

# KASHMIR OBSERVER

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P3 CITY

## 10 SRINAGAR DDC MEMBERS SUBMIT NO CONFIDENCE MOTION AGAINST CHAIRMAN

Ten District Development Council members on Thursday submitted No-Confidence Motion against the DDC Chairperson Srinagar Aftab Malik. The resolution was submitted to District Commissioner...

P6

BEYOND THE OBVIOUS

Afghanistan, the fabled 'Graveyard of Empires' has captured news headlines and grabbed the attention of the international political community since the US withdrawal announced by the previous Donald Trump administration in 2020 nearly after more...



P12 OUTPOST

## PREGNANT WOMEN IN INDIA NOW ELIGIBLE FOR COVID-19 VACCINATION

Pregnant women in India are now eligible to get vaccinated against COVID-19 with the union Health Ministry on Friday giving the approval based on recommendations of the...



## Quote!

If it makes you nervous, you're doing it right.

— Childish Gambino

## NEWS DIGEST

### Cab Rolls Into Ramban Gorge, 5 Dead

**JAMMU:** Five persons were killed and three others were injured when a taxi cab they were travelling in skidded off the road and rolled down into over 1000-ft gorge in Ramban district on Friday, officials said. They said that at around 1640 hours, a Sumo vehicle (JK03E-3218) on way from Neel to Tata Pani Sangaldan skidded off the thoroughfare and rolled down into the gorge at Digdol area in the district, reported news agency GNS. Five persons died on the spot and three others were injured, the officials said. [More On P10](#)

### J&K Reports 331 Cases, 6 Deaths

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir on Friday recorded 331 fresh Covid cases, which took the tally to 3,16,291, while six deaths pushed the toll to 4,333, officials said. Out of the fresh cases, 77 were from the Jammu division and 254 from the Kashmir division of the Union Territory (UT), the officials said. They said Srinagar district recorded the highest 78 cases followed by 29 in Budgam district. The number of active cases has dropped to 4,209 in the UT, while 3,07,749 patients have recovered so far, the officials said. The death toll in [More On P10](#)

### Reddy Visits BSF Hqs In Jammu

**JAMMU:** Union minister G Kishan Reddy on Friday visited the BSF frontier headquarters here and was briefed on the plans in place to counter the threats and challenges along the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir. The union minister of state for home lauded the border guards for successfully eliminating threats emerging from across the border. Earlier immediately on his arrival, Reddy paid obeisance at the famous cave shrine of Vaishno [More On P10](#)

### Bear Kills Cow, Injures Man

**KUPWARA:** An 80-year-old man sustained injuries while a cow belonging to him was mauled to death by a bear in Nagamargi Behak in upper Dardpora forest area on Friday. Reports said that a black bear appeared in the Behak (meadow) early this morning and attacked a cattle herd. The owner tried to chase away the bear, however the ferocious beast attacked the man, leaving him with multiple wounds, before other persons could reach the spot and rescue him. A cow was however killed by the beast in the attack. [More On P10](#)

## 5 Militants, Soldier Killed In Pulwama Gunfight



Ajaz Ali

**Srinagar:** Five Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants, including a district commander, and an army man were killed in a firefight in Rajpora area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district, police said on Friday.

Acting on specific input about the presence of militants, police and army's 44 RR assisted by paramilitary CRPF men laid a siege around Hanjin village of Rajpora on Thursday night and launched a cordon and search operation (CASO), a police spokesperson said Friday. During the search

operation, he said, the civilians were evacuated to safer places and the militants were given an opportunity to surrender.

"However they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party, which was retaliated leading to an encounter. Due to darkness the operation was suspended however the cordon remained intact throughout night," the police spokesperson said.

On Friday morning, he said, repeated announcements were again made by the search team asking the holed-up militants to surrender. [More On P10](#)

### Militants Involved In Killing Cops Won't Be Spared: DGP

Militants involved in the killing of police personnel will not be spared, Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh said on Friday, asserting that his force, together with other security agencies, is working for a peaceful environment in the union territory. The DGP was speaking at an attestation-cum-passing out parade of two probationary deputy superintendents

### Mehbooba Demands Accountability In 'Questionable Encounters'

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President, Mehbooba Mufti on Friday demanded accountability from government forces whenever legitimate questions are raised over encounters.

"Encounters occur on a daily basis in J&K. But when legitimate questions are raised the security forces must be held accountable. The parents of the 17 yr old minor killed in the Kulgam gunfight claim that he was an innocent [More On P10](#)

**IN THE INITIAL EXCHANGE OF FIRE** two army men received gunshot injuries and were evacuated to hospital, however one among the injured succumbed to injuries."

## Sikh Forum Seeks Anti-Conversion Law In J&K

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** As the controversy over inter-faith marriages rages on, a Sikh organisation on Friday asked the Jammu and Kashmir government to implement anti-conversion law in the Union territory.

The demand was raised by a delegation of Sikh Minority Forum led by former legislator Surinder Ambardar before the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha here at Raj Bhavan on Friday, an official spokesperson said. Besides, Ambardar, he said, also submitted a memorandum of demands pertaining to various welfare issues of Sikh Community living in J&K including special employment package for Sikhs; beautification and other allied development works of religious places; extension of benefits under new industrial policy; reservation in delimitation process and reservation in assembly seats. The LG gave a [More On P10](#)

## Admin Faces Flak For 'Forced' Red Cross Donations In Kashmir

Zaid Bin Shabir

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir administration is facing sharp criticism from the people in Valley for allegedly resorting to coercion and threats to collect donations for the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), even as the charity group has distanced itself from such actions.

According to the witnesses, the civil administration and police have started a massive drive across Kashmir Valley collecting funds from the people for the charity organisation. Revenue officials and cops are seen with receipt books of IRCS on major thoroughfares of Kashmir, including at tourist spots, stopping vehicles on various pretexts and handing them the Red Cross receipts.

Relating his experience, Kashmir Observer staffer Aijaz



Ali said on Friday, that he was forced to donate to the Indian Red Cross Society against his will and when he refused he was threatened with police action.

"I was stopped by some officials in civvies outside the Nehru Park Police Post on Friday and handed over a Red Cross Receipt for Rs 200.

When I refused and instead urged the man collecting donations to show his identity, he got infuriated and threatened me with police action. "Lejao Isko Police Station and Show Him His Place" the man collecting donations directed a cop standing nearby. "And if he refuses to pay, seize his vehicle as well" [More On P10](#)

## Creative Pursuits Countering 'Coerced Careers' In Kashmir

Aaqid Andrabi

It has been six months since Zahra passed her secondary school exams with the merit that hardly brought smiles on her parent's frown faces. She was supposed to choose a course for her undergrad studies but, so far, she hasn't.

What brought logjam in her academic trajectory is her parents' insistence that she appear in the entrance exam for either an MBBS degree or an engineering one.

But there was a minor hiccup.

She didn't want to go for a medical degree or an engineering one since her interests lie somewhere else entirely.

Zahra has always inclined to English Literature and



intended to pursue the same going ahead.

"English as a language and the associated literary works have always fascinated me," Zahra says with a typical teen's futuristic dream. "I've been

writing since I was in high school and wanted to establish myself in the same field."

Her parents, however, seem to have other plans for her future, for which she has never been on board.

"It's a strange thing that parents virtually decide everything for their kids out here, be their academic future or anything else," she says.

As Kashmir is currently grappling with the third straight year of campus closure, students like Zahra are finding their call in creative means, "like never before", to keep their sanity intact within weary walls.

Many of them have picked up writing, painting and other creative pursuits in a drawn-out discord situation, to give voice to their anguish and anxiety.

This is where many of these students today don't want to follow the traditional Medical or Non-Medical fields, as made mandatory by their parents since childhood.

Most of them now want to make their passion as their profession.

"And it makes sense too," says Arsilan Nisar, a Class 11 student, who last attended her normal campus class when she was Class 8th student. And that was on August 5, 2019, when New Delhi abrogated semi-autonomous status of Jammu and Kashmir and plunged the region into the communication crisis. The unprecedented move shut schools overnight and made students captive within four walls of their home. Since then, Arsilan has found her expression in poetry.

"I believe education should be pursued in realistic manner not through the make-believe concepts and constructs," she continues. [More On P10](#)

## India, Pak In War Of Words Over Drone Sighting

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** A drone was spotted over the Indian High Commission complex in Islamabad last week and Pakistan has been asked to investigate the incident and prevent recurrence of such "breach of security", the external affairs ministry said on Friday.

The Indian mission has also lodged a strong protest with Pakistan over the incident through a note verbale which

is a diplomatic communique, people familiar with the development said.

The incident came to light amid growing concerns in the security establishment in India after explosives-laden drones were used to carry out an attack on the Jammu Air Force station on June 27.

"A drone was spotted over the premises of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad on June 26. This has been taken up officially with the government of Pakistan. We expect [More On P10](#)



### BSF Opens Fire At Pakistani Drone Along IB

The Border Security Force (BSF) on Friday opened fire on a suspected Pakistani surveillance drone after it tried to venture into the Indian territory on the International Border here, officials said. The drone was spotted by the alert BSF personnel in Arnia sector on the outskirts of Jammu around 4:25 am, they said. The officials said the suspected drone [More On P10](#)

### DGP Suspects Pak Hand In IAF Station Attack

The involvement of Pakistan in the drone attack on an Air Force station here cannot be ruled out as the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), a militant group based out [More On P10](#)

**A DRONE WAS SPOTTED OVER THE PREMISES** of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad on June 26. This has been taken up officially with the government of Pakistan. We expect Pakistan to investigate the incident and prevent recurrence of such breach of security."

## J&K DELIMITATION PROCESS

## Panel To Meet Political Parties Separately Next Week

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Taking forward the initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the delimitation commission has invited leaders of all national, regional and registered political parties of Jammu and Kashmir for separate meetings during its visit to the Union Territory next week, officials said here on Friday.

The commission led by Justice (ret'd) Ranjana Prakash Desai and Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sushil Chandra may also hold separate meetings with civil society groups and similar

organisations after they obtain prior approval and time slots through their respective deputy commissioners (DCs).

The commission will undertake a four-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir from July 6-9 and will interact with leaders of political parties and officials to gather "first hand" inputs on the conduct of the mega exercise to carve out new constituencies there.

The prime minister, during the June 24 meeting with 14 leaders from Jammu and Kashmir, had said the ongoing delimitation exercise has to happen quickly so that polls can be [More On P10](#)

## LG Orders Action Against Tourists Carrying Fake RTPCR Report



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Friday that any tourist carrying fake coronavirus test reports at the entry points in the Union Territory will be penalized and sent back. Chairing a series of meetings with the members of

the Covid Task Force, Deputy Commissioners, and SPs on coronavirus containment measures through virtual mode, Sinha said the administration was taking effective and transformative actions to minimize Covid-19 impacts and enhance pandemic resilience, an official spokesperson said Friday. While enquiring about the present status [More On P10](#)





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**KASHMIR  
OBSERVER**

**Saturday| 03-07-2021**

# Study links excessive screen time to obesity in preteens

## Agencies

Parents, take note! A new study has found that children in the United States with greater screen time usage at ages 9-10 were more likely to gain weight one year later.

The findings of the study were published in the journal 'Pediatric Obesity'.

The study found that each additional hour spent on virtually all forms of screen time was associated with a higher body mass index (BMI) one year later. In particular, researchers found that each extra hour spent watching or streaming television, YouTube videos, video games, video chat, and texting led to a higher risk of weight gain one year later.

At the start of the study, 33.7 per cent of children were considered overweight or obese, and this increased to 35.5 per cent one year later, a proportion that is expected to rise in the late teens and early adulthood.

BMI is calculated based on height and weight. Researchers analyzed the BMI z-scores, which is relative weight adjusted for a child's age and sex, of 11,066 preteens who are part of the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development Study, the largest long-term study of brain development in the United States.

The children answered questions about their time spent on six different screen time modalities, including television, social media, and texting.

"Screen time is often sedentary and

may replace time for physical activity. Children are exposed to more food advertisements and are prone to snacking and overeating while distracted in front of screens," said lead author, Jason Nagata, MD, assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of California, San Francisco.

"A negative body image and subsequent overeating may be a result of



exposure to social media and unattainable body ideals," said senior author, Kyle T. Ganson, PhD, assistant professor at the University of Toronto's Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work.

"This study emphasizes the need for more research on how screen time impacts the well-being of young people now and in the future," added

Ganson.

"The study was conducted prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, but its findings are especially relevant for the pandemic," noted Nagata.

"With remote learning, the cancellation of youth sports and social isolation, children have been exposed to unprecedented levels of screen time," added Nagata.

"Screen time can have important

benefits such as education and socialization during the pandemic, but parents should try to mitigate risks from excessive screen time including increased sedentary time and decreased physical activity. Parents should regularly talk to their children about screen-time usage and develop a family media use plan," concluded Nagata.

**COURT OF PRINCIPAL  
DISTRICT JUDGE ANANTNAG**  
Present Mr Naseer Ahmad Dar

1. Rukhsana Akther Widow Of Mohd Maqbool Sofi 2. Mohd Anam Sofi 3. Fawzain Maqbool Sofi Minors Through Mother Applicant Nol Rukhsana R/O Rambirpora At Present Pahalpora Bijbehara	Gh Hassan sofi V/S S/o AbGaniSofi Haleema W/o Gh Hassan Sofi resident of ran- birpora Anantnag
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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Whereas an application for succession certificate has been moved by petitioner (s) in respect of an amount 136000 in the name of deceased Mohd Maqbool Sofis/O Gh Hassan Sofi R/O Rambirpora Mattan Hence Objections if any are invited from all and Sunday to the aforesaid claim by or before next date of hearing i.e 12-07-2021 falling which matter shall be determined on merits .  
Issued under my hand seal of the court on 03-06-2021  
Principal District judge  
Anantnag

RNA

**COURT OF PRINCIPAL  
DISTRICT JUDGE ANANTNAG**  
Present MrNaseer Ahmad Dar



1. Mst Hameeda Banoo W/O Mohd Ismail Sheikh R/O Khanabal An- antnag	V/S	1. Shabir Ahmad Sheikh S/O Mohd Ismail Sheikh 2. Afrozaakther D/O Of Mohd Is- mail Sheikh 3. Tahira Akther D/O Mohd Ismail Sheikh R/O Khanabal Batpora Anantnag
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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Whereas an application for succession certificate has been moved by petitioner (s) in respect of an amount 104682/35.00 In The Name Of Deceased Mohd Ismail Sheikh S/O Habib Sheikh R/O Khanabal Anantnag Hence Objections if any are invited from all and Sunday to the aforesaid claim by or before next date of hearing i.e 12-07-2021 falling which matter shall be determined on merits .  
Issued under my hand seal of the court on 01-07-2021  
Principal District judge  
Anantnag

RNA

از نیابت ساگام یا اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار ساگام  
درخواست منیاب: بلال احمد موچی ولد عبد القیوم موچی پسران غلام قادر موچی ساکنہ اوی بندہ ورہ  
بغرض حصول سرقطیت  
استنہار برادر کا ہی بر خاص وعام۔  
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول سرقطیت دفتر بذمیں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پجاری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکنہ کا کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔  
۱۔ غلام قادر ولد بھنجان موچی 60 سال مزدوری = 6000  
۲۔ راجیو دیپ غلام قادر موچی 50 سال گھریلو کام 6000  
۳۔ بلال احمد ولد عبد القیوم موچی 18 سال مزدوری =  
۵۔ بلال احمد ولد عبد القیوم موچی 16 سال زیر تعلیم  
۶۔ عبد القیوم ولد ==  
اسطور کنبہ پانچ افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ اور کنبہ میں کوئی سرکاری یا غیر سرکاری ملازم نہیں ہے۔ لہذا سرقطیت اجرا کر کے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ ایک ہفتے کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کریں، معیاد گزرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔  
نائب تحصیلدار۔ RNA


**OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL  
TRANSPORT OFFICER KASHMIR  
NOTICE**

Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Mu-zaffar Ahamad Nath S/O Nazir Ahamad Nath R/O HMT Srinagar (Transferor) of Alttoo 800 bearing registration No. JK-J01AK-4588 chasis No: 42450 Engine No: 95823 Model 2019 in favour of Farooq Ahmad Chohan S/O Bashir Ah Chohan R/O Tangmarg (Transferee). As wella Cancellation of HPA with JK Bank B/O Amira Kadal Sgr Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general, public that representation/ Objection, if any in connection with proposed transfer will be received within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer to the address of undersigned.  
No, representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the aforesaid period.  
NOJK-RTOK 2844  
Dated: 30/06/2021

Sd/-  
Regional Transport Office,  
Kashmir

**OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL  
TRANSPORT OFFICER KASHMIR  
NOTICE**

Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Abdul Q Ayoorn Najar S/O Mohd Ismail Najar R/O Kralpora Bagh I Mahtab Sgr (Transferor) of Wagner bearing registration No. JK01AA-5306 chasis No: 922769 Engine No: 80143 Model 2015 in favour of Ashiq Hussain Bhat S/o Mohd Shafi Bhat R/o Gongipora Budgam (Transferee). As wella Cancellation of HPA with JK Bank B/O Amira Kadal Sgr Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general, public that representation/ Objection, if any in connection with proposed transfer will be received within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer to the address of undersigned.  
No, representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the aforesaid period.  
NOJK-RTOK 2983  
Dated: 02/07/2021

Sd/-  
Regional Transport Office,  
Kashmir

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

In the school records the name of my daughter has been registered as Aleen, D/O Manzoor Ahmad Bhat under admission number 4805-14M in The Mallinson School, now i want to correct her name in school records as Aleen Manzoor Bhat. If anyone having objection to the above correction, please contact to The Mallinson School principal within 7 days of period. After that no objection will be entertained.

Manzoor Ahmad Bhat  
F/o Aleen Manzoor Bhat  
R/o Firdous Colony Buchpora  
Phone: 9596391895

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B SUB-DIVISION MAGAM**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**  
NIT No: - 33/ R&B of 2021-22 DATED: - 01/07/2021.

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

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rs.)	Earnest money	Time of Completion (in days)	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Construction of foot path and cement concrete drain near State Bank of India at Chandiloora Tangmarg	3.30	200/-	3% of quoted cost within 03 days after opening of financial bid	20	09-07-2021	DEE	3054 M&R
2	Construction of R/wall on Kunzer Hard-bani Check near Sunken Portion	1.96	200/-	--do--	15	09-07-2021	DEE	3054 M&R
3	Restoration of Darhama Peer Mohalla Chandil road by way of P/L GSB and construction of edge wall in Km 1 <sup>st</sup>	1.65	200/-	--do--	15	09-07-2021	DEE	3054 M&R

Position of AAA/TS : Accorded  
Position of funds: Available

- The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:-
- The cost of tender documents should be collected by introducing e-challan or simple uploading a copy of necessary Treasury challan / receipt (M.H 0059) only as per enclosed format.
- Actual Treasury challan / receipt be submitted to the concerned authority as per the order principal secretary to Govt. Finance Department No. A/24 (2017) / 651 Dated: 07-06-2018 duly endorsed by Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle Baramulla / Kupwara vide his No. SE (R&B)/3741-46 Dated: 25-06-2018.
- All bidders has to submit bid security declaration form instead of earnest money deposit (EMD) as per the circular of finance department (Bid security form is as per Annexure "A" below).
- The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount of equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR within 02 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.
- The Successful bidders have to start the work within 07 days, otherwise action shall be taken as per the norms.

