terms and conditions stated below the Registered / Approved PWD/CMA Contractors, whose entitlement cards are valid & current / Standing bids, for the below mentioned works strictly as per the terms and conditions given hereunder:

S.No.	Name of work	Bid Cost of work (with Depth Materials) (Amt. in Lakhs)	Class Of Contract	Time for completion	Cost of Tender Document in the stage of advertisement	Head of Account
1.	Construction of 600mm dia flow drain including manholes around Hattimahal ground floor area Drainage scheme Hattimahal.	34.00	C&D	30 days	255-00	Capex JGDI-22
2.	Construction of Pipe drain including manhole from House 1 Chomappa existing culvert at Towbeh Nagar Drainage scheme Towbeh Nagar.	26.00	C&D	30 days	350-00	Capex JGDI-22
3.	Construction of R.C. M/W 300mm dia pipe drain including manhole at Palatnagar colony Nallbagh Nagar's Drainage scheme Nallbagh Nagar.	23.00	B&C	30 days	430-00	Capex JGDI-22
4.	Construction of Pipe drain opposite the Masjid Al-Habshah from existing drain upto House of Shabbir Ahmad Lane Chomappa, Reshabh Charanmarg.	14.50	B&C/D	30 days	400-00	Capex JGDI-22
5.	Construction of 300mm dia Pipe drain from House of Arjunmal Maheshwari to existing drain at Towbeh colony C. Narayan, Drainage scheme Nallbagh Nagar.	10.00	B&C/D	30 days	300-00	Capex JGDI-22
6.	Construction of concrete cast-in-situ deep drain including manhole from House No.171 to House No. 223 at off-street Colony Towbeh Nagar.	0.00	C&D	30 days	250-00	Capex JGDI-22

The EET Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, list of quantities (BOQ), list of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be downloaded from the departmental website [www.smc.govt.in](http://www.smc.govt.in) or get the schedule of sale and time mentioned in the attached B/T.

D1	Date of Issue of tender Notice	20.04.2021
D2	Period of downloading of bidding documents/Sale of tender document	20.04.2021 from 10 AM to 02.02.2021 upto 4.00 PM
D3	Last Submission Date date	05.05.2021 Thursday AM.
D4	Last Submission End date	05.05.2021 upto 4.00 PM
D5	Date and time of opening of Bidder file	06.05.2021 at 10.30 AM in the office of Executive Engineer CDC SMC
D6	List of Soft Copies to be uploaded	Scanned copy of Treasury Challan/Cash of Receipt document (with) E-Copy of B/T form, Scanned copy of GGT (Single bottom and PAN card), Scanned copy of E-Entitlement card (where applicable), Scanned Copy of W&A Declaration Form as per Annexure "A"

**IMPORTANT CONDITIONS - (1) to (6)**

- The bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the e-B/T carefully before submitting soft copy and insert bid found in the soft copy the bidder shall be rejected.
- All as per Circular issued by the Finance Department J&K vide No.A.Memo/J&K-19-001, revised 22.02.2020 with other communications which reads as under:  
a) Forwarding of Hard copies of soft immunities after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with the same should be allowed only from the bidder who has declared all items [1] after opening of bidder file.  
b) The cost of tenders should be collected by remitting if available, send along with a copy of treasury Challan/Memoial. Bid must be accompanied with soft copy of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan/Banker's Cheque/Engineer City Drainage Civil Division SMC sign/Tender inviting authority's name be certified by W&A-GT/ pledged to Executive Engineer, City Drainage Civil Division SMC.  
c) All bidders have to submit Bid security declaration form instead of Earnest Money deposit (EMD) as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid security declaration form ) as per Annexure "A" below:-  
d) If the lowest bidder fails to produce an amount equal to 2% of contract as performance security in shape of CH/P/GST within 30 days, before initiation of contract and shall be rejected after successful completion of work.  
e) The bid shall be accepted in electronic format at the departmental website [www.smc.govt.in](http://www.smc.govt.in) and scanned the scheduled date mentioned above.  
f) The bid submitted in the Web Site after due date and time will be treated as late in the office of Executive Engineer City Drainage Civil Division SMC through the process of the bidders who wish to attend.  
g) The intending bidders who may wish to avail to e-tender online shall have to upload the following documents while submitting his tender on the-  
1) BOQ/ Necessary statement (If he is authorized) In a soft form Treasury in the shape of Cash  
2) Under documents in the photograph of Registration Card/ The cost of tender document in the shape of e-chalan be certified to W&A-GT/ in favor of Executive Engineer City Drainage Civil Division SMC Srinagar.  
h) Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned on all working day upto 4.00 PM.  
At CDC SMC-0500-08  
On 20.04.2021

Executive Engineer,  
City Drainage Civil Division SMC

## KASHMIR OBSERVER

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### K O V I E W

## Drone attacks

On Sunday, explosives-laden drones were used to attack the Air Force Base in Jammu. Mercifully, the attack didn't cause any big damage or lead to any casualties. The following day the army said it averted a major tragedy when it intercepted two drones flying over the Kaluchak army base. The military said troops spotted the drones separately flying over the base. The first of its kind attacks have created a massive security challenge for the security forces. Just when we thought that the militancy in the former state has been significantly reigned in, these attacks, albeit staying short of inflicting any damage, have broken the calm.

According to J&K police chief Dilbagh Singh, Lashkar-e-Taiba is likely involved in the drone attack on the Air Force Base. The same group, he added, may also be behind the drones spotted near the Kaluchak military facility the following day. According to the DGP, indications of a LeT link have come from the man arrested on Sunday with an explosive device weighing 4 kg. Nadeem Ul Haq, a 22-year-old suspect from Banihal, was arrested hours after the first attack.

This has forced New Delhi to take pre-emptive measures to foil such attacks in the future. India is likely to make a decision soon on the deployment of anti-drone technology at military installations across the country.

But the challenge posed by recent drone attacks has a wider dimension. It underlines a sudden re-emergence of the challenge of militancy, which otherwise has been showing signs of being on the wane over the last year. And just when we were rushing to write the epitaph of militancy, the drone attacks have alarmed the security establishment.

But the attacks shouldn't be such a surprise, after all. Going by the rise and fall of the militancy over the past thirty years, the militancy in J&K has often risen from the ashes.

The number of militants as per the police estimate continues to hover around 200. This has been more or less the annual number of militants over the past five years. And there's little hope there will be a marked decline in the near future. The simultaneous recruitment of the local youth in the militant ranks and the infiltration from across the border invariably replenishes the shortfall caused by the killings of the militants. And it will continue to do so unless the dynamic that animates the militancy is addressed.

There's now hope that the ceasefire agreement along the LoC to be hopefully followed by a resumption of dialogue between India and Pakistan could go some way to reduce the violence in Kashmir. There's a precedent for this: when the LoC truce was first signed in 2003, it was followed by the promising four years of the engagement between the neighbours. The period had witnessed a drastic reduction of violence in Kashmir. Here's hoping for a similar turn of events this time too.

### OTHER OPINION

## Modi's Kashmir moot

Nearly two years after he scrapped the special constitutional status of held Kashmir and effectively locked down the disputed region, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi called a 'surprise' meeting of Kashmiri leaders — mostly loyalists — at his New Delhi residence on Thursday. In attendance were some former chief ministers of the occupied region, including Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, who were both held in detention after the events of August 2019.

Though it is not exactly clear what prompted India to call this meeting, it would not be wrong to say that the moot, weak on substance as it was, was a signal from the Indian leadership that the hard-line approach to resolving the Kashmir issue, specifically by illegally absorbing the region within India, has failed. Such outreach to held Kashmir's political class should have been conducted much earlier, while not inviting leaders of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference was ill-advised, as the Hurriyat is one of the major stakeholders in Kashmir.

The signals from the meeting seem to be mixed. While Mr Modi has indicated he is ready to listen to pro-India parties in Kashmir, he has given no timeframe for the restoration of the region's autonomous status. Ms Mufti had raised the issue of the restoration of Article 370 in the moot, though Mr Modi said a return to full 'statehood' would come "at the right time".

As Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi told a press conference in Islamabad on Friday: "This is very vague. What is an opportune time?"

The fact is that India's illegal move to annex Kashmir has not only been denounced by the majority of those seeking freedom in the region, but even some of New Delhi's most staunch loyalists, who were present at the conclave, have rejected this arbitrary decision. Therefore, if the Indian leadership is serious about restoring normalcy in Kashmir, it must set specific goals instead of giving the region's people lollipops.

If India seeks a genuine way forward, it should set a timeline for a return to autonomous rule in Kashmir. Furthermore, New Delhi must engage with Pakistan as well as the Hurriyat leadership, as the Kashmir issue cannot be resolved without the involvement of all stakeholders. If Mr Modi and company think cosmetic measures and false promises will pacify the Kashmiris, they are mistaken.

