



P3 CITY

**DDC SRINAGAR DIRECTS OFFICERS TO EXPEDITE WORKS ON RESTORING SPRINGS**

In order to speed up the ongoing process of rejuvenation and restoration of Water bodies in the district, the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Srinagar,

P6

**FOOTBALL FEVER AND THE VALLEY**

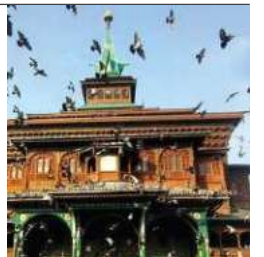
This month, July, offered a spectacle for football fans around the world, as the finals of two major international football tournaments were played. On 11 July, the final of Copa America—a South American based football tournament, was played



P5 STATE

**'FAITHFUL, SKILFUL' SWARM SANCTUM TO CELEBRATE THEIR PATRON SAINT'S 656TH URS**

The 656th Urs of Hazrat Mir Syed Ali Hamdani was on Saturday celebrated with religious fervour and gaiety in Srinagar and other parts of the Kashmir valley.

**Quote!**

Small is not just a stepping-stone. Small is a great destination itself.  
—Jason Fried

**NEWS DIGEST****Toddler Drowns In Shopian Stream**

**SRINAGAR:** A one-year-old boy of a nomad family drowned in Nallah Rambhara in Shopian district of south Kashmir on Saturday, officials said. They said that the toddler Aqib Ahmad son of Mohammad Rafeeq crawled into the stream from the tent put up by his family near the water body, according to news agency GNS. By the time the family reacted, the boy had drowned and he was taken to a local hospital where doctors declared him dead, the officials said.

**Mortar Shell Defused In Budgam**

**SRINAGAR:** A mortar shell was found and defused on Saturday by government forces in Khag area of central Kashmir's Budgam district. The live mortar shell was spotted in Sitaharan village of Khan following which teams of police and Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) reached the spot and defused it without causing any damage, reports said. This is the second shell to be diffused in the central. ● [More On P10](#)

**Woman Dies Of Electric Shock**

**SRINAGAR:** A woman died of electrocution on Saturday in Deewanbagh area of Baramulla district in north Kashmir. 36-year-old Seema, wife of Sonu Singh, resident of Punjab received an electric shock in Deewanbagh area of Baramulla town on Saturday afternoon, reports said. The woman was removed to the government medical college (GMC) by her family for treatment. However, the doctors there declared her dead. ● [More On P10](#)

**Fire Kills 2 Children In Ramban**

**BANIHAL:** Two minor siblings died and two others were injured on Saturday after their house was gutted in a fire in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, officials said. The fire broke out in the house of Rajesh Kumar due to leakage of an LPG cylinder in Maitra-Rajghar area, they said. The members of the family were trapped in the fire. Police and fire emergency parties reached the spot and doused. ● [More On P10](#)

**4 Soldiers Injured After Vehicle Hits Wall**

**SRINAGAR:** At least four army personnel sustained injuries after a vehicle they were travelling in met with an accident at Boniyar area in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Saturday. Official sources said that an army vehicle of 30 Rashtriya Rifles part of a convey enroute to Kupwara hit the wall of an apple juice factory at Boniyar on Saturday afternoon, resulting in injuries to four on board army personnel. The injured personnel have been. ● [More On P10](#)



Devotees offer congregational prayers at the shrine of Hazrat Mir Syed Ali Hamadani (RA) in Khanqah-e-Moula here on the 656th Urs of the Sufi scholar who visited Kashmir in the 13th century. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

# Heavy Rains, Flash Floods Predicted From Tomorrow

Zaid Bin Shabir

**SRINAGAR:** The Indian meteorological department (IMD) on Saturday issued a weather advisory warning of flash floods, disruption of traffic on highways, besides water logging in low lying areas of Jammu & Kashmir during the next three days from Sunday.

According to the advisory, copies of which have been sent to divisional commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir, besides the secretary disaster management, J&K for information and necessary action, the lower and middle level tropospheric winds from north Arabian Sea are most likely to interact with Easterly winds. ● [More On P10](#)

**THE ADVISORY ALSO WARNS** about landslides and shooting stones at vulnerable places, water logging in low lying areas, suspension of agricultural and horticultural operations during the fresh rain spell.

## Govt Notifies New Nomenclature For J&K HC

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The "long-winding and cumbersome" nomenclature of 'Common High Court of UT of Jammu and Kashmir and UT of Ladakh' has been changed to 'High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh', according to an order notified on Friday.

President Ram Nath Kovind has signed the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2021, to effect

the change. The order was notified by the Department of Justice in the Law Ministry on Friday.

It observed that the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, was enacted to provide for reorganisation of the state of Jammu and Kashmir into the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the Union Territory of Ladakh.

The order pointed out that the Act declared that the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir. ● [More On P10](#)

## SSB Chairman's Pvt Secretary Suspended

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday ordered suspension of Private Secretary to the Chairman, J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB) with immediate effect.

"Pending enquiry into his conduct in terms of Rule 31 of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal), Rules 1956, Girdhari Lal, Private Secretary with the Chairman, J&K Services Selection Board is hereby placed under suspension, with. ● [More On P10](#)

## J&K Logs 177 Cases, 277 More Recover

Firdaus Ali

**SRINAGAR:** As many as 277 people infected by coronavirus recovered from various healthcare facilities in Jammu and Kashmir, while one person succumbed to the virus and 179 others tested positive across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to officials, 277 more coronavirus patients have recovered—113 from Jammu division and 164 from Kashmir. ● [More On P10](#)

## 5 Culprits Behind Hit-List Blog Arrested: Police

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** In a major breakthrough, police on Saturday said the culprits behind the "terror and intimidation machinery" which led to the killings of a prominent journalist, an advocate and a businessman in Jammu and Kashmir have been arrested by carrying out raids in multiple locations in the union territory.

Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said the police discovered the culprits secretly working behind the blog site HYPERLINK "http://kashmirfight.wordpress.com/kashmirfight.wordpress.com".

He said in a J-K wide operation, houses and properties at multiple locations including Sanat Nagar, Rajbagh and Batpora in Srinagar, Hawal in Pulwama and Poonch and Jammu belonging to five persons were searched.

Armed with search warrants granted by the competent court of law, police parties carried out searches of the suspect premises and recovered a large number of cell phones, digital storage devices and computing. ● [More On P10](#)

## LG Pitches For Early Return Of Kashmiri Pandits 'Many People Yearn For Their Old Lives And Would Like To Return To Their Homeland'



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Asking the government officials to take proactive steps to facilitate the return of displaced Pandits to the Valley, the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said Saturday that it is the government's responsibility to

make sure the dream of thousands of Kashmiri migrants returning to their homeland turns into reality.

Chairing a meeting to review the functioning of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRR&R) Department here at Raj Bhavan on Saturday, the LG said that the government. ● [More On P10](#)

## Reviews PDD's Action Plan For Winter

The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday reviewed the action plan of Power Development Department (PDD) for winter preparedness and directed the officials to fill all gaps in power transmission and distribution by October. ● [More On P10](#)



**IT IS GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY** to make sure this dream of thousands of people turns into reality with proactive approach of the administration"

# Eid Mubarak

Sheer Khurma Se Biryani Tak,  
Chaar Chand Lagaye.

MIRCH POWDER

HALDI POWDER

DHANIA POWDER

## MASALE

Zayka Badhaye,  
Rishte Banaye

Masale

METMAS

KASOORI METHI

CHANA MASALA

GARAM MASALA

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**Dealer Enquiries Solicited**

## Ensure All Rights To Persons With Disabilities: Court Issues Notice To DSEK, 3 Top Schools On Plea Regarding Admission Of Special Children

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** While underscoring that the persons with disabilities shall not be deprived of their legitimate rights, Court of Chief Commissioner New Delhi has issued notice to Directorate of School Education Kashmir and three top schools in Srinagar on a plea regarding admission of children with special needs in the mainstream.

The court has sought comments on the plea by the Child and Disability Rights activists, who have alleged denial of admission in the schools to two children—one with 80% mental illness, and another with 90% hearing impairment. Besides the DSEK, the notice has been



issued to Principals Tyndle Bisco and Mallinson School Sheikh Bagh, Burnhall School Sonwar here and Presentation Convent School Rajbagh here.

"You are hereby advised to submit

the Comments on the Complaint on affidavit and to produce all the requisite documents upon which you base your Comments or Claim...within 30 days from the date of issue of this communication, failing which, the Complaint shall be disposed off ex-parte," the court said in the order issued on July 8. "It may also be ensured that persons with disabilities shall not be deprived of their legitimate rights," the court said in the order.

In the notice, the court has mentioned Sections 3 and 31 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 which among others specifies that the government should ensure persons with disabilities. ● [More On P10](#)





# Study Finds Recess Quality Influences Student Behaviour, Social-Emotional Development

## AGENCIES

Recess quality, not just the amount of time spent away from the classroom, plays a major role in whether children experience the full physical, mental and social-emotional benefits of recess, a new study found.

The study, led by Oregon State University, was published in the 'Journal of School Health'.

"Not all recess is created equal," said William Massey, study author and an assistant professor in OSU's College of Public Health and Human Sciences. With schools returning to full-time in-person classes this fall, he said, "Now is a good time to rethink, 'How do we create schools that are more child-friendly?'"

I think ensuring quality access to play time and space during the school day is a way we can do that."

Massey's study involved in-person observation of third- and fifth-grade students at 25 schools across five states during the 2018-19 school year. The schools covered a wide range of socioeconomic status and racial and ethnic diversity.

Researchers measured recess quality on a number of factors, including whether the schoolyard offered physical and environmental safety; whether kids had opportunities to play and had the requisite space and equipment; whether there were opportunities for inclusion; and if they had diverse options for play. A safe space with basic playground equipment might seem like a given, but that's not always the case, Massey said.

"I've been on playgrounds where the kids go outside, and it's a parking lot with high fences, no play structure, no balls, no jump-ropes, no chalk -- they're literally outside, and there's nothing to do," he said. He has also seen large holes from construction, broken glass, used condoms and needles in play spaces. Researchers also looked at student behavior and the occurrence of verbal and physical conflict, as well as conflict resolution; and watched what adults on the playground were doing.

"A lot of my previous research shows that adults are one of the most important entities on the playground," Massey said. "One of the most important things is: Do adults model and encourage positive interactions with the students, and do they actually engage with the students themselves? The more adults engage

with and play with students at recess, the more kids play, the more physical activity there is and the less conflict there is."

Schools that ranked highly on these measures saw associated positive outcomes in classroom behavior and socio-emotional markers. There was a significant correlation between high-quality recess and higher scores in student resilience, self-control, adaptive classroom behaviours and executive function, Massey said.

Based on these findings and his previous research on recess, Massey argues that schools should look at recess as a critical part of the school day -- which means investing adequate time and resources into it.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform general public that I have applied for pesticides license. In this regard if any person having any objection He/She may contact office of the PPO Lal Mandi Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after that.

Name: SABZAR AHMAD S/O: ABDUL AZIZ GANIE  
R/O: GUREE RNA

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my Driving licence bearing registration no JK092009006259/ MCWG, LMV somewhere. If anybody has found it may please return me on the below given address otherwise I have to apply for Duplicate of the same, if anybody have any objection may contact to ARTO office kupwara with in three days after that no objection will be accepted.