S.No.	Date of issue of tender Notice
1	Date of issue of Tender Notice
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents
3	Bid submission start date
4	Bid submission end date
5	Date & time of opening of bids (online)

01/07/2021  
From 01/07/2021 10.00 A.M to 08/07/2021 4.00 P.M  
01/07/2021 from 10.00 AM  
09/07/2021 upto 4.00 P.M  
09/07/2021 at 11.00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Sub-Division Magam

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / receipt in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Sub-Division Magam (tender inviting authority).
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Sub-Division Magam (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids
- The bidder has to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in).
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1 on any other convene day
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original / photocopies of documents related to the bid be submitted physically / by registered post / through courier before the date specified in Para-1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents tender document fee in terms of soft copies with the technical bid and submit the Hard Copies of all the uploaded documents duly attested under the hand and seal of the tenderer. No document(s) which has / have not been uploaded shall be entertained in the form of hardcopy. However, in case of any clarification, the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of Soft copies if need arises.
- The bidders should record their contact numbers in the Divisional Office.
- All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).
- In case any new circular / instructions / order is issued by the competent authorities during the current financial year, the same shall be implemented / treated in force on all the tenders floated from time to time.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
R&B Sub-Division Magam

DIPK-3931/21

No:-R&B/Divn/Magam/1626-46  
Dated: 01-07-2021

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

**Directorate of Information & Public Relations**  
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**NOTICE**

Consequent upon receipt of a lot of queries/suggestions regarding the Empanelment of Audio/ Video Producers by DIPR JK, a virtual pre-bid session will be held on 05/07/2021 at 12:00 Noon onwards. All the desirous Agencies/AV Producers who wish to take part in this session can join through Google Meet via link <https://meet.google.com/ow-qceh-qxr>. Further, the last date of submission of application form has been extended up to 12/07/2021. For more queries, you can contact us on [advdt@jkinformation.co.in](mailto:advdt@jkinformation.co.in).

Sd/-  
Deputy Director (Audio-Visual)

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

**Department of Education**  
**Office of the Chief Education Officer Kupwara.**  
Email: [ceokupwaral@gmail.com](mailto:ceokupwaral@gmail.com) ph. /fax: 01955252209

Subject :- Updated Final seniority list of Non- Teaching Officials (District cadre Posts) District Kupwara NOTIFICATION

Whereas, Vide this office Notification published in Daily Tameel-Irshad Dated: 28-12-2020, the tentative seniority lists of Non Teaching officials (District Cadre), had kept available in this office Notice board/ All official what,s App Groups , I, e Librarians, jr. Librarians, Lab. Assistants ,Lib Assistants Junior Assistants and Class Iv employees District Kupwara for inviting of objections if any, In response a good number of representations were received by this office and accordingly necessary corrections were made in the said seniority lists.

Now, the updated Final seniority lists of following non-teaching (District Cadre Posts) District Kupwara is hereby kept available in the Zonal Education Offices of this district / Official Whats App groups/Notice Board of this office for general information

- Final Seniority List of Librarians
- Final Seniority List of Jr. Librarians
- Final Seniority Lab. Assistants
- Final Seniority list of Lib. Assistants
- Final Seniority list of Junior Assistants
- Final Seniority list of Class Iv employees.

(A.H. Fani)  
Chief Education Officer  
Kupwara

No: CEOKup/NT/Sen-List/01/2021/\_\_\_\_\_ Dated: **DIPK-3897/21**

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT)**  
PHE GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR.  
Baghi-Ali- Mardan Nowshera Srinagar.

**ORRIGENDUM Ist**  
Please read "upto 150 meter" in place of "150 meter" in NIT 13 of 06/2021 issued vide orderment 905-16, dated: 21-06-2021.

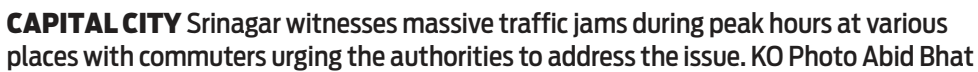
Note:-  
1. All other term and conditions shall remain same as laid down in Master NIT issued vide above referred NIT No's.

Executive Engineer  
(JAL SHAKTI Department)  
PHE Ground Water Div. Sgr.

No: PHE/GWD/1138-43.  
Dated: 01-07-2021.

DIPK-3956/21





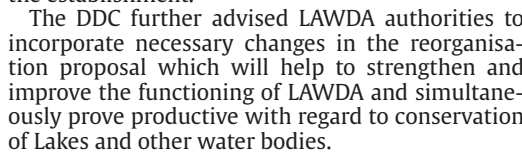
## Observer News Service

Aftab Malik, who is associated with Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party got 10 votes in the first DDC elections, which were held in November, 2020 and was elected

"We also request, Deputy Commissioner (Election Commissioner) Srinagar to arrange a special meeting of members in terms of provision of Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Raj Act, 1989 for the election of Chairperson so that voting among the DDC members

With regard to the elections, he said: "We have submitted the resolution and hopefully, we are expecting that elections will be held in the coming four days. And, it does not matter who is elected as Chairperson DDC Srinagar, be it an independent candidate or from any political party, all we want is development in rural areas of Srinagar city". (Agencies)

## Observer News Service



For the public information, it is hereby informed that Gh Mohammad Dar S/o Gh Hassan Dar R/o Arampora Singpora is applying for D class contractor card, if anybody has any query or objection he can submit the same to the block Singpora pattan baramulla office before 7 days of duration. After that no objection shall be entertained.

School Education Sub Office Kupwara within (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as canceled



Observer News Service

The director stressed upon provision of high end medical care to the ailing and ensured all support required for raising the standards of the institution as per NBE norms so that all the departments function at par with other academic and research institutions.

## Observer News Service

“This authoritarian move, to forcibly keep the Mirwaiz away from the pulpit of the Jama Masjid, causes great distress and pain to tens of thousands of Muslims who throng the mosque on Fridays to listen to the Mirwaiz’s tableeg (sermon) rendered in the centuries old unique style of his predecessors, and deeply hurts the religious

Meanwhile, all sections of the society of Jammu and Kashmir - including Ulemas, Imams, religious, social and educational associations, civil society members and all segments of society have repeatedly expressed their indignation over the continuous detention of the Mirwaiz and demanded his release , and have also made it clear that such dictatorial actions are not acceptable at all, the statement said.

## Observer News Service

Additional Secretary took stock of facilities being available in the Center like production of micro-irrigation, high-tech greenhouse technology, tissue culture labs, bio-control labs and weather forecasting station. Agarwal expressed satisfac-

Director General Horticulture and Mission Director MIDH, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat briefed the Additional Secretary about the activities and mode of execution of the project.

## Observer News Service

In this regard, a condolence meeting was held in the office chamber of Joint Director Information Kashmir at Drabu House, Rambagh.

The meeting prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and courage to the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss.

((Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir))  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MUFFASIL (R&B) DIVISION BUDGAM**  
**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS**  
 (Modified as per Circular No. A/Misc(2018)-III-895/J Dt.22-12-2020  
 Issued by Finance Department).  
**NIT No. 49/e-tendering /MDB/2021-22/4605-25 DATED. 30-06-2021**  
 For and on behalf of the President, of India, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/UT/Central Government Departments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (In rupees)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Time of Completion (cal- endaring days )	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Construction of B/wall and drain near H/O Mohamad Yaseen Para at Talapora road	2.00 lacs	200/-	15 days	DEE	District Sector
2	Restoration of Bugroo Khansahib road by way of Clearance of Slip including Protection Bund	3.06 lacs	200/-	20 days	DEE	District Sector
3	Upgradation of Wover Mohalla and Hotter Mohalla link road by way of GSB course and P/L of WBM G-II	3.75 lacs	200/-	20 days	DEE	District Sector
4	Construction of protection wall at Bugroo Babagund road Phase-I <sup>st</sup> near Gh. Rasool Mir and Nazir Ahmad Mir and others	3.00 lacs	200/-	20 days	DEE	District Sector
5	Improvements of link road leading to Mir Mohalla Dabipora Yarikahay by way of P/L of GSB and WBM G-II and cross drainage pipes	4.00 lacs	200/-	20 days	DEE	District Sector

1. Name of the Project Authority: \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. Reference of Authorization Letter: \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. Arbitration Liability: \_\_\_\_\_ Nil  
 4. Position of AAA/TS:- Accorded \_\_\_\_\_  
 5. Position of Funds:- Available. \_\_\_\_\_

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	01.07.2021 4.00 PM
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	01.07.2021 10:00 4.00 P.M.
3.	Bid Submission Start Date	01.07.2021 from 4.00 P.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	13.07.2021 upto 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	14.07.2021 at 11:00 AM in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:-  
 Note:- The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploading softcopy any short fall found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected.  
 Note:- As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Secretariat Finance department vide No.OM No.A/24(2017)-651 dtd.07-06-2018 which reads as under:-

a) Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1<sup>st</sup> Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.  
 b) The Cost of tenders should be collected by introducing E-challan/ or simply uploading a copy of necessary Treasury Challan/Receipt.  
 Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (R&B) Division Budgam (tender inviting authority).

1. 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 is as per Annexure "A" below).  
 2. The 1<sup>st</sup> lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR within 02 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.  
 3. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam (tender receiving authority).  
 4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.

Sd/-  
 Executive Engineer,  
 Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam.

DIPK-3978/21


No: 4605-25.  
 DATED: 30.06.2021.

## 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



## RAILWAYS

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



## HIGHWAY STATUS

- Sgrr-Jammu highway - (Open)
- Mughal Road - (Open)
  - Srinagar- Leh- (Open)



## This Day in History

- 324- Battle of Adrianople: Roman Emperor Constantine I defeats his co-emperor Licinius, who flees to Byzantium
- 1187- Battle of Homs of Hattin: Saladin, Sultan of Egypt and Syria, destroys Jerusalem's crusader army.
- 1250- Louis IX of France is captured by Baibars' Mamluk army at the Battle of Fariskur while he is in Egypt conducting the Seventh Crusade; he later has to ransom himself.
- 1428 -Treaty of Delft between Jacoba of Bavaria & Philip the Good of Burgundy
- 1608 - Samuel de Champlain founds city of Quebec
- 1630 - Emperor Ferdinand II opens German Parliament
- 1661- Portugal gives Tangier & Bombay to English King Charles II
- 1720 - Sweden and Denmark sign peace treaty
- 1754- George Washington surrenders to French, Fort Necessity (7 Years' War)
- 1767 - Pitcairn Island is discovered by Midshipman Robert Pitcairn on an expeditionary voyage commanded by Philip Carteret
- 1767 - Norway's oldest newspaper still in print, Adresseavisen, is founded (first edition published this date)
- 1775 George Washington takes command of Continental Army at Cambridge, Massachusetts
- 1778- Prussia declares war on Austria
- 1876- Montenegro declares war on Turkey
- 1900- The British evacuate Rustenburg and occupy Commando Nek and Sillaakatsnek in the Anglo-Boer war
- 1942- German troops march into Sebastopol, Crimea
- 1947- Soviet Union doesn't participate in Marshall Plan
- 1950- 1st time US & North Korean forces clash in Korean War
- 1962- Algerian Revolution against French rule ends (Algeria gains independence on 5th July)
- 1965- USSR & Persia sign dam building & economic aid pact
- 1974- Soyuz 14 carries 2 cosmonauts to space station Salyut 3
- 1986- Kuwait's National Assembly (Majlis al Umma) dissolves
- 1988- The Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bridge in Istanbul, Turkey is completed, providing the second.
- 1992 - South Africa's FIFA membership reinstated (expelled 1961), united non-racial FA, political prisoners released, free political parties
- 1994 - FIFA World Cup: In a huge upset Romania eliminates Argentina 3-2 from the round of 16 at the Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California
- 1994 - The deadliest day in Texas traffic history, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety. Forty six people killed in crashes.
- 1996-British House of Commons announces Stone of Scone, used in the coronation of Scottish and British monarchs, will be returned to Scotland after 600 years
- 2001- A Vladivostok Avia Tupolev TU-154 jetliner crashes on approach to landing at Irkutsk, Russia killing 145 people.
- 2001- At a meeting of its oil ministers, OPEC agrees to maintain current production quotas; ministers indicate that, if Iraqi oil returns to the market, they may cut production in response to maintain their desired level of prices
- 2004 - Wimbledon Women's Tennis: Maria Sharapova becomes first Russian player to win Wimbledon beating defending champion Serena Williams 6-1, 6-4
- 2005 - The national law legalizing same-sex marriage takes effect in Spain
- 2005 - Wimbledon Men's Tennis: Roger Federer makes it 3 straight Wimbledon titles beating American Andy Roddick 6-2, 7-6, 6-4
- 2006 - Asteroid labeled as 2004 XP14 flies 432,308 km (268,624 miles) by Earth.
- 2006- Asteroid labeled as 2004 XP14 flies 432,308 km (268,624 miles) by Earth.
- 2012- Truck bombing kills 25 people and wounds 40 in Diwaniyah, Iraq

From KO Archives

# J&K Second Most Corrupt State: Survey

Tamil Nadu was placed 12th followed by Haryana, Jharkhand, Assam, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. Jammu and Kashmir was placed very low at 19th position only to be followed in Bihar.

(Kashmir Observer, 03 July, 2005)



UAE Bans Citizens From Travelling To India: Report



**Agencies**  
**CAIRO:** The United Arab Emirates announced on Thursday a travel ban on citizens to India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Namibia, Zambia, Congo, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Liberia, South Africa and Nigeria, state news

agency (WAM) reported. The Foreign Ministry and the National Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Management Authority stressed that, with the start of the travel season, citizens need to comply with all precautionary and preventive measures related to COVID-19, WAM added.

Boeing 737 Cargo Plane Makes Emergency Landing On Water In Hawaii



**Agence France-Presse**  
**NEW YORK:** A Boeing 737 cargo aircraft with two crew on board was forced to make an emergency landing on the water off Honolulu early Friday after the pilots reported engine trouble, the Federal Aviation Administration said. Transair Flight 810 was "attempting to return to Honolulu when they were forced to land the aircraft in the water" at about 2:30 am local time, an FAA spokeswoman said in a statement. "According to preliminary in-

formation, the US Coast Guard rescued both crew members. The FAA and National Transportation Safety Board will investigate," the statement said. A spokesman for the Coast Guard, Petty Officer Third Class Matthew West, told CNN that a Coast Guard helicopter rescued one of the crew, while "a fire department helicopter rescued the other." A Coast Guard cutter was also dispatched to the scene. Both crew members were taken to a Honolulu hospital for treatment, West said, adding he did not have additional information about their condition.

Iranian Judges Come Up With Creative Alternatives To Imprisonment



**Agencies**  
A top judge in the northwestern province of Khorasan Razavi says judges in the province's Joghatay city have come up with creative alternatives to imprisonment for crimes for which prison sentences would be counterproductive. Ali Akbar Rahimi, head of Joghatay's Justice Department, says convicts whose punishment is not imprisonment, are required to do community services, including planting trees, helping preserve the environment and wildlife, and collecting garbage. He stressed that alternative sentences have proven to be more effective than imprisonment in many

cases by reducing crime rates. He explained that alternative sentences are issued based on the convict's crime and social status, and mentioned punishments such as making a movie handed to a convicted director, 270 hours of making clothes handed to a convicted tailor, and treating 200 poor patients handed to a convicted physician as examples of fruitful sentences. According to Rahimi, criminals whose punishment would be up to 6 months in prison could be handed alternative sentences. "Or a documentary filmmaker who became interested in making wild-life documentaries of the entire country and became an environmentalist," he added.



AN AMERICAN SOLDIER on a CH-47 Chinook helicopter flying over Kabul, Afghanistan's capital, in May 2021. (Photo by NYT)

Full Withdrawal Imminent As Last Us Troops Leave Biggest Base In Afghanistan

**Agencies**  
Twenty years after invading Afghanistan, US-led coalition troops have vacated the largest military base in the war-torn country, located in the ancient city of Bagram, about 45 miles north of Kabul. The sprawling airfield, which was once the epicenter of US military operations in Afghanistan, was on Friday formally handed over to the Afghan forces, according to media reports, quoting officials. The massive airfield with two runways, 110 revetments, three large hangars, a control tower and many support buildings was the main entry point for tens of thousands of foreign troops that came to Afghanistan over the past 20 years. It was also the exit point for nearly 2,000 US service members killed in the fighting. The base occasionally came under the target of Taliban attacks, which included suicide bombings and rocket attacks, putting at risk many residential areas in its vicinity. At its peak in mid-2011, nearly 100,000 US troops passed through the compound, apart from some 35,000 US contractors, which have now plummeted to 2,500 troops and 18,000 contractors. The full withdrawal of some 2,500 US troops from the country is expected to complete by mid or late July, ahead of US President Joe Biden's September 11 deadline. It is the second time in recent history that an invading army has come and gone through Bagram. The air base was built by the Soviet Union in 1950s. When it invaded Afghanistan in 1979 to back a communist government, it turned it into its main military base in the country. For about 10 years, the Soviets fought the US-backed mujahedeen, whom then-US President Ronald Reagan called 'freedom fighters'. Some of them would later fight the US and become 'terrorists'. The hushed departure of US and NATO forces from their most significant military base in the country comes amidst resurgence of the Taliban and the unprecedented spike in violence. Experts see it as a symbolic victory for the Taliban, who have upped the ante in recent months, overrunning a large number of districts across the country. The quiet exit also signifies the defeat for US-led coalition forces after 20 years of occupation. Most NATO troops have already left the country, without pomp or ceremony, in stark contrast to their dramatic emergence in 2001, when they lined up to back the US-led invasion. The coalition agreed in April to pull out its 7,000 forces from Afghanistan, and 19 countries have announced troop withdrawals totaling more than 4,800. Germany and Italy declared their missions in Afghanistan over on Wednesday and Poland's last troops have returned home. The US military, however, is expected to keep about 650 troops in the war-ravaged country, on the pretext of protecting its large embassy in Kabul, while keeping the option of airstrikes open. According to reports, Gen. Scott Miller, the top US commander in Afghanistan, will fly out, and his role will be taken over by Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie, the top US commander for Middle East, who is based in Florida. The new US commander in Afghanistan will be Navy Rear Adm. Peter Vasely, who will head the security mission at the US Embassy in Kabul, according to reports. In his final press conference in Kabul earlier this week, Miller spoke at length about the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan.

Army Enforces Lockdown In Bangladesh; Europe Sees Fresh Surge

**Agencies**  
**DHAKA:** Bangladesh's 168 million people on Thursday began a strict coronavirus lockdown while Indonesia announced emergency curbs as infections surged across parts of the Asia-Pacific. A European Union-wide coronavirus travel certificate was also set to come into force on Thursday, but concerns persisted about a resurgence of the disease as the World Health Organisation said cases in the continent were up after 10 weeks of decline. Many outbreaks have been blamed on the more infectious Delta variant of the virus, which has pushed Covid-19 deaths in Russia to record levels and sparked an "alarming and dangerous" case surge in Bangladesh. The streets of the South Asian nation were empty on Thursday, patrolled by the army and the police, with people confined to their homes except for emergencies and to buy essentials. "A lot of people are dying and getting infected," Toudhidul Islam Chowdhury, who owns a small loan recovery firm, said. "The army should have deployed much earlier." Many hospitals in Bangladesh are struggling, particularly in areas bordering India where the strain was first detected. Some rural towns have recorded infection rates of 70 percent. The healthcare system in Indonesia was also overwhelmed by a huge coronavirus wave, which has forced the government to tighten restrictions from Saturday until July 20. The curbs, lasting more than two weeks, cover the capital Jakarta, hard-hit Java and the holiday island Bali, as infections rose to record levels in the vast Southeast Asian nation with authorities warning about the spread of different coronavirus variants. The new variants — such as Delta, the most contagious to date — have fuelled outbreaks around the world even as mass vaccination programmes are launched in many countries. More than 180 million infections and close to four million Covid-19 deaths have been recorded since the pandemic began. The WHO said that after two months of decline, Covid-19 cases were on the rise again in Europe, warning that a new wave would come "unless we remain disciplined". Russia reported record coronavirus deaths for the third day in a row on Thursday as it battled an outbreak spurred by the Delta variant. President Vladimir Putin has urged Russians to get vaccinated, with only 15 percent of the population choosing to get jabbed so far despite free shots being available since December. "It is necessary to listen, not to people who understand little about this and spread rumours, but to specialists," Putin said Wednesday, as Russian authorities scrambled to contain the outbreak. The latest figures — 672 deaths in 24 hours — came a day ahead of Saint Petersburg hosting a quarter-final of the Euro 2020 football tournament, with 26,000 spectators expected despite the worrying coronavirus situation in Russia.