Prime Minister Imran Khan has also said that Pakistan is ready for talks with India should the latter provide a roadmap for restoration of Kashmir's special status. Therefore, India must take solid steps to not only address Kashmiris' concerns, but also to push the peace process with Pakistan forward. Moreover, India needs to halt its efforts to change Kashmir's demographics by settling outsiders in the region. India must show that it respects the wishes of the people of Kashmir, or else such meetings will be little more than a political pantomime

Dawn



# Forlorn Stack: RTI appeals from J&K Pile Up at CIC

Very few cases from J&K listed for hearing in last 18 months

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

After enactment of J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019 dozens erstwhile state laws of Jammu & Kashmir were repealed and a large number of central laws were also extended to J&K. Under this legislation, almost 160 laws of the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir were legally protected in spite of the fact that article 370 was abrogated. There were both anti-people as well as pro people laws of J&K that were given legal protection. Jammu & Kashmir Public Safety Act (PSA), 1978 along with Jammu & Kashmir Public Services Guarantee Act 2011 (PSGA) were also protected. The decision to repeal the J&K Right to Information Act, 2009, and replace it with the Centre's RTI Act, 2005 was taken too hastily.

The central RTI Act 2005 which is applicable in J&K with effect from October 31st 2019 has not at all been helpful to people as there is no provision of an independent State Information Commission (SIC) under this law in Union Territories (UTs). Aggrieved citizens of Jammu & Kashmir intending to file an appeal or complaint under RTI Act 2005 have to move to Central Information Commission (CIC) New Delhi. In many instances, Block Development Officers (BDOs) or school education department officers have not shared information under RTI to citizens which has forced them to file 2nd appeal before CIC even as they didn't get justice after filing 1st appeal before a senior officer (First Appellate Authority).

In December last year, my colleague and I filed four RTI appeals with the Central Information Commission (CIC), New Delhi through an online portal. Even after more than 6 months, not even one of those four appeals has been listed for a first hearing. Is this what the Central government means by 'empowerment'? I ask this question because, until August 2019, when Jammu and Kashmir was still a state, the J&K RTI Act, 2009, was stronger than the Centre's RTI Act, 2005, in many respects. When the Centre repealed J&K's RTI law and replaced it with the Union RTI legislation (RTI Act 2005), J&K was disempowered completely.

#### J&K Erstwhile Robust RTI law

Without knowing the facts of the matter, BJP leaders had maintained that the people of J&K had no access to information under the RTI Act until Article 370 was read down. But the erstwhile state of J&K had actually enacted an RTI Act a year before the Centre's RTI Act was enacted. The state's RTI Act was enacted in 2004 by the Mufti Mohammad Syed led People's Democratic

when the J & K legislature passed the J&K RTI Act 2009.

The J&K RTI Act, 2009 (now repealed), was similar to the RTI Act, 2005. But on certain counts, it was much better than the Centre's law. The reason was its time-bound disposal of appeals in the State Information Commission (SIC). This provision for disposals doesn't exist in the RTI Act, 2005, and that is why thousands of appeals remain pending before the central and state information commissions across India.

When the draft bill was prepared for the J&K RTI Act, 2009, the lacunae of the Central RTI Act were noted and kept out of the J&K RTI Act 2009. Pertinently, the J&K State Information Commission -SIC (now shut down post 370) was legally bound to dispose of 2nd appeal within 60 to 120 days. The Centre's RTI Act, 2005, was extended to J&K with effect from October 31, 2019. If an in-depth study of the changes brought by this law were to be done by a reputable institution, the results would be astonishing. The repeal of the J&K RTI Act 2009 and many other erstwhile state laws has left the people of J&K feeling disempowered.

#### People of J&K, Ladakh deprived of SIC

Under the J&K RTI Act 2009, the people of J&K and Ladakh had an independent state information commission (SIC) where they could file appeals and complaints against erring government officers. Since J&K is no longer a state, there is no longer an information commission and aggrieved RTI appellants and complainants must file their appeals and complaints in the Central Information Commission, New Delhi. Once the appeal is filed, it takes a minimum of seven to eight months for the complaint to have even its first hearing. In comparison, the J&K RTI Act 2009 made it clear that the Jammu and Kashmir SIC had to dispose of appeals within 2 to 4 months. This meant that the appeal was usually listed within a month of being filed.

#### No training for designated officers

It is mandatory for the government to train designated public information officers (PIOs) and citizens, especially those belonging to the disadvantaged communities, in the use of the RTI Act 2005. Section 26 of RTI Act 2005 reads as: "The appropriate Government may, to the extent of availability of financial and other resources: Develop and organise educational programmes to advance the understanding of the public, in particular of disadvantaged communities as to how to exercise the rights contemplated under this Act;

Train Central Public Information Officers

**The J&K RTI Act, 2009** (now repealed), was similar to the RTI Act, 2005. But on certain counts, it was much better than the Centre's law. The reason was its time-bound disposal of appeals in the State Information Commission (SIC). This provision for disposals doesn't exist in the RTI Act, 2005, and that is why thousands of appeals remain pending before the central and state information commissions across India

Party and Congress Government in 2004.

When the J&K RTI Act of 2004 proved to be weak in comparison with the Centre's RTI Act of 2005, the Omar Abdullah-led National Conference government introduced a much stronger RTI legislation in 2009. Pertinently, we had been advocating for a stronger RTI regime in J&K right from 2005 and during 2008 assembly elections, National Conference on our request had made enactment of a robust RTI law part of their election manifesto. Along with reputable NGOs like Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) and the then central Chief Information Commissioner, Wajahat Habibullah, we had been lobbying for enactment of new RTI law in J&K. This became a reality on March 20th 2009

or State Public Information Officers, as the case may be of public authorities and produce relevant training materials for use by the public authorities themselves."

In the last 18 months, not a single RTI workshop has been held by the government for the people of the backward regions of the union territories of Ladakh and J&K since the RTI Act, 2005 came into effect from 31st October 2019. The government has even failed to train its own designated officers called Public Information Officers (PIOs). The training workshops could have been held via virtual mode as well in view of COVID 19 pandemic, but this does not seem to be a priority of the Government.

**It takes a minimum of seven to eight months for the complaint to have even its first hearing. In comparison, the J&K RTI Act 2009 made it clear that the Jammu and Kashmir SIC had to dispose of appeals within 2 to 4 months. This meant that the appeal was usually listed within a month of being filed.**

#### Corruption Free Governance?

PM Modi had claimed that the people of J&K would get effective and corruption-free governance after Article 370 was read down. So why don't the field officers act? Why do they constantly refuse to share information under RTI? Why do we have to file an RTI to get the beneficiary list under a scheme like the PM Kisan or PM Awas Yojna (PMAY)? Why isn't this information available on Govt websites as mandated under section 4 of RTI Act 2005?

The delegation of J&K RTI Movement met Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, early this year and apprised him of issues related to RTI and the lack of updates on government websites. He was very cordial and within a few days, he had orders issued by the secretary of the general administration department (GAD). But once again there was no action. The deadline set by the GAD to update government websites expired at the end of February this year. The websites remain filled with obsolete information.

#### RTI Facilitation Centers

Ordinary villagers or even citizens from Srinagar or Jammu cannot approach the New Delhi-based CIC as the government has failed to set up RTI facilitation centers. Because of the lack of information and awareness, most of the RTI applicants in J&K now rarely file a second appeal before the CIC. Many of them are not aware of online mechanisms to file 2nd appeal. There is nobody to guide them except for a handful of RTI activists in Srinagar, Jammu, Budgam and a few other districts. The situation in Ladakh is even worse.

Those who have already filed RTI appeals in Central Information Commission (CIC) New Delhi against erring PIOs which includes I and my colleagues are waiting for the 1st hearing of their cases. Some appellants who had filed RTI appeals 8 to 9 months back, haven't been listed. The CIC is not to be blamed. This is not a deliberate attempt by them as they have a huge workload already with limited human resources. The CIC isn't able to do justice as they have to hear cases against all the central government agencies plus all the UTs of India which now includes J&K as well. Cases from J&K have in-fact increased their work while the number of commissioners at CIC remain the same. To address these concerns, the Government must create CIC's circuit bench in J&K where RTI appeals from J&K and Ladakh could be taken care of.

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

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

# The Future of Education is Skill-Based

Vijay GarG

It is when students begin to actively participate in campus organizations that they will land up in better organizations which ultimately result in satisfying and lucrative careers. Thus, internships are important to provide the much-needed “hire experience” that translates into a permanent job

Moving away from the conventional pattern of teaching and learning, the present age is witnessing a paradigm shift in the way teachers are teaching and students are assimilating information. This change in educational patterns is all set to open up newer avenues for the teaching and learning groups, paving the way for a modern school of thought. If you are curious to know about the futuristic trends in education that will shape the lives of the global student fraternity, here are the driving forces that you should watch out for:

#### Practical Learning Strategies

Learning by rote is a thing of the past. Now is the age when students are prompted to demonstrate their learnings by following a practical approach. Laying the foundation for personalized learning strategies, the future presents umpteen opportunities to unleash the creative skills of students. It is only when students show what they learnt that they will better understand the concepts of the topic, before they step into learning the next topic as an extension to the earlier one. This strategy of practically demonstrating their knowledge can help students master their subjects.