License holders name:- Ab majeed sheikh  
S/O:- Gh Rasool sheikh R/O:- Yahama lawoosa SULT

## از نیابت ساگام با اجلاس جاویدا حکیم صاحب

مضمون درخواست منجانب: گوہر حسین ولد بشیر احمد پڑے ساکنہ بلوآر مہارہ

برادری عطا RBA سرٹیفکیٹ

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول بیک وارڈر یا سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر بذمہ پیش کیا ہے۔ اس بارے میں عملہ فیلڈ سے رپورٹ طلب کیا گیا جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کا کنڈیڈ ہذا میں گزشتہ پندرہ سالوں سے رہائش پذیر ہے اور ساکن کا کنڈیڈ بذیل ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام افراد کنڈیڈ	عمر	پیشہ	آہ آمدنی
01	بشیر احمد پڑے ولد غلام حسن پڑے	70 سال	نمر رسیدہ	
02	سردہ بانو زوجہ بشیر احمد پڑے	60 سال	نمر رسیدہ	
03	گوہر حسین پڑے ولد بشیر احمد	36 سال	امام مسجد	
04	روی جان دختر بشیر احمد	30 سال	گھریلو کام	

اسطور کنڈیڈ 04 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ ساکن کے کنڈیڈ کی سالانہ آمدنی حد تقریر سے کم ہے۔ لہذا زیر بحث سرٹیفکیٹ اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض محدود جوت پیش کرے۔ مبادا گذر نے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

RNA

تائب تصدیق

تھیکہ داری کا رڈ نکالنا مطلوب ہے  
ہر خاص و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نظریہ داری کا رڈ نکالنا مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض آرائیڈ ڈویژن کنڈیل کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ مبادا گذر نے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔  
اعظم  
غلام رسول میر والد غلام محمد میر ساکنہ چیمبر گل ہال کھٹا RNA

اطلاع عام۔  
راقم نوٹ لائبریرائن نکالنا مطلوب ہے اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو گا وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر چیف انکریٹچر آفسر انت ناگ کے دفتر میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کریں۔ مبادا گذر نے کے بعد کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔  
بذریعہ: ہزار احمد گائی ولد عبدل عزیز گائی ساکنہ گوری RNA

از نیابت چیمبر گل با اجلاس انگریزیکوچمیسٹر دیوید اول

مضمون درخواست منجانب: نو حید احمد کھاندے ولد محمد اکبر کھاندے ساکنہ چیمبر گل انت ناگ برادری عطا RBA سرٹیفکیٹ

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول بیک وارڈر یا سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر بذمہ پیش کیا ہے۔ اس بارے میں عملہ فیلڈ سے رپورٹ طلب کیا گیا جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کا کنڈیڈ ہذا میں گزشتہ پندرہ سالوں سے رہائش پذیر ہے اور ساکن کا کنڈیڈ بذیل ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام افراد کنڈیڈ	عمر	پیشہ	آہ آمدنی
01	حاجہ بیگم بیوہ محمد اکبر	60 سال	نمر رسیدہ	
02	مظفر احمد پسر محمد اکبر	32 سال	ڈرائیور	5000
03	جاویدا احمد پسر محمد اکبر	30 سال	دکاندار	5000
04	نو حید احمد پسر محمد اکبر	26 سال	زیر تعلیم	
05	فردوسہ بیوہ مظفر احمد	26 سال	گھریلو کام	
06	انیس مظفر دختر مظفر	3 سال	من	

اسطور کنڈیڈ 06 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا زیر بحث سرٹیفکیٹ اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض محدود جوت پیش کرے۔ مبادا گذر نے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

RNA

تائب تصدیق

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR  
**CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT CIVIL SECRETARIAT**  
SRINAGAR/JAMMU  
**Notice inviting Tender/RFP**  
e-NIT NO. CAW-02 OF 2021.  
JAMMU, July 15, 2021.

Subject: RFP for empanelment of Fixed Wing Aircraft Company for hiring the aircraft on requirement basis.  
\*\*\*\*  
For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, proposals are invited from reputed and registered aviation companies having airworthy mid size and large size multi engine Jet Aircraft with galley services duly certified and endorsed on its Non-Scheduled Operator's Permit (NSOP) from DGCA, Government of India for an initial term of one year w.e.f 10.08.2021 for multi-purpose use of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir as per tender schedule specified below:  
NSOP holders with conditions laid down in Para 5.5 B (vii) of the main e-tender/RFP document can also apply.  
Tender schedule

EVENT	TARGET DATE
Date of Publishing of Tender Notice	15.07.2021 1630 Hrs
Start date of Downloading of Documents	15.07.2021 1700 Hrs
Last date to send in request for clarification on the tender, (through email on jkcivilaviation@gmail.com)	23.07.2021 12.00 Hrs
Pre bid meeting/pre proposal meeting	26.07.2021 14.00 Hrs
Start Date for submission of bids	23.07.2021 14.00 Hrs
Last date and time for submission of Tenders/ Bid	29.07.2021 14:00 Hrs
Time and date of opening of Technical Bids	30.07.2021 14:00 Hrs
Time and date of opening of Financial Bids (tentative, subjective to decision of the Committee).	02.08.2021 14:00 Hrs

Other details

S.No.	Item	Particulars
(a)	Tender Reference	CAW-02 of 2021
(b)	Tender Fee	Rupees 20,000.00 only, to be submitted Online through Payment Gateway/ Demand Draft, A/c No.0110010100000281, IFSC – JAKAOMOVING, J&K Bank Moving Secretariat Branch in the name of Accounts Officer, Civil Aviation. Tender fee is non-refundable
(c)	Place of Pre-Bid Meeting	Office of Civil Aviation Commissioner, Civil Secretariat, J&K, Jammu/Srinagar
(d)	Address of Communication	Office of Civil Aviation Commissioner, 2/19, Civil Secretariat, J&K, Jammu-180001
(e)	Email Address	jkcivilaviation@gmail.com
(f)	Contact person	Capt. S. Katoch, Commissioner (Technical)
(g)	e-Tendering Website	Tele (0): 01912572714 https://jktenders.gov.in

1. The tender document along with other Terms and Conditions of the NIT and relevant documents can be downloaded from the Union Territory Website http://jktenders.gov.in.  
2. The tender shall be deposited in electronic format on the Union Territory website http://jktenders.gov.in.  
3. The tenders uploaded on the website up to due date will be opened on 30.07.2021 or any other subsequent date convenient to the Tender/Purchase Committee in the Office Chamber of Commissioner (Technical), Civil Aviation Department, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, Civil Secretariat, Room No. 2/19, Jammu.  
4. The complete bidding process will be online.  
5. Submission of hard copy is exempted. However, demand draft regarding tender fee and EMD are required to be submitted before opening of bid.  
6. Documents required to be notarized for submission may be submitted on the letter head under the signature of the authorized signatory.  
7. Scanned copies of all necessary documents as per tender documents need to be uploaded as part of the technical bid. These documents, in original, may be asked for submission subsequently, if needed.  
8. Instructions to bidder regarding e-tendering process: Bidders are advised to get Digital Signature Certificate as per Information Technology Act, 2000. Bidders can get Digital Certificate from approved vendor.  
9. Bidders have to submit their bids in two bid format i.e. Technical and Financial Bid online in electronic format with Digital Signature. Financial Bid shall be submitted ONLINE only. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.  
10. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned document.  
11. Bidders must upload the scanned copy of all necessary documents, like CDR/PAN/Demand Draft/Online receipt (Tender fee)/Registration certificate duly renewed online as per dates mentioned above.  
12. The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission due to any reason.  
13. The Tender/Purchase Committee shall reserve the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason thereof.  
14. The rates offered should be quoted in figures as well as in words inclusive of all taxes and levies or any other charge.  
15. The payment shall be released after successful completion of the contract.  
16. Any erasing/overwriting/mutilation in the tender form will result in outright rejection of the tender.  
17. Conditional and ambiguous tender will not be entertained.  
18. The terms and conditions as reflected in tender document, are mandatory and should be read very carefully by the intending tenderers while furnishing their tenders, which shall form a part of this NIT.

(S. Katoch)  
Commissioner (Technical)  
Civil Aviation Department  
DIPK-4878/21  
No. CAW/Estt/Tech/2020-21/1293-1303  
JAMMU, July 15, 2021

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**Industrial Training Institute KULGAM**  
www.itikulgam.org  
Email id: itikulgam@gmail.com  
**ADMISSION NOTICE No 1**  
Online applications are invited for the admission in various trades/courses for the academic session 2021-22-23 shown below:

S.no	Name of Trade	Entry Qual	Intake Capacity	Duration	Scheme	Units
1	COPA	10 <sup>th</sup>	24	1 Year	NCVT ( Normal)	1
2	Stenography	10 <sup>th</sup>	24	1 Year	NCVT ( Normal)	1
3	Front Office Assistant	10 <sup>th</sup>	24	1 Year	NCVT ( Normal)	1
4	Electronic Mechanic	10 <sup>th</sup>	20	2 Years	NCVT ( PPP)	1
5	Fruit & Vegetable Processing	10 <sup>th</sup>	24	1 Year	NCVT ( PPP)	1
6	Dress Making	8 <sup>th</sup>	20	1 Year	NCVT ( PPP)	1
7	Dress Making	8 <sup>th</sup>	20	1 Year	SCVT ( Self Finance)	1
8	COPA	10 <sup>th</sup>	24	1 Year	SCVT ( Self Finance)	1
9	Stenography	10 <sup>th</sup>	48	1 Year	NCVT ( Self Finance)	2
10	Health & Sanitary Inspector	10 <sup>th</sup>	24	1 Year	NCVT ( Self Finance)	1
11	Plumber	8 <sup>th</sup>	24	1 Year	NCVT ( Self Finance)	1
12	Event Management Assistant	10 <sup>th</sup>	20	6 Months	NCVT ( Normal)	1
13	Data Entry Operator	10 <sup>th</sup>	48	6 Months	NCVT ( Self Finance)	2
14	Network Technician	10 <sup>th</sup>	40	6 Months	NCVT ( Self Finance)	2

The online application forms are invited through the link <http://itiadmissions.jkdsd.org> & after the finalizing the online form the candidate has to pay fee for the trade in which he/she is seeking admission against cash receipt in the Industrial Training Institute Kulgam w.e.f 16-07-2021 to 05-08-2021. The criteria for seeking admission in ITI Kulgam is the candidate must possess the eligibility qualification & having minimum age of 14 years with no bar for upper age.

**The complete application form should be accompanied by self-attested copies:**

- Permanent Resident Certificate / Domicile certificate
- 10th Marks Certificate.
- Date of Birth Certificate.
- One passport size photograph.
- Adhaar card.
- Category certificate (ST, SC & EWS).

No.ITI/Kul/Trgs/2021/  
Dated:  
**DIPK-4888/21**

Sd/-  
Superintendent.

**Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Anantnag**  
SHORT TERM E-NIT NO.04 of 2021-22.  
For and on behalf of Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Jand K.U.T., e-tenders on item rate basis are invited from approved and eligible contractor registered with Jand K.U.T. Govt. for the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Estd. Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Earnest Money	Time for completion	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender Document	Major Head	Tender Receiving Authority
1.	Construction of C. conc Lining wall on L/S of rather Khul at Qazibagh near the house of Mohd Shafi and others.	1.09		08 DAYS	DEE	100/-		Ex. Engineer F.C. Division Anantnag
2.	Construction of FP work on B/O Bringi Nallah at DC colony Mominabad near the house of Gh. Mohd Sofal and others.	1.50		08 DAYS	DEE	100/-	M&R	
3.	Construction of FP work on Methmoo Nallah tributary of Aripath Nallah at village mathmoo by laying of crates.	2.50		08 DAYS	DEE	200/-		
4.	Filling sand in EC bags for flood Mitigation 2021-2022	4.95		10 days	DEE	350/-		
5.	Construction of Cement concrete Lining wall on L/S Logard Branch of Trout Nallah at Akad.	2.48		10 days	DEE	200/-		
6.	Construction of C. concrete L/wall on L/S and R/S of Koker Nallah at Reshkhull Bal D/S Culvert.	2.50		10 days	DEE	200/-		
7.	Construction of C. concrete L/wall on L/S and R/S Grata Khul of Liddar Nallah At Bagwani Saral near the land of MA Wane and others.	2.50		10 days	DEE	200/-		

Position of funds = Available

➤ Administrative Approval. Accorded vide. E Hyd. Circle Anantnag order No.5E/Hyd/DB/34 of 2021 dated:- 098.7.2021

1. The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (BOQ) set to 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) from :-

1.	Publishing date	16.07.2021	At 9:00 A.M
2.	Download Date Starts	16.07.2021	At 9:00 A.M
3.	BID Submission Date Starts	16.07.2021	At 9:00 A.M
4.	BID Submission Date Ends	26.07.2021	Upto 4.00 P.M
5.	Date of opening of tenders	27.07.2021	At 11.00 P.M

2. The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)

3. The bids uploaded on the web site up to date and time will be opened on 27.06.2021 at 11.00A.M in the office of the Executive Engineer FC Division Anantnag in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. In case of holiday or office happening to be closed on the basis of opening of the bid, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

4. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in the shape of E-Chalan (Under M.H. 0701 and 0702) / Treasury Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Anantnag payable at Anantnag and earnest money / BID security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to tender receiving Authority after opening of tenders, the bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 (Ninety) days from the date of opening of bids.

5. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-

I. Any Bidder / Tenderer withdraws his Bids / Tender during the period of BID validity or makes any modification in terms and conditions of the BID.

II. The contractor fails to execute the agreement within 10 days after fixation of contract.

a. Instruction to bidder regarding e-tendering process :- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) acquainted bid submission process.

b. To participate in bidding process bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per information Technology Act 2000

c. Bidders can get Digital Signature certificate from approved vendors.

d. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No financial bids will be accepted in Physical form.

f. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para -3

g. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents like CDR/PAN/TIN/ E-Chalan / Registration Card fully renewed and hard copies thereof physically to tender receiving authority before date of opening of Bid.

Note:- Scan All Documents on 100Dpi with black and white options.

6. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.

7. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of demand draft in favour of Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Anantnag and earnest money bid in shape of CDR and FDR pledged to tender receiving authority must be uploaded with the bid original demand draft (Cost of Tender Document) latest GST clearance.

8. Contractor / Bidder who fails to submit the hard copies for their uploaded tenders will be debarred from participating in the Tendering process for a period of Six Months (06 Months) in the first instance. Their online uploaded tenders will not be Considered for the said period.

9. The Bid security Deposit @ 3% for the work shall be forfeited :-  
If the ist lowest tendered not attend divisional office for negotiation/completion of work as per specified date/ Remittance of CDR after works out Ist Lowest

tenderer.

11. Nothing should be paid on account of Dewatering / Diversion though involved at site.

12. The Tenderer who wish to participate in the tendering process should attach all important documents viz. sales Tax clearance of current quarter, TIN, PAN, duly renewed for the current financial.

**Un-Balanced BID :-** In case of below advertised cost (Un-balanced tender), the BID security Deposit @ 3 % in the shape of CDR / FDR shall be deposited within two days positively.

No.FCD/Ang/1260-82  
Dated:- 15.7.2021

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Flood Control Division Anantnag

**DIPK-4861/21**



## Minor Srinagar Boy Injured In Pahalgam Accident Succumbs

Observer News Service

Anantnag: Injured a day ago in a road accident after being hit by a biker at Pahalgam tourist destination, a 4-year-old boy has succumbed to his injuries at Government Medical College Anantnag.

Officials said that Hasnain Ali Mir son of Tassaduq Ali, a resident of Bemina Srinagar, was hit by a biker near

Amusement Park Pahalgam.

The minor received critical injuries in the incident and was immediately shifted to a nearby hospital from where he was referred to GMC Anantnag for advanced treatment; the minor succumbed to his injuries later in the night.

A police official confirming the incident and said that a case has been registered.

## Pulwama Woman Gives Birth To Triplets At LD Hospital Srinagar



Observer News Service

**Pulwama: A woman from South Kashmir's Pulwama district gave birth to triplets at LD maternity hospital Srinagar.**

Officials that Mehmooda, a resident of Drabgam village in South Kashmir's Pulwama district, gave birth to the three children (girls) at the Lal Ded hospital after undergoing a cae-

sarean section.

They further added that the same woman lost her lone son the previous year in a tragic Accident at her home.

According to the Dr. Shabir Medical superintendent of the hospital, the condition of all children including the mother is stable.

He added that such deliveries are no exception in the hospital.

## J&K Police, NIA Joint Training Programme Concludes

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A week-long joint training programme on capacity building of the Jammu and Kashmir Police with the National Investigation Agency (NIA) concluded here on Saturday, an official said.

The aim of the programme was to enhance the skills of investigating officers and make them experts in handling a variety of cases, he added.

The programme was conducted at the police headquarters here, with a valedictory session being chaired by Additional Director General of Police (Coordination) PHQ, Danesh Rana, the spokesperson said.

IG (Investigation), NIA, Gyanendra Kumar Verma, DIG, Central Kashmir Range, Amit Kumar, DIG (Trainings), NIA HQ, Dr Sanjukta Parasor, and other gazetted and non-gazetted investigating officers who participated in the week-long programme attended the function.

Speaking on the occasion, ADGP Rana expressed said the programme turned out to be successful.

"I firmly believe that the trainee participants have got enriched by interacting with the NIA officers and faculty," he said. Rana thanked the NIA headquarters and its officers for making this training programme a success and expressed hope that the collaboration between the J-K Police and the agency will continue in organising such programmes in the future.

He informed that another batch of investigating officers would be trained in the next such programme and one will be held in Jammu soon.

IG Verma thanked the Jammu and Kashmir Police for providing the opportunity of organising the joint training programme.

The training programme covered issues on important provisions of the IPC, CrPC and the Evidence Act in relation to UAPA.

Prof. Sehgal said more such programs will be launched in future, so that local communities can be engaged. "It will also provide on ground exposure to our students and will help them in exploring their ideas," he said.

Registrar NIT Srinagar, Prof. Kaiser Bukhari appreciated the initiative taken by IIED Centre. "Hopefully a lot of new such initiatives will be taken for promoting innovations in rural areas by involving local communities," he said.

Head, Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship Development Centre (IIED), Professor Saad Parvez said the maiden visit for V2V was organized by the IIED Centre at Kendriya Vidyalaya School, Laripora Pahalgam.

He said through V2V, all NIT students

in general, and the Masters level students of TIED and MBA in particular, would get a hand on exposure to grass root innovations, traditional knowledge, traditional industries, rural technologies and capabilities available in these spaces.

Prof. Saad said broader objective of the V2V program is to offer technical and scientific solutions to the problems being faced by the people living at the margins.

"Generically, the intended benefit of this program for the University and college-going students is to nurture and spur the problem solving attitude by creatively understanding the rural, urban ecosystem. Provide solutions using the Design Thinking approach," he said.



**SPIRITUAL ABODE:** Khanqah-e-Moula, built by Sultan Sikander in 1395, is one of the oldest Khanqah's in Kashmir. It is dedicated to Hazrat Mir Syed Ali Hamadani (RA) who came to Kashmir from the city of Hamadan in Persia in the 13th century. KO Photo Abid Bhat

## DDC Srinagar Directs Officers To Expedite Works On Restoring Springs

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In order to speed up the ongoing process of rejuvenation and restoration of Water bodies in the district, the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Saturday visited under restoration Gilsar Lake and Babademb.

The DDC inspected the restoration works undertaken for cleaning of these water bodies to revive their decades old glory.

The DDC directed the workers to work with added zeal and dedication in coordinated manner to achieve the set goal of complete restoration of historical water bodies in Srinagar district.

The DDC also instructed them to expedite the restoration works on restoring Springs in the area at the earliest.

On the occasion, the DDC said these wetlands used to be a rich belt of birds of local and of migratory origin. He said all possible measures are being taken for restoration of historical Water bodies in Srinagar to achieve visible impact on ground.

The restoration of these wa-



ter bodies will not only enhance the scenic beauty and environment of the areas but also generate vast opportunities of employment for local youth, the DDC added.

He also appealed to people to stop littering and throwing garbage in waterbodies leading to their degradation which poses great threat to the human existence. He also asked the concerned officers to gear up the surveillance teams and intensify the anti encroachment drive along all water bodies and take strict action as per law against the persons indulging in littering and dumping garbage into these natural resources

Pertinent to mention that the

Water Channel of Nala-e-Amir Khan has been fully restored and has been made navigable and is ready to start inland water transport along the Channel.

Similarly, the core portion of the Water Body of Khushaal Sar has also been cleaned by removing the plastic waste and weeds deposition since decades.

The restoration work on Gil Sar is near to completion and will be the third Water body restored in Srinagar district after Nala-e-Amir Khan and Khushaal Sar.

The DDC was accompanied by the Chief Planning Officer, Superintendent Engineer I&FC, Tehsildar and officers from SMC and other concerned departments.

## Three Day 'Robotic Surgery' Workshop Concludes At GMC

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A three days hands on training Robotic Surgery workshop organised by the Department of Surgery, Government Medical College Srinagar concluded with lot of hope, optimism and enthusiasm among the delegates.

The robotic surgery being the latest innovation in the field of minimal access surgery remains largely unavailable to the people of valley who are often compelled by their need to travel outside the state for benefiting from the advantages offered by the Robotics.

The response of the delegates, who were more than 130 in number from all the medical institutions of valley including those from SKIMS Soura, Government Medical College Anantnag and Baramulla, was immensely over-

whelming and immeasurable.

All the delegates including the heads of the departments of various specialties expressed their utmost satisfaction in getting the first hand exposure in Robotic surgery and expressed their desire for such a wonderful system to be installed at Government Medical College Srinagar.

The closing ceremony of the workshop was presided over by the world renowned Gastroenterologist Prof. MS Khuroo , Principal GMC Srinagar Prof Samia Rasheed, Head of the Department of Surgery and Organising Chairman of the Workshop Prof Mufti Mahmood, Head of the Dept of Medicine Prof Tanvir Masood, Celebrated Laparoscopic Surgeon Prof Iqbal Saleem and the Paediatric surgeon of repute Dr Zaffar Saleem Khanday.

Prof M.S. Khuroo in his

speech stressed the need of innovation in the field of medical Sciences.

Prof Samia Rasheed assured and informed the jubilant audience about this 4th generation Da Vinci- Xi surgical Robotic system being on its way to the Government Medical College Srinagar.

Prof Mufti Mahmood, the Organising Chairman highlighted the inescapable needs of having such a system available to the people of valley.

It was also on this occasion that a dedicated educational YouTube channel created and managed by the Department of surgery GMC Srinagar, was inaugurated with lot of fanfare and happiness among the students.

The channel will serve the present and future generations of medical professionals in sharpening the knowledge and skill in the field of Surgery.

### DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200



### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



### RAILWAYS

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



### HIGHWAY STATUS

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



**HIJRI**  
**CALENDAR**  
06 Zil Haj  
1442

### PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 50
ZUHR	12:37
ASR	5:35
Magrib	7:45
ISHA	9:23

## This Day In History

- 1936 - Spanish generals Francisco Franco and Emilio Mola lead a right-wing uprising, starting the Spanish Civil War
- 1944 - 2 ammunition ships explode at Port Chicago, California, killing 322
- 1948 - Israeli army captures Nazareth
- 1948 - Proclamation of constitution of Republic of (South) Korea
- 1952 - Shah of Persia Mohammed Reza Pahlavi names Ghavam Sultaneh premier
- 1958 - King Hussein declares himself head of Jordan/Iraqi federation
- 1959 - Paleontropologist Mary Leakey discovers partial skull of a new species of early human ancestor, *Zinjanthropus boisei* or 'Zinj' (now called *Paranthropus boisei*) lived in Africa almost 2 million years ago
- 1964 - Great Britain performs nuclear Test at Nevada Test Site
- 1973 - Military coup in Afghanistan; King Mohammad Zahir Shah flees
- 1975 - Apollo 18 and Soyuz 19 make 1st US/USSR linkup in space
- 1976 - Indonesian president Suharto annexes East Timor
- 1980 - Bolivian military coup; General Garcia Meza becomes president
- 1980 - Ronald Reagan formally accepts Republican nomination for US president
- 1981 - Israeli bombers destroy PLO/al-Fatah headquarters in Beirut
- 1981 - USSR performs nuclear Test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalitinsk USSR
- 1984 - Soyuz T-12 carries 3 cosmonauts to space station Salyut 7
- 1987 - Iran and France break diplomatic relations
- 1990 - Hussein's Revolutionary Day speech claims Kuwait stole oil from Iraq
- 1994 - FIFA World Cup Final, Rose Bowl, Pasadena, CA: Brazil beats Italy 3-2 on penalties; 0-0 after extra time
- 1995 - Forbes Magazine announces Bill Gates is the richest man in world with a net worth of \$12.9 billion dollars
- 1998 - Russia buries Tsar Nicholas II and family, 80 years after they died
- 2004 - Former South African President Nelson Mandela calls for commitment by the world to take action against AIDS
- 2007 - TAM Airlines (TAM Linhas Aéreas) Flight 3054 crashes upon landing during rain in São Paulo. Brazil's deadliest aviation accident to date with estimated 199 deaths.
- 2014 - Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 is shot down over Eastern Ukraine by a Buk surface-to-air missile launched from pro-Russian separatist-controlled territory, killing all 283 passengers and 15 crew on board
- 2014 - 5 hour humanitarian ceasefire, proposed by the UN, takes place between Israel and Hamas
- 2015 - Suicide bomber in Khan Bani Saad, Iraq, kills 120, ISIS claims responsibility
- 2015 - Scientists solve mystery of sleeping sickness in two villages in northern Kazakhstan - uranium mining had caused increase in carbon monoxide
- 2018 - Oldest evidence of bread, made from wild grains, discovered by archaeologists in 14,000 year-old dig in the Black Desert, Jordan

*From KO Archives*

## Beigh For Alliance With Separatists

Observer News Service

Srinagar - Finance minister, Muzaffar Hussain Beig, today proposed setting up of a joint platform of separatist and mainstream parties for an effective representation of the Kashmiri people.

Addressing public meetings in the Baramulla district, Beig said that India and Pakistan had directly or indirectly included Kashmiris in the talks process, and therefore there was a need of a joint platform of pro- and anti- accession parties in which all leaders of Kashmir were included.

"The formation of a composite leadership is necessary for the effective representation of the Kashmiri people in the days to come," the KNS quoted the minister as having said.

"If this is not done, everyone will go on parroting his own line, and we will achieve nothing," he said.

"You cannot have 5 imams in a mosque. That can only lead to confusion and serve no public purpose," he said.

Beig said that efforts to resolve the Kashmir issue peacefully had begun and every Kashmiri leader must play his role.

"Now that Kashmiris have been included in the talk's process, and the way cleared for a dialogue with India and Pakistan, militants should give up the gun and join the dialogue initiative," he said.

"Thirteen militants have been killed in the Gurez sector, and nine more have lost their lives in Uri. Eighty thousand people have been killed so far, and more Kashmiris are bound to die in continuing infiltration attempts," he said.

"Why should this blood shed go on when the status of Kashmiris as a party to the issue has been recognized and an invitation for talks has come," Beig said, calling upon militants to make use of the opportunity offered by the talk's process. He said that his party, the Peoples' Democratic Party, would never allow a sell-out on the honour and dignity of Kashmiris, nor would it allow the political exploitation of the Kashmiri people.

Beig emphasized on the need of forming rural development committees in villages to convey peoples' problems to the government.

(Kashmir Observer, 17 July, 2005)

## NIT Srinagar Launches 'Visit To Village' Flagship Program

Srinagar: To expose its students, Director National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, Prof. Rakesh Sehgal Saturday launched a V2V (Visit to Village) flagship program undertaken by Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship Development (IIED) centre of the Institute.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Sehgal said the unique program undertaken by IIED Centre of NIT Srinagar with an objective to find in-situ creative and innovative solutions by involving the local communities, local students, teachers and traditional knowledge holders.

"The program was aimed for innovative and creative solutions to mitigate and solve ecological, social, and economic problems faced by people at the margins," he said.



## Pilgrims Arrive In Mecca For Second Pandemic Hajj

Agencies

Mecca: Pilgrims began arriving in the holy city of Mecca on Saturday for the second downsized hajj staged during the coronavirus pandemic, circling Islam's holiest site in masks and on distanced paths.

The kingdom is allowing only 60,000 fully vaccinated residents to take part, seeking to repeat last year's success that saw no virus outbreak during the five-day ritual.

This year's hajj, with participants chosen through a lottery, is larger than the pared-down version staged in 2020 but drastically smaller than in normal times, stoking resentment among Muslims abroad who are barred once again.

After being loaded on buses and brought to Mecca's Grand Mosque, pilgrims began performing the "tawaf", the cir-

spokesman Hisham al-Saeed told AFP. "After each group leaves, a sterilisation process is carried out at the sanctuary."

The hajj, usually one of the world's largest annual religious gatherings with some 2.5 million people taking part in 2019, is one of the five pillars of Islam and must be undertaken by all Muslims with the means at least once in their lives.

It consists of a series of religious rites, formally starting on Sunday, which are completed over five days in Islam's holiest city and its surroundings in western Saudi Arabia.

Golden ticket

Among the chosen ones this year was Ameen, a 58-year-old Indian oil contractor based in the eastern city of Dammam, who was picked for the ritual along with his wife



cumambulation of the Kaaba, a large cubic structure draped in golden-embroidered black cloth, towards which Muslims around the world pray.

Many carried umbrellas to protect themselves from the scorching summer heat.

"Every three hours, 6,000 people enter to perform the tawaf of arrival," hajj ministry

and three adult children.

"We are overjoyed," said Ameen. "So many of our friends and relatives were rejected," he told AFP.

Earlier this month, the hajj ministry said it was working on the "highest levels of health precautions" in light of the pandemic and the emergence of new variants.

## Biden: Social media 'killing people' with COVID misinformation

Agencies

Washington: President Joe Biden has said that social media companies are "killing people" by failing to police misinformation on their platforms about COVID-19 vaccines.

Biden's comments came a day after US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy declared misinformation about the vaccines a threat to public health and as US officials advised that deaths and serious illness from the virus are almost entirely preventable because of the vaccines.

Biden, asked if he had a message for platforms like Facebook where false or misleading information about the coronavirus vaccines has spread, told reporters on Friday: "They're killing people."

"The only pandemic we have is among the unvaccinated," he said.

Speaking on Thursday, Murthy said misinformation about COVID-19, deemed an "infodemic" by the World Health Organization (WHO), was deadly.

"Misinformation poses an imminent and insidious threat to our nation's health," Murthy said during remarks on Thursday at the White House. "We must confront misinformation as a nation. Lives are depending on it."

President Joe Biden's comments came a day after US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy declared misinformation about the vaccines a threat to public health [Tom Brenner/Reuters]

Given the role the internet plays in spreading health misinformation, Murthy said technology companies and social media platforms must make meaningful changes to their products and software to reduce the spread of false information while increasing access to authoritative, fact-based sources.

Too often, he said, the platforms are built in ways that encourage, not counter, the spread of misinformation.

"We are asking them to step up," Murthy said. "We can't wait longer for them to take aggressive action."



## High-stakes talks between Afghan gov't, Taliban as fighting rages

Agencies

Kabul: A senior delegation of the Afghan government and Taliban representatives have met in Doha for high-stakes negotiations as violence escalates on the ground in Afghanistan.

The two sides have been meeting on and off for months in the Qatari capital but the talks have lost momentum as a string of battlefield gains by the armed group has coincided with foreign forces finalising their withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The government delegation is comprised of several high-ranking officials, including former chief executive Abdullah Abdullah. Its reported aim is to support the government's negotiating team in terms of speeding up the stalled talks.

"During his visit, Abdullah Abdullah will discuss important and crucial issues with Taliban representatives," Fraidoon Kwazon, the Afghan government delegation spokesman, told Al Jazeera.

"The solution to the conflict in Afghanistan lies in negotiations, and peace can be reached through dialogue," he said.

For his part, Taliban spokesman Mohammad Naem said the group has "repeatedly confirmed its readiness for dialogue and negotiations", adding that the problems can "only be solved by dialogue".

"But the Afghan government needs to also show the same commitment," Naem said.

"They need to show the right and sincere determination when it comes to negotiations in order to end these problems."

No 'tangible progress'

Al Jazeera's Osama Bin Javid, reporting from the location of the negotiations in Doha, said the latest round of talks was another effort to try and bring the two sides together.

"Both sides are saying that dialogue is the only way forward and they believe that a solution for a peaceful Afghanistan can only come from the table - but actions on the ground speak a very different language," he said.

"There seems to be no headway, no real tangible progress. The Afghan side insist that there needs to be a ceasefire before there could be any real dialogue, and the Taliban insist that they want their version of Sharia, they want a government that is comprehensive and includes all sides of Afghanistan," he said.

Bin Javid said special representatives from Europe, the United States and the United Nations were also present at the talks "to try and see if they can push to achieve some sort of peace in Afghanistan" after months of major

disagreements.

"There isn't much hope that there is going to be a concrete solution coming out of this meeting, but at least it is something to go forward with," he said.

The Taliban has capitalised on the last stages of the withdrawal of US and other foreign troops from Afghanistan to launch a series of lightning offensives across the country.

Afghan forces clashed on Friday with Taliban fighters in Spin Boldak after launching an operation to retake the key southern border crossing with Pakistan.

The route is one of the main trade and travel routes between Afghanistan and Pakistan, and is an important source of revenue for the Western-backed government in Kabul.

The battle at the southern border follows weeks of intensifying fighting across Afghanistan, with the Taliban pressing multiple offensives and overrunning dozens of districts at a staggering rate.

The group has in recent weeks captured border crossings with Iran, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan while also tightening their grip in the north.

Al Jazeera's Charlotte Bellis, reporting from Kabul, said the armed group now controls more than 50 percent of the country and that their grasp is getting "ever closer" to the capital.

## 'Delta Covid variant now dominant strain worldwide, US deaths surging'

Agencies

The Delta variant of Covid-19 is now the dominant strain worldwide, accompanied by a surge of deaths around the United States almost entirely among unvaccinated people, US officials said on Friday.

US cases of Covid-19 are up 70% over the previous week and deaths are up 26%, with outbreaks occurring in parts of the country with low vaccination rates, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Rochelle Walensky said during a press briefing.

The seven-day-average number of daily cases is now more than 26,000, more than twice its June

low of around 11,000 cases, according to CDC data.

The steepest uptick in cases has occurred in Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Missouri and Nevada, said White House Covid-19 response coordinator Jeff Zients. All those states have below-average vaccination rates.

"This is becoming a pandemic of the unvaccinated," Walensky said, adding that 97% of people entering hospitals in the United States with Covid-19 are unvaccinated.

She said an increasing number of counties around the United States now exhibit a high risk of Covid-19 transmission, reversing significant declines in transmission risk in recent months.

Around one in five new cases have occurred in Florida, Zients said.

The Delta variant, which is significantly more contagious than the original variant of Covid-19, has been detected around 100 countries globally and is now the dominant variant worldwide, top US infectious disease expert Anthony Fauci said.