Israel Strikes Gaza After Hamas Launches Incendiary Balloons



**Agencies**  
Israeli fighter jets struck Gaza overnight in response to incendiary balloons launched over the frontier into Israel, the military said early on Friday. There were no immediate reports of casualties from the strike, which the Israeli military said targeted a facility used by Hamas fighters to research and develop weapons. It was the third time Israel has carried out airstrikes in Gaza since the end of the 11-day period of attacks and bombings on the territory and its Hamas rulers in May. Each came after activists mobilised by Hamas launched incendiary balloons that caused fires in nearby Israeli farming communities. Hamas uses such tactics to pressure Israel and international mediators to ease a crippling blockade imposed on Gaza when it seized power from rival Palestinian forces in 2007. Israel has vowed to respond to even minor attacks. Egyptian and international mediators have been trying to shore up the informal ceasefire that ended the most recent period of violence. In recent days, Israel has eased restrictions to allow in Qatar-funded fuel, extend Gaza's fishing zone and permit increased cross-border commerce. Israel says such steps are contingent on Hamas preserving calm along the frontier.

Pandemic Tourism: Thailand Launches Phuket 'Sandbox' Plan



**PHUKET:** Thailand embarked on an ambitious but risky plan on Thursday that it hopes will breathe new life into a tourism industry devastated by the pandemic, opening the popular resort island of Phuket to fully vaccinated foreigners from lower-risk countries. As the first flight arrived, airport fire trucks blasted their water canons to form an arch over the Etihad jet from Abu Dhabi as it taxied to its gate. Leaving the airport, Frenchman Bruno Souillard said he had been dreaming for a year of returning to Thailand and jumped at the opportunity. "I am very, very happy," the 60-year-old tourist said. The "Phuket sandbox" programme comes as coronavirus infections are surging in Thailand, including a significant number of cases of the Delta variant, and many have questioned if it's too early to woo tourists back, and whether they'll come in significant numbers in any case due to the restrictions they'll still face. But the number of new cases on the island itself is extremely low, in the single digits daily, and more than 70% of its residents are fully vaccinated. The government is gambling that travellers will be willing to put up with coronavirus-related regulations for the opportunity for a beach holiday after being cooped up in their home countries for months. Before the pandemic, the tourism sector made up some 20% of Thailand's economy, and 95% of Phuket's income. The resort island off the southern coast saw fewer than a half million visitors in the first five months, and almost no foreigners, compared to more than 3 million during the same period last year including some 2 million foreigners. In a nod to the importance of the "sandbox" plan, Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha flew to Phuket to be on hand in person for the launch. He emphasised that the sandbox was just the first step toward his goal announced in June of having Thailand completely reopened within 120 days. "This reopening is related to not only Phuket but also the whole country," he said. Last-minute hitches in some of the program details and cautions from authorities that if cases start to rise on the island more restrictions may be needed — or it may have to be shut down entirely — meant some cancellations before it even began. Fewer than 250 international travellers were expected on the first day compared to the initial target of 1,500. But as the kinks are worked out and people report their first-hand experiences, authorities are hopeful for a steady increase in the numbers. From July 1 to 15, there are currently 1,101 hotel bookings for a total of 13,116 room overnights. Travellers to other parts of Thailand are subject to a strict 14-day hotel room quarantine, but under the sandbox plan, visitors to Phuket will be allowed to roam the entire island — the country's largest — where they can lounge on the white beaches, jet ski and enjoy evenings eating out in restaurants, although clubs and bars remain closed. Only visitors from countries considered no higher than "low" or "medium" risk — a list currently including most of Europe and the Mideast, the US, Canada, Britain, Australia and New Zealand — are permitted, and they must fly in directly to Phuket, though plans are in the works to allow carefully controlled transfers through Bangkok's airport. Following the inaugural flight from Abu Dhabi, passengers were expected to arrive later Thursday from Qatar, Israel and Singapore. Adult foreign visitors must provide proof of two vaccinations, a negative Covid-19 test no more than 72 hours before departure, and proof of an insurance policy that covers treatment for the virus of at least \$100,000, among other things. Once on the island, they have to follow mask and distancing regulations and take three Covid-19 tests at their own expense — about \$300 total — and show negative results. After 14 days, visitors can travel elsewhere in Thailand. **AP**

NEWS MAKERS

Spanish Couple Develop High-Tech Glasses To Help Son See

**Agence France-Presse**  
**BARCELONA, SPAIN:** When their two-year-old son Biel started falling over a lot and had difficulty climbing stairs after learning to walk, Jaume Puig and his wife sought medical help to figure out the problem. After visiting several doctors, the toddler was diagnosed with low vision, a condition far more common than blindness that makes daily tasks a challenge. In Biel's case, it was due to an optic nerve problem but the condition can also be caused by defects in the retina, brain or other parts of the visual system, or by conditions such as glau-

coma or macular degeneration. Low vision can't be corrected with glasses or surgery. And while magnifiers can help with specific tasks like reading, there was no available technology to help the toddler get around. So in 2017, Puig, a Spanish electrical engineer, and his wife Constanza Lucero, a doctor, founded Biel Glasses, a company which created a digital device to help those with low vision to move about safely on their own. "There are canes and guide dogs. Nothing else. We got into this because we saw there was a need for it," Puig, 52, told AFP at Barcelona's Mobile

World Congress (MWC), the telecom industry's biggest annual gathering. The headset is on display at the show. A cross between gaming goggles and glasses, it creates a 3D image onto which text, graphics and video can be overlaid upon real-world images. It also uses AI to detect and signal obstacles. **Real-time visual warning** "We thought we could use these technologies to take advantage of the vision he does have so he can be more independent. "Maybe we can't cure him but we can help him," said Puig of his son who is now eight.



When a wearer approaches an object blocking their path, a large red circle will appear on the screen warning them of the obstacle. It also allows them to zoom in on a street sign or other object. Developing the glasses cost

**THERE ARE CANES AND GUIDE DOGS.** Nothing else. We got into this because we saw there was a need for it," Puig, 52, told AFP at Barcelona's Mobile World Congress (MWC), the telecom industry's biggest annual gathering.

900,000 euros (\$1 million), of which the couple invested 65,000 euros of their own money, while the rest came from public institutions and crowd-funding. They worked with a team of doctors and computer engineers, among them one of Spain's top specialists on low vision, to create the product which has been approved for use in the European Union. It is expected to go on sale in Spain and Denmark later this year. The glasses, which need to be customised for the specific needs of each user, cost 4,900 euros (\$5,850). Puig, who has founded several other technology startups, now hopes to add voice activation and a navigation system that works with Google Maps in future versions of the glasses.



## Tarigami Demands More Clarity On Darbar Move Decision

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** CPI (M) senior leader, Muhammad Yousuf Tarigami Friday said Jammu and Kashmir administration needs to give further clarity on its decision on cancellation of Darbar Move.

"Jammu and Kashmir administration led by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's announcement that it has completely transitioned to an e-office, after which the 149-year-old biannual Darbar Move was no longer needed, has left several questions unanswered," Tarigami said in a statement.

He said after the announcement, the administration on June 30 also cancelled the allotment of residential accommodations of Darbar Move employees in Jammu and Srinagar. The employees have been given 21 days to vacate their accommodations.

However, the question remains, where will Chief Secretary, Director General of Police, administrative secretaries and other senior officers remain seated? If they work digi-

tally, where from will they operate physically? If people have to meet any officer, where will they meet him or her? There is no clarity on this issue, he added.

"Where from the Raj Bhawan will work? As and when elections are held in J&K, where from the Assembly will operate and where from Chief Minister and his council of ministers will work? There is no clarity on all these questions in the recent announcement by the administration," he said.

Similarly, if the allotment of residential accommodations of Darbar Move employees in Jammu and Srinagar has been cancelled, where will they be stationed now? There is no clarity over this issue as well and it has created uncertainty amid the prevailing tough times, Tarigami added.

He said the government must come up with a proper plan and mechanism as to how they intend to operate the Civil Secretariat and its affiliated offices now.

## Exfiltration Bid Foiled In Uri, Four Arrested: Police

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Police, and army Friday claimed to have foiled an exfiltration bid by detaining three youth and a "guide" in Uri town of Baramulla district.

A police official said that it received information that three local youth were received by Parvaiz Ahmad Hajam son of Ghulam Mohi-ud-din, a resident of Gohallan Uri (a guide) in order to ex-filtrate them to Pakistan Controlled Kashmir through Gowhallan sector.

Acting swiftly, the spokesman said, a police team intercepted

the group and arrested the guide along with three local youth.

"The youth were identified as Mohammad Shafi Hajam son of Abdul Ahad Hajam, Reyaz Ahmad Bhat son of Manzoor Ahmad, both residents of Sheeri Mirhar and Yasir Bhat son of Ghulam Mohammad of Chatloora Sopore."

He said that "incriminating material" including sharp knives, torch etc were also recovered from their possession, adding, "a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and further investigation into the matter is in progress."

## Fierce Gales Wreck Havoc In Karnah

Observer News Service

**KARNAH:** Fierce gales swept Karnah in north Kashmir's Kupwara district Friday evening, blowing away rooftops of residential structures and damaging standing crops.

Local residents said the windstorm was followed by heavy rain that caused damage to crops.

They said at least two residen-

tial houses, belonging to Rashid Lateef and Khurshed Ahmad in Chitterkote area, were damaged by gusty winds as walnut trees fell on the rooftop of these structures.

"The windstorm also damaged electric transmission lines in the area and the power supply to parts of Karnah was snapped.

However, there was no report of any loss of life or injuries when the reports last came in.

## 20 Teams Deputed To Conduct Migratory Census at Baramulla

Observer News Service

**BARAMULLA:** According to District Statistics Officer (DSO) Baramulla, Ishtiyaq Ahmad Khan, 20 teams have been deputed to conduct the Migratory Census 2021 in the district.

The activity is being carried out as part of the decadal census 2021 that has been affected due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent circumstances.

The DSO, who is also the Nodal Officer for the process, further informs that these teams having 05 officials from across several departments shall conduct field study

from 03 July to 20 July, 2021 after which report writing and tabulation shall be conducted.

The DSO added that Migratory Census is one of the important facet of the study on population with respect to migration arising out of social, economic and political reasons.

He informed that necessary training capsules were imparted in order to properly familiarise them with the related aspects. Moreover, he said that essential items which include tents, medical kits and other necessary items have already been distributed among the respective teams.



**A BOY CROSSES A WOODEN BRIDGE**, over a stream, in north Kashmir's Bandipora district. KO Photo Abid Bhat

## Regional Conference Concludes, Adopts 'Behtar Nizam-e-Hakumat' Resolution



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The deliberations of two-day Regional Conference on 'Replication of Good Governance Practices in Union Territory of J&K concluded Friday, with the adoption of 'Behtar Nizam-e-Hakumat: Kashmir Aelamia' resolution.

The valedictory session was chaired by Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, who also released 'Behtar Nizam-e-Hakumat: Kashmir Aelamia', in presence of Secretary DARP, Sanjay Singh; Additional Secretary DARP, V Srinivas; Joint Secretary DARP NBS Rajput and DG IMPARD, Saurabh Bhagat.

Bhatnagar said that this Conference will be setting an agenda for effective administration and good governance in J&K. He added that there are very important takeaways and many more positives encapsulated in the Kashmir resolution.

He asserted that lot of good thoughts and practices are already available but the thing is to adopt or replicate such practices for the larger good of the people of the Country.

The Advisor called on the young officers to adopt problem solving approach while dealing with the day-today issues and grievances of the people. He added that efficient delivery of public services and effective feedback mechanism are the touchstones of good governance.

Advisor Bhatnagar further highlighted that under the able leadership of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha several path breaking initiatives have been taken in J&K which transformed the good governance scene in the region.

In his address, he requested visiting DARP team to provide platform to young officers of J&K in rest of country while organising such conferences.

Speaking during the valedictory session, Secretary DARP, Sanjay Singh said that this conference had unique, credible, implementable principles and themes which were deliberated robustly by speakers during these two days. He added that these deliberations will be valuable in forming policies and their effective implementation on the ground level.

The conference later on unanimously adopted several deliberations in the form of resolution titled 'Behtar Nizam-e-Hakumat: Kashmir Aelamia' which was read out by Additional Secretary DARP, V.Srinivas on the occasion.

The main highlights of the resolution are:

1. The DARP shall collaborate with Government of Jammu & Kashmir in developing a District Governance Index on the lines of the National Good Governance Index based on outcome and output indicators for improving the efficiency of Good Governance across Districts.

2. The DARP shall collaborate with Government of Jammu & Kashmir for conducting capacity building programs for 2000 civil servants in Governance practices.

3. The DARP shall collaborate with Government of Kashmir to conduct one National level conference and one Regional Conference in the period 2021-22.

For the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir:

1. To strengthen the sustained efforts to develop the

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir as a model of administrative excellence using digital technology in implementation of welfare state programs.

2. To continue the sustained efforts for transparent accountable efficient and people-centric administration in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir by promoting Jan Bhagidari.

3. To refine, consolidate and document the successful good governance initiatives of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir like Back to Village Scheme and JK-IGRAMS for national dissemination.

4. To replicate the innovations and best practices in successful national governance so as to improve the ease of living and provide a clean and transparent people centric government to the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

5. To continue the efforts for promoting e-Governance by use of e-Office and adopt version 7.0 and move towards paperless Secretariat in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

6. To continue the efforts for capacity building and Personnel administration by formulating mid-career training programs and specific need based training programs for officials of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir by collaboration between the National Centre for Good Governance, IMPARD and the Indian Institute of Public Administration, J&K regional branch.

7. To enable enhanced efficiency in decision making in Government of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir by process re-engineering, improved skill base and using technology as a force multiplier.

## Vested Interests Trying To Create Wedge Between Muslims And Sikhs: Bar Association



**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association Srinagar Friday expressed concern about disturbing the peace and harmony between Sikh and Muslim community by vested elements and politicising of a non-issue in furtherance of their nefarious political designs.

In a statement, the Bar association said that the Hindu Muslim and Sikh amity and religious harmony is time tested and both the communities share their pains together.

"In recent political and covid lockdown since August 2019 the assistance and parental care to Kashmiri students and workers in Punjab, Delhi and other parts of India by the Sikh community at large and socio-political Sikh organisations in particular shall remain unforgettable memories for every Kashmiri muslim. The strong socio economic and trade bonds between Kashmiri muslims and Punjab and Kashmiri Sikhs are hurting the amity of peace and religious harmony and mutual cooperation and these enemies try to disturb and disrupt this relationship for their political and divisive agenda."

Bar Association called upon both the communities not to allow enemies of peace and religious harmony in J&K to succeed.

"Bar Association is never in favour of forcible conversion from one religion to another and lucrative intercaste marriages in the name of religion. Such devil acts by the criminal elements need to be identified and brought to justice and punished according to law."

The statement said that Bar Association assures the Sikh community full solidarity and cooperation in their social security honour and dignity and will not allow outsiders to make Kashmir an experimental ground for carrying out their nefarious designs and religious divide.

"Bar Association condemns the vested interest for its anti Kashmiri muslim propaganda in social media in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and abusive language and threats to Kashmiri muslim girls and requests socio political and religious organisations to discourage this filthy and life and honour threatening propaganda unleashed."

## Anantnag Vaccinates Record 16665 People In Single Day

Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** South Kashmir's Anantnag district Friday vaccinated a record number of 16665 people in the district in a single day.

These figures are so far the highest achievement for the district on a single day. With the fresh inoculations, cumulative vaccination numbers crossed 3 lac mark and 315889 doses stand administered to different categories of beneficiaries in the district.

Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Piyush Singla hailed the remarkable work done by the vaccination teams and their supporting staff. He credited the achievements to the massive IEC Campaign for addressing vaccine hesitancy on one hand and the robust supply chain with vaccine at peoples doorsteps on the other.

The DC exhorted for continuing the vaccination drives with full vigour so that cent percent target population of the district is vaccinated in near future.

The Health officials informed that this figure include 3493 people in the age group of 18 to 44 years while as 13172 people in above 45 years age group who received the vaccine.

The beneficiaries, among others, included nomads, brick kiln workers, old age people, service providers etc and the vaccination drives were carried out across length and breadth of the district.

Meanwhile, the administration and health authorities appealed to the eligible people to continue taking part in the vaccination drives with the same spirit so that significant benefits accrue from the vaccination programme.

## 14 Rent Assessment Cases Approved In Bandipora

Observer News Service

**BANDIPORA:** The District Rent Assessment Committee, Bandipora approved 14 rent cases.

The rent cases pertaining to Health, Education, Agriculture, Sheep and Animal Husbandry, Security Forces, Food and Youth services and Sports department were approved by the Committee. The Committee discussed the fixation of rent of various structures in which various government offices are functioning across the district.

The DC asked the officers to pay rent to the concerned owners of land and structures on time and



ensure safety of the Government/rented property.

He further asked the intending authorities to pay the approved rent along with the arrear after the title verification certificate is issued from concerned Tehsilidari.

## Kupwara DDMA Settles 21 Relief Cases

Observer News Service

**KUPWARA:** In order to settle the pending claims and relief cases under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), a meeting of District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) was today held here under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Imam Din.

The Additional District Development Commissioner Kupwara, Nazir Ahmad Lone was also present in the meeting, besides all nominated members of DDMA.

A total of 36 cases of different nature were put up for discussion in the meeting for grant of necessary relief to compensate for the loss occurred due to fire incidents, snowfall and other natural calamities.

The DC discussed all cases one by one and gave necessary directions. He directed concerned officers to maintain a timeline for sanction of relief cases so that the beneficiaries

## Rs 23L Fine Realised Against Covid SOP Violation In Kupwara

Observer News Service

**KUPWARA:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Imam Din Friday appealed to people to strengthen the guard against Covid-19 pandemic by following Covid appropriate behaviour and getting vaccinated.

He, while expressing satisfaction over the drastic decline of Covid positive cases in the district, appealed to the general public not to lower the guard against the Covid-19 and continue following Covid appropriate behavior, besides, vaccinating themselves at nearest vaccination centres.

Giving details, the DC said

could get timely relief from the Government.

Out of these 36 cases, 21 cases were settled for grant of relief

that the positivity rate stands at 1.3 percent, Recovery Rate at 97 percent and there are 243 active positive cases in the district. Besides, the district has 122 cases under home isolation and 22 under Hospital isolation.

He further said that the district has strictly enforced the rules for following Covid SOPs and around Rs.23 lakh fine has been realised since April 1, this year for violations of the SOPs.

The DC expressed gratitude towards all stakeholders including Health, Police, Revenue, ICDS and others for putting special efforts in eradication of the Covid pandemic on ground.

under SDRF norms while the rest of cases were referred for re-verification to the concerned departments.