#### Focus on Students' Choice and Preferences

The future of education is all about strengthening and incorporating student-centric learning. In this endeavor, the onus is on teachers to adopt personalized learning and teaching patterns. Flexibility in learning is the keyword that governs the forthcoming tendency of imparting quality education to students. Given the fact that every student is unique with a different set of choices and strengths, it is through flexible learning patterns that students will benefit a great deal in future.

#### Collaboration – The Powerful Tool of Sharing and Connecting With Others

All thanks to umpteen technological innovations, education is witnessing a sea of change. Learning and teaching are no longer restricted to the use of textbooks and blackboards. Education has surpassed the geographical boundaries coming in the form of online training courses that can help students to enroll and complete them from any part of the globe. A host of open-source educative sites are now available to students to educate them about any topic under the sun. They can simply browse the topic that interests them the most and exchange information through social media circles.

Active participation in the online social world will set the stage for a collaborative form of learning when students of one school or country can effortlessly reach out to their peers located in other regions; whenever they want. Hence, working together paves way for better communication between students alongside improving their competencies and skills for the world to acknowledge and appreciate.

#### Edutainment

An amalgamation of education and entertainment is opening the doors to think ahead. It can mean the use of technology to concentrate on online videos or slide shows. Grabbing the attention of students, the latest technological innovations in the sphere of Augmented Reality (AR) have already replaced the pens and chalk pieces needed to learn and teach.

Relying on media as an instrument to impart education has its own benefits, brightening the future of students by honing their creative skills. While providing them with a platform to express themselves better, media learning helps students to stay in constant touch with global educational events that are happening at different venues across the globe. Educative podcasts, videos and recorded audio-video lessons are the latest educational trends that will promise a beautiful makeover to the traditional classroom-type of teaching and learning.

#### The Emergence of A Holistic Change

It should be kept in mind that the relationship between students and teachers is constantly



changing and evolving with the passage of every single day. Gone are the days when teachers were tagged as the only source of learning. Now is the age when students are able to educate teachers through classroom discussions and presentations. While teachers are looking for other means to educate students, online learning comes as a handy tool to excite the participation of introverted students.

As a class enjoys the luxury of learning from different approaches, knowledge-seekers can make the most of such teaching methods. Permitting students to get introduced to global educational patterns, exchange of facts becomes a breeze when teachers assign interactive quizzes as class and home assignments along with the novel flipped classroom sessions.

#### Skill-Based Education Paves Way for Trained Professionals

Education is all about preparing students towards employment. While bookish knowledge helps them understand the topic, it is only when they apply that knowledge to a specific trade that they will shine in their jobs. Skill-based training, also called as vocational training not only enhances employability but also drives the competencies in students to try their hand in various disciplines.

Skill-based training through its modular pattern can be introduced at the secondary and higher secondary stages. Once this is done, our economy will witness a boost coming in the form of competitive professionals who are equipped with on-the-job-training. This skill-centric education allows students to stay in good stead with the advancements in their chosen field of work. Tagged as an essential pillar of education, skill-based training is one of the ways to bridge the gap between the demand and supply of trained professionals; a scenario that is rampant in many countries.

#### Learning On the Go Is Fun

This is the generation of smartphones which are not only omnipresent but also omnipotent. Capable of simplifying our lives in a number of ways, students will be empowered to learn anywhere and anytime that is convenient to them through their internet-connected smartphones. Offering them the best learning experiences, mobile learning can further narrow the boundaries of learning.

#### Appreciating Students

Feedback is another tool that will see the light of the day in imparting holistic education. Positive feedback coming in the form of awards and credits will encourage students to perform better and develop a keen sense of healthy competition amongst peer groups. Departing from the tradi-

tional A to F grading of students, it is through academic credits that teachers and schools can handhold students of varying IQ levels to demonstrate their innate strengths. This mind shift of compartmentalizing students to grades will develop the positive mindset that will work in favor of the learning communities.

#### Internships – Another Promising Tool For Career Readiness

Students will be better prepared to identify and grab job opportunities provided they are exposed to real world experiences. Since the underlying purpose of education is to make a mark for yourself in your chosen field of work, internships offer a close-up to the corporate environment or job culture.

Internships are promising since they extend their classroom learnings to familiarize themselves with the workplace environment. While helping students gain technical knowledge about the working of organizations, in-house training workshops can hone their social skills. It is when students begin to actively participate in campus organizations that they will land up in better organizations which ultimately result in satisfying and lucrative careers. Thus, internships are important to provide the much-needed “hire experience” that translates into a permanent job with a handsome salary.

#### Adaptive Learning Platforms

Teachers are now being trained to bring in an adaptive learning curriculum which is in the best interest of the learning fraternity. It is through such innovative platforms that teachers can improve student engagement when they begin to impart education using adaptive courseware. It is a personalized learning which helps students work on instant feedback given out by their faculty.

Coming in the form of formative assessments, students will be differentiated based on their innate strengths and capabilities. Creating enough room for improvement, appropriate learning tools can be recommended so that the nascent talents of students are unveiled and brought to the fore. This competency-based educational pattern will thus lay the foundation of a curriculum that will keep in mind the fundamental interests and individual needs of students.

Transitioning from the traditional to the modern style of imparting education did take a long time. And now that this change is widespread, students across the globe will be at the receiving end of multiple benefits that will not only strengthen their knowledge-base but will also pave the way for lucrative and high-paying careers they are dreaming of.

The author is a retired Principal

The first time I realised how important intent is, was when I was studying criminal law in Law College. How mens rea translating from Latin to mean guilty mind, or criminal intent, distinguished a murder from homicide. From being punished for a murder one could be cleared of any criminal charges, if the act of murder was done in self defence.

In life, I realised how intent actually shapes our minds and actions. As one goes through the journey of life, one can distinguish how genuine is the other person's intent. Some people are so genuine, that there is complete harmony between their thoughts, intent and action. On the other side of the spectrum, are those people who pretend to help but actually have no intention of doing so. They will fake concern and be very vocal about their intent to help, all sentences start with “I wish” or “If I could” or “I would have loved to but....”

Some people, who I must say have a lot of free time on their hand, want to hear the full story but actually from the start have no intent of helping you. Now I have become a bit wise and only ask those who I know are genuinely concerned and will go out of their way to do what they can. I don't have the time to tell stories to the fake ones.

Another interesting trait of those who are not really interested in your cause is that they will give a hundred excuses why one should not even try. “It

is impossible, “you are wasting your time” or “100 per cent this will not happen”. My request to such people is to keep their negativity to themselves. At least don't drain me out with it. Just like the quote: “If you have nothing nice to say, it is better not to say anything”, similarly, if you can't help or encourage, please don't discourage me. There are enough challenges in life, and we all need encouragement to face a new day, especially in the pandemic that we are living in.

Being a believer in the law of attraction, I am naturally in sync with like-minded people. The ones who always tend to think of the negative consequences first are not my favourites. Being a lawyer, we weigh the pros and cons, the positives and negatives of every case. What baffles me is how some people just think of the negatives. “You won't get a table at the restaurant”, to “you will be stuck in traffic” to “you will be in trouble at the Customs” to whatever. I do get amused when I prove

## Intention Is Where The Game Begin

Shilpa Bhasin Mehra

Somewhere in the race of life, our intent to do good things got substituted for the intent to please our boss, or intent to buy a new house or car. What Covid 19 has shown us is that what we crave for is the human interaction with our family and loved ones, the outings with our friends and the good times we had, and not for the new house, car or watch

them wrong.

When I was studying the Science of Well Being (Happiness), it was amazing to learn that we get happiness when we give, share and care — what was needed was the genuine intent to do so. We should not let our lesser resources discourage us from doing what we can. If we can't feed a hundred, at least we can feed one, Mother Teresa said.

Somewhere in the race of life, our intent to do good things got substituted for the intent to please our boss, or intent to buy a new house or car. What Covid 19 has shown us is that what we crave for is the human interaction with our family and loved ones, the outings with our friends and the good times we had, and not for the new house, car or watch. One quote that really inspired me when I was paralysed in 2003 was “life may not be the party we hoped it would be, but while we are here we may as well dance”. Putting this in the present context, while we are in lockdown and restricted movement, we can look around and see if we can help our neighbours and community in some way. One community I know does a virtual music programme with cheerful and motivating songs sung by the residents to uplift the mood in this tough time. So it is not always financial help that is needed. We are going through a very emotionally turbulent time too. Send an inspiring quote, a good morning message, or a joke to bring some laughter on Whatsapp. The daily mortality rate can be avoided please.