"We are dealing with a formidable variant" of Covid-19, Fauci said during the call.

Walensky urged unvaccinated Americans to get Covid-19 shots, and said Pfizer Inc's and Moderna Inc's vaccines have proven to be especially effective against the Delta variant.

## Daughter of Afghan envoy kidnapped, tortured in Pakistan

Agencies

Islamabad: Daughter of Najibullah Alikhel, Afghanistan's ambassador to Pakistan, was on Thursday kidnapped and tortured by unknown persons for more than five hours before being released. The horrific incident has been confirmed by the Afghanistan foreign ministry on its Twitter handle.

"We condemn this disgraceful act in strongest words & urge Pak to take steps to secure diplomats & their families," the statement added. The 27-year-old Silsila Alikhil was abducted for several hours and severely tortured by unknown individuals on her way home. She is now recovering in hospital, the statement said.

The Afghan government also urged Pakistan to identify and prosecute the perpetrators at the soonest possible time. It also called for immediate necessary actions to ensure full security of the Afghan embassy and consulates as well as the immunity of the country's diplomats and their families in accordance with international treaties and conventions.



## Google adds new feature to instantly delete last 15 minutes of search history



Agencies

American tech giant Google recently launched a new privacy feature for search that lets users instantly delete their last 15 minutes of search history on mobile.

According to The Verge, this new option was first revealed alongside several other search and Chrome improvements at I/O 2021 and is now rolling out to everyone.

The option to delete the last 15 minutes of search history is currently only available in Google's iOS app and is headed to Android later this year.

On desktop, the options for deleting searches are limited to setting history to auto-delete every three, 18, or 36 months (18 months is the default for new accounts), or deleting searches by hand.

Google has said that it only tracks user search history to "personalize" their experience

On desktop, the options for deleting searches are limited to setting history to auto-delete every three, 18, or 36 months (18 months is the default for new accounts), or deleting searches by hand.

when the "Web and App Activity" setting is enabled.

Adding a way to instantly delete history is great for peace of mind, but it also means that users can get some of the benefits the people who've taken the time to mess with their settings receive, without doing the extra work.

This new feature can be thought of as an emergency "oh no" button for terrible, embarrassing, or just plain private searches. Google also offers the option to password protect your search history.

## After Conquering Earth, Jeff Bezos Eyes New Frontier In Space

Washington, United States: Jeff Bezos sets his sights on a new frontier in space in the coming days after building a gargantuan business empire which has in many ways conquered the Earth.

His journey into space aboard a reusable rocket built by his firm Blue Origin comes just two weeks after he stepped aside as chief executive of Amazon, which grew from a garage start-up into one of the world's most formidable businesses.

Bezos, 57, remains executive chair at the technology and e-commerce colossus he founded 27 years ago. But he is clearly looking to even loftier ambitions.

With a fortune worth more than \$200 billion, Bezos has been at or near the top of the world's richest people, even after his divorce settlement.

He owns some 10 percent of Amazon, a behemoth with a pres-



ence in dozens of countries and some 1.3 million employees.

But Bezos often points to his humble beginnings: born to a teenage mother in Albuquerque, New Mexico and adopted at the age of four by his Cuban immigrant stepfather.

Bezos was attracted by computer science when the IT industry was in its infancy and studied engineering at Princeton University.

After graduating, he put his skills to work on Wall Street, where by 1990 he had risen to be a senior vice president at invest-

ment firm D.E. Shaw.

But about four years later he surprised peers by leaving his high-paid position to open an online bookseller called Amazon. com, backed by money from his parents.

'Keep inventing'

In his parting letter to staff, Bezos said the company succeeded by following his mantra: "Keep inventing, and don't despair when at first the idea looks crazy."

In public appearances, Bezos often recounts the early days at Amazon, when he packed orders himself and drove boxes to the post office.

Today, Amazon has a market value of more than \$1.8 trillion. It posted 2020 annual revenues of \$386 billion from operations in e-commerce, cloud computing, groceries, artificial intelligence, streaming media and more.

## UK Health Minister Tests Covid+, Had Taken Both Doses Of Vaccine



London: British Health Secretary Sajid Javid said on Saturday he had tested positive for Covid-19 and was self-isolating - just as his government prepared to jettison most pandemic restrictions in England.

Under his government's rules, Javid is now required to self-isolate for 10 days unless a PCR test comes back negative and he no longer has symptoms.

Any of his "close contacts" - potentially including others in the government - would have to self-isolate too if they receive instructions from the state-run National Health Service (NHS).

Javid was reportedly at 10 Downing Street on Friday, but there was no immediate comment from spokespeople as to whether he met face to face with Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who nearly died of Covid last year.

Javid also appeared along-

side ministers in parliament last week, and one government source told The Telegraph newspaper: "I don't see how half the cabinet doesn't end up in isolation by the end of the week."

Javid has only been in the job since June 26, when former health secretary Matt Hancock resigned following revelations he had broken coronavirus restrictions during an affair with a close aide.

After feeling "a bit groggy", Javid said he had taken a lateral flow test on Saturday morning

which came out positive, and he was now awaiting the result of a confirmatory PCR test.

But he stressed he has received both doses of a Covid vaccine and his symptoms were "very mild". Javid said any member of the public feeling symptoms should get a test too.

"If everyone plays their part, you're not only protecting yourself and your loved ones, but you're also safeguarding the NHS and helping to preserve our way of life," he said.

However, with coronavirus cases again surging, many scientists say the government is endangering the NHS with its plan on Monday to scrap most legal pandemic requirements in England.

For the first time since mid-January, Britain's daily Covid case-load now exceeds 50,000, and Javid has warned the figure could double from that in the coming weeks.

But the government insists that with two-thirds of the adult population now fully vaccinated, the risk can be managed, and Monday has been dubbed "freedom day" by many UK media.

Munira Wilson, health spokeswoman for the opposition Liberal Democrats, said Javid's test result "shows no one is safe from this deadly virus".

Urging the government "to rethink its reckless plans for Monday", she said: "By easing all restrictions with cases surging, they are experimenting with people's lives."



## FCS&CA Realises Fine Of Rs 21.5L From Erring Shopkeepers

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Department of Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) has realized a fine of over Rs 21.5 lac from erring shopkeepers across Kashmir during 2021-22 so far.

As per the officials details, FCS&CA department through its enforcement squads and market checking teams imposed a fine of Rs. 21, 54,500 on shopkeepers for violation of officials rates, selling substandard food items and resorting to black marketing and

other profiteering misconduct across all ten districts of Kashmir during these six and a half month.

The enforcement squads conducted rigorous market checking drives and sealed 246 business establishments while 65 Reports were filed against the offenders in different police stations during the year 2021-22.

During the current year up to June-16, as many as 209 shopkeepers were penalized. While a fine of Rs. 3.71 lac was recovered from erring shopkeepers during this month.

## Rs. 5100 Fine Imposed On Erring Traders In Bandipora

Observer News Service

**BANDIPORA:** A market checking squad of Department of Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Municipal Council Bandipora held a market checking in Bandipora and realized a fine of Rs 5100 from erring shopkeepers.

Assistant Director FCS&CA, Bilal Ahmad along with Tehsildar Bandipora and other officers conducted inspection of various business establishments including vegetable, fruit sellers, Kiryana, Bakery, LPG distributors and

fuel dispensing pumps at different markets of Bandipora. During the inspection, several traders were booked under different laws for violation of various laws and a fine of Rs 5100 was imposed on erring traders.

On the occasion, the Assistant Director stressed on the traders to avoid over-pricing and other illegal and unethical practices and urged them to follow the rules in letter and spirit. He also asked the vendors to follow the packaged commodity rules and other Metrology Acts besides following Covid SOPs strictly.

**FINED**

## DC Pulwama Reviews Eid Arrangements

Observer News Service

**PULWAMA:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Baseer Ul Haq Choudhary Saturday convened a meeting of all magistrates of the district to review the arrangements for the upcoming festive occasion of Eid-ul-Adha.

The meeting was informed that

on the eve of Eid ul Adha, the Sheep Husbandry Department would set up sale outlets (Mandies) for the sale of sacrificial animals (Goats/Sheeps) at designated places across the district. The DC stressed upon the officers to dispel the rumours circulating in social media regarding the ban on slaughter of sacrificial animals on the eve of Eid Al Adha.

## DC Conducts Market Checking Drive In Anantnag

Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** To ensure compliance with Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) and government notified rates on upcoming festivities of Eidul Adha, a high level team of District Administration Anantnag led by Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Piyush Singla Saturday conducted an intensive enforcement cum checking drive in the main town market as well as in the interior ones, here.

The DC visited Mehandi Kadal, Achabal Adda, Cheeni Chowk, Janglat Mandi, Khaji Bazar, Sherbagh, Mattan Adda etc and took first hand appraisal of the implementation of Covid SOPs at these places. He

stressed upon the shopkeepers and the consumers to ensure compliance of CAB stating that maintaining it is the duty of every citizen and thus deny any chance for the virus to spread again.

On the occasion, persons seen observing CAB were appreciated while violators were persuaded to follow Covid SOPs besides masks were distributed among them.

During the drive, the sellers were impressed upon to ensure availability and sale of quality goods and essential items like poultry, vegetables, etc at government notified rates besides shunning the illegal practices of hoarding, profiteering and sale of underweight and expired items. Moreover, restaurants, butcher shops, garment shops etc were directed to

## Justice Wani Reviews Functioning Of Court Complex Shopian

Observer News Service

**SHOPIAN:** Justice Javid Iqbal Wani, Judge Common High Court of U.T of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Administrative Judge District Shopian today visited District Court Complex Shopian to review its functioning.

He also inspected the under construction new court complex building coming up at an estimated cost of Rs.2670.97 lakh under the execution of R&B Shopian, Justice Wani had a detailed interaction with the law-

yers. The Lawyers of District Court Shopian through their President Bar Association, Shabir Ahmed Kullay highlighted the achievements of the Bar and presented the memorandum of demands pertaining to the functioning of Court and its requirements.

Justice Wani assured the bar members that the issues would be resolved very soon.

While reviewing the functioning of the district court, Justice wani directed the judicial Officers for speedy dispensation of the justice so that common masses may not suffer.



gatherings when chances of exposure to virus are more.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Saturday held a meeting with prominent religious leaders, Imams and Khateeb, Aulqaf Committee members, Civil

Urs Of Ameer-e-Kabir...

## 'Faithful, Skilful' Swarm Sanctum To Celebrate Their Patron Saint's 656th Urs



Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** The 656th Urs of Hazrat Mir Syed Ali Hamdani was on Saturday celebrated with religious fervour and gaiety in Srinagar and other parts of the Kashmir valley.

A large number of devotees, including women, participated in the Urs, being celebrated on sixth day of Zil Haj every year, at the shrine of Hazrat Hamdani, also known as Amir-i-Kabir at Khankha-e-Moula on the banks of river Jehlum in Old City Srinagar.

Though the number of devotees was less at "Fajr" (morning prayers), but heavy rush was witnessed at mid-day prayers (Zuhar). However, devotees participated in the prayers without maintaining any social distance which was a cause of concern. The shrine remained closed for devotees for the past over two months when there was sudden increase in the COVID positive cases. No Friday prayers were also allowed yesterday also in the shrine.

People, including women and children, from different parts of the city participated in the mid-day prayers. Many of them were also seen without wearing masks.

Vendors have also set up their stalls outside the shrine, selling eatables and other items. The Urs celebrations were held after remaining suspended last year due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Similar Urs functions were also held in different parts of the valley, including Tral in Pulwama and Anantnag.

Born in Central Asia in 1314 CE, Mir Syed Hamdani traveled widely and preached Islam in different parts of the world, including Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, China, Syria and Turkistan before coming to Kashmir in 1372, after he came into conflict with Taimur.