## DC Kulgam Reviews Measures To Decongest Town

Observer News Service

**KULGAM:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr.Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Friday chaired a meeting of officers, Traders, Transporters and other stakeholders to discuss various measures for decongesting the town.

On the occasion, a thorough deliberation on various aspects was held during which the concerned stakeholders presented their feedback/ suggestions for decongesting the town.

During the meeting it was informed that Laroo Bus Stand will be made fully functional.

It was also informed that a massive anti-encroachment drive will be launched across the town to remove encroachments from footpaths.

The DC urged upon the concerned stakeholders to desist from encroachment of public spaces, especially footpaths and warned that encroachers will be put to task.

## CS, KAS Officers Condole Demise Of Director Finance

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta expressed grief over the demise of Director Finance, Mohammad Rafiq Hajam, who passed away Friday morning.

Expressing solidarity with the bereaved family, the Chief Secretary prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength to near and dear ones

to bear this irreparable loss.

The Chief Secretary remembered Mohammad Rafiq as a dedicated and competent officer who served with commitment in his capacity as Director Finance, Health & Medical Education Department, Director Finance, Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Department, and Sadder Treasury Officer, Srinagar.

In a condolence meeting held

Friday, the KAS officers recalled his contribution on important and senior positions in J&K Accounts Cadre. His outstanding qualities as a kind hearted person and thorough professional were remembered by KAS officers.

The speakers made a mention of his expertise in accounts and finance related matters. Several retired IAS and KAS officers have also expressed their condolences to the bereaved family.

## Demise Of Former DC Commercial Taxes Condoled

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Commissioner and Additional Commissioner of State Taxes Department on Friday expressed grief over the demise of Mehboob-ul-Hassan Beigh (Ex-Deputy Commissioner) Commercial Taxes who left for heavenly abode at SKIMS Srinagar.

Late Mehboob-ul-Hassan Beigh served at key posts of tax administration in the Finance Department.

In a condolence message Commissioner and Additional Commissioner of State Taxes Department described the deceased as one of the best officers of the department who

put his mark in the service of the department.

Employees of State Taxes Department, Kashmir also condoled the demise of the departed soul and pray to Almighty Allah to grant Jannat ul Firdous to Mehboob-ul-Hassan Beigh and also extended condolences to the bereaved family.



## KASHMIR OBSERVER

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### NO HOLDS BARRED



**Qureshi mentioned** 'India's seemingly oversized role in Afghanistan despite not being a border country and even went on to accuse New Delhi of 'carrying out terrorist activities' from Afghan soil. Although Qureshi later received flack for his un-diplomatic statements, yet the former's insecurities and Khan's insistence in the op-ed on winning the trust of Kabul can be seen as Pakistani concern of India's role and popularity in Afghanistan as a credible partner

# Beyond the Obvious

## Reading Imran Khan's Op-Ed on Afghanistan

Anuraag Khaund and Haris Rashid

Afghanistan, the fabled 'Graveyard of Empires' has captured news headlines and grabbed the attention of the international political community since the US withdrawal announced by the previous Donald Trump administration in 2020 nearly after more than 20 years since the US militarily intervened in the country in 2001. In the midst of US withdrawal, speculations are rife especially regarding the role to be played by other emerging key players in the region such as Russia, China and not to mention the neighbouring country of Afghanistan in the south i.e., Pakistan and increasingly India. At this point, an op-ed in The Washington Post of 22 June 2021 by Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan titled "Pakistan is ready to be a partner for peace in Afghanistan, but we will not host US bases" couldn't help but attract the attention of the authors of this article as an indication of Pakistani interests and attitude towards the new situation.

The fear and anxiety behind writing this op-ed to the American audience and pleading for every kind of cooperation with the US in Afghanistan (except military) is that Pakistan, after refusing to host US bases, risks losing strategic clout in Afghanistan and fears that it might be left to face a post-withdrawal potential civil war in Afghanistan alone. Islamabad seems to have noticed lately that its relationship with the US was based only on its military geostrategic importance to the latter vis-a-vis Afghanistan. Given Khan's explicit statement of not allying with the US on military action, Pakistan might lose its importance in US strategy. In a recent interview with The New York Times on 25 June 2021, the Prime Minister said that after the US pull-out Pakistan would want a "civilized relationship" with the US like that of "U.S. and Britain, or actually between U.S. and India right now". Further, when Khan was asked whether Pakistan will continue to have any strategic relevance to the US once the withdrawal is completed, Khan replied, "I don't know, really. I haven't thought about it in that way, that Pakistan should have some strategic relevance to the U.S. I mean, states really have relationships based on common interests." It points out a shift in Pakistan's vision towards its relations with the US. Instead of the geo-strategic, Islamabad now seeks to promote its geo-economic importance and wants broader relations with the US. This was evident in a recent interview on Geo News by Im-

Khan's National Security Advisor (NSA) Moeed Yusuf, who while speaking about the absence of contact between President Biden and PM Khan emphasized that if there are talks between the two countries they must go beyond the Afghanistan issue and include bilateral relations-economic, trade and commerce.

The NSA further complained that despite Islamabad's significant contribution to Afghanistan, the Kabul civil government, the US and the world are pointing fingers towards Pakistan and blaming them for the violence in Afghanistan. In addition, as evident from the recent interviews of both the Pakistani Foreign Minister and the NSA, Islamabad has become wary and increasingly concerned of the recent 'active' Indian role in Afghanistan including New Delhi's overtures to the Taliban. However, there were early signs that these developments would take place in case Pakistan continued to follow its

relationship with the US and muted hostility with the latter in the form of denial of bases in the op-ed should also be seen as a response to and an implicit acknowledgement of increasing Chinese importance in Afghanistan. This acknowledgement of China over the US was also reflected in Khan's recent interview to China Global Television Network (CGTN) where he mentioned the 'very special relationship' spanning 70 years between Pakistan and China which won't be tampered despite 'Western (US) pressure' and in the same interview, the Pakistani PM also took a jibe at the US-led Quad including India as one of the major drivers of conflict and rivalry in South Asia.

Khan's statements from the op-ed such as Pakistan's readiness to be 'a partner for peace in Afghanistan' as well as appeals to the Afghan civilian government to 'stop blaming Pakistan' can be seen as attempts at bridging the chasm and deep mistrust of Kabul given Islam-

not being a border country and even went on to accuse New Delhi of 'carrying out terrorist activities' from Afghan soil. Although Qureshi later received flack for his un-diplomatic statements, yet the former's insecurities and Khan's insistence in the op-ed on winning the trust of Kabul can be seen as Pakistani concern of India's role and popularity in Afghanistan as a credible partner. This is evident in the reception of Indian aid in terms of providing vital supplies of food and medicines; infrastructural development, initiation of small and community-led development projects and in the field of education including 500 annual scholarships and training of Afghan civil servants. Yet in the strategic front including shaping the future of Afghanistan, India doesn't enjoy the position of other players like China, the US and Russia (including Pakistan) given its absence in the Doha peace talks with the Taliban and the Extended 'Troika' Statement of March 2021 (mentioned in the op-ed). Despite the above advantage enjoyed by Pakistan over India, the Op-Ed's insistence on winning back the trust of the Kabul government is an indication of the deep-seated suspicion about the Pakistan government in the eyes of the general Afghan psyche. This can be witnessed from the 2016 Congressional statement of US Special Representative for Afghan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad who, while condemning Pakistan unequivocally as 'sponsors of terrorism' had stated- "We need to look at strengthening cooperation with India on terrorism and counterterrorism and on strengthening Afghanistan...it is not out of the question that Pakistan might reconsider...we will have to look at other ways with others who share our perspective on terrorism, particularly India." Pakistan desperately needs the legitimacy of trust from

ministration to seal the 2,640 km Durand Line boundary with Afghanistan for 'safeguarding national interests' as well as preventing the influx of Pashtun refugees in the aftermath of a possible Taliban take-over. At the same time, Khan criticised the US withdrawal as one of the core reasons behind the increase in the Taliban's confidence. In addition, the Pakistani NSA labelled New Delhi's recent engagement with the Taliban as 'shameless'. While Pakistan had a historic role in the training of and strategic relations with the Taliban, yet the above actions and Khan's mention of Pakistani casualties indicate growing differences between the two 'convenient allies'. However, despite this antagonism, Khan's mention of the Taliban's participation in Afghan governance is a sign of Pakistan's acknowledgement of the importance of its ally in the US post-withdrawal Afghanistan as well as a tacit attempt to pacify the militia group for the strategic safety of the Afghan-Pak border. In addition, the Pakistani military establishment (since the Zia ul-Haq era) and right-wing groups such as Tehreek e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) harbouring secret sympathies for the Afghan jihad i.e. two powerful sections united in their support for the Taliban would also deter Khan from taking any proactive actions against the Taliban (particularly right-wing groups would cheer for a complete Taliban victory in Afghanistan).

Finally, towards the end, the op-ed speaks of how peace fostered by economic and regional development would prevent the re-emergence of the 19th-century Great Game situation in Afghanistan. But it would appear that the inconsistencies between Khan's opinions and Pakistan's strategic concerns and choices, tied with the US, China, India and Taliban would set the stage for a new Great Game West (borrowing from Bertil Lintner's Great Game East between India's North-East, China and Myanmar) of the 21st century.

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

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**Imran Khan's cost-benefit analysis of Pakistan's relationship with the US and muted hostility with the latter in the form of denial of bases in the op-ed should also be seen as a response to and an implicit acknowledgement of increasing Chinese importance in Afghanistan.**

traditional strategy and the current path in Afghanistan. Therefore, Islamabad should have expected both- the blame for all the violence in Afghanistan and the entry of India into talks with the Taliban. Further, Pakistan's firm position on not hosting the US bases only exacerbates the issue. The US itself now seems less concerned about the situation in Afghanistan and as it pulls out its forces in haste, Pakistan is worried that it might be left alone to face an imminent civil war in Afghanistan. In case of a civil war, Pakistan will face a huge influx of refugees and therefore encounter economic instability once again.

Another reason behind Khan's seeming displeasure with the US might be seen in the context of the growing strategic Sino-Pakistan relations. In addition to Pakistan's economic as well as military alliance and dependence on China, Islamabad's crippling 294 billion dollars debt to its all-weather ally (as of December 30, 2020) and with expectations and speculations of an increased role of Beijing in Afghanistan post-US withdrawal [given China's role in the Afghan peace process along with Russia and the US and Chinese indications of extending the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) into Afghanistan] it would make sense for Pakistan to side with China. Hence,

Imran Khan's cost-benefit analysis of Pakistan's

abad's ties with the Mujahideen and Taliban since the Cold War era of 1980. But the emphasis on 'partner for peace' can also be seen as a response to India's intervention and humanitarian aid to Afghanistan and the confidence and goodwill enjoyed by New Delhi in the eyes of Kabul (something which Pakistan is seeking right now- hence 'stop blaming Pakistan'). In addition, the entry of India seems to have upset Pakistan's equation in Afghanistan. The 'India' connection with the op-ed becomes clear as it comes in the heels of (deliberately or coincidentally) Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi's interview with the Afghanistan channel Tolo News. In the interview, Qureshi mentioned 'India's seemingly oversized role (larger than it ought to be) in Afghanistan- despite

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bul as  
well as  
Afghan  
people in  
order to fulfil the Op-Ed's  
aims of 'promoting economic  
connectivity and regional trade' with  
Afghanistan and Central Asia.

Another interesting point in the op-ed is Khan's attitude towards the Taliban. Although the author recounts the civilian and military 'collateral damage' borne by Pakistan as a result of Islamabad's 'mistake by choosing sides between warring Afghan parties', yet as per Khan the Taliban 'must be included in any (post-conflict Afghan) government for it to succeed'. Such a conciliatory note must be contrasted by the decision made by the Pakistani ad-



A US flag is lowered as American and Afghan soldiers attend a handover ceremony in Helmand on 2 May 2021. Photograph: AP



# PRIZE of PANDEMIC Covid and Cooking



Neha Sheikh



**The covid-19 pandemic induced lockdown has been a time of discovering new hobbies and passions for those of us privileged enough to economically survive the pandemic. Before the lockdown, I never fancied Cooking and would only go to the kitchen to eat food. The lockdown has helped me change that, I can now cook anything from perfectly round rotis to a 3 layered cake, complete with fondant decor.**

The shutting down of our favorite eateries and the clawing of our not so undisclosed paranoia during this pandemic has forced our hand in cooking to satiate our voracious appetite. For most of us this aided in the satisfaction of our fifth deadly sin, gluttony! The realization that cooking can also serve as a cheaper and sometimes even healthier substitute to buying fast food has got us indulging in cooking, which goes hand in hand with frantically searching recipes on youtube. But with the evolution of cable TV, streaming platforms and social media entities, cooking has also extended to the entertainment field. One does not have to cook in order to enjoy cooking. From watching famous cooking channels, whether it be our local favorites or international treasures, to savoring reality cooking dramas, cooking has now become a passion enjoyable for all.

Watching cooking shows during the pandemic can definitely motivate one to better their cooking skills or try a hand at cooking. This has led to an increase in people turning to their stoves at home rather than going outside. A new Acosta report states that 55% shoppers now prefer eating at home than outside. Similarly, another survey conducted by Hunter reveals that 7 in 10 customers intend on continuing to cook food at home, post pandemic. Subsequently, this has also led to an increase in the viewership of cooking shows, either for entertainment or learning purposes.

It is also a known fact that cooking in tandem with the entertainment world cannot be complete without Gordon Ramsay. A name not privy to the cooking world, Gordon Ramsey is a renowned celebrity chef known for his short temper, impeccable swearing and heavenly cooking. Occasionally, we might get intimidated by his persona but that doesn't stop us from binge watching his alluring cooking dramas. From '24 Hours to Hell and Back' to 'Hell's Kitchen', much like popcorn during movies, Ramsay's shows are a staple. We often find ourselves empathizing with him, especially when we pick the spatula up for ourselves. Our inner Gordon Ramsy, much like the real life British cook, doesn't shy.

'24 hours to Hell and Back' is a show fueled with thrill, anger, humor, distress and most of all the feeling of belonging somewhere. In this show, Chef Ramsey travels across the Unites States of America and visits failing restaurants to help them 'get back on the map'. The only sitch? He has 24 hours to do so. In the first episode titled Bella Gianna's, Ramsey visits a family run Italian restaurant in the lakeside community of Congers in New York. With dreary decor, mediocre food, scarce customer satisfaction and below average servers, Ramsey succeeds in changing Bella Gianna's within a day.

Such a transformation is not only seen in reality shows but in real life too. With the pandemic creating more time on our hands cooking is a safe haven most of us have chosen to confide in.

"The covid-19 pandemic induced lockdown has been a time of discovering new hobbies and passions for those of us privileged enough to economically survive the pandemic. Before the lockdown, I never fancied Cooking and would only go to the kitchen to eat food. The lockdown has helped me change that, I can now cook anything from perfectly round rotis to a 3 layered cake, complete with fondant decor. My pink sauce pasta that I accidentally made has now become my go to comfort food. The humble 3 ingredient barbecue paneer that I learnt to make during the lockdown is also a hit among my friends and family. Cooking shows and cooking reality TV have definitely played a role in shaping my new found passion!" - Sanya Reza, Student

"I have always loved watching cooking shows but had never really attempted to cook at home before the lockdown was announced. Apart from an occasional bowl of maggi and cup of garam chai, I wasn't really fond of actually cooking food. But, staying at home with nothing much to do got me interested in trying new recipes that became popular during the initial quarantine period. I started with small desserts and drinks like cakes and the dalgona coffee using minimum ingredients and eventually began cooking various dry chicken dishes and pasta on a weekly basis"- Teeza Rehman, Student

"Life before covid was busy and bustling with activity. But due to shelter in place orders everything seemingly came to a standstill. With more time in hand and less to do, staying entertained during quarantine became harder. Cooking is an activity that I had never explored before but looking up recipes and testing then became a source of joy and an outlet of stress."- Appu Tashfaq, Student

"During the course of the pandemic, both mine as well as my workaholic mother's interest in the simple joys of cooking were piqued. We covered the basics, with the pure joy of enjoying a simple dish that took us perhaps a little bit too much time to make. We both consume a lot of food content on the Internet, and I in particular cannot go a day without watching soothing cooking videos, somewhat vicariously satisfying my cravings." Harveen Kaur, Student

"With lots of free time at hand, I returned to cooking for the first half of the pandemic. This I realized, would not only help me engage in something but the end result would be worth the time consumed. Cooking also, as exclusively as it has been imposed on women, is a way of carrying forward the secrets and hacks that have come from our female ancestors. This drove me closer to my Kashmiri culture and the women of the family and brought a sense of beautiful oneness" Aayilah Ahmad, Student

"The kitchen became my best friend the moment the masks went on and roads were shut. Seeking comfort food that was safe to eat filled the void in me and led me to the decision that I would finally put my instagram scrolling to good use and whip up tasty treats. The kitchen was always my mothers kingdom but as time wore us down, we struck a deal and decided to share the load! If it wasn't for videos by Nisha Madhulika and Ranveer Brar, I wouldn't have the wonderfully silly memories the both of us made huddled over the stove, being tortured by onions. Another day, another bout of gratitude for the internet!" Kath Harvindar, Student

"Cooking is a very important life skill and Being a



fan of the Kashmiri cuisine makes you want to learn it. I'm a Kashmiri and I've huge passion for cooking. My cooking skills however do not stand at par with my passion for it. And so, the pandemic gave me a great opportunity to get better at cooking. Watching cooking shows and tv series has been more than beneficial for me to get better at it. Now, I am aware of different techniques, ingredients, cuisines and can use all the knowledge to enhance my skill. Cooking shows are a boon for someone who wants to learn cooking or like me get better at it" Vaneesa Munir, Student

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# 'Keeping your friends close, makes cortisol levels low for life'

Agencies

Researchers at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign determined that communicating with female friends decreases stress hormone levels for women across the lifespan.

The study, titled 'What are friends for? The impact of friendship on communicative efficiency and cortisol response during collaborative problem solving among younger and older women', was published in the Journal of Women and Aging.

Directing a meeting, dialling up an old acquaintance, dictating the perfect tuna salad sandwich across a drive-through window. For business and for pleasure, human beings are in constant communication.

Our proclivity for socialization is life-long, equally prominent in the lives of adolescents and adults. A recent study determined key differences in the ways that various age groups communicate, as well as one conversational component that stands the test of time: friendship. Specifically, bonds between individuals who identify as female.

Led by former Beckman Institute postdoctoral researchers Michelle Rodrigues and Si On Yoon, an interdisciplinary team evaluated how interlocutors' age and familiarity with one another impacts a conversation, reviewing the interaction's overall effectiveness and stress responses generated as a result.

Two hypotheses form the foundation of this female-focused study. First, the tend-and-befriend hypothesis, which challenges the traditionally masculine "fight-or-flight" dichotomy.

"Women have evolved an alternative mechanism in response to stress," said Rodrigues, who is currently an assistant professor in the Department of Social and Cultural Sciences at Marquette University. "In order to deal with stress, women can befriend female peers."

The team also tested the socio-emotional selectivity hypothesis, which postulates a social "pruning" as humans advance in age and pursues more intimate, higher-quality circles of friends.

The introduction of age as a variable is novel in the field and stems from an interdisciplinary Beckman collaboration.

"I was working with several different groups in several different disciplines, coming from the perspective of studying friendship but having previously done research on adolescent girls, but not older women," Rodrigues said.

She combined forces with then-Beckman-postdoc Si On Yoon, who was studying the cognitive mechanisms of natural conversation across the lifespan, including healthy younger and older adults.