We say charity begins at home. I say goodness begins from our intent. If a precious metal like silver can get tarnished, so can our intentions. We need to polish our good intentions and the result will be shining and so rewarding.

Khaleej Times



## T20 World Cup To Be Held From Oct 17-Nov 14: ICC



Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** This year's T20 World Cup, which has been moved to the UAE and Oman from India due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will be played from October 17 to November 14, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced on Tuesday.

The ICC statement came a day after BCCI intimated the governing body that the event can be moved out of India.

"The BCCI will remain the hosts of the event, which will now be held in Dubai International Stadium, the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi, the Sharjah Stadium, and the Oman Cricket Academy Ground, from 17 October to 14 November 2021," the ICC stated.

The first round of the tournament, comprising the eight qualifying teams, will now be split between Oman and UAE. Four of these teams will then progress to the Super 12s round where they'll join the eight automatic qualifiers.

The upcoming edition will be the first men's T20 World Cup played

since 2016, when West Indies beat England in the final in India.

The eight teams competing in the preliminary stage are Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Ireland, Netherlands, Scotland, Namibia, Oman and Papua New Guinea, before the play-off stage and the Final on November 14.

"Our priority is to deliver the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 safely, in full and in its current window," said acting ICC CEO Geoff Allardice.

"...the decision gives us the certainty we need to stage the event in a country that is a proven international host of multi-team events in a bio-secure environment.

"We will work closely with the BCCI, the Emirates Cricket Board and Oman Cricket to ensure fans can enjoy a wonderful celebration of cricket.

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly added: "We would have been happier hosting it in India but considering the uncertainty due to the COVID-19 situation and the importance of a world championship, the BCCI will now continue to host this tournament in UAE and Oman."

## JKCA Seeks Information From Cricket Clubs & District Associations

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The BCCI appointed sub-committee for Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) on Tuesday said that it is seeking detailed information from all affiliated cricket clubs (including disputed ones) and District Cricket Associations. The information can be submitted by 15th July, 2021.

In a press release, the JKCA said the seeking of information from clubs is aimed at revival of cricketing activities in the UT of J&K and Ladakh.

"The detail of information

sought includes constitution, year wise details of the teams, details of elections held on yearly basis & list of elected office bearers, details of the offices of the clubs/association to include location, mailing address, email ID," the statement said.

"Also include details of assets, fixtures and facilities, details of funds received from JKCA including expenditure details. Details of members who have incurred disability under Lodha panel report has also been sought. The clubs/associations have also been asked to intimate details of any financial

help received by any club member in any capacity from JKCA," it added.

The statement also revealed that the sub-committee members will hold direct interactions with the affiliated clubs and district associations soon. The BCCI formed the three-member sub-committee, comprising of former Delhi and J&K Ranji cricketer Mithun Manhas and two BJP office bearers – Sunil Sethi and Anil Gupta, this year on June 16th to handle JKCA's day-to-day functioning.

The BCCI also appointed Majid Dar to oversee development of cricket in Srinagar.

## JKFA Professional League 2021 From July 12, Top 2 Teams To Enter I-League 2nd Division

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu & Kashmir Football Association (JKFA) on Tuesday announced that its Professional League 2021 will start from July 12 at Synthetic Turf TRC, Srinagar.

The JKFA said that 8 football clubs will participate in the competition and the top two teams will get nominated to play in the 2021 season of the Hero I-League 2nd Division, set to be held in September of this year in Bengaluru. The JKFA also said that the League will take place in a round-robin format.

JKFA's PRO, Mr Bilal told KO that the 8 teams include J&K's top clubs, most of whom are determined to play I-league 2nd Division this year.

The competing teams: Kashmir Avengers FC, J&K Bank FC, Downtown Heroes FC, Hyderya Sports FC, Lonestar Kashmir FC, Shaheen FC (Jammu-based), Real Kashmir FC (Reserves) and the JK Sports Council Football Academy.



## After 2 Years, White Water Rafting Activities Resume At Wussan

Observer News Service

**GANDERBAL:** The cold waters of Sindh on Tuesday reverberated with the resumption of White Water Rafting from Wussan to Wail in Ganderbal district after nearly two years.

The Rafting activities were kick started by the Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir jointly with Adventure Tour Operators with strict adherence to all COVID-19 related SOPs and protocols.

Director Tourism, Kashmir, Dr. G.N. Ittoo, senior officers of Tourism Department, representatives of Adventure and water sports groups, white water rafters and many tourists were present at the event.

"White Water Rafting is an important component of Adventure Tourism in J&K and the Department is seriously exploring the possibilities of more adventure tourism avenues across Kashmir so that more youth get employability opportunities besides the tourists visiting J&K get options of adventure activities than routine visits to places of attraction," the Director Tourism said.



Highlighting that Kashmir Valley has ample scope for adventure tourism activities, Dr. Ittoo added that the Department has started exploring virgin tourist destinations across Kashmir Valley so that tourists get diverse options while visiting here and recently in that direction several unexplored trekking routes were also opened for the enthusiastic trekking goers.

The Director Tourism said the Department has carried vaccination

campaign to inoculate tourism stakeholders against COVID-19 pandemic. He said as a result of this vigorous campaign around 85% tourism stakeholders got vaccinated. The goal, he said, is to achieve cent per cent vaccination of tourism stakeholders so that once the COVID-19 situation further improves, tourists get the confidence of coming to Kashmir in bigger numbers. On the occasion, large number of white water rafters participated in the event.

## Tour de France Riders Stage Protest Amid Road Safety Debate

Agencies

**FOUGERES:** Tour de France riders staged a protest at the start of Tuesday's stage to complain about perceived dangerous racing conditions after a flurry of crashes reignited the issue of road safety.

Having left the town of Redon in the western Brittany region to start Stage 4, the peloton rode at a moderate pace and all riders got off their bikes after about one kilometer. They waited silently for about a minute before hitting the road again.

After the crash-filled Stage 3, several riders have criticized race organizers for setting up what they considered a dangerous finale to a Tour stage, especially in the early days of the race when nervousness is at its highest level.

Former world champion Philippe Gilbert said in a video that riders' representatives asked for the Stage 3 timings to end with five kilometers left. The goal by the majority of riders was to avoid a risky final sprint in narrow and winding roads leading to the finish line.

"We had analyzed the route and saw that the finale was extremely dangerous," said Gilbert, a Belgian classic specialist.

Gilbert said that race organizer ASO supported the proposal. "But the UCI (cycling's governing body) commissaires did not accept the request, it was rejected in the morning at the start of the race," he said.

Gilbert said a pileup on a downhill curve about three kilometers from the finish was a direct consequence.

"There was a big mistake from the people who approved this route," he said.

Riders' union CPA said in a statement it has asked the UCI to set up discussions to adapt the so-called "3-kilometer rule" during stage races. Under that regulation, riders who crash in the last three kilometers are awarded the time of the group they were riding with before they fell.

"This could avoid circumstances such as those which occurred in yesterday's stage," the union said. "Riders and CPA are determined

to pursue changes for the safety and physical integrity of athletes. These changes are more necessary than ever."

Thierry Gouvenou, who is in charge of the Tour route, told L'Equipe newspaper about the increasing challenges he faces to find finish sites without dangerous road materials.

"There are no longer any medium-sized towns without a small island, roundabout or narrowing," he said. "Ten years ago, there were 1,100 dangerous points on the Tour de France. This year, there are 2,300. If the level of demand becomes too great, there will be no more finishes. That's where we are."

Gilbert did not put all the blame on the route on the UCI, though, saying the teams that scouted it before the race should have let know organizers about its dangers.

One of Gilbert's teammates at the Lotto-Soudal team, ace sprinter Caleb Ewan, fell near the finish line as he contested the sprint and was forced to abandon with a broken collarbone.

Two top contenders for the yellow jersey – last year's runner-up, Primož Roglic, and 2018 champion Geraint Thomas – were involved in crashes on Monday, losing ground to their main rivals. But they fell on straight roads with no major difficulty and did not blame organizers. Saturday's opening stage was marred by two big pileups, one caused by a spectator holding a cardboard sign in the way of the peloton.

Calling for changes in the sport without offering solutions, veteran Groupama-FDJ sports director Marc Madiot called on all stakeholders to take their responsibilities "because if we don't do it, we will have deaths and I don't want to phone the family of the rider who will be in hospital forever. That's not worthy of our sport."

The last rider to die on the Tour was Fabio Casartelli, an Italian on the then-Motorola team of Lance Armstrong who crashed on the descent of the Portet d'Aspet pass in 1995. Many serious crashes have continued to mar the race since.

## Lionel Messi Breaks Argentina's Record For Caps At Copa America Win



Agencies

**CUIBA:** Lionel Messi became Argentina's most capped international player, marking the occasion with two goals as he led his national team to a 4-1 win over Bolivia at the Copa America.

The 34-year-old Messi's 148th appearance for Argentina beat the mark previously held by retired defender Javier Mascherano.