He arrived here with 700 Syeds and followers during the reign of king Sahibuddin. After Sharaf ud-din Abdul Rehman Bulbul Shah, he was the second important Muslim scholar to visit Kashmir. Ham-

dani went to Makkah, and then returned to Kashmir in 1379-80 CE, during the reign of Qutub ud-Din Aibak, and spent a year in Kashmir, before returning to Turkistan via Ladakh in 1381-82 CE.

He returned to Kashmir for the third time in 1383-84 CE with the intention of staying for a longer period but had to return earlier owing to illness. Mir Syed Ali Hamadani died on his way back to Central Asia at a site close to the present day town of Mansehra in North-West Pakistan. His body was carried by his disciples to Kulob, Tajikistan, where his shrine is located.

Syed Hamadani is regarded as having brought various crafts and industries from Iran into Kashmir. It is said he brought 700 followers with him to the country. The growth of the textile industry in Kashmir increased its demand for fine wool, which in turn meant that Kashmiri Muslim groups settled in Ladakh, bringing with them crafts such as minting and writing.

## Government Approves Rs 18 Crore BDMP For Marwah Forest Division

**SRINAGAR:** The Government has approved Bio Diversity Management Plan (BDMP) worth Rs 18 crore for Marwah Forest Division to be funded by Chenab Valley Power Project (CVPP) under its 'Environment Management Plan' component.

An order issued in this regard by Commissioner Secretary Forest, Ecology and Environment reads, "Administrative approval is accorded to the implementation of Bio-Diversity Management Plan of Marwah Forest Division at a technically vetted cost of Rs 18.00 crore (Rupees eighteen crore only) to be funded in full by Chenab Valley Power Project (CVPP) as a component of "Environment Management Plan (EMPP) in respect of diversion of Forest Land for commissioning of Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Power Projects".

The order stated that under this plan, an area of 1500 hectare will be treated with 4.50 lakh rft fencing, 7.75 lakh plants to be planted, 15.05 lakh plant production, 5400 cubic metre soil conservation, 3 wooden bridges, construction of 20 guard huts and purchasing and utilizing of two mobility vans over a period of 07 years (from 2021-22 to 2027-28) with annual phasing of physical and financial targets prescribed by the government.



The order further said that the administrative approval has been accorded subject to fulfillment of given conditions which inter alia included; that all rules/orders and instructions issued by the Government from time to time shall be observed while incurring expenditure against allocated amount, contour mapping and structural design of the site, the photographic records of works with GPS coordinates shall be obtained before releasing the payment, the work shall be executed strictly as per the provision and specification of the sanctioned estimates/guidelines, that there is no time or cost overrun involved while completing the job and said time line is strictly adhered to, the e-tendering mode is followed for fixation of

award strictly as per the set norm of the Government, the funds shall in no way be diverted for any other purpose or to any other work, the rates are genuine/reasonable and validated/applicable for the period of the contract, physical and financial progress report of the work shall be submitted to the Administrative department by or before 5th of every succeeding month, environmental and Social compliance measures with mitigation measures shall be adhere to and all other formalities as required in terms of GFR 2017 shall be applicable.

The order also reads that the revenue earnings, if any, from the project shall flow to the Government as is in the norm with other Government Departments.

## Meticulous Estimation, Speedy Execution Pivotal For Development Of Rural Areas: Arif



Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** Secretary in Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Rifat Arif, on Saturday maintained that meticulous planning and estimation besides speedy execution of works is pivotal for development of rural areas.

Rifat said this while chairing a meeting held to review development and wage employment works undertaken by RDD in Anantnag.

Arif stressed on undertaking labour intensive works and making timely payments under MGN-REGA adding that such works are source of employment to rural people. She said that the works having benefits at community level should be prioritized and the quality of works must be maintained.

Calling RDD as engine of growth in villages, she said that ongoing projects should be completed within stimulated time-frame for overall development and welfare of rural people. She enjoined upon BDOs to regularly participate in Social Audit Gram Sabhas besides addressing public grievances and complaints promptly. She also directed the field functionaries to ensure regular presence at the sites for monitoring the standard of ongoing works. She asked the concerned for taking concrete steps to strengthen solid waste management and rural sanitation.

Rifat called for taking the elected representatives (Sarpanchs, BDC Chairpersons, DDCs etc) on board while formulating plans and impressed upon the BDOs to maintain close coordination with them.

## Onquest Launches Diagnostic Lab In Srinagar



Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** Onquest Laboratories Ltd- India's Leading Super Specialized Laboratory Network, and a leading name in Cancer diagnostics across South-East Asia; announced opening of its diagnostics facility in Srinagar Saturday.

The lab with most advanced facilities is located in Kohinoor Complex, First Floor, Gole Market, Karan Nagar, Near SMHS Hospital, Srinagar.

The lab is well equipped with the latest testing equipment and manned by professionally qualified pathologists and technicians.

Present on the occasion was Prof. Mohammad Sultan Khuroo (Former Dean & Director SKIMS & Ex-Officio Secretary to Government) who said "Onquest laboratories will provide a much-needed healthcare testing support to people of Kashmir, and also to the medical fraternity who needed a quality player like Onquest for

their hi-end and complex testing needs".

Dr Ravinder Deep Singh Sethi, COO Onquest Laboratories said, "We dedicate our expert testing solutions to people of Kashmir. We will provide a single stop solution for all national and international tests. The lab also offers customized preventive health checks for every member of family so that they can monitor their health accurately and lead a healthier life. Home sample collection facility is also provided, while maintaining highest standards of safety and hygiene."

Onquest has a comprehensive test menu starting with basic routine tests, specialized & super specialized tests; to highly advanced genome testing at one place. The tests performed include Biochemistry, Immunology, Microbiology, Hematology and Serology. Some specialized Markers which include Maternal and Tumor Markers are performed inhouse with same day reporting & will be done here by highly trained staff.

## Chandigarh Group of Colleges To Establish Law College



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** With the establishment of Chandigarh Law College at its campus, Chandigarh Group of Colleges, Jhanjeri has ventured into imparting of legal education domain from the current academic session 2021-22.

This was informed by Satnam Singh Sandhu, Chairman and Rashpal Singh Dhaliwal, President Chandigarh Group of Colleges (CGC) during a media interaction. The newly established Chandigarh Law College has been approved by Bar Council of India and is affiliated to Punjabi University would offer 2 Under-Graduate 5years Integrated Programs BA-LLB (120 seats) and B.Com-LLB (60 seats) while the institution would offer one Post-Graduate 3-year degree program LLB for the graduate students.

Rashpal Singh Dhaliwal, President, CGC said "The law programs offered by CGC Jhanjeri would offer practical hands-on learning by the renowned academicians and law experts from all over the world. Chandigarh Law College has estab-

lished state-of-art infrastructure which includes Moot Court Room where the students will be able to draft & practice the real-time presentation of the court room under the guidance of experienced lawyers". In addition CGC Jhanjeri would also offer specializations in emerging areas such as Cyber Laws, International Laws, Corporate Laws, Taxation Laws, RTI, Human Right and Environment Laws so that the budding legal professionals can enhance the scope of their career. Dhaliwal added.

"Chandigarh Group of Colleges has always been known for imparting industry oriented academic learning where every student is exposed to the case-study based teaching so that they are able to acclimatize as per the dynamic requirements of the industry. He further added that, "Chandigarh Law College will have an in-house Legal Aid Clinic that will offer free-of-cost legal advice to the residents of nearby villages especially women so as to make them aware about the legal rights that the Constitution of India has given to them".

## Policeman 'Assault' Kashmiri Journalist In Anantnag

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A Kashmiri journalist was physically assaulted by Jammu and Kashmir police personnel in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Saturday evening.

The journalist, Aakash Hassan, said that he was physically assaulted by police personnel while he was on his way to home in Anantnag from Srinagar.

"I was just beaten up by JKP cops at Sangam while I was on way home and they were cleaning traffic."

A sub inspector named Zahid and his one PSO came in front of my car and slapped and beat me up by batons—and the barrage of



abuses," he tweeted.

Aakash reports for various national and international media organizations, including The Guardian, Intercept, Aljazeera etc.



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### NO HOLDS BARRED



**In Kashmir, football, like other sports, is more than just a game. It offers a way to escape the dark realities of the ongoing conflict and a medium through which Kashmiri men and women alike can express themselves. As one aspiring Kashmiri female footballer reportedly said, "We want to change the way people look at Kashmir and Kashmiri women." The likes of her need proper infrastructure to realize these goals**

# Football Fever and the Valley

Suhail Ahmad Khan

**Even if the authorities undertake projects to upgrade the football infrastructure in the valley, they fail to complete them on time. The upgrading means that stadiums will be out of bounds for play, and local players cannot practice there. When this upgrading takes more time than the stated time frame, footballers in the valley suffer as they have fewer avenues to hone their skills**

This month, July, offered a spectacle for football fans around the world, as the finals of two major international football tournaments were played. On 11 July, the final of Copa America—a South American based football tournament, was played between Argentina and Brazil in which Argentina defeated Brazil and won its first major international trophy since 1993. The trophy was also the first major international trophy of Argentinian star footballer—Lionel Messi while representing his nation. On the other hand, Italy and England locked horns in the final of the Euro 2020, a European based football tournament. It was England's first final since 1966, and amid the chants of "It's Coming Home," the trophy was won by Italy after defeating England (3-2) in a penalty shootout. As these two tournaments came to an end, football enthusiasts in Kashmir took to social media to celebrate the victory of their favourite teams.

For decades now, football is one of the most popular sports in the valley, and the valley has produced star footballers like Majid Kakroo, Mehrajuddin Wadoo, and Ishfaq Ahmad. Moreover, the rise of Real Kashmir FC is not less than a miracle, even prompting BBC Scotland to make an award-winning documentary on the club's feats. Nevertheless, the valley lacks proper football infrastructure.

Governments after governments and the administration has completely overlooked the poor football infrastructure in the valley. Despite the popularity of the sport here, the relevant authorities have failed to upgrade the available infrastructure. If the valley's premier football stadium is not well maintained and falls short of logistics, it is hard to comment on other football grounds that the authorities claim to have constructed.

At present, two Srinagar based clubs—Real Kashmir FC and Lonestar Kashmir FC, represent Kashmir in the higher echelons of Indian football. Real Kashmir FC plays in the I-league while Lonestar Kashmir FC plays in the 2nd division of the I-league. Both the clubs practice and play their home matches at the TRC synthetic turf—the only standard football ground in the city. However, the standard of the TRC ground cannot be overstated. The stadium's infrastructure is poor as it does not have well maintained changing rooms for players, washrooms and can accommodate no more than 15,000 people at a time. The seating arrangements at the ground have often irked the spectators. The seats carved out of metal turn cold during winters, thus, making it difficult for them to enjoy the football.

Even if the authorities undertake projects to upgrade the football infrastructure in the valley, they fail to complete them on time. The upgrading means that stadiums will be out of bounds



Players from the Real Kashmir and Indian Arrows football clubs play during their I-League Football match at the TRC Turf Ground in Srinagar on Monday, February 24, 2020. Photo: Abid Bhat / KO

for play, and local players cannot practice there. When this upgrading takes more time than the stated time frame, footballers in the valley suffer as they have fewer avenues to hone their skills.

Take the example of the Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar. The authorities declared that it will be renovated and made into a state-of-the-art stadium by the end of the year 2019. However, even in 2021, the stadium is yet to be fully renovated. The stadium is to serve as the home ground of Real Kashmir FC, but its incompleteness means that the club has to wait for a few more months or possibly years before using it. Moreover, when such kinds of (construction) deadlocks occur, it is hard for aspiring footballers to keep the passion of football alive.