"My research program was focused on language measures in social interactions, and I was glad to work with Dr Rodrigues to develop an integrative approach including both language processing and physiological measures to study social interactions," said Yoon, who is currently an assistant professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Iowa.

The interdisciplinary team merged both theories into a single query: Across women's lifespans, how are the tendencies to "tend and befriend" as well as socially select reflected



in their communication?

They tested a pool of 32 women: 16 "older adults" aged 62-79, and 16 "younger adults" aged 18-25. Each participant was either paired with a friend (a "familiar" conversation partner) or a stranger ("unfamiliar").

The partnerships underwent a series of conversational challenges, wherein the participant instructed her partner to arrange a set of tangrams in an order that only the former could see. The catch? Each shape was abstract, their appearances purposefully difficult to describe.

"You could look at one [tangram] and say, 'This looks like a dog.' Or, you could say, 'This looks like a triangle, with a stop sign, and a bicycle wheel,'" Rodrigues said.

This exercise helped quantify each conversation's efficiency: partners who achieved the desired tangram arrangement in fewer words were considered more efficient, and pairs who needed more words to complete the task were considered less efficient.

The researchers found that while the younger adult pairs communicated more efficiently with familiar partners than their older counterparts, they communicated less efficiently with unfamiliar partners; alternatively, the older adults demonstrated conversational dexterity, quickly articulating the abstract tangrams to friends and strangers alike.

"A referential communication task like this requires that you see where the other person is coming from. It seems like the younger adults are a little more hesitant in trying to do that, whereas the older adults have an easier time doing that with strangers," Rodrigues said.

This was not predicted based on the socio-emotional selectivity hypothesis, which anticipated a correlation between age and social isolation.

"Even though older adults choose to spend more time with people who matter to

them, it's clear that they have the social skills to interact with unfamiliar people if and when they choose to," Rodrigues said.

Rodrigues' team also measured salivary cortisol to quantify and compare participants' stress levels throughout the testing process.

"When you experience something stressful, if you have a stress response system that's working as it should, the result is an elevated amount of cortisol, our primary stress hormone, which then tells our bodies to release glucose into our bloodstreams," she said.

"That's reflected in our saliva about 15 to 20 minutes after we experience it. If we see a rise in salivary cortisol from an individual's baseline levels, that indicates that they are more stressed than they were at the time of the earlier measurements," she added.

Across both age groups, those working with familiar partners had consistently lower cortisol levels than those working with unfamiliar partners.

"A lot of the research on the tend-and-befriend hypothesis has only focused on young women, so it's great to have these results that pull that out to the end of life. We can see that friendship has that same effect throughout the lifespan. Familiar partners and friendship buffer stress, and that's preserved with age," Rodrigues said.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my daughter has been wrongly written as Anjuman Dawood in school records While her correct name is Anjum Dawood which needs immediate correction . If any body having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Principal Alamadar Mission School Mirgund Patan within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohamamd Dawood Dar  
F/o Anjum Dawood  
Cell: 788944512

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## J&K Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Commission Srinagar

WHEREAS, in reference to this Commission's Notice published in Newspapers viz. 'Rising Kashmir', 'Daily Aftab' on 25th June, 2021 of Kashmir Division and 'Daily Excelsior', 'Punjab Kesari' and 'Daily Udaan' of Jammu Division of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the Political Entities representing the people of the Union Territory have been requested to attend the Commission in person or through authorized representative or to send their suggestions/inputs in writing between 28th June, 2021 to 15th July, 2021 to help the Commission to finalize its Report;

AND WHEREAS, this Notice has also been served through special messenger to all the Registered Un-recognized Political Entities on their official addresses. However, the addresses of the some Political Entities were untraceable despite best efforts of the Commission;

AND WHEREAS, the Commission has once again desired that a final notice may be served to these Political entities of J&K to appear before the Commission to represent their point of view/submission between the dates as mentioned above and before the Commission finalizes its interim report.

It is, therefore, through the medium of this Notice once again requested to all such Political entities mentioned in Annexure-A to this notice to appear before the Commission between the dates as mentioned above.

(Anil Sharma) KAS  
Secretary

DIPK-3987/21

### Annexure-A

Registered Un-recognized Political Parties of J&K Union Territory

S.No.	Name of the Party	Headquarter address
1.	All J&K People Patriotic Front	Jawahar Nagar House No. 97. Police Station Rajbagh, Srinagar.
2.	All J&K Liberal Democratic Party	M.P. Gali Rajbagh, Srinagar.
3.	Indian People's Conference Party	H/O Makhdoom Sahib H. No. 51, Rainawari, Srinagar, Kashmir.
4.	J&K Citizens Party	Heera Building, Abi Guzar, Lal Chowk, Srinagar.
5.	J&K Awami League	B-24 Indira Nagar, Srinagar-190001
6.	J&K Democratic Party (Nationalist)	Kursoo Rajbagh, Srinagar-190008 (Kashmir)
7.	Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front (Secular)	Rajbagh, Near Little Angles School, Srinagar.
8.	Kashmir Development Front (J&K)	H. No. 254 Main Road, Near Post Office, Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar.
9.	Socialist Democratic Party	Post Box No. 1089 GPO, Srinagar-190001
10.	J&K Peoples Movement	Sheikhpora Humhama Tehsil & District Budgam.
11.	All J&K Republican Party	1464, Mohalla Khwaja Bazar, Near Power Station, Anantnag.
12.	Aman Aur Shanti Tehreek-i-J&K	JK E Khasmat Market KP Chowk, Khanabal, Near Govt. Hr. Sec. School, 191201
13.	Democratic Janta Dal, J&K	344, EP Christian Colony (Shaheedi Chowk), Jogi Gate, Jammu
14.	National Awami United Party	H. No. 62 Priyadarshani Lane, Patta Bohri, Jammu
15.	All J&K Kisan Majdoor Party	Standard Hotel, Shaheed Chowk, J&K, Jammu
16.	J&K National United Front	Post Office Building Amphala Chowk, Karan Nagar, Jammu-180005 (J&K)
17.	Rajya Njawan Shakti Party	Near Gandhi Nagar Police Station, Jammu.
18.	Jammu and Kashmir Morcha (Progressive)	8 Old Dry Fruit Market, Jewel Chowk, Jammu - 180001

## OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICE KASHMIR ANANTNAG NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from one Nisar Ahmad Khanday S/o GhmOhdkhanday R/O Shangran owner of vehicle No JK03H 5650 for cancellation of Hire Purchase Agreement with M/S Punjab National Bank KP Road and HPA agreement With.

Now it is therefore notified for general information that objection if any to the proposed cancellation/endorsement of hire purchase agreement shall be filled in writing in the office of ARTO Anantnag Witjin a period of seven days from the publication of this notice in Daily newspaper

ASSISTANT REGIONAL  
TRANSPORT OFFICER

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

I Have a pnbmetlife policy no.21885148 in the name of GH AHMED NAIK but may correct name is GULAM AHMAD NAIKOO S/O MOHAMMAD JAMAL NAIKOO now I want to correct it if any body have any objection may contact pnbmetlife office Anantnag within 7 days after that no objection will be entertained .

Name: GULAM AHMAD NAIKOO  
R/O WARIPORA KUND KULGAM 192221  
ANANTNAG

ma

## Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SOPORE.

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No- 44 of RnB-Sopore of 2021-2022 e-tendering DATED- 01.07.2021.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ DOC (In Rupees)	Time of Completion In days	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M. H of Account	Position of AAA
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
01	Restoration of Balhama Naribal road by way of providing crate protection bunds at required spots.	5.90 lacs	300/-	15 days	07.07. 2021	DEE/ CEE	3054 M&R	

Position of funds: Available

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

01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	01.07.2021
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 01.07.2021 (10.00 A.M) to 07.07.2021 (4.00P.M)
03.	Bid submission start date	01.07.2021 from (04.00P.M)
04.	Bid submission end date	07.07.2021 upto (4.00 P.M)
05.	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	08.07.2021 at (04.10 P.M) in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore

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

3. All Bidders have to submit Bid security Declaration form instead of Earnest money as per circular of Finance Department ( Bid Security declaration form is as per Annexure "A" below.

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

5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Tender receiving authority ).

6. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical Bids.

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

71 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in acquaint bid submission process.

72 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendor.

1.3 The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

74 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1

75 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.

20. All other terms, conditions shall remain same as per NIT No: 2 of 2020-21 issued under No:- 641-61 dated: 22.4.2020 PWD form 25 (Double agreement form)

21. If the contractor/HMPO quotes rate for any item of work in his tender as free of cost at the time of tendering process, his tender shall be rejected out rightly.

For and on behalf of the,

Lt. Governor of J&K UT,

Executive Engineer,  
R&B Division Sopore

DIPK-3966/21

No:- 3936-56

Dated:- 01.07.2021

## UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENIGNEER ESTATES DIVISION, SRINAGAR.

\*B\*

### SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

FRESH NIT NO. 65/XEN/EDS/2020-21 OF 07/2021

Executive Engineer Estates Division Srinagar on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory J&K invites tenders by E-tendering on Percent-age basis from approved and eligible Registered Civil Contractors with Union Territory J&K /CPWD/Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (Amt In Rs)	Time	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Repairs / Renovation of allied Structures Near Masjid Sharif at Tulsibagh Srinagar.	1.67 lacs	200/-	15 Days	DEE	2216 Non Plan
2.	Face lifting by Way of Painting Polishing and other allied works in Set No.-J-16 at Lal Nagar Chanapora Srinagar.	1.24 lacs	200/-	15 Days	DEE	
3.	Up-gradation of Sets No.C-6 at Silk Factory Tulsibagh Srinagar.	4.19 lacs	200/-	25 Days	DEE	
4.	Repairs/Renovation Of Ground Floor Room, Face lifting and other allied works in T-Quarter No.-T-6 at Tulsibagh Srinagar.	3.20 lacs	200/-	25 Days	DEE	
5.	Up-gradation and Painting to Set No. A-8, B-8 at (A to K) Blocks Old Tulsibagh Srinagar.	1.32 lacs	300/-	20 Days	DEE	
6.	Up-gradation of Ante-room of CMO Office Srinagar in 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor at Old Secretariat Srinagar.	1.46 lacs	300/-	20 Days	DEE	

Position of AAA:

Position of funds:

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	01.07.2021 from 3.00 PM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	02.07.2021 from 3.00 PM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	14.07.2021 upto 3.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	14.07.2021 at 3.05 PM.

In the office of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar.

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan under Major Head-0216/Revenue (others) in favour of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

2. All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below)

3. The 1<sup>st</sup> lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of advertised cost as performance security in shape of CDR/ FDR within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work/DLP is over.

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

6.1 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.ino acquaint bid submission process.

6.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

6.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

6.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

6.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.

7. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form) and detailed NIT issued by this office time to time.

DIPK-4014/21

No: - E-Tender/NIT/EDS/2471-81/T-1

Dated: -01-07-2021

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Estates Division, Sgr.



## Ranatunga Criticises SLC For Hosting 'Second-String Indian Team'

Press Trust of India

**COLOMBO:** Sri Lanka's World Cup-winning former captain Arjuna Ranatunga has slammed the country's cricket board for agreeing to host a "second-string Indian team" in a white-ball series later this month, saying it is nothing short of an "insult".

India and Sri Lanka are due to compete in three ODIs and as many T20 Internationals beginning July 13.

With India's major stars like skipper Virat Kohli and his limited-overs deputy Rohit Sharma in England for an upcoming Test series, the team here is being led by opening batsman Shikhar Dhawan and features half a dozen uncapped players.

"This is a second-string Indian team and their coming here is an insult to our cricket. I blame the current administration for agreeing to play with them due to television marketing needs," Ranatunga, a government minister until two years ago, told reporters at his residence.

"India sent their best team to England and sent a weaker side to play here. I blame our board for that," added the legendary batsman, who led Sri Lanka to the 1996 ODI world title.

The visiting team has just completed its compulsory quarantine and would play the home team in the first ODI on July 13.

India's National Cricket Academy chief and celebrated former captain Rahul Dravid is the head coach for the tour.

Ranatunga also spoke about the current poor run of the Lankan team in the international arena.

Sri Lanka lost their fifth T20 series in a row when they went

down 3-0 to England last month.

They were also forced to send back three senior players from the ongoing tour of England for breaching bio-bubble protocol.

Ranatunga said the lack of discipline was also the fault of the administration and when he was at the helm, he did not allow any misconduct.

He demanded the overhauling of the local administration and advocated the appointment of an interim committee to manage Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC). It was only in mid May that the current SLC administration was elected.

Ranatunga was the head of an interim committee politically appointed in 2007-08.

Indian Team Undergo First Training Session

The Indian cricket team on Friday underwent its first training session ahead of the limited series against hosts Sri Lanka from July 13. India, who have picked a second-string squad for the series with the Test team currently in the UK, had arrived in Sri Lanka on Monday following which the players quarantined in their room for three days.

The side is being led by senior batsman Shikhar Dhawan and coached by NCA head Rahul Dravid. The series is India's last before the T20 World Cup in October-November. The squad has as many as six uncapped players including Chetan Sakariya, K Gowtham, Nitish Rana, Devdutt Padikkal, Varun Chakravarth and Ruturaj Gaekwad.

It is also an important assignment for the likes of Prithvi Shaw, Ishan Kishan, Sanju Samson and Suryakumar Yadav who are looking to secure their place in the World Cup squad. India play three ODIs and as many T20s.

# Advisor Khan Unveils J&K's 2021-22 Football Calendar



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Advisor to LG, Farooq Khan on Friday unveiled the calendar of football activities for the year 2021-2022 at Civil Secretariat here.

Principal Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Alok Kumar, CEO Mission Youth J&K Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary JK Sports Council, Nuzhat Gull and President Jammu Kashmir Football Association Z A Thakur were also present on the occasion.

The calendar contains detailed information and schedule about sports events to be organised by the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council in the UT starting from July 2021 upto March 2022. The series of activities and tournaments will witness the participation of 143959 players throughout 3402 matches set to be played in Jammu, Kashmir and outside the UT.

The Football activities shall resume from July 5th at Srinagar, starting with the remaining matches of J&K Premier League 2020-21 which is being played in four disciplines. 44 matches will

be played at Srinagar & Jammu in both men's and women's category. Other events like Professional Football League will also kick start from July 12th.

Advisor Khan while releasing the calendar lauded the efforts of JK Sports Council for organizing sports activities in different parts of the UT so that the youth energy could be channelized in constructive activities. He said that this will provide an opportunity for the sportspersons from Jammu and Kashmir to showcase their talent and compete with the best of the lot.

Advisor further said that the Government was committed to provide National level sports infrastructure with a view to organise high end competition in the UT to harness the potential of budding sportspersons. He said that due to the encouragement being provided by the Government to the sportspersons, the youth of the UT have excelled in the sports activities at various national and international tournaments.

Advisor further directed that COVID 19 precautions and health

advisories and SOP's be strictly followed for the safety of one and all. He also directed to have limited spectators and ensure vaccination of all players and officials, besides ensuring regular testing for better safety standards.

Principal Secretary Alok Kumar briefed the Advisor that they have already directed to provide free testing booths at TRC during the matches.

The activities to be held include two editions of J&K Premier League, All Panchayat/Block Level Tournament, Youth League Boys/Girls, Professional League Tournament, Annual Football League, Futsal Tournament, Knockout tournament, Annual UT Championship and will conclude with the participation of J&K teams in National Tournaments and I-League.

Annual Calendars for other sports will also be unveiled in days to come. On the directions of Lieutenant Governor, Sports Council is all set to organise activities in 53 different sports disciplines under the tag line "Ab Roz Khelenge Hum" adhering the SOP's strictly.

## JKFA Invites Clubs To Enter 2nd Edition Badamwari Knockout Tournament

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu Kashmir Football Association (JKFA) on Friday announced that 2nd Edition of Badamwari Knockout Football Tournament 2021 will start from July 7.

In a statement, the JKFA said the tournament is being organised by Badamwari Sports Fraternity. The Association has invited football

clubs to enter the tournament and register themselves with the organisers before July 5. The entry fee has been set at Rs 4000 per club.

The statement revealed that all matches will be played 4:30 pm onwards.

"Winners will receive a Trophy along with Rs 20,000 as cash prize. Runners-up will receive cash reward of Rs 10,000. Man of the

Tournament will get Rs 5000. Man of the Match in Final will receive Rs 3000," the statement said.

"Man of the match in every game will receive a certificate and a cash reward of Rs 500," it added.

For further details and to register themselves, the Clubs have been asked to contact the following numbers: 9906858053, 8899931771, 9906848348.

### WIMBLEDON 2021

## Bopanna, Mirza Win Historic All-Indian Mixed-Doubles Match

Press Trust of India

**WIMBLEDON:** The experienced pair of Rohan Bopanna and Sania Mirza defeated the brand new combination of Ramkumar Ramanathan and Ankita Raina 6-2 7-6 (5) in the historic all-Indian mixed doubles first-round match at the Wimbledon here on Friday.

It was the first time in open era that two Indian teams competed against each other at a Grand Slam tournament. The contest finally brought a Grand Slam debut for Ramkumar, who has made 21 attempts to qualify for the singles main draw of a tennis major.

While the first set ended quickly in favour of the veterans, Ramkumar and Raina presented

a good fight in the second set, which even they led for a brief period with a break of serve.

Bopanna was clearly the best player on the court with his powerful serve and solid ground strokes from the baseline as well as the ability to execute a superior net game. On expected lines, Ramkumar served big while Raina gave her all after growing in confidence.

Mirza's serve is still not at its best and would improve as she plays more matches. Mirza has moved has also moved to women's doubles second round with Bethanie Mattek-Sands while Raina and her American partner Lauren Davis lost in straight sets to the US pair of Asia Muhammad and Jessica Pegula on Thursday night.

## Sha'Carri Richardson To Miss Tokyo Olympics After Positive Marijuana Test

Agencies

**EUGENE:** American sprinter Sha'Carri Richardson has accepted a one-month suspension after testing positive for cannabis, the United States Anti-Doping Agency said on Friday, ruling her out of the 100 metres in Tokyo although she may yet be able to run in later relay events.

The positive test came at the U.S. Olympic trials last month where Richardson established herself as a gold medal contender by winning the 100m in 10.86 seconds.

"The rules are clear, but this is heartbreaking on many levels; hopefully, her acceptance of responsibility and apology will be an important example to us all that we can successfully overcome our regrettable decisions, despite the costly consequences of this one to her," USADA CEO Travis Tygart said.

Richardson said in an NBC interview on the Today Show on Friday that her action came during the trials while she was dealing with the news of the death of her mother.

"Like I tweeted yesterday, I'm human. We are human, I want to be as transparent as possible with you guys whether it's good, whether it's bad," the American sprinter said.

"But when it comes to Sha'Carri Richardson there will never be a steroid attached to the name Sha'Carri Richardson. The charge and what the situation was marijuana."

A 30-day ban backdated to the time of the adverse result could leave Richardson clear to race in the 4x100m relay at the Olympics in the first week of August, if she is selected by USAATF.

## Euro 2020: England Aim To Cope Without Home Support Against Ukraine

Agencies

**ROME:** Having overcome historic rival Germany in the last 16, facing Ukraine might seem like an easier proposition for England.

Turns out, though, that Saturday's quarterfinal match at the Stadio Olimpico might be England's toughest test of the European Championship.

That's because it's the only match of Euro 2020 that England will have to play away from the friendly confines of Wembley Stadium.

Making matters more complicated is that the Italian government has explicitly warned Britain-based England fans to stay away from the game unless they can prove they have observed five days of quarantine since arriving.