His two goals and one assist helped Argentina ensure top spot in Group A, setting up a quarterfinal against Ecuador on Saturday.

Messi made his Argentina debut in 2005 in a 2-1 win in a friendly against Hungary. He was sent off

during that match after hitting a rival with his elbow.

The Barcelona striker, who holds the all-time Argentina high of 75 goals, is also seeking to break two South American records: Pele's as the top goal scorer of a national team (77 for Brazil), and Chile's Sergio Livingstone mark of 34 for most Copa America appearances (Messi has 31).

Diego Maradona scored 32 goals in 87 matches for Argentina, including the 1986 World Cup triumph. Messi, despite his impressive individual statistics, is yet to win a major title for Argentina.

He was runner-up at the 2014 World Cup and at two editions of Copa America in 2015 and in '16.

## Kyle Jamieson Hid In Bathroom To Escape Tension Of New Zealand's WTC Final Run Chase

Press Trust of India

**LONDON:** The tension and nervousness caused during New Zealand's run chase on the final day of the World Test Championship title clash against India forced their star pacer Kyle Jamieson to hide inside the bathroom.

Jamieson, who was the Man of the Match for his seven wickets in the final, felt nervous while watching the action from the dressing room.

"It was probably the toughest period of cricket I've been a part of, in terms of watching," Jamieson told Country Sport Breakfast on Gold AM.

"We were sitting inside and actually watching on TV. There was a bit of a delay but it seemed like every ball the Indian crowd was up and about and I was like 'jeez it's a wicket' or something like that, but it turned out it was just a block or a single."

Eventually, captain Kane Williamson and Ross Taylor got the team home rather comfortably while chasing 139 for a win.

"It was pretty tough to watch. I actually tried to at times to go to



the bathroom where there was no noise to just get away from it for a while because it was quite nerve-racking.

"But it was nice to have Kane and Ross out there, two of our greatest ever batters really to calm the nerves and finish the job the way they did,"

said the lanky pacer. Jamieson did not get enough time to celebrated as he was back in the field with 48 hours of the final, this time for his county side Surrey.

"It was a quick turnaround. I think within 48 hours I was back on the park playing T20 for Surrey.

It's kind of the life we live a little bit. But it's nice to stay on and to experience county cricket for the next few weeks.

"It was certainly tough to say goodbye to those guys (NZ teammates). Coming off a high of what we just experienced and that moment we all enjoyed together, to go and say goodbye was quite tough."

Jamieson had India and his skipper at Royal Challengers Bangalore, Virat Kohli, dismissed twice in the final. The pacer is feeling a little bit homesick after being away for close to three months.

"It's been about three months and will be about just over four months by the time I get out of MIQ (managed isolation and quarantine). It's been a long time and I've certainly loved my time at home. So it's been tough at times but I guess it's been the environment we're in.

"Look, I'm pretty fortunate to be able to still have our jobs and to be able to go around the world and work. I'm pretty grateful for that but I'm looking forward to getting home in a few weeks' time."

## De Boer Quits As Netherlands Coach After Euro 2020 Exit

Agencies

**THE HAGUE:** Frank de Boer quit as coach of the Netherlands on Tuesday following the team's elimination from the European Championship.

The Dutch lost to the Czech Republic 2-0 on Sunday in the round of 16 after winning their first three group matches at Euro 2020. De Boer and the Dutch soccer federation had set a goal of reaching at least the quarterfinals.

"I have decided not to continue as national coach," De Boer said in a statement released by the federation. "The goal was not reached, that is clear."

De Boer faced fierce criticism after the loss to the Czechs because of his decision to abandon the traditional Dutch formation of four defenders, three midfielders and three forwards.

De Boer had only been in the job since September. He took over from Ronald Koeman after he left to join Barcelona.

De Boer said pressure on him since the loss had increased "and that is not a healthy situation for me or the squad" as it prepares to resume qualifying for next year's



World Cup. The Netherlands will play at Norway on Sept. 1 in Oslo.

De Boer was appointed to the Dutch job about two months after he left Atlanta United following a poor re-start to the MLS season, with the team losing all three of its group games at the MLS Is Back tournament in Florida.

De Boer had a successful start to his management career at Ajax,

winning four straight league titles from 2011-14.

But he was fired in 2016 after only 85 days in charge of Inter Milan and lasted just 10 weeks at Crystal Palace in 2017 before being ousted after the team lost its first four Premier League games without scoring a goal.

No replacement was immediately announced for De Boer.



Soldiers stand outside the house damaged during overnight encounter with militants in Maloora area of Srinagar on Tuesday. KO Photo

## Ganderbal Village Residents Protest Over Shortage Of Drinking Water



REPRESENTATION PIC

### Observer News Service

**GANDERBAL:** The residents of Kassana Pati Hariganiwan of Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Tuesday held a protest against the water scarcity in their area and blocked the traffic on the busy Srinagar-Leh highway.

A large number of people carrying buckets assembled and blocked the national highway at Hariganiwan.

The protesters were raising slogans against the Jal-Shakti department for failing to provide uninterrupted water

supply to their area.

"We are without water for the last several days and are forced to drink contaminated water. There are apprehensions of the outbreak of water-borne diseases," a lady protester said.

Locals requested higher-ups to look into the matter at the earliest so that they can heave a sigh of relief.

Later officials reached the spot and pacified the protesters by assuring them that their problem will be taken up with concerned authorities for redressal. (Agencies)

## Female Health Worker Commits Suicide In Budgam



### Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** A female health worker allegedly committed suicide by consuming some poisonous substance at her home in Dalipora area of Nagam in Central Kashmir's Budgam district Monday evening.

Officials said that a woman (name withheld), a health worker at PHC Hufroo Chadoora, consumed some poisonous substance at her home last night.

He said that the woman was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital where from she was shifted to Srinagar hospital, however, she died on the way.

Meanwhile, police has started investigation into the matter.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Arrested Militant

was a specific input about militants carrying an attack on highways. Keeping in view the seriousness of the input, few joint checkpoints of JK Police and CRPF were placed along the highway, he said.

"On Parimpora naka (checkpoint), a vehicle was stopped and their identity was asked. The person sitting at the back seat tried to open his bag and took out a grenade. The police party swiftly swung into action and grabbed the person sitting at the back seat. Both the driver and the person sitting at the back seat were taken into police custody. After taking off his mask, it was identified that he was militant Abrar, a top LeT commander," the spokesman said.

He said a pistol and some hand grenades were recovered from Abrar's possession.

From there, Abrar was taken to the house to recover the weapon (AK 47 rifle) after cordoning off the suspect's house, the spokesman said, adding that the party was entering the house when one of his associates, a Pakistani militant hiding inside the premises, fired at the party.

In the initial round of fire, 3 CRPF personnel, including an Assistant Commandant Satender Kumar of CRPF 21 battalion was injured and Abrar accompanying the search party also got wounded, the spokesman said.

The force was strengthened and they retaliated with heavy firing, he said.

"In the ensuing gunfire, the foreign militant who fired from inside the house got neutralised and Abrar also got killed. Two AK-47 rifles along with ammunitions were recovered from the site," he added.

The spokesman said Abrar was involved in several killings of forces personnel.

### Security Up Around

have been put on a high alert.

The top security officials including the GoC 15 Corps and Kumar have reviewed the drone threat. "It's a new security challenge," Kumar said, "We will deal with it technically."

Deployment of security forces has been heightened at vital installations. "Details of that can't be shared," he said.

On June 28, payloads of more than two kg each in improvised explosive devices (IEDs) fitted with impact charges were dropped on the Indian Air Force Station in Jammu.

"The security guards heard two blast like sounds followed at an interval of five to six minutes. It is suspected drones dropped their payload and went back," a security officer told The Wire.

Meanwhile, speaking about the increased militant attacks in the Kashmir valley, particularly in Srinagar, Kumar said that the killings are aimed at creating fear psychosis to disrupt the on-going tourist season.

Late Sunday evening a special police officer (SPO), his wife and daughter were killed at Hariparigam, Awantipora.

A police official said that two attackers involved in the attacked have been identified and both belong to proscribed militant outfit Jaish-e-Muhammad.

He said that two Jaish militants carried out the attack killing an SPO Fayaz Ahmed, his wife and daughter.

The IGP Kashmir said that militants are targeting innocent civilians and unarmed policemen. He said that the department cannot stop the policemen from going home on leave. "They are from this place and have a right to visit their families."

On June 22, last Tuesday, unidentified militants killed a police officer of CID wing at Kanipora in the outskirts

of Srinagar city. Pervaiz Ahmad Dar was posted at Parimpora police station in the Srinagar city and was a resident of Kanipora where he had gone out at the time of the attack.

A day later on Wednesday, militants killed a youth in Habba Kadal locality of the capital city.

He was identified as Umar Ahmad, 25, and was a mobile shop owner by profession.

Militant outfit TRF, that police says is a Front of Lashkar, claimed responsibility of the attack and said the shopkeeper was an alleged police informer.