In the recent past, several prominent footballers have raised the concern of insufficient football infrastructure in Kashmir. In an interview in 2020, Afshan Ashiq, the coach and captain of the J&K women's football team said that the Union Territory needs better football infrastructure. In a similar vein, the Head Coach of the Lonestar Kashmir FC, Chandan Rathod, also pointed out the poor infrastructure in the valley. Unless infrastructure in the valley is not developed, it is hard to cultivate talents at the grassroots level, as this requires engaging the youth

and encouraging them to take the sport. Devoid of any facilities, there are fewer incentives even for the talented ones to play football. Moreover, maintaining the existing infrastructure and providing logistical support is also important for promoting football in Kashmir. But the most important thing is accessibility. For that, the authorities have to devise a plan to develop and subsequently maintain football fields for budding players across the valley.

In Kashmir, football, like other sports, is more than just a game. It offers a way to escape the dark realities of the ongoing conflict and a medium through which Kashmiri men and women alike can express themselves. Through football, Kashmiris want to change the perceptions that people have about them. As one aspiring Kashmiri female footballer reportedly said, "We want to change the way people look at Kashmir and Kashmiri women." The likes of her need proper infrastructure to realize these goals.

*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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Should people have the right to incite violence against the government? This would be an inevitable question in front of the judiciary while it decides on the fate of the law of sedition (Section 124A, IPC). Four petitions are currently in the Supreme Court challenging the constitutionality of the law; the latest was filed by the PUCL on July 16. This question, however, is a flawed statement of the problem and would be detrimental to the debate.

The hearing in the SC on the first petition filed by two journalists — Kishorechandra Wangkhem and Kanhaiya Lal Shukla — was to begin on July 12, which was predictably adjourned as the government sought two more weeks to file a response despite having been issued a notice on April 30. The push-back from the executive to the judicial admission that the interpretation of sedition given in Kedar Nath Singh (1962) requires reconsideration is obvious, as the law has allowed successive governments to suppress political dissidence at will. The point of attention is this judicial act of "reconsideration" and its possible consequences. If the legal challenge is efficacious, the SC will declare the law unconstitutional but if the court resorts to an alternative and instead reads down the law to a stricter and more limited interpretation of the offence, would that resolve the crisis of free speech that the law of sedition has currently posed in India? To address this question, one needs to return to the earlier question about the right to incite violence against the government.

D Raja writes |Why the sedition law must go

Originally defined as the act of inciting disaffection, which included feelings of enmity, hatred, contempt and disloyalty against the government, Section 124A was read down in Kedar Nath. The court ruled that unless an act of disaffection imports the tendency to result in disorder through incitement of violence against the government, the charge of

## Why Supreme Court must strike down sedition law entirely

Anything short of it will stand in the way of restitution of the right to free speech.

Anushka Singh

sedition cannot be upheld. The criticism against Kedar Nath is that it laid down an ambiguous test where the speech is measured on the parameter of its "tendency" to result in public disorder, through incitement of violence against government, without clarifying how the tendency of a speech was to be gauged. Restricting oneself to a criticism of the existing doctrinal test would mean that while the use of a subjective word like "tendency", prone to multi-

(1969) which calls for expressions to be penalised only where there is incitement to "imminent lawless action" is often cited as the ultimate standard to protect speech and has already been adopted as the threshold for upholding the right to free expression by the Indian Supreme Court in Indra Das (2011) and Shreya Singhal (2015). Subjecting sedition to the Brandenburg standard, hence, would answer the problems emanating from the 1962 test.

**To enter the question of the constitutionality of the law of sedition through this abstract idea of inciting violence against the government, creates a false dichotomy between freedom of expression and the right to resistance and debilitates the actual grounds on which the law should be assessed. Sedition was not an offence against public order or security of state. It was deliberately constructed as one to withhold the challenge of constitutionality**

ple interpretations, is a problem, the interpretation of the offence of sedition as the act of incitement of violence against the government, is not.

Incitement to violence against the government cannot be protected as free speech, it can only be subjected to a clear judicial test to delineate other forms of expression against the government which fall short of incitement to violence. The American free speech test laid down in Brandenburg v. Ohio

What escapes scrutiny in the above line of reasoning is the fact that the understanding of sedition as "incitement to violence against government" was an idea introduced by the court in Kedar Nath. To uphold the constitutionality of section 124A, the court needed to establish a relationship between expressions against the government and their repercussions on public order and security of state. The act of inciting disaffection was reinterpreted as im-

porting the tendency to disorder through incitement of violence against the government. Incitement to violence was an imagined act, an afterthought that connected feelings of disaffection to consequences of public disorder.

Based on this abstract idea, the call for abolition of the offence of sedition is posed against a lacuna in the law which would allow for incitement to violence against government to be covered under protected speech. Consequently, the demand to nullify the law criminalising sedition can be perceived as protecting the right to incite violence against the government. Counterposing the two weakens the demand for abolishing the law of sedition. To enter the question of the constitutionality of the law of sedition through this abstract idea of inciting violence against the government, creates a false dichotomy between freedom of expression and the right to resistance and debilitates the actual grounds on which the law should be assessed. Sedition was not an offence against public order or security of state. It was deliberately constructed as one to withhold the challenge of constitutionality.

In admitting a petition by General (Retd) Vombatkere on July 14, the Chief Justice of India asked the Attorney General representing the government "if the colonial law is still necessary after 75 years of independence". With the law of sedition granting the executive the power to persecute expressions against itself in the name of public order and security of state, the court can no longer raise questions but will have to resort to measures. Attempts to read down the law or institute procedural mechanisms to forestall its arbitrary enforcement will not take away this power to persecute. Anything short of abolishing the offence of sedition will not help the restitution of the constitutional right to free speech.

*The Indian Express*





## Speaking ‘English Vinglish’ in Kashmir

Wajahat Qazi

But all said and done, every language in the world , wherever it is, whatever form it takes and howsoever it is spoken, in whatever accent or dialect, is beautiful. This elemental fact should not be forgotten or elided. Let us then then speak ‘English Vinglish’ and speak Kashmiri or Urdu or whatever without judging the speaking for or on whatever he or she is speaking.

Walk into any snazzy café in Kashmir. What you will find young men and women (or even girls and boys) in different social settings. Be attentive and listen. You’ll soon hear a young woman or man beckoning the waiter very politely and in immaculate English saying, ‘Excuse me, I would like a glass of water’. Or, after perusing the menu, you will hear him or her ordering her or his choices, yet again in immaculate English.

In a different social setting, if you demonstrate a hint of ‘modern’, pre-tentious or even real attitude the response you might get is, ‘hay, angreez haz chunne assi fikri taraan’ ( We don’t understand English). Or, if you do actually speak English and enter into an argument, you could get a retort, ‘yo, yi haa karaan angreez’ ( Oh, he’s speaking English, meaning we don’t understand you but which actually means we don’t want to understand you). In a different social setting, people will mix English, Kashmiri, Urdu in their conversations rather seamlessly. (This is usually the literati or middle and higher rung government servant classes of Kashmir.

In yet another situation, if you speak very good English but your fellow conversationalist speaks just good English he or she might be countered with the accusation, ‘look , I don’t have this vocabulary so in plain Kashmiri I am telling you...’. But this very same person when he or she speaks to an outsider, or someone whose English speaking levels are the same or less, will have no qualms in conversing fluently in English.( This has happened many

times to the author of this piece)

These quasi vignettes are telling.

They suggest that, as opposed to stereotypes, speaking English , a global lingua franca, has different connotations in the context of Kashmir( maybe in different contexts , different too). First, it pertains to class- not as in classiness- but the social pecking order a given person occupies. The higher up you are in this pecking order, the more likely you are likely to speak ‘good’ English( like in the café scenario alluded to in the beginning of this essay). The pecking order also determines the nature and extent of a given person’s education(unfortunately). While your English speaking prowess and capability will stand you in good stead in some contexts, it can be held against you in another where the accusation, ‘ ye ha chhu angreez karaan’(hes speaking English) is meant to chide or mock you and make you feel uncomfortable).

I am not a psychoanalyst nor am I a linguist but my amateur perspective stemming from mere observation calls to attention the fact that the use of English in Kashmir is loaded. While it, not for one moment tells how cultured a person is, or how eloquent, but it tells you that English speaking , to repeat, is a class thing. It is not snobbish though. The snobbery actually is mostly inverse here: the ones that want to make the English speaking person uncomfortable are the actual snobs. They weaponize their inability- real or pretended- to speak English against their opponent. In public spaces, like cafes, restaurants, or work spaces, the use of English assumes different casts, natures and forms. Second, it also pertains to ego. Depending

on how strong or fragile your ego is, you can weaponize English speaking or non speaking , in ways that suit you( some of my conversationalists or those with who I entered into arguments would use it against me despite being at ease in speaking English with either outsiders or those will equal or lesser English speaking capabilities). Third, whatever class, a ‘good’ English speaking person belongs to, and no matter where he or she uses this capability, at home and in private spaces they are more at ease or even in their element speaking Kashmiri or Urdu. This suggests that, as opposed to appearances, in ‘unnatural’ spaces like coffee shops, people are neither anglicized nor westernized.

So, speaking, ‘English Vinglish’ in Kashmir is a matter of social class, ego, and its utility in different settings. It is not remotely connected to cultural globalization or even crass elitism.

But all said and done, every language in the world , wherever it is, whatever form it takes and howsoever it is spoken, in whatever accent or dialect, is beautiful. This elemental fact should not be forgotten or elided. Let us then then speak ‘English Vinglish’ and speak Kashmiri or Urdu or whatever without judging the speaking for or on whatever he or she is speaking.

PS: The phrase ‘English Vinglish’ is not original. That is, it is not the author’s. It was the title of a 2002 Bollywood movie.

Author has Masters with Distinction in International Relations from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland. He previously worked as Associate Editor of Kashmir Observer.

## Where Will Books Be, Post Covid-19?

Ahlam Bolooki

The last few months have seen unprecedented changes in the way we live - and the pandemic, whether we’ve had the virus or not, has affected all of us. We yearn for the way we used to live our lives, while accepting that some things may have changed forever.

Perhaps one of the sectors that has felt the greatest impact, and is going to take longer to recover, is arts and culture. With social distancing still paramount, it seems an anathema now to think of crowds of people gathering together in a gallery, theatre or other venue, and it may take some time after the pandemic has subsided for some to feel comfortable in that environment again.

We are being cautiously optimistic in our plans to hold the Emirates Airline Festival of Literature next February, and are very keen to ensure that visitors will experience the same vibrant event - although due to social distancing measures, not on the same scale as in previous years. Other events will face the same dilemma and I think we will start to see many more collaborations within the arts and culture scene to help each other get through this difficult time.

The lockdown has shown us how necessary the arts are, and how desperately we all took comfort in stories to help us feel connected to



The Black Plague in the 14th century, and Spanish flu in the last, provided rich inspiration for many authors writing at that time, or looking back across history. There will be a shift in perceptions as we accept the new normal and rewrite the story from here onwards. Whether it’s psychological, scientific or world politics, these days have changed life as we know it forever, and that will be reflected in our region’s literature

the world around us. There was certainly an upsurge in reading during the last few months, as people with more time on their hands rediscovered that books could help us make sense of our changed circumstances, or provide solace or escapism. Being cut off from the outside world brought out our intense need to experience stories - to feel happy, sad, afraid, enthused. We needed the sensory awakening that stories and literature offered us in the safety of our homes.

Although reading as a

pastime increased during the lockdown, it was digital and audio books that saw the greatest increase in sales. I anticipate an even faster growth in e-book and audio book sales, as people behave more cautiously around the physical exchange of items such as books.