For a team like England that is known for its traveling supporters, that's a major blow.

"We've got to create our own atmosphere on Saturday in Rome, which we're capable of doing," said England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford, who has kept four clean sheets in the tournament.

The fans were tremendous the other night and throughout the group stages as well. I think that gives us added motivation for the game on Saturday to come back for a semi-final with 60,000 fans."

The winner between Ukraine and England will play either Denmark or the Czech Republic in the semifinals on Wednesday at Wembley, with the final also scheduled for England's home stadium.

For Ukraine's coaching staff, meanwhile, playing in Italy is a homecoming.

Head coach Andriy Shevchenko was one of Serie A's most prolific scorers during his playing career with AC Milan, while assistant coach Mauro Tassotti is from Rome



and began his playing career at the Stadio Olimpico with Lazio before going onto a long and successful career at Milan as both a player and assistant coach.

"If the Italians support us because we're the weaker team that's absolutely fine," Tassotti said. "I'm really hoping the fans give us some big support." Still, Tassotti acknowledged that beating England is a "titanic challenge."

"But we've seen what happened over the past few days with the Netherlands and France," Tassotti told the Gazzetta dello Sport. "England has enormous talent but they've also had the advantage, like other nations, of playing only at home."

Expect an old-fashioned Italian "catenaccio" (lockdown defense) and counterattack approach from Ukraine to deal with talented England strikers Raheem Sterling and Harry Kane, who accounted for the goals in the 2-0 win over Germany.

Tassotti said the tactics will be to "stifle" England, "close spaces," and "prevent them from running."

"Those are the types of matches they don't like. They've got talent but we've got to try to force them to

think as much as possible and only then take advantage of our talent," Tassotti added. "If we think we can play them straight up considering all the talent that they have, we won't go very far."

If Ukraine can get into the opponent's half, the attack should flow through Andriy Yarmolenko, who plays in England for West Ham.

Likewise, Oleksandr Zinchenko is teammates with Sterling at Manchester City.

Having barely scraped through the group phase, it will be Ukraine's first European Championship quarterfinal match.

England is looking to match its performance from the 2018 World Cup, when it reached the semifinals. The last time England made it to the last four of the European Championship was in 1996. But the bigger goal for England at this point is to duplicate the success of the 1966 team that won the World Cup and lifted the trophy on home soil.

"We just need to be on our A game," Pickford said. "We know it's going to be a tough game. Every game is tough so we'll be ready."

## PCB Central Contracts: Babar, Hasan In 'A' Category, Hafeez Left Out



Press Trust of India

**KARACHI:** Senior players like Muhammad Hafeez and Haris Sohail were left out of a list of 20 Pakistan players who were awarded central contracts by the country's cricket board with a 25 per cent hike in annual retainership.

Captain and top batsman Babar Azam, Hasan Ali, Mohammad Rizwan and Shaheen Shah Afridi were placed in the highest bracket of Category A.

The board, however, did not disclose the exact amounts to be paid to the players.

Those missing out included Hafeez, who was offered a mid year contract early this year, Sohail, Asad Shafiq, Muhammad Abbas, Imad Wasim and Shan Masood.

Seniors like Wahab Riaz and Shoaib Malik still remain out of the list like last year.

Interestingly the PCB has also dropped young batsman, Haider Ali and fast bowler Naseem Shah from the contracts list in the emerging category. The PCB announced an across-the-board 25 per cent increase in the monthly retainers for all four categories.

The board said it was announcing an enhanced and performance-based central contract list for 2021-22 for 20 elite men cricketers in which match fee across all formats has also been equalised.

A Board official explained that previously, match fees of players differed in different categories in all formats based on seniority.

"But now that has been changed. Increases have been made in match fees of B, C and emerging categories in Test, ODI and T20 formats so that now all players get the same fees," the board stated.

The 12-month contracts will run from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

The wide ranging increases announced for the contracted players include:

In Category A there would be no increase in Test, ODI and T20 match fee, while in Category B Test match fee has been increased by 15 per cent, ODI match fee increased by 20 per cent and T20 match fee

increased by 25 per cent.

In category C, the board has announced a 34 per cent increase in Test match fee, 50 per cent increase in ODI match fee, and 67 per cent increase in T20 match fee.

The remuneration in Emerging Category has been increased by 15 per cent, with 34 per cent increase in Test match fee, 50 per cent increase in ODI match fee, 67 per cent increase in T20 match fee.

PCB Chief Executive Wasim Khan made it clear that selecting 20 players from a big pool of quality cricketers is always a challenging task.

"In the new list, we have seen eight new players emerge who have now gained central contracts. Due to the competitive nature of the central contract system nine players who had contracts in 2020-21 have sadly missed out on this occasion," he said.

"The door remains firmly open for these players and they will continue to remain in the plans of the selectors.

"The equalisation of match fees means that all players who walk out together to represent Pakistan will receive the same match fees irrespective of which category they are in, or whether they have a central contract or not," he said.

The board said the list was finalised by a panel that comprised Director – International Cricket, Zakir Khan, chief selector Muhammad Wasim and Director – High Performance, Nadeem Khan, who also consulted head coach Misbah-ul-Haq and captain Babar Azam as part of the process.

Central Contracts list for 2021/22:

Category A – Babar Azam, Hasan Ali, Mohammad Rizwan and Shaheen Shah Afridi

Category B – Azhar Ali, Faheem Ashraf, Fakhar Zaman, Fawad Alam, Shadab Khan and Yasir Shah

Category C – Abid Ali, Imam-ul-Haq, Haris Rauf, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Nawaz, Nauman Ali and Sarfaraz Ahmed

Emerging Category – Imran Butt, Shah Nawaz Dahani and Usman Qadir.

## Indian Wrestler Sumit Malik Gets 2-Year Ban For Doping



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** His hopes of competing in the Olympics over, Indian wrestler Sumit Malik was on Friday banned for two years by the sport's world governing body UWW after his B sample also returned positive for a prohibited stimulant.

The 28-year-old has one week to decide if he would accept the sanction or challenge it.

Malik was handed a provisional suspension last month for failing a dope test during the World Olympic Qualifier event in Sofia, where he had qualified for the Tokyo Games in the 125kg category.

His 'B' sample was opened on June 30 and expectedly that also provided the same result.

A specified substance was found in Malik's sample, though, the 2018 Commonwealth Games gold-medallist had told PTI that he only took painkillers to manage right knee niggle.

"Sumit Malik's B sample has given the same result and the UWW has banned him for two years from June 3. He has a week to respond. He can call for a hearing or accept the sanction," a

source in the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) told PTI.

Sources close to Rohtak-based Malik said they will soon take a decision.

"We are discussing the matter with our lawyer," said the person who is interacting with Malik on the matter.

The general opinion in WFI is that Malik should challenge the sanction since it was not a steroid but a stimulant that was taken inadvertently.

Malik has been nursing a knee injury that he suffered during the national camp before the Olympic Qualifiers began at different venues.

He had competed at the Asian Qualifiers in Almaty in April but did not succeed in earning the quota. He then competed at the Asian Championship at the same venue and returned medal-less.

However, at the World Olympic Qualifiers in Sofia held in May, Malik earned the quota by reaching the final, which he forfeited due to the same injury.

By the time hearing takes place and a verdict comes out, he would miss competing at the Olympics.

## Toni Kroos Announces Retirement From International Football



Agencies

**BERLIN:** Germany midfielder Toni Kroos has announced his retirement from international football after his team's exit from the European Championship, the 31-year-old said on Instagram. The 2014 World Cup winner earned 106 caps for his country, contributing 17 goals and 19 assists.

Kroos said it was clear to him "for a long time" that he would not be available for the World Cup in Qatar next year. He said his priority now would be to focus on his club career with Real Madrid and spending time with his family.



## 5 Militants, Soldier

But the militants, he said, fired on joint team setting off a renewed gun-battle.

"In the initial exchange of fire two army men received gunshot injuries and were evacuated to hospital, however one among the injured succumbed to injuries," the police spokesperson said.

The slain soldier has been identified as Havildar Kashiray B.

The police spokesperson said that in the ensuing encounter, five militants were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the spot. He identified the slain militants as Lashkar's district commander Nishaz Hussain Lone alias Khitab of Tral, Danish Manzoor Shiekh of Kakapora, Amir Wagay of Hanjan Payeen, Mehran Manzoor of Jamalata Srinagar and a Pakistani militant Abu Rehan alias Tawheed.

He said that the slain LeT commander was active since 2018 and all the killed militants were part of groups involved in many militancy cases and civilian atrocities.

The police spokesperson also claimed recovery of arms; ammunition and other incriminating materials were recovered from the site of encounter, including an SLR rifle which was snatched by militants in the year 2016 from guard of TV tower in Lower Munda

"All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe their complicity in other crimes," he said.

"In this connection police have registered a case under relevant sections of law and investigation has been initiated. People are requested to cooperate with police till the area is completely sanitized and cleared off of all the explosive materials, if any," he added.

The police spokesperson also quoted IGP Kashmir congratulating Police and central forces for the big success and conducting successful operation in professional manner.

## Militants Involved

of police, 28 sub-inspectors and 508 recruit constables of the 27th Basic Recruitment Training Course (BRTC) at the S P S Police Training School in Kathua district.

Singh congratulated the trainee officers and personnel for successfully completing their course.

"I trust and believe that you becoming a part of J&K Police will boost the spirit and provide more power to the already best acknowledged force of the country," the DGP said.

He said these trainees had the privilege of serving the civil society and the people prior to completing their course due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The experience gained in advance will help them in doing their duties now professionally," Singh said.

The DGP paid homage to all the police personnel who have laid down their lives in the service of the nation, saying, "It is because of the sacrifices of our brave martyrs that J&K Police is known as one of best forces in the country."

Referring to the killing of inspector Parvaiz Ahmad Dar and SPO Fayaz Ahmad in the Valley last month, Singh said the militants involved would not be spared.

"The Jammu and Kashmir Police along with the Central Armed Police Force and the Army is taking every positive step to root out militancy from J&K," he said.

He said various welfare measures are in place for the families of slain police personnel.

Around Rs 100 crore has been spent on different welfare schemes during the last one year or so and these funds have been mobilised by our own contributions, the DGP added.

## Mehbooba Demands

civilian. GOI must come clean on these allegations," Mehbooba posted on her Twitter page.

The former CM was reacting to the claims made by 17-year-old Zakir Bashir's family alleging that the forces dragged the teen out of his home, beat him up and shot him twice before slitting his throat.

On Thursday, police claimed to have killed three Lashkar militants, including Zakir in an encounter in Chimmer area of Kulgam district.

"Pertinently, Zakir Bashir had recently joined the outfit. As per police records, all the killed militants were part of a group involved in various militancy crimes," the police spokesperson had said.

## World Facing

pledged to donate 1 billion COVID-19 vaccines, WHO estimates 11 billion doses are needed to immunise the world.

## India, Pak In

Pakistan to investigate the incident and prevent recurrence of such breach of security," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said at a media briefing.

It is learnt that the drone was sighted within the complex when an event was being held at the mission.

In Islamabad, Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri rejected there was any 'drone incident', saying no proof has been shared with it to substantiate the charge and alleged that it was an

"Indian propaganda".

We have seen the Indian MEA's statement and reports in certain sections of the Indian media alleging a drone flying over the premises of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad. These preposterous claims have no basis in facts and no proof whatsoever has been shared with Pakistan to substantiate these allegations," Chaudhri said.

Asked about the drone attack on Jammu airbase, Bagchi declined to comment, and only said that the investigation into it is in progress.

According to security officials, it was the first instance of suspected Pakistan-based militants deploying unmanned aerial vehicles to strike at vital installations in India.

Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria on Friday said the drone strikes in the Jammu airbase were an "act of terror" that was aimed at targeting key military assets.

Army Chief Gen MM Naravane on Thursday said that the easy availability of drones has increased the complexity of security challenges from both state and state-sponsored actors.

## BSF Opens Fire

returned to the Pakistani side when the border guards fired half a dozen rounds to bring it down.

"Alert BSF troops fired at a small quadcopter belonging to Pakistan today (Friday) morning as it was trying to cross the International Border (IB) in the Arnia sector. Due to this firing, it returned immediately," a BSF spokesperson said.

He said it was meant for carrying out surveillance of the area.

Security forces in Jammu and Kashmir are on high alert following the Sunday's drone attack on the Indian Air Force (IAF) station here.

Two explosives-laden drones crashed into the IAF station at Jammu airport in the early hours of Sunday, perhaps the first time that suspected Pakistan-based militants have used unmanned aerial vehicles in an attack, officials said.

Drones were spotted hovering over vital Army installations in different areas of Jammu during night hours on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday as well.

While the Army said it thwarted a drone activity on its brigade headquarters at Kaluchak and Ratnuchak during the intervening night of Sunday-Monday, it neither confirmed nor denied the movement of drones over its military stations at Sunjwan, Miran Sahib, Kaluchak and Ratnuchak during the subsequent days, PTI

## DGP Suspects

of that country, is strongly suspected to be behind it, Jammu and Kashmir Police chief Dilbag Singh said on Friday.

Singh said the use of armed drones by Pakistan-based militants is a very serious threat to the security system and there was a need to have a relook at the security of vital places and persons.

"We have got very serious and strong suspicion that LeT is involved in this case.... Since LeT is involved and the outfit is run from Pakistan, so in a way Pakistan's involvement cannot be ruled out," the police chief told reporters on the sidelines of a function in Kathua district.

To what extent Pakistani agencies are involved would be known only when the investigation proceeds further, he added.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has taken over the investigation into the first-of-its-kind drone attack on the Indian Air Force (IAF) station at Jammu airport on June 27.

Two bombs were dropped from drones, causing minor injuries to two airmen. The first blast ripped off the roof of a single-storey building at the technical area of the Jammu airport manned by the IAF. The second one was on the ground. A cocktail of explosive material, including RDX, is believed to have been used.

Referring to the seizure of a 5.5-kg improvised explosive device (IED) in Jammu hours after the twin blasts at the IAF station, Singh said, "They were planning to trigger an explosion at a crowded place with the aim to cause the largest possible casualties. But luckily we were able to intercept and capture the fellow (militant) who gave certain leads and we were able to recover the IED and avert a major militant attack."

The Director General of Police (DGP) said over a dozen incidents had taken place earlier wherein the LeT was involved in dropping weapons, ready-made IEDs and narcotics using drones.

Asked whether the recovery of the IED and the IAF bombing are linked, he said, I would not be able to say at this point of time that the two are connected. But we are trying to prove if there is any linkage.

The DGP said it is very much possible that the drones came from across the border.

"In the earlier drone droppings, the drones covered a distance of 10 to 15 km and the aerial distance of the Jammu airport (from the international border) is not more than that. The particular route which is suspected to have been taken by the drone if it had come from across also comes within the range of 15 km, he said.

Singh said there have been incidents of drone droppings in Akhnoor and Arnia on the outskirts of Jammu and Samba and the initial indications and questioning of people who have been caught pointed towards it.

"It is very much possible that it (drone) has come from across but other angles would also not be ruled out at this stage, he said.

In response to a question about the threat posed by the use of armed drones, Singh said it is a very serious threat to the security system.

Under the international protocol, this kind of activity is not supposed to be taking place but if it has started and some militant outfits are involved in this, it poses a serious threat. We have a relook of the security of the vital places and important persons. The threat does not respect the parameters of the security, he said.

## Sikh Forum Seeks

patient hearing to the members of the visiting deputation and assured them that all their concerns and demands would be looked into meticulously.

"J&K Government is dedicated towards equitable development, besides safeguarding the interests of every section of the society without any discrimination," Sinha said, as per official spokesperson.

## Admin Faces Flak

he told the cops who swiftly obliged.

According to Aijaz, a policeman later told him to pay politely or else "you will be in avoidable trouble as this was Tehsildar sahab in action".

"I had no choice but to donate," he added.

Ali is not the only person fuming at the alleged extortion by the officials. Like him there are scores of people who shared the same ordeal.

Kashmir Observer has received numerous complaints in the past weeks, especially after the lockdown was eased, alleging forcible donation for Red Cross. "I was refused entry into Doodhpathri until I agreed to donate to Indian Red Cross. I would have returned even without paying but I had children with me and for their sake I reluctantly paid to policemen collecting donations there," a senior officer of the Agriculture Department, Lal Mandi, told Kashmir Observer.

Interestingly, the IRCS has put out a disclaimer on its website saying that it has not authorised any individual, corporate, trust, firm or body to raise or collect any donation in cash or kind on its behalf.

"All fund transfers and card payments may be done through our official website link. The branches are also advised to follow due diligence in this matter. IRCS will not be responsible to any entity if it makes a donation otherwise," reads the disclaimer.

Deputy Secretary, IRCS, N K Singh told Kashmir Observer that the national headquarters has not at all given any directions to any of the branches to cut receipt or charge people from visiting an area.

"We have not given directions to any state branch to cut the receipts. This issue has come into my notice and I have written to the state branch," he said.

Syed Kifayat Rizvi, Honorary General Secretary, IRCS, Kashmir Chapter, when contacted said that the society does not approve of any coercive collection of funds for it.

"We have taken it up with the government," he said.

Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole who happens to be the Chairman of IRCS, Kashmir chapter, is said to be the brain behind this novel donation drive, which has no precedence anywhere in India or elsewhere. When Kashmir Observer tried to reach him there was no response from his end despite repeated calls.

## Panel To Meet

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 the leaders that included four former chief ministers, 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, therefore, 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.

Officials said the commission, during its visit next week, has asked the chief electoral officer of the state to ensure that representatives of each registered, national and regional political party is provided a separate time slot so that separate discussions can be held with each one of them.

The commission will be interacting with the political parties and their leaders in Srinagar on July 6 and those in Jammu on July 8.

The three-member commission, with the JK CEO being the third member, will also have separate interactions with the DCs, they said.

A statement from the delimitation commission had earlier said that during the visit, it will interact with political parties, public representatives and Union Territory administration officials including district election officers/deputy commissioners of 20 districts to gather first-hand information and inputs concerning the ongoing process of delimitation as mandated under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.

It had said that the commission expected that all stakeholders will "cooperate" in this endeavour and provide valuable suggestions so that the task of delimitation is completed timely.

Once the delimitation exercise is completed, 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).

## Creative Pursuits

"Thing is, we're witnessing an overwhelming situation in Kashmir where attempts are being made to alter our reality. Under these circumstances, expecting us to pursue the normalized careers is a bit unfair. Most of us were never brought up in normal circumstances – no matter how hard our parents try to make certain careers charming or compulsory for us."

The murmurs regarding this shift started last year when pandemic made many Kashmiris wonder—"Don't we've any scientist who could rise to the occasion when parents make Science a do-or-die career choice for children since childhood in Kashmir?"

This online noise soon translated on the ground where many students questioned their "delusional" schooling and forced career choices.

But now, much of that is changing. Inside his home atop hillock in a South Kashmir village, Amaan, who lately graduated his secondary school, is currently looking for a change.

A voracious reader and believer in the platonic school of thought, he had his eyes set on a course in Philosophy at Tata Institute of Social Sciences. Still, his father, an employee with the civil secretariat, had something else in mind for him.

Coming from a family that has churned out mostly doctors and civil servants in the past decade, Amaan had little to no choice in choosing his future course. The subdued light in his room, more or less, represents his current state of mind.

"I understand change is not a cake-walk," the teenager said with grave expressions.

"It never was—until someone decided to be a difference maker. I believe the decision I've taken need a strong backup of nerves and resilience. But come what may, I'm up for it, for the sake of my passion."

Although this 'lettered spirit' is nothing new in Kashmir, the tribe of passionate learners is apparently growing today.