On June 26, three civilians were injured in a grenade attack by militants on security forces in Srinagar's Barbarsah area.

Meanwhile, Kumar said that that two Lashkar-e-Toiba militants were killed in a gunfight in Maloora area on the outskirts of Srinagar city.

On Monday, the police said that it arrested a militant and on Tuesday morning, claimed that the militant was killed in the gunfight.

In a statement police said that at a Naka on Kashmir highway in the Srinagar outskirts, on Monday, a vehicle was stopped and the identity of the people in the vehicle was asked.

"The person sitting at the back seat tried to open his bag and took out a grenade. The Naka party swiftly swung into action and grabbed the person sitting at the back seat. Both the driver and the person sitting at the back seat were taken into police station where after taking off his mask it was identified that he was militant Abrar a top LeT Commander."

The statement said that the apprehended militant was put to joint interrogation by JKP, CRPF and Army.

"On sustained interrogation by the joint teams of JKP, CRPF & Army he disclosed that he had kept his AK-47 rifle in a house located at Maloora. There after he was taken to that house to recover the weapon after laying proper cordon of suspected house. When the party was entering the house to recover the alleged weapon, one of his associate, a Pakistani militant (about whom he didn't disclose anything) hiding inside the house fired on the party. In the initial firefight 3 CRPF personnel got injured and Abrar accompanying the search party got hit."

Kumar said that in the ensuing gun fire foreign militant who fired from inside the house was killed and Abrar also got killed.

Pertinently, soon after the arrest of Abrar, a video purportedly shot by a security forces personnel went viral on social media in which Abrar was seen being captured.

When asked about the violation of SOP about taking Abrar to the site, the IGP said that it is a "professional hazard".

The IGP said that Abrar was wanted in the Lawaypora shootout case where he along with another militant Khurshed Mir had killed three CRPF men in March this year.

"Khurshed Mir was killed in the recent Sopore gunfight and the rifle he had snatched from the slain CRPF man was also recovered from him. TRF militant outfit had released a video in which Khurshed was shown snatching the weapon and firing at the CRPF men and Lawaypora," the IGP said.

He said the killing of Abrar and another foreign militant is a big success for the forces. "While arresting Abrar, joint teams had recovered a pistol and a grenade," Kumar said.

Asked whether Lashkar has its active men in Srinagar, the IGP said that after "radicalisation and indoctrination", six youth from Srinagar joined militancy of which one was killed recently. "Five others are active and will be killed or arrested soon," he said, adding that there is a "network of sleeper cells" also active in Srinagar and efforts are

on to break that nexus soon."

### NIA To Probe

the drone attack on the Jammu air force station.

The decision to hand over the probe into the first-of-its-kind militant attack at the Indian Air Force station was taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The investigation into the attack on the Jammu air force station has been handed over to the NIA, a Home Ministry spokesperson said.

In what was the first instance of Pakistan-based militants deploying drones to strike vital installations, two bombs were dropped at the IAF station in Jammu in the early hours of Sunday, causing minor injuries to two airmen.

The explosions took place around 1.40 am within six minutes of each other. The first blast ripped off the roof of a single-storey building at the technical area of the airport manned by the IAF in Satwari area on the outskirts of the city. The second one was 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.

Investigators were yet to determine the flight path of the drones that dropped the bombs as they scanned the CCTV footage, including from cameras installed on the boundary walls of the airport. However, all the CCTV cameras focused on the roadside, the officials said.

The drones that dropped the explosives were either flown back across the border or to some other destination during the night, they suspect.

The aerial distance from the Jammu airport to the international border is 14 km.

A day after the attack, the IAF station located at the Jammu airport on Monday continued to remain out of bounds for all but the probe teams including one from the NIA, which picked up every bit of evidence available on the ground.

### PC Disowns Muzaffar

on March 17 this year announcing Baig joining the party fold.

"It is with great pleasure we announce that one of the towering leaders of the state Mr. Muzaffar Hussein Baig is now a part of the party from where he started his political journey. It is a nostalgic and a proud moment for all of us," PC had posted on its official Twitter handle with a picture showing Lone shaking hands with former Deputy CM.

"He has a very long association with our family. He also started his political career with Peoples Conference. So, as a nephew, I along with my colleagues came to meet Baig Sahab and asked him for my right. He has given me the rights which I duly deserve," Lone told reporters outside Baig's Srinagar residence.

However, Imran Ansari said that Lone visited Baig's residence only after being sure and convinced that the wanted him to visit his residence and was looking forward to welcome him.

"Politics was discussed there and he was very thankful to PC for getting Safina Ji elected as DDC chairperson," Imran said.

He also claimed that PC helped Beigh's wife to become the DDC Chairperson from Baramulla, where his party has 3 members.

Even though we had aspirations within our camp for the post of the chairmanship, but she came to me and requested me that we support her. We did not support her on any conditions otherwise she was a single member, how could she have become the chairperson. We felt she deserved a chance and was a good candidate," Imran said, as per a local news agency KNS.

The PC leader also claimed that Baig had expressed desire to go to the PM Modi's all party meeting in New Delhi with Sajad Lone and requested if the PC president can take him along.

"But at no point did we have any remotest idea about what he was going to speak inside and neither we had any idea about what we were going to speak inside," he said.

Baig reportedly argued at the meeting that the issue of the revocation of Article 370 should be left to the Apex Court as the matter was sub-judice. "As far as Article 370 is concerned, I said in the meeting that the matter is in the Supreme Court so let the Supreme Court decide on this issue", Baig told a private news channel in an interview after the meeting.

Meanwhile, Muzaffar Hussain Baig told Kashmir Observer that PC is his family but he has not joined the party as such. Reacting to Imran's claims, Baig said: "I was not invited to Delhi as a PC leader. Ex-Chief Ministers and ex-Deputy Chief Ministers were invited to the meeting. And heads of political parties. I was invited as Deputy Chief Minister. The BJP Dy CM's were also invited and allowed to speak."

"It was made very clear to me by PM's office that former Deputy Chief Ministers and the heads of political parties were invited. It is not that Sajad Lone took me there and I was not invited. I had received invitation in my own capacity," he added.

He further said that at the APM, only one person from each political party was allowed to speak.

"Farooq Abdullah spoke for NC. Omar was not called to speak. Only one person could speak for one political party," he said.

When asked if he is a part of PC, Baig said that he is not but could be anytime. "It depends on working out the arrangements and that takes time. Sajad Sahab had come here thrice. I made it very clear to him that if I join PC, which was my first political party; it will not be my desire, for any position in the government, if suppose PC becomes part of the government," he said.

A lawyer turned politician, Baig started his political career in late 1970s with the newly founded party by the late Abdul Gani Lone. However, his political stint came to a halt when he was appointed advocate general of J&K by the then Chief Minister Ghulam Mohammad Shah in 1983, who had floated Awami National Conference, after breaking ties with National Conference (NC), a party led by his brother-in-law Farooq Abdullah.

The 73-year-old politician was conferred the third-highest civilian award — the Padma Bhushan by Modi-led BJP government in January last year, when most of the mainstream leaders, including his own party president and two other former Chief Ministers Farooq Abdullah and his son Omar were under detention.

In November last year, Baig, who co-founded PDP with Mufti Mohammad Sayed in 1999, resigned from the party over the seat sharing agreement with the constituents of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) for the district development council

(DDC) polls.

### Safina Stares

DDC members to discuss future strategy. Our leaders Sajad Gani Lone, Imran Reza Ansari, Syed Basharat Bukhari, Abdul Gani Vakil, Raja Ejaz Ali and Muhammad Abbas would take a final call on the matter," a senior party leader said.

He said the party's district leaders have conveyed to the top leadership that continuing support to Safina would be a political blunder.

Safina, who fought DDC election as an independent candidate, managed to

become chairperson of DDC Baramulla with support of Peoples Conference, Apni Party and cross-voting by members of Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) in her favour. In the 14-member Council, PC has three members, National Conference, Apni Party, Congress and Peoples Democratic Party have two members each and three are independents—(KNO)

### Panel Meeting Today

its associate members such as Lok Sabha MPs from Jammu and Kashmir is likely to take place soon. The date for such a meeting will be firmed up on Wednesday.

Of the state's mainstream parties, the National Conference, which has won all the three Lok Sabha seats from the Kashmir Valley, had earlier decided to stay away from the proceedings of the commission contending that there was no need to redraw the constituencies at this stage.

However, there are indications that the party is having a re-think and has recently authorised its president Farooq Abdullah to decide whether to participate in the deliberations of the commission.

The prime minister, during the June 24 meeting, had said the ongoing delimitation exercise in Jammu and Kashmir has to happen quickly so that polls can be held to install an elected government that gives strength to its development trajectory.