"At the end of the day," says Amaan, "our community is driven by Domini effect. It just takes one Shah Faesal to make bureaucracy as a crazy career choice for masses."

And now, when most of the youngsters are being hailed as role models for creating their own identities in liberal arts, Amaan is sure that more and more students will be setting themselves free from the clutches of certain coerced careers.

However, before this academic resistance, students from the valley were mainly pushed towards majors that are likely to provide financially-secure futures and are considered "respectable professions", or courses that provide one with enveloped and padded ends.

Upon graduating from high school and secondary school levels, it's believed that parents play a significantly imposing role in deciding for their kids what majors they have to opt for.

On an annual basis, an average of 5000 students from a mixed bag of majors graduate from various higher education institutes in the valley. Out of the said numbers, about 25 per cent of the students drop out of opting for any further education, a worrying trend in itself, but the underlying reason is more worrisome.

Conversations with students coming from different backgrounds help one understand to what extent the parents in the valley influence or decide the academic futures of their kids.

The discussions with the representative sample of the student populace in the valley, more or less, establish the fact that parents have a relatively more immense or decisive influence on the academic paths their kids opt for. This academic "coercion" ends up creating its own issues for students.

So far, Sadia, a Kashmiri student in her early twenties, has made two attempts on her life in three years.

After graduating from secondary school, she wanted to go for a course in Humanities for her undergrad studies. But she was met with a blunt denial from her parents and was forced to opt for a science course.

Unable to cope with the excessive stress and anxiety, she chose to opt

out of life. She survived, she says, because hemlock wasn't available.

Mindful of these "pulverized passions" and "brink brains", Dr. Iftikhar Bhat, a child psychologist, is involved in an extensive research project looking into the modalities and nuances of the parental psyche in Kashmir.

He's trying to find out what factors coerce the kids into choosing one kind of a major which will land them a cushy, well-paid job and "staying away" from the ones that won't.

"Kashmir is no different a place when it comes to parents dictating career choices to their kids," Dr. Iftikhar said.

"Ours is a lamina of the South Asia as a whole but, we can notice a gradual decrease in parental interference regarding the kind of education their kids choose in other parts."

But in Kashmir, the child mental specialist said, parental career choice is still highly prevalent.

"The parents, in most cases, decide for their kids the kind of stream they choose," he continued.

"There is little to no academic agency with the kids when it comes to Kashmir. I believe we still are a few decades behind, putting to shame the times Galileo lived in, when accepting the changes in the world in general and the academic ecosystem specifically."

This has led to a repressed psyche among the younger generation, he said, where the lack of agency has created a mental chasm within them.

The ugly offshoot of this burdened mindset, many believe, is the suicidal tendencies among students—some of whom took their own lives during the second viral wave in the valley.

About the rising trajectory of suicides in the younger generation of the valley, Dr. Iftikhar said, "It's natural that when an individual feels repressed and believes he doesn't have a choice regarding his own matters, so he will tend to look for some way out. We've seen in many cases. To end the feeling of helplessness and misery, one chooses to go for rather hardcore egresses. It's a classic case of feeling a smidge of control in life by taking control of one's end."

One of the reasons for this situation, said academic Dr. Shahid Mantaqi, is the schooling system which over the time has been rather rigorously transformed into an investment for the future.

"The caveat is, the future being secured is of the parents and not the kids," Dr. Shahid said. "A kid securing a good job is an insurance policy and a point of prestige for the parents."

The aspirations and the ambitions of the children aren't given much thought to, or are often derided, the academic continued.

"This has led us to a quagmire and a psychologically despotic and corrupt education system for our kids," he said.

"In my three decades of experience as a teacher and academic consultant, I've come across kids who dropped out because their parents wanted and expected something else from them. In even worse cases, some of my students attempted to kill themselves. There is hardly any semblance of imparting knowledge based on one's aptitude."

Dr. Shahid advocates for an aptitude-based learning mode starting from high school levels to promulgate better education methods.

"We need to rectify this system of ours at the earliest," he said. "We have to encourage parents to constantly interact with their kids to let the academic decisions be as informed and fitting as they can be. Our kids also need to indulge their psyches to understand their intellectual leanings better and make primed decisions."

At her home, Zahra often pours her heart out on paper these days. Apart from penning what she calls "all-weather woe" of her homeland, she writes her own pathos while following her passion.

But she mostly writes about hope and its magical power.

"Things take time to shape up," she says. "Till they do, one has to stay patient and persistent."

## LG Orders Action

of positivity rate, testing, and vaccination across the UT, the LG, he said, noted that the number of cases has come down, while vaccination and testing have also registered a substantial increase.

On being informed that the positivity rate in J&K is reduced to 0.5% in the last 24 hours, he said, the LG maintained that the new development in this regard is a good sign.

"However, it's only a small battle won in a really long war and we have to be vigilant. Adherence to Covid protocol and vaccination has helped in bringing the numbers down," Sinha said, as per official spokesperson.

The LG, he said, directed the DCs and SPs to ensure measures such as mask-wearing, social distancing and limiting the number of people in social gatherings is rigorously followed. He said that the LG also took cognizance in the matter of fake RTPCR test reports being carried by some tourists and issued strict directions to penalize such action.

"Any tourist carrying fake RTPCR test reports at the entry points, by road or air, will be penalized and authorities must send them back.

We need to enforce the rule with a clear plan, besides communicating the same to all the stakeholders," the LG said, as per official spokesperson.

He further said that the LG congratulated the Administrations and the health teams of Budgam and Bandipora Districts for achieving 100 % vaccination of 45 & above age-group with 1st Dose. With these two reaching the milestone, the tally goes up to Six Districts now for J&K.

He further appreciated the other Districts for intensifying the vaccination drive and asked the Districts with more than 90 % vaccination to cover the 100% target within 3 days. DCs and health authorities were also directed to ensure the priority age group is fully vaccinated within a week.

"I urge everyone to get vaccinated to protect themselves and their loved ones from deadly corona virus," said the LG, as per official spokesperson.

The LG, he said, made suggestions to the members of the Covid Task Force, Deputy Commissioners, SPs, and other concerned officers for a way forward for more effectively tackling and containing the spread of the infection across the UT.

"The Lt Governor advised for sending joint teams in the areas to counter vaccination hesitancy and educate people. Divisional Commissioners, IGP, DCs, Health functionaries were asked to put extra effort into districts with low vaccination rate," the official spokesperson said.

"The Lt Governor also passed necessary directions for making requisite arrangements for checking of the vehicles at various places on Mughal Road and Sinthan Road which are going to open for the movement of the general public on 5th July," he added.

While taking the District-wise feedback on various critical aspects of clinical management, the LG, as per the official spokesperson sought the implementation of the directions passed in the previous meeting, particularly pertaining to the efforts made by the District administrations for bringing down the positivity rate and generating daily Covid report at Block-level.

According to the official spokesperson, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department, Atal Dulloo, briefed the chair about the district-wise analysis of Covid-19 situation, status of Vaccine availability, Block-wise analysis of Cases and Positivity.

Dulloo, he said, informed that J&K has registered its highest vaccination number with over 1,14,000 doses administered across the UT in a single day with overall Vaccination rate for 45 & above age group reaching 87% in J&K.

"Besides, 14 Districts are now under Green Zone as per the five Cardinal Indicators for assessing the COVID 19 Situation including Weekly Cases per million Population, Test Positivity rate, Bed occupancy, Mortality and Vaccination coverage," he added.

## Cab Rolls Into

said. The injured have been shifted to district hospital Ramban for treatment.

SHO Ramban Pardeep Kumar confirmed the accident. He said that soon after information was received, a massive rescue operation was launched. Five persons died on the spot and three injured persons were removed to the hospital, he added.

## J&K Reports

the UT due to the pandemic rose to 4,333 as six patients died in the past 24 hours.

Meanwhile, the officials said, there were 29 confirmed cases of Mucormycosis (black fungus) in Jammu and Kashmir. (PTI)

## Reddy Visits

Devi atop the Trikuta hills in Reasi district.

He was given a detailed operational presentation on the current security situation along the IB by Inspector General of BSF, Jammu Frontier, N S Jamwal, a spokesperson of the force said.

"The minister was also shown the different systems and innovation techniques adopted by the force to neutralise the trans-border threats from the counterpart side," he said.

The official said the minister also addressed a 'Prahari Sammelan', in which about 250 BSF officers and personnel were present.

He said the minister appreciated the recent success of the Jammu Frontier in eliminating intruders from across the border, seizing large quantities of narcotics and detecting underground tunnels.

Reddy said that due to the relentless efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the BSF has been provided with modern weaponry and state-of-the-art technology to effectively guard the international borders against the new threats.

He said the central government has been working continuously to provide all possible assistance to the BSF, the spokesperson said.

## Bear Kills Cow,

The injured person identified as one Syed Qasim Shah (80), was evacuated to SDH Sogam for treatment, where his condition is said to be stable. (GNS)



## Facebook, Instagram Take Down Millions Of Posts In Compliance With IT Rules

Agencies



**NEW DELHI:-** Facebook took action against 2.5 million pieces of "violent and graphic content" between May 15 and June 15, the social media giant said in its India monthly report under the new Information Technology (Guidelines for Intermediaries and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules (IT Rules), 2021. Of this, 99.9 per cent of the content was actioned proactively.

It also provided details of the content actioned for Instagram. Facebook had earlier said this would be an interim report.

Facebook described "content actioned" as content such as posts, photos, videos or comments it takes action for going against its standards. "This metric shows the scale of our enforcement activity. Taking action could include removing a piece of content from Facebook or Instagram or covering photos or videos that may be disturbing to some audiences with a warning".

It described proactive rate as the metric that shows the percentage of all content or accounts acted on which it found and flagged before users reported them to Facebook or Instagram. "We use this metric as an indicator of how effectively we detect violations. The rate at which we can proactively detect potentially violating content is high for some violations, meaning we find and flag most content before users do. This is especially true where we have been able to build machine learning technology that automatically identifies content that might violate our standards," it said.

Facebook removed 25 million pieces of content identified as "spam," 1.8 million pieces of content containing "adult nudity and sexual activity," of which 99.6 per cent was the proactive rate. Suicide and self injury related content actioned numbered 589,000, of which 99.7 per cent was proactive.

On Instagram, the highest

number of content actioned -- 699,000 -- was under "suicide and self-injury," of which the proactive rate was 99.8 per cent. This was followed by 668,000 pieces of "violent and graphic content," and the proactive rate was 99.7 per cent. Adult nudity and sexual activity caused action on 490,000 pieces of content.

Facebook will publish its next report on 15 July, containing details of user complaints received and action taken. "We expect to publish subsequent editions of the report with a lag of 30-45 days after the reporting period to allow sufficient time for data collection and validation. We will continue to bring more transparency to our work and include more information about our efforts in future reports," it said.

Technology giant Google was the first to publish a transparency report in accordance with the IT rules on June 30. That report covered complaints received and actioned between April 1-30 this year. Google said there will be a two-month lag for reporting to allow sufficient time for data processing and validation.

The total number of complaints received by Google in the reported period was 27,762, of which 96.2 per cent related to copyright issues, 1.3 per cent were related to trademark, 1 per cent defamation, 0.4 per cent related to counterfeit issues and 0.4 per cent related to circumvention.

The number of removal actions taken by Google based on these complaints were 59,350. This difference in reporting is one of the clarifications the industry has sought from the government. The Rules only ask for periodic compliance reports, with no set or defined format.

The IT Rules, notified on February 25, ask significant social media intermediaries, or those with over 5 million users, to "publish periodic compliance report every month mentioning the details of complaints received and action taken thereon, and the number of specific communication links or parts of information that the intermediary has removed or disabled access to in pursuance of any proactive monitoring conducted by using automated tools or any other relevant information as may be specified".

## Govt To Soon Issue 'Clarification' On FDI In E-Commerce: Piyush Goyal

Agencies

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) will soon issue a "clarification" on foreign direct investment (FDI) in e-commerce, amid complaints from some segments of the industry that some e-commerce behemoths have been flouting the policy rolled out by the government.

"The FDI policy has been crystal clear ever since it first came up, but certain instances have come to our notice that the policy is not being followed in letter and spirit. We will be clarifying that very shortly," commerce and industry minister said in a virtual briefing. The minister added that the FDI policy, however, will not be amended.

The development comes in the backdrop of domestic traders' body over the last few years crying foul and urging the government to take action against e-commerce giants such as Amazon, Flipkart, alleging that they have been flouting the FDI policy norms by promoting preferential sellers, influencing product prices, and following various anti-competitive practices.

In December 2018, DPIIT had also issued a clarification via a 'Press Note' comprising FDI guidelines in the past, tightening norms for online retailers and for better enforcement of these rules. However, offline traders claim that these companies have still managed to circumvent the local laws.

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for retailers and for better enforcement of foreign investment rules. However, offline traders claim that these companies have still managed to circumvent the local laws.

When asked about the timeline for the announcement of the much awaited e-commerce policy, Goyal said that the government has recently announced e-commerce rules under the consumer protection act. "This is a series which involves consumer affairs, FDI policy and e-commerce policy," he said.

"We believe that our most important stakeholder is the consumer and we wanted to make sure that consumer protection prevails over everything else. By announcing the e-commerce policy for consumer protection, we have demonstrated that our first and foremost concern is the consumer, 1.3 billion Indians are our first and foremost priority," Goyal said.

The consumer affairs ministry had last month proposed slew of changes in the consumer protection rules to protect the interests of consumers and also make e-commerce companies more accountable and responsible. The rules have created quite a stir among companies, with some even anticipating a change in their business structure if the rules were to be implemented.



## "JK Has Potential Of Becoming A Leading Potato Seed Producer"

Union Additional Secretary Visits Potato Seed Multiplication Farms Yarikha, Gulmarg

KO NEWS DESK

**TANGMARG:** Additional Secretary, Union Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Vivek Agarwal, on Friday visited Potato Seed Multiplication Farm Yarikha, Tangmarg.

During the visit, the Additional Secretary inspected different sections of the Farm and interacted with the concerned officers and technical experts about the working of the unit.

Director Agriculture briefed the Additional Secretary regarding the activities being carried out in the farm for propagation of virus free seed tubers. He said that unique climatic conditions in the Valley offer a good opportunity for propagating virus free Potato Seeds here. The department has embarked on the

principle of "One Farm One/Two Products" as per the suitability and technical parameters like soil texture, soil health and irrigation status of the farms, he said adding that production of 6000 quintal of hi quality virus free Potato Seeds is expected from the 6 High Altitude Departmental Potato Seed Multiplication farms during the current year.

While appreciating work done by the Agriculture Department Kashmir, the Additional Secretary highlighted the importance of latest technological interventions during the production of Potato Seed tubers. He asked to put in all the efforts for a successful cropping season so that the Union territory could not only become self-reliant in terms of Potato Seed requirement but should be in a position to export

seed (Potato Seed) to other parts of the country as well.

Regarding the issue of availability of Breeder Seeds, the Additional Secretary assured that the matter would be taken up with Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR).

Meanwhile, a delegation of progressive farmers and potato growers of Tangmarg and adjoining areas held a detailed interaction with the Additional Secretary. They expressed gratitude for various initiatives and farmer friendly schemes launched by the Government of India for welfare and uplift of the farming community.

Later, the Additional Secretary visited Potato Seed Multiplication Farm Gulmarg and took a review of activities being taken up there.

## Agarwal Inspects Functioning Of Centre Of Excellence At Zawoora

KO NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR:** Additional Secretary, Union Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Vivek Agarwal, on Friday visited and inspected the functioning of Centre of Excellence at Zawoora, Srinagar.

Pertinently, Centre of Excellence has been established with an aim to improve the production and productivity including the quality parameters of various fruit crops grown under Valley conditions with adoption of the latest techniques which are being demonstrated at the Centre. This CoE serves as a demonstration and training centre as well as a source of planting material to the orchardists of the valley.

Additional Secretary took stock of facilities being available in the Centre like production of micro-irrigation, high-tech greenhouse technology, tissue



culture labs, bio-control labs and weather forecasting station.

Vivek Agarwal expressed satisfaction over the activities and achievements of the Centre of Excellence towards streamlining the Horticulture sector in the Valley. He assured that all possible help from the government of India shall be extended to establish more such Centres of Excellence in the private sec-

tor in the Union Territory.

Director General Horticulture and Mission Director MIDH, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat briefed the Additional Secretary about the activities and mode of execution of the project.

Director Agriculture Kashmir, Deputy Director Central, Chief Horticulture Officer Srinagar and other senior officers were present during the visit.

## Govt Imposes Stock Limits On Pulses Till October To Check Price Rise

Agencies

**NEW DELHI:-** Days after the Centre lowered the import duty on edible oils, it imposed stock holding limits on all pulses save moong, held by wholesalers, retailers, importers and millers till October.

Incidentally, the decision has come at a time when prices of most pulses have come off from their peaks and have softened by Rs 5-20 per kg in the retail markets the past one month, as per data from department of consumer affairs.

Pulses prices in the domestic markets had soared in the months of March to May due to low domestic stocks, prompting the Centre to allow free imports. However, since then prices have cooled down due to low demand and fear of imports.

"There was a sustained increase in the price of pulses in March-April. The need for an urgent policy decision was felt to send the right signal to the market," the ministry said in a statement.

Meanwhile, as per today's order which came into effect immediately, a stock limit of 200 tonnes has been imposed on wholesalers provided they do not hold more than 200 tonnes of one variety of pulses.

On retailers, the stock limit will be 5 tonnes.

In case of millers, the stock limit will be the last three months of production or 25 percent of annual installed capacity, whichever is higher.

Lastly, for importers, the stock limit will be the same as that of wholesalers for stocks held/imported prior to May 15, 2021.



And for pulses imported after May 15, stock limit applicable on wholesalers will apply after 45 days from date of customs clearance, the order said.

According to the ministry, if the stocks of entities exceed the prescribed limits, they have to be declared on the online portal of the Department of Consumer Affairs and have to be brought within the prescribed limit within 30 days of the notification of the order.

Meanwhile, the Centre also said that it is enhancing the buffer stock limit under Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) to 2.3 million tonnes in FY22.

The Centre has also entered into long-term MoUs with Myanmar, Malawi and Mozambique for import of over 0.55 million tonnes of tur and urad.

"These MoUs will ensure predictability in the quantity of pulses being produced abroad and exported to India, thus benefiting both India and the pulse exporting country," the government said.

The Center said that a SoP for faster clearance of import consignments of pulses and edible oils have been prepared, as a result of which the dwell time for clearances of consignments has come down to 6.9 days from 10 to 11 days in case of pulses and 3.4 days in case of edible oils.

## Hike In Petrol Prices, Diesel Unchanged

In a relief to the transport sector, OMCs raised petrol prices as global cues pushed fuel prices up across the country on Friday adding to common man's misery, even as he already grapples with high food prices amid shrinking income.

But this time round, the oil companies have only increased the pump price of petrol while keeping diesel rates unchanged to limit the cascading effect of high transport fuel on prices of various other commodities.

Accordingly, the retail price of petrol increased by 35 paise per litre in the national capital on Friday to Rs 99.16 while diesel prices maintained previous days price line of Rs 89.18 a litre.

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

The latest price rise has also brought Chennai in the list of metro cities hitting the century mark with petrol. The fuel is now priced at Rs 100.13 a litre in the city. Mumbai is the other metro city where petrol prices have crossed the century mark and reached Rs 105.24 a litre.



The price of petrol is very close to hitting century even in Delhi and Kolkata.

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

Sri Ganganagar in Rajasthan has highest level of fuel prices in the country. Petrol is priced there at Rs 110.40 a litre while diesel is at Rs 102.42 a litre on Friday.