In a series of tweets after a three-and-a-half-hour-long meeting with 14 political leaders of Jammu and Kashmir, the prime minister said, "Our priority is to strengthen grassroots democracy in JK. Delimitation has to happen at a quick pace so that polls can happen and JK gets an elected Government that gives strength to JK's development trajectory."

The delimitation exercise has attained an urgency amid indications that the Centre is keen to hold early assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

There is speculation that the polls could be held in the next six to nine months.

They said the delimitation commission will review the progress made so far, including the consultations held by it last week with all deputy commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir on restructuring of the existing assembly constituencies and carving out seven new seats early this month.

At the meeting with the deputy commissioners on June 23, inputs were gathered on how to make the assembly seats more geographically compact.

The meeting to be held in the Election Commission (EC) on Wednesday will be chaired by Justice (retd) Ranjana Desai and attended by senior functionaries of the poll panel. The other members of the commission are the Chief Election Commissioner and Jammu and Kashmir's Chief Electoral Officer.

After the delimitation exercise, the number of assembly seats in Jammu and Kashmir will go up from 83 to 90.

Twenty-four seats of the Assembly continue to remain vacant as they fall under Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (PcK).

### LG Directs Officials

an official spokesperson said. The meeting, he said, witnessed various important directions passed by the LG to the Administrative Secretaries and functionaries of the executing agencies for bringing in reforms by adopting an action-oriented approach for the timely completion of the projects.

While taking a project-wise thorough assessment, he said, the LG sought the present status of the projects from the concerned Administrative Secretaries, Chief Engineers and other senior officers of the executing agencies, who in

turn briefed the chair about the progress achieved till date and the future course of action.

"We need to speed up the projects for the overall development of UT. There is no constraint of funds & resources and the government is committed to bridge the gap between rural and urban J&K. Complete projects on Mission Mode, especially those which are under execution for a long time while maintaining the quality of work," Sinha, as per the official spokesperson, directed the officers.

"Adhere to the timelines committed during the review meeting. Accelerate the pace of work, reduce unnecessarily extended timelines and mobilize resources to ensure that the public does not face inconvenience due to delays," he added.

The official spokesperson further said that the LG passed specific directions to prepon the timelines of some of the major projects so that the same can be completed at the earliest.

Prestigious projects under PMDP are imperative for the holistic development of J&K. The departments must coordinate with each other to remove the bottlenecks, if any, for their effective execution," Sinha said, as per official spokesperson.

He further said that the LG also reviewed the implementation of the directions passed during previous meetings and the execution of work in view of the commitments made thereof.

Taking note of the issues presented by the officers in the execution of some projects, he said that the LG asked for preparing a list of those issues which are needed to be flagged with the Government of India, besides submitting a separate set of issues to be taken up by the J&K Government.

The official spokesperson said that while taking stock of the road projects under the Package, the Lt Governor laid special emphasis on putting a dedicated focus on strengthening the road connectivity which is vital for the economic development of any region.

"Important road links like Ramban-Banihal road stretch needs special attention by the concerned agencies," Sinha said, as per official spokesperson. The LG, he said, also called for prioritizing the work as per the infrastructural requirements, particularly in health and educational projects.

"Stressing upon the optimum utilization of the developed infrastructure, the Lt Governor passed strict directions to the officers to ensure that the inaugurated infrastructural projects are being put to use to facilitate the people," he added.

Sushma Chauhan, Administrative Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department gave a detailed overview of the status of projects under PMDP.

### 'Govt Ready

fully ready for the possible third wave if it happens and that the oxygen capacity has been increased from 14000 LPMs to 55000 LPMs at present.

"There is a prediction for the possible third wave. If God forbid it happens, we are ready to deal with it," he said while talking to reporters on the sidelines of a function at SKICC here.

On the oxygen capacity in J&K UT, he said when he took over, the UT had only 14000 LPM oxygen capacity which has been increased to 55000 LPM at present.

"Today, each Panchayat has five Covid beds for patients. More facilities will be given to Panchayats in the days ahead that includes Oxygen concentrators etc," he said

### J&K Sees 308

29 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) in the Union Territory as no fresh case was reported since Monday evening.

## Aim To Reduce The Gap Between Women And Men Entrepreneurs: LG

Launches "HAUSLA- Inspiring Her Growth", A Comprehensive Programme For Catalysing Women Entrepreneurship

KO NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR:** In a historic effort aimed at harnessing the energy, enthusiasm, and exuberant dreams of the Women of Jammu & Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday launched the "HAUSLA- inspiring her growth", a comprehensive programme for Catalysing Women Entrepreneurship in the UT, here at SKICC Srinagar.

Terming the event as the beginning of a new era in women entrepreneurship, the Lt Governor said that women of Jammu and Kashmir are capable of achieving great heights in every field and history is replete with great women leaders from J&K.

"There is no field- political, social or economic in which the women of Jammu and Kashmir haven't earned accolades and prestige. The social status of women in the society of Jammu and Kashmir was much better than other parts of the country even several centuries ago", added the Lt Governor.

The intent of the innovative initiative is to empower Women as vital drivers of the overall development process in the UT by identifying & empowering Women Entrepreneurs as role models, providing them with markets, networks, training & continuous support and subsequently building an ecosystem to inspire other local women entrepreneurs.

Speaking on the significance of "Hausla", the Lt Governor said that program has been made in a very scientific way and the broad contours include targeting Women entrepreneurs of J&K already established in the field of self-employment, Creating a channel for educated women to explore their potential and subsequently chan-



nelize their business acumen, helping them overcome challenges related to finances, legal, societal biases by focusing on their innate potential. In addition, there shall be dissemination of knowledge about promotion policies of Governments for women entrepreneurs and providing access to enterprise education and training with focus on business development, besides linkages to women enterprise networks, associations, business premises and online marketplaces.

The Lt Governor said that the priority of the government is to reduce the gap between women and men entrepreneurs, in a systematic manner and to encourage women who are currently engaged in various professions, so that they too can become a part of 'Hausla' program.

"With the launch of "HAUSLA" a strong foundation has been set for the economic and social independence for our daughters and sisters. I am sure that a new eco-system of women entrepreneurs will be created in J&K", he added.

"The vision of Industrialization and IT Transformation we are working on will enable women of J&K to run and develop their enterprises so that they become an integral part of the overall development of J&K", maintained the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor underscored that the government is continuously working on the "Three Pillars of Action" viz. Making women financially independent, Ensuring their maximum participation in leadership role, and Paying special attention to their health and socio-economic security.

"I believe that through skill and blended training under Hausla program the participation of Women can be increased in IT, Telemedicine, e-learning Business, Fashion Designing, Painting, Publishing, Handicrafts, Food Processing, and e-Commerce", he added.

He noted that with the right training, financial assistance and self-confidence, we can take revolutionary steps towards empowering women.

It was informed that under the leadership of JKTPD and in collaboration with Industry stakeholders and India SME Forum, a not-for-profit organization for Small & Medium Enterprises, the first batch of 'HAUSLA' 5-months program with 100 women entrepreneurs on board will start from July this year, giving wings to women entrepreneurs to fly higher, make their own identity in business and promote their products.

Referring to the "Time Use Survey Report" of the Central Government, the Lt Governor said that in

our country, despite the household chores, women, our Nari Shakti, are also the strong base of the economy.

Emphasizing the need to bring women at par with men in ownership of business establishments, the Lt Governor said that there are some statistics which need to be changed. According to 6th Economic Survey, out of all the industrial establishments in the country, only 13.41% of the ownership is with women. Even in handicrafts and handloom establishments, in which women play the most important role, the percentage of ownership of women was 21.89%, compared to 77.74% for men.

The Lt Governor said that the objective of 'Hausla Team' in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Administration and our Industry and India SME Forum under the leadership of JKTPD is to reduce the gap of women ownership in business establishments.

The Lt Governor highlighted the inspiring story of Ms Asma, Srinagar-based IT entrepreneur, who caters to local as well as global clients. He also informed Ms Zarka Tanzeel of Budgam, who is the first woman entrepreneur from Kashmir division to launch Sheen brand detergent powder and became a role model for other girls.

## "J&K Among Top 10 States, UTs In Terms Of Food Security And Nutrition"

KO NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR:** The Directorate of Economics and Statistics today celebrated Statistics Day in Jammu and Kashmir as part of all India programme to commemorate the contribution of Late Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis towards Indian Statistical System.

Regional Director, Evaluation and Statistics, Jammu and Kashmir, Principal, Statistical Training School, Jammu and Srinagar, Chief Planning Officers and District Statistics and Evaluation Officers participated virtually in the event.

The theme for this year's Statistics Day is Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)-2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture) which highlights the interdependence between food security, nutrition, land use transformation, productivity and sustainable agriculture. The aim of this goal is to ensure that everyone has access to adequate and good-quality food to lead a healthy life.

Pertinently, Jammu & Kashmir is

among top 10 states and UTs in terms of food security and nutrition and efforts are being made to further improve outreach of the programmes initiated by the government in this regard.