With the day's price hike, fuel prices have now increased on 33 days and remained unchanged on 30 days since May 1. The 33 increases has taken up petrol prices by Rs 8.77 per litre in Delhi. Similarly, diesel have increased by Rs 8.45 per litre in the national capital.

With global crude prices also rising on a pick up demand and depleting inventories of worlds largest fuel guzzler -- the US, retail prices of fuel in India is expected to firm up further in coming days.

The benchmark Brent crude reached multi-year high level of over \$76 on the Intercontinental Exchange. **IANs**

## Airtel Launches 'Airtel Black' – India's First All-In-One Solution For Homes

KO NEWS DESK

**NEW DELHI :** Telecom giant Bharti Airtel on Friday announced the launch of Airtel Black – India's first all-in-one solution for homes. The company plans to bring various of its offerings under one recharge plan for the convenience of the customers.

"Customers have expressed their frustration on multiple bills to be paid on different due dates across the months, services getting switched off due to forgotten recharges, and difficulty in managing services from multiple local service providers. We decided to innovate to solve this customer problem," it said in a regulatory filing.

Yet these services have historically been bought and managed, as individual ser-

**CUSTOMERS HAVE EXPRESSED** their frustration on multiple bills to be paid on different due dates across the months, services getting switched off due to forgotten recharges, and difficulty in managing services from multiple local service providers. We decided to innovate to solve this customer problem,"



vice. Customers have expressed their frustration on multiple bills to be paid on different due dates across the months, services getting switched off due to forgotten recharges, and difficulty in managing services from multiple local service providers. We decided to innovate to

solve this customer problem.

Airtel Black is the new program for the discerning, quality-seeking customers. A customer can bundle 2 or more of Airtel services (Fiber, DTH, Mobile) together to become Airtel Black – which entitles the customer for one single bill, one Customer Care number with a dedicated team of relationship managers, and priority resolution of faults and issues. All of this, also comes with amazing value of zero-switching and installation costs coupled with free service visits for life.

## Paytm Earmarks Rs 50 Crore For Cashback Offers To Celebrate Six Years Of Digital India



**NEW DELHI:** Digital payments firm Paytm has earmarked Rs 50 crore for rolling out a cashback program for consumers and merchants to celebrate six years of Digital India, the company said on Friday.

Under the offer, Paytm has announced cashbacks for merchants and consumers in India, for every transaction made through the Paytm app.

The program will be rolled out in 200 districts across the country with special drives in Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

The digital payments firm said that the merchants across the country

have played a pivotal role in this by accepting a wide range of digital payment methods and being a part of the Paytm community.

"The company is committing Rs 50 crore for the program this year which will uplift over 2 crore merchants who use Paytm in their day-to-day life," the company said in a statement.

Merchants with the most number of transactions made through the Paytm app before Diwali, will be rewarded with certificates for being the top merchants and will also receive free Soundbox, IoT devices and many such rewards.

Customers, who scan the Paytm QR code at the stores to pay through the Paytm app, will receive cashback on each transaction, the statement said.

"India has made significant strides in its Digital India mission, which empowers all with technological advancements. This mission is bound to contribute to the country's growing economy." **PTI**



## Germany Recommends Combining AstraZeneca, mRNA Shots

Agenceis

Germany is recommending that all people who get a first shot of the AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine switch to a different type of vaccine for their second shot.

The aim is to increase the speed and effectiveness of vaccinations as the more contagious Delta variant spreads.

Health Minister Jens Spahn conferred with his colleagues from Germany's 16 states on Friday, the day after the country's standing committee on vaccination issued a draft recommendation.

In a statement, the committee said "according to current study results", the immune response from a mixture of AstraZeneca with an mRNA vaccine was "significantly superior" to that from two doses of AstraZeneca.

It recommended that the second dose with an mRNA vaccine – Germany uses those made by BioNTech-Pfizer and Moderna – be administered four weeks or more after the first AstraZeneca shot.

That is much shorter than the nine to 12 weeks the committee recommends between two doses of AstraZeneca.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who is 66, recently received a second shot of Moderna's vaccine after taking the first shot of AstraZeneca.

Her spokesman said that was a conscious effort to encourage people not to be afraid if they are advised to get a mix of shots.

The committee, known by its German acronym STIKO, did not detail what studies its conclusion was based on.

Germany's disease control centre noted that it was a draft, and that a final recommendation with more detail and sourcing will follow.

Researchers have said mixing vaccines is likely safe and effective,

but are still gathering data to be sure.

German authorities already decided in April that below-60s who had received a first AstraZeneca shot should as a rule get a second shot of an mRNA vaccine.

The decision came after the AstraZeneca vaccine was linked to extremely rare blood clots in younger people. Germany recommends that below-60s consult a doctor before taking it.

Spahn said on Friday that enough mRNA vaccine is available to implement the new recommendation quickly and that it "makes the AstraZeneca vaccine more attractive", with large quantities now arriving and the prospect of a much shorter wait for the second shot.

He said the head of STIKO told ministers that the combination of AstraZeneca and BioNTech "protects as least as well as BioNTech-BioNTech as a combination, in some cases even better".

But he also stressed that two doses of AstraZeneca give good protection. BioNTech-Pfizer has been the mainstay of Germany's campaign, with AstraZeneca a distant second in terms of doses administered.

Germany is keen to keep upping the pace of its vaccination campaign even as new infections have sunk to their lowest level in months, pointing to the rise of the Delta variant.

Authorities believe it now accounts for more than half of new cases, and are keen to ensure that people get their second vaccine shots.

"Only double-vaccinated protects well against Delta", except in the case of the single-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine, Spahn said.

As of Wednesday, Germany had given at least one shot to 55.1 percent of its population, and 37.3 percent were fully vaccinated.

"That's a good figure, but it's still not enough," Spahn said.

## Monster Heat In Delhi, Monsoon To Be Most Delayed Since 2006

**NEW DELHI:** Tens of millions of people in India were suffering Friday under a severe heatwave that has pushed the temperature to a nine-year high in Delhi as monsoon rains run behind schedule.

Heatwaves have killed over 6,500 people in the world's second-most populous nation since 2010, and scientists say climate change is making them harsher and more frequent.

Daytime temperatures were above 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) for the fourth consecutive day Friday across Rajasthan, Haryana and New Delhi.

Large parts of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh in central India were also wilting.

New Delhi saw 43.1 degrees Celsius on Thursday, the hottest July day in the city since 2012 when the capital sweltered under 43.5 degrees Celsius. On Friday, the temperature again shot up to 41 degree Celsius in the city of 20 million.

Temperatures have remained more than seven degrees Celsius above normal for this time of the year, prompting the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to classify it as "severe extreme heat".

The weather office said the mercury will stay above 40 degrees for the coming week because of the late arrival of the southwest monsoon and "loo" blowing in from Rajasthan and Pakistan.

The weather department has issued a heatwave alert for the region, with forecasters also saying some isolated places will witness

thunderstorms. The intense heat has driven up power consumption as more and more people turned to air-conditioners and air coolers. Delhi's power consumption peaked to nearly 7,000 megawatts (MW) this week, 10 to 15 per cent higher than the average demand at this time of the year.

In Punjab in the north, authorities announced a two-day weekly closure of industrial units and reduced office hours for its employees after electricity demand topped 15,000 megawatts due.

Forecasters predict that the annual rains will not hit New Delhi before July 7, making it the most delayed monsoon in the national capital since 2006. The deadliest year for India was 2015 when over 2,000 were killed by intense heat. Currently just five per cent of Indian households have air conditioning compared to 90 per cent in the United States and 60 per cent in China.

But the market is forecast to boom in the coming years, driving up energy consumption in what is already the world's third-largest emitter of carbon dioxide. The refrigerants inside AC units also exacerbate global warming, while the heat that the machines generate make cities even hotter.

The country of 1.3 billion people also suffers from severe water shortages with tens of millions lacking running water. Parts of Delhi and elsewhere regularly see scuffles when tankers arrive to deliver water. In 2019 Chennai made international headlines when the southern city ran out of water entirely.

## Earth's Cryosphere Shrank By 87,000 Sq Kms Per Year In Last 37 Years

**BEIJING:** The global cryosphere -- all the areas with frozen water on Earth -- shrank by about 87,000 square kilometers per year on average between 1979 and 2016, as a result of climate change, according to a new study.

The extent of land covered by frozen water is just as important as its mass because the bright white surface reflects sunlight so effectively, cooling the planet. Changes in the size or location of ice and snow can alter air temperatures, change the sea level, and even affect ocean currents worldwide.

The researchers from Lanzhou University in China calculated the daily extent of the cryosphere and averaged those values to come up with yearly estimates. While the extent of the cryosphere grows and shrinks with the seasons, they found that the average area covered by Earth's cryosphere has contracted overall since 1979, correlating with rising air temperatures. The new study is published in Earth's Future.

"The cryosphere is one of the most sensitive climate indicators and the first one to demonstrate



a changing world," said first author Xiaoping Peng, a physical geographer at Lanzhou University. "Its change in size represents a major global change, rather than a regional or local issue." The shrinkage primarily occurred in the Northern Hemisphere, with a loss of about 102,000 square km each year.

Those losses are offset slightly by growth in the Southern Hemisphere, where the cryosphere expanded by about 14,000 square

kilometers annually. This growth mainly occurred in the sea ice in the Ross Sea around Antarctica, likely due to patterns of wind and ocean currents and the addition of cold meltwater from Antarctic ice sheets.

The estimates showed that not only was the global cryosphere shrinking but that many regions remained frozen for less time. The average first day of freezing now occurs about 3.6 days later than in 1979, and the ice thaws about 5.7 days earlier.

## Drones Dropping Bombs Very Serious, Dangerous Threat: Border Force Chief

Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** The recent incident of drones dropping bombs on the Indian Air Force base in Jammu is "very serious and very dangerous", and there is an urgent need to develop technology to counter this challenge, Border Security Force chief Rakesh Asthana said on Friday.

He said the force, which guards over 6,300 kms of India's land border with Pakistan in the west and Bangladesh on the east, is faced by four main challenges on the security front.

These are detection of underground tunnels along the international border with Pakistan, presence of electronic devices used by anti-national elements in the frontier areas, emergence of drones and issues of poor mobile connectivity in remote areas.

"These scenarios 'directly impact' the efficacy of operations and border domination activities of the Border Security Force (BSF), Asthana said.

"There is an urgent requirement to develop anti-drone technology to stop the menace of drones, being used for narco-terrorism and attacks on vital installations," he said during a webinar.

The BSF director general (DG) was speaking at the launch of a hackathon on finding cost-effective innovative technology solutions by startups and premier institutions for the force. It has been organised under the banner of the BSF High-tech Undertaking for Maximising Innovation (BHUMI) in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

"Recently, you all must have seen on TV channels the attacks, first time in the history, through drones on the Indian Air Force (IAF) base in Jammu," the DG said.

"The drones have been used by the enemy country and by the criminal elements for bringing in not only weapons, ammunition and narcotics, but now since they are used for carrying payloads that is being used to drop bombs also which is something very serious and very dangerous," Asthana said.

On June 27, two drones dropped explosives inside the IAF station in Jammu, injuring two airmen and causing damage on the roof of a building.

The BSF had shot down a hexa-



copter drone carrying arms and ammunition in June last year in Jammu apart from thwarting many such flight reconnaissance bids majorly in the Punjab and Jammu areas along the India-Pakistan international border (IB).

The DG said drones posed a challenge "not only on the western borders but are being used off late by naxalites also in left wing extremism affected areas."

"That area also deserves a lot of attention as far as security operations are concerned," he said, adding that anti-drone technology is a "key area" of work for the largest border guarding force of the country with about 2.65 lakh personnel.

The BSF chief admitted that it has not been able to find solutions to detect tunnels.

"One of the main challenges the BSF presently faces is the detection of cross-border underground tunnels along the western borders that brings serious implications on our national security," Asthana said.

"These tunnels are not only being used for pushing in infiltrators from across the border but also being used to transport or smuggle in narcotics into our country," he said.

It is high time, Asthana said, that concerted result-oriented efforts are made to address the subject of detection of underground tunnels with innovative technological solutions.

"So far, after a lot of efforts, we have not been able to find a solution to identify and detect tunnels from above the ground. So, this is one challenging area where we have to work," the DG said.

According to data, 17 such structures have been detected by the BSF along the Pakistan border area in the last two decades.

Asthana said another vital area of

operational significance for the BSF is the need to develop technological solutions in detecting presence of "electronic devices" in its operational areas.

These are being utilised by anti-national elements for perpetrating crimes and activities that have a direct bearing on the country's national security, he said.

"Terrorists who are operating within our territory or the criminals, organised gangs who are indulging in smuggling activities particularly in narcotics are using various technological devices which has a bearing on our security scenario," Asthana said.

The BSF chief asked technology innovators to provide automated communication systems and mobile telephony solutions for its troops who are deployed in remote areas "characterised by difficult and undulating terrain that include long stretches of shadow area where there is no communication."

"There are so many areas in the west and east particularly in the north-east where we feel difficult to communicate particularly the troops cannot communicate with their family members through mobiles or any other technology," he said.

Asthana shared a personal experience of staying at a BSF post located in a shifting sand dunes desert area of Rajasthan where there "was no mobile communication for full 24 hours but had only wireless communication."

The BSF chief assured the participants of the hackathon that it will provide them all logistical support when their analysts and engineers visit a forward area and said "any product found suitable will be explored for procurement on trial basis..."

## Pregnant Women In India Now Eligible For COVID-19 Vaccination

Agenceis

Pregnant women in India are now eligible to get vaccinated against COVID-19 with the union Health Ministry on Friday giving the approval based on recommendations of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI).

The decision empowers pregnant women to make an informed choice on taking the Covid vaccination, the ministry said, adding these women can now register on CoWIN or walk-in to the nearest Covid vaccination centre to get themselves inoculated. The decision has been communicated to all the States and union territories to implement it under the ongoing National Covid Vaccination Program, it said in a statement.

India's Covid vaccination program incorporates recommendations of the foremost experts in the field of immunization, public health, disease control and information technology. Based on scientific and epidemiological evidence, the programme gives priority to strengthening the country's health-care system by protecting the professionals, health and frontline workers, manning it, as well as protecting the most vulnerable population groups, the ministry said.

Till now, all groups except pregnant women were eligible for Covid vaccination. Now, it is expanded to even pregnant women in the world's largest immunization drive, the statement said.

Covid infection during pregnancy Studies have shown that Covid infection during pregnancy may result in rapid deterioration of health of pregnant women and they are at an increased risk of severe diseases and it might affect fetus too, it said.

The matter has been examined by domain knowledge experts based on the evidence that indicate that pregnant women are at an increased risk for severe illness from Covid compared to non-pregnant women in case they get infected. "Further, pregnant wom-

en with COVID-19 infection are at an increased risk for preterm birth and other adverse pregnancy outcomes including higher chances of neonatal morbidity. Additionally, the experts have also highlighted pre-existing co-morbidities, advanced maternal age, and high body mass index as factors for severe COVID-19 in pregnancy," the statement said.

The NTAGI has recommended vaccination for pregnant women. The National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (NEGAVAC) too has unanimously recommended it. Further, a national level consultation on Covid vaccination for pregnant women was also convened by the health ministry to build consensus on Covid vaccination of pregnant women. The consultation unanimously welcomed the recommendation of NTAGI to vaccinate pregnant women. The consultation included professional bodies like FOGSI, representatives of state governments, CSOs, NGOs, Development Partner agencies, technical experts etc.

The ministry has accepted these recommendations and prepared an operational guideline for vaccination of pregnant women, counselling kit for medical officers and frontline workers, and information education communication material for general public to equip the states and union territories to carry out the vaccination of pregnant women.

Pregnant women, who opt for vaccination, can be inoculated with Covid vaccines available in the country any time during their pregnancy at the nearest government or private vaccination centre after registration on CoWIN or by walk-in registration at the nearest centre, the statement said.

The procedures and modalities like registration, generation of certificates after vaccination etc. will remain the same as it is for any beneficiaries above 18 years of age under the Covid vaccination programme, it said.

## BJP MLA Booked On Rape Charge In Uttarakhand

Press Trust of India

**Dehradun:** Another BJP MLA in Uttarakhand has been accused of rape by a former party colleague.

A case of rape was lodged against Jwalapur MLA Suresh Rathore at Bahadarabad police station in Haridwar on Thursday

night after a lower court's order.

The legislator has been accused of rape and criminal intimidation, police said.

Rathore is the second MLA from Uttarakhand after Dwarahat MLA Mahesh Negi against whom such serious charges have been levelled. PTI

## Drone Spotted Over Indian Mission In Islamabad; India Lodges Protest

Agenceis

A drone was spotted over the Indian High Commission complex in Islamabad late last week, prompting India to lodge a strong protest with Pakistan over the incident, people familiar with the development said on Friday.

They said India considered the incident as a breach of security that triggered concerns in the mission. The Indian mission has already taken up the issue strongly with the Pakistani authorities through a note verbale.

There was no official comment on the incident yet that came to light amid growing concerns in the security establishment in India after explosives-laden drones

were used to carry out an attack on the Jammu Air Force station on June 27.

According to security officials, it was the first instance of suspected Pakistan-based terrorists deploying unmanned aerial vehicles to strike at vital installations in India.

Army Chief Gen M.M. Naravane on Thursday said that the easy availability of drones has increased the complexity of security challenges from both state and state-sponsored actors.

A day after the attack on the Air Force station attempts to target the Ratnuchak-Kaluchak military station in Jammu with drones was thwarted by soldiers.

## High Court Refuses To Stay Proceedings In Sedition Case Against Lakshadweep Filmmaker

Agenceis

**KOCHI:** The Kerala High Court today refused to stay further proceedings in the sedition case registered against Lakshadweep filmmaker Ayesha Sulthana.

Considering a plea filed by Ayesha Sulthana seeking to quash the FIR or police case registered against her by the Kavaratti police, the Kerala High Court said investigation in the case was in a preliminary stage and more time may be required for completing the probe.

Refusing to stay further proceedings in the case, the court directed the Lakshadweep administration to provide details of the investigation.

When the matter was taken up



the counsel for the administration opposed the plea, submitting that

the investigation in the case was in a preliminary stage.

## Battlegrounds Mobile India Officially Released on Android

Agenceis

Battlegrounds Mobile India has officially launched in the country today, July 2. Launched as the Indian version of PUBG Mobile after that game was banned in September 2020, Battlegrounds Mobile India has been available in early access until now, but the official version has now been launched for the public and can be downloaded from the Google Play store. Developer Krafton thanked the players with in-game rewards as 10 million players have now downloaded the game.

After almost a month after the official announcement from developer Krafton, Battlegrounds Mobile India has finally officially

launched in the country. The game is available to download for everyone from the Google Play store and as of now, there is no update on an iOS release. Those who did not pre-register for the game can simply head to the Google Play store and download the complete game. Players who pre-registered will only need to update the game from the store which is a small download.

In some cases, the update option may not be available via the Google Play store app so just head to the store from your desktop browser and you should see the 'Install' option there (make sure you're using the same Google account). This will update the game by downloading the necessary files, though you may

need to partially re-download some of the in-game content like texture packs and maps.

Krafton also thanked players as the game has reached 10 million downloads with an in-game outfit called the Constable set which will be permanently added to your inventory. The developer did the same when the game reached 1 million and 5 million downloads.

Battlegrounds Mobile India was announced in the first week of May and went on pre-registration for Android users about two weeks later. It then launched in open beta on June 17 which was shortly turned into early access. It has been available to play ever since, but an iOS version has not been released yet.