During the programme, presentations on theme of the Day were given by the known personalities in the field of Statistics from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and National Statistical Institute.

Later, the winners of Professor P.C. Mahalanobis National Award in Official Statistics, 2021, Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis National Award for Young Statistician, 2021 and Spot Essay writing Competition, 2021 were felicitated.

Pertinently, the "Statistics Day" is being celebrated every year with an aim to inspire statisticians, especially young researchers and planners, working in various fields of economic planning to accept new emerging challenges in the collection of quality data and develop new approaches for its holistic appreciation aimed at helping the planners to frame policies for development activities.

## Come July 1, SBI To Levy Charges For Cash Withdrawal Beyond 4 Transactions Per Month

The country's largest lender SBI will levy charges for cash withdrawal beyond four free transactions in a month from customers holding the basic savings bank deposit (BSBD) accounts. These customers will also be levied charges for cheque book beyond 10 leaves in a year.

As per the revision in service charges for BSBD accounts, State Bank of India (SBI) will levy charges ranging from Rs 15 to Rs 75 for the "additional value added services" with effect from July 1, 2021.

Non-financial transactions and transfer transactions will be free of cost at branches, ATM, CDM (cash dispensing machines) for the BSBD account holders.

SBI said it will charge Rs 15 plus GST per cash withdrawal for transaction at bank branches, SBI ATM or from other bank's ATMs beyond 4 free cash withdrawals.

"Charges will be recovered beyond 4 free cash withdrawal transaction (including ATM and branch)," SBI said.

With respect to cheque book



services, first 10 cheque leaves will be free of cost in a financial year.

Thereafter, 10 leaf cheque book will be levied Rs 40 plus GST; 25 leaf cheque book at Rs 75 plus GST and emergency cheque book will attract a charge of Rs 50 plus GST for 10 leaves or part thereof, SBI said.

"However, senior citizen customers are exempted (on cheque book services)," said the state-owned lender.

BSBD accounts can be opened by any individual after valid KYC (know your customer) documentation.

Such accounts are primarily meant for poorer sections of society to encourage them to start saving without any burden of charges or fees.

According to a study revealed by IIT-Bombay in April this year, SBI earned over Rs 300 crore by way of imposing service charges on nearly 12 crore BSBD account holders during 2015-20. -PTI

## Director Agriculture Stresses On Upholding Quality Standards Of Seed Testing Labs

KO NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR:** Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Iqbal today paid a surprise visit to the Seed Testing Laboratory and Seed Pathologist Laboratory at Agriculture Complex Lalmandi, Srinagar.

Director inspected various sections of the laboratories and deliberated upon the officers to uphold the quality standards of working of labs with precision and accuracy for sustainable and remunerative agriculture.

Director Agriculture said that the department is relentlessly working in the direction to address the various issues being faced by the farming community regarding availability of quality seeds.

Director said that Seed Testing Labs are essential establishments in seed certification and seed quality control programmes. He said the role of the modern seed-testing laboratory is more than just germination tests. It allows a grower to reduce the chances of crop disease issues.

Earlier, the Director was briefed by the Seed Analyst, Farzana Tabasum that the Seed Testing Laboratory is one of its kind established in the State and the technology at the lab would help to detect seed quality. Moreover, this would benefit farmers while it will restrict the selling of fake seeds.

Besides other officers, the department Director was accompanied by Potato Development Officer Kashmir Wahid Ur Rahman.

## Facebook Hits \$1 Trillion Value After Judge Rejects Antitrust Complaints

A US judge on Monday dismissed federal and state antitrust complaints against Facebook Inc that sought to force the social media company to sell Instagram and WhatsApp, saying the federal complaint was "legally insufficient."

Facebook shares rose more than 4% after the ruling. The share price rise put Facebook's market capitalization over \$1 trillion for the first time.

The dismissal was the first big blow to state and federal lawsuits against Big Tech firms last year seeking to rein in alleged abuses of their massive market power.

Judge James Boasberg of the US District Court for the District of Columbia said the FTC failed to show that Facebook had monopoly power in the social-networking

market but said the FTC could file a new complaint by July 29.

He also dismissed a lawsuit by multiple US states, saying they waited too long to challenge the acquisitions of Instagram and WhatsApp in 2012 and 2014 respectively. The judge did not invite the states to refile their complaint.

A spokesperson for the New York Attorney General's office said it was "considering our legal options."

Facebook had asked for the lawsuits to be dismissed.

**'Legally insufficient'**  
Regarding the FTC lawsuit, the judge wrote: "Although the court does not agree with all of Facebook's contentions here, it ultimately concurs that the agency's complaint is legally insufficient and must therefore be dismissed."

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

Tel: 0194-2433500, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2470371, 2470102 (Jammu)  
Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in E-mail: cll@jkbopee@gmail.com/jkbopee@jknail.com

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**Subject:** Admission Notification for conduct of Common Entrance Test for (12<sup>th</sup> Based) Paramedical Diploma (PA/CAH/ANM/ART) Courses-2021 (downloading of their different documents, below).

**References:**

- (i) Notification No. 053-BOPEE of 2021 dated 10/04/2021
- (ii) Notice No. 045-BOPEE of 2021 dated 05-05-2021
- (iii) Notice No. 051-BOPEE of 2021 dated 28-05-2021
- (iv) Notice No. 053-BOPEE of 2021 dated 11-06-2021
- (v) JPPM-19(132) (Add) dated 14-06-2021 from J&K Paramedical Council, Jammu
- (vi) Notification No. 067-BOPEE of 2021 dated 10-06-2021

**Notice No. 055-BOPEE of 2021**  
**Dated: 22-06-2021**

The Board with Notification No. 053-BOPEE of 2021 dated 10/04/2021, had sent Notice No. 045-BOPEE of 2021 dated 05-05-2021, Notice No. 051-BOPEE of 2021 dated 28-05-2021, Notice No. 053-BOPEE of 2021 dated 11-06-2021 & Notification No. 067-BOPEE of 2021 dated 10-06-2021 invited Online Applications from the eligible candidates belonging to (i) of J&K/ Ladakh for admission to (12<sup>th</sup> Based) Paramedical (PA/CAH/ANM/ART) Diploma Courses-2021 in various Govt./Private Professional Institutions of UT of J&K/Ladakh. The Board, after the expiry of the last date for filling up of Online Application Form, observed that various Online Application Forms submitted for want of pre-requisite documents which are either wrongly submitted by the applicants or not attached at all.

In view of the prevalent COVID-19 situation, and in order to expedite and notify the Provisional Merit list without any further delay, the Board has decided to give another opportunity to all such applicants as listed in Annexure "A" & Annexure "B" to this Notice to upload their different documents by or before 05-07-2021, positively filling which such applicants shall not be considered eligible for inclusion of their names in the Provisional Merit list and further proceeding for allotment of seats, and no claim of such applicants, whatsoever shall be entertained later on by the Board under any circumstances.

**Notes:**


- Applicants who have applied for their Domestic Certificates, but have not been able to obtain the same from the issuing Authority till date due to various reasons, can upload an undertaking (on plain paper) certifying that they will produce the same Certificate at the time of Conveying/Admission, otherwise they shall not be allowed to participate in the counselling or take admission in any college.
- The Annexure "B" pertains to the applicants who have applied for JNM National Entry. These applicants are advised to upload their (a) First and Second year Marks Cards (as applicable in their case) of the course they have qualified eligibility for National Entry in their Course (i.e. BSCN/BSN/BSHM/BSHM/BSHM) in application to them, besides other different documents i.e. Domestic Certificate, Dates of Birth, from respective Board/ Category Certificate (if applicable to them). Further, such applicants, who have applied to other courses such as Paramedical/ANM/ Medical Second Technician in addition to Govt. National entry scheme, shall have to upload their 12<sup>th</sup> Class Marks Card also, in addition to the above mentioned different documents, if any.
- The candidates listed in Annexure "A" and Annexure "B" to this Notice are advised to upload their relevant documents only at the respective relevant places in the Online Application form.
- The different Category Certificates to be uploaded by the applicants shall be valid and not acceptable only if issued by or before 22-06-2021 i.e. the last date for submission of Online Application Form as marked with Notification No. 067-BOPEE of 2021 dated 10-06-2021. All category certificates who fail to upload valid category certificates within the stipulated date/time shall be considered as their marks card and the same shall be reflected in the Provisional MERIT LIST to be issued in due course of time.
- The Annexure "A" & Annexure "B" to this Notice shall be available only on the BOPEE website www.jkbopee.gov.in
- The documents shall be accepted through email or WhatsApp.
- All the applicants are advised to remain in touch with the BOPEE website for daily updates.

F&ES

Sd/-  
Dr. Sunita Gupta  
Controller of Examinations  
J&K BOPEE

CHPS-1401/21

No. BOPEE/Exam-22/2021



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Duly Signed tender document may be dropped in the tender box kept in the said Office, so as to be received there on or before 03:00 p.m., 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021

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