We can also expect to see an influx of books around the pandemic experience. The Black Plague in the 14th century, and Spanish flu in the last, provided rich inspiration for many authors writing at that time, or looking

back across history. There will be a shift in perceptions as we accept the new normal and rewrite the story from here onwards. Whether it’s psychological, scientific or world politics, these days have changed life as we know it forever, and that will be reflected in our region’s literature.

We will see reading for pleasure and literature become more prominent in schools. As safety measures make it more difficult for children to engage in extra-curricular activities, reading

and storytelling will offer the personal growth and feed the curiosity of children, which may otherwise be limited.

The virtual space will offer access like never before in bringing a global community of writers together in conversation and collaboration. I recently saw a virtual event that had Elif Shafak, Rabeeh Alemmedine, Zeina Hashem Beck and other authors take part in a tribute for Beirut. Online events allow for a more agile approach in bringing authors together, and make the industry less introspective. A more outward focus will help authors be appreciated beyond their own particular region and I hope that our regional authors will take this opportunity to be inspired by the global conversation and write outside of their own environments and experiences.

We are already experiencing success internationally, with Avni Doshi, a Dubai-based writer who has been shortlisted for the Booker with her debut novel Burnt Sugar, and Polly Phillips, who has just won a publishing deal with Simon & Schuster, becoming the ninth author to be published as a result of the Emirate Airline Festival of Literature’s competition, the Montegrappa Writing Prize. There are eyes on our region’s talent and I hope we will see Emirati writers have global recognition in a similar way very soon.

Khaleej Times

## 8 Films and Documentaries on Hajj

As we enter the blessed month of Dhul Hijjah and the greatest ten days of the year, we are encouraged by the Qur’an and sunnah to spend our time in worship and to reflect on the important lessons and significance of this special month. With this in mind, we have put together a list of eight film and documentary recommendations on Hajj.

Some of the films/documentaries below focus exclusively on Hajj and all the rituals associated with this fifth pillar of our faith, while others take a more broader approach by following in the footsteps of great leaders and figures in Islamic history to tell their story and highlight how Hajj changed the course of their lives.

### 1. The Great Journey (Le Grand Voyage)

This film, released in 2004, tells the story of a middle-aged man of Moroccan descent who embarks on a long journey from southern France to Mecca — but for this journey, he unexpectedly asks his son, Reda to go with him. Reda, a thoroughly Westernized teenager, is taken aback by the request, and even more surprised when his father says they will be traveling by car. Given their different upbringing, the pair’s relationship starts off cold and distant, but the ice starts to thaw as they get to know each other along the journey.

### 2. From Xi’an to Mecca: The Road to Hajj

In this five-part series of mini documentaries, Al Jazeera follows Muslim pilgrims from around the world as they prepare to undertake Hajj.

In the first instalment of this series, Al Jazeera sheds a spotlight on the ancient Chinese city of Xi’an which is home to the famous terracotta army and was at the very centre of Chinese civilisation during the Tang dynasty from 618 to 907. It is also home to about 60,000 ethnic Chinese Muslims and boasts 1,300 years of Islamic history.

Proud of their Islamic heritage and their country’s traditions, the Muslims of Xi’an have merged their own ancient Chinese culture with Islam, remaining faithful to the central tenets of their religion and committed to performing the pilgrimage to Mecca.

### 3. One Day in the Haram

One Day in the Haram is a 2017 feature length documentary film about the Haram in Makkah. The film was produced as a collaboration between Arabia Pictures and Al Reasah Haramin. For the first time in history, witness the inner workings of the Haram, as seen through the eyes of its workers, over a full day period. Director Abrar Hussain spent over a year researching different aspects of the Haram, a place so revered that non-Muslims are forbidden from even setting foot in it, to bring a complete vision of the workings of the Haram.

### 4. Journey to Mecca: In the Footsteps of Ibn Battuta

Journey to Mecca is an IMAX® dramatic and documentary feature that tells the amazing story of Ibn Battuta, the greatest explorer of the Old World, following his first pilgrimage between 1325 and 1326 from Tangier to Mecca.

His perilous journey resonates with adventure while presenting an unforgettable picture of Islamic civilization during the 14th century, culminating with Ibn Battuta’s first Hajj. The story is book-ended by a close-up look at the contemporary Hajj, a pilgrimage to Mecca that draws three million Muslims from around the world.

### 5. Circling the House of God

Born in 1909, Dr Martin Lings, also known as Shaykh Abu Bakr Siraj ad-Din, was revered by people all over the world, a man whose knowledge and commitment to Islam touched the lives of many around the world. In 1938, as a young man in his late 20s, he embraced Islam, entering deeply into its spirit; and the books he went on to write bear witness to the profundity and subtlety of that spirit which he came to embody and exemplify.

In 1948 he performed the Hajj to the holy city of Mecca. Using unique archive material, this 2010 documentary film recollects his experience along with his insight into its historical background. An indefatigable traveller to the very end, he made the last of his annual journeys to the East in January 2005, a few months before peacefully passing away in his home at the age of 96.

### 6. Malcolm X

Malcolm X is a 1992 epic biographical drama film about the African-American activist Malcolm X. Directed and co-written by Spike Lee, the film stars Denzel Washington in the title role. The film dramatises key events in Malcolm X’s life: his criminal career, his incarceration, his conversion to Islam, his ministry as a member of the Nation of Islam and his later falling out with the organisation, his marriage to Betty X, his pilgrimage to Mecca, and his assassination on February 21, 1965.

### 7. The Message

The Message is a 1976 Islamic epic drama film directed and produced by Moustapha Akkad, chronicling the life and times of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) through the perspective of his uncle Hamza ibn Abdul-Muttalib and adopted son Zayd ibn Harithah. The film features The Farewell Sermon that was delivered by the Prophet on Mount Arafah in his final and only Hajj before passing away a few months later.

### 8. A Road to Mecca: The Journey of Muhammad Asad

In the early 1920s, Austrian Leopold Weiss left his Jewish roots behind, converted to Islam and changed his name to Muhammad Asad. He became one of the most important Muslims of the 20th century, first as an advisor at the royal court of Saudi Arabia, and later translating the Qur’an into English. Asad was also a co-founder of Pakistan and its ambassador to the UN. In this 2008 documentary, Austrian filmmaker Georg Misch traces the path of this Muslim scholar and political theorist on his road to Mecca.

Amaliah



# Chartered Flights, ‘Visa Purgatory’ As Students Try To Reach US Colleges

Janet Lorin and Eric Krebs, Bloomberg

Students from around the world are eager to study at U.S. colleges in the upcoming fall semester after the Covid-19 pandemic confined many of them to their home countries and left some attending virtual classes in the wee hours of the morning.

Now, getting to campus is the hard part. In China, which accounts for a third of the roughly 1 million foreign students that flock to the U.S. in a typical academic year, the decline in available flights to American cities has been so severe that some students and their parents have resorted to lining up charter planes. Others, including from India, are caught up in visa purgatory because the State Department reduced personnel at embassies and consulates due to the pandemic. And that's to say nothing of fast-changing Covid-19 vaccine guidelines.

It all adds up to tangle of challenges that has created uncertainty for students and a potential headache for schools that are looking to blunt last year's sharp drop in international enrollment and the attending financial hit.

Ohio State University, which drew almost 6,600 international students to its Columbus campus in the fall of 2019, has already begun to see requests to defer for the term that begins Aug. 24, said Carina Hansen, who directs the International Students and Scholars program.

International students bring a worldly perspective to campuses and, crucially, of-

ten pay full tuition. Widespread deferrals would be a blow to colleges and universities, which dealt with a 16% decline in international student enrollment in this year's spring term from the previous year because of the pandemic.

"If they defer for the semester, there's always the concern that you'll lose them for good," said Don Heller, vice president of operations at the University of San Francisco who studies higher education finance. "If it's easier for them to get into Canada, they might decide to go to a university in Canada instead, or stay in their home country."

Anticipating potential problems with travel and other factors, Northeastern University in Boston held more than 200 virtual support sessions - in a half dozen languages, across multiple time zones - to answer questions about vaccines, visas and requests for travel support letters for airlines, said Renata Nyul, a spokeswoman.

Chinese students are finding the airline industry's fitful recovery from the pandemic is making the trip to the U.S. trickier to plan, with a 96% decline in seats from two years ago. In July, there are 61 flights, or 20,254 seats, going from China to the U.S., according to Cirium, an aviation data company. That is far lower than the 1,626 flights, or 479,519 seats, making that voyage in July 2019.

Flights from China may come with an eye-popping price tag, too: The average cost of a round-trip ticket from that country to the U.S. was \$2,260 in the first two quarters of 2021, according to travel-management company TripActions, a big jump from the \$1,247



average fare seen in the same period in 2019.

Alicia Zhang, 20, took a gamble by buying a ticket for a direct flight in late June from her hometown, Shanghai, to New York, where she's a rising junior studying economics at New York University. The price - about \$4,000 for a one-way ticket - was roughly five times greater than what she had paid in pre-pandemic times. It didn't pay off: She said the China Eastern Airlines flight was canceled less than a month later, with a refund. She then purchased a seat on another flight, with a layover in Hong Kong, for about \$4,500. She said many stu-

dents fear that the course of the pandemic this summer could prompt airlines to reconsider their schedules, potentially leading to cancellations or changes.

"The biggest problem will be the ticket," Zhang said. "Most of my friends will buy several tickets and just wait for which ticket is not canceled, and just go to that flight."

After trading stories of pricey airfares or worries about flight cancellations in WeChat groups organized by the Chinese Students and Scholars Association, some students and their parents lined up charter flights with Cathay Pacific, including two

flights to New York in August. The group helps Chinese students studying abroad, especially in the U.S.

"We don't have many choices," said Samantha Duan, 18, an incoming NYU student from Chengdu who is traveling to the U.S. for the first time on one of the charter flights. This option offers some certainty, a more attractive price, and the fun of traveling with other students.

For those that don't opt for charter flights, the ever-changing circumstances of the pandemic make it hard to game out when fares might be most affordable.

"An uptick in ticket prices should indeed be expected given airlines will be looking to tap the surge in demand from students over the short August/September window," said Chris Muckensturm, a Bloomberg Intelligence analyst who studies passenger transportation in the Asia Pacific region, in an e-mail. "Yet more capacity deployed on those routes could mitigate price increases."

For some students, the primary difficulty isn't the flight, but obtaining a visa. According to a State Department website that offers guidance on appointment wait times, the situation varies widely across the globe. For those looking to obtain student and exchange visas, estimates range from three calendar days in Beijing and 36 days in Seoul to emergency appointments only in Shanghai, Mumbai and London. The State Department says it is prioritizing visa applications for certain types of travelers, including students and exchange visitors.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Banday Impex Pvt Ltd.,-Agro Div 1st, Industrial Estates, Food Park, Phase-2, Khunmoh, Srinagar, Kashmir is formally registered with District Industries Centre under No 07/09/06036/PMT/SSI dated 04-02-2002 for the activity of GRADING/PROCESSING OF Walnuts & Kernels & additional line for the activity of CLEANING, DRYING & GRADING of Saffron while as its Agro Div 2nd is also formally registered under No 07/09/06037/PMT/SSI dated 04-02-2002 for the activity of SPICE GRINDING.

For multiple reasons & as a matter of convenience we intend to merge these two divisions viz Agro Div 1st & Agro Div 2nd for which we have formally applied to District Industries Centre.NOC has been obtained from concerned offices.

In case any person has some objection please file the same with the office of General Manager, District Industries Centre within a week's time.

For Banday Impex Pvt. Ltd.  
Customer Relations Officer

Dated 17-07-2021

ajko

## JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

RESHAM GHAR COLONY, BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU - 180001

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Subject: Revised Interview schedule for the post/(s) of Lecturer/ Consultant in Health & Medical Education Department.

The schedule for the conduct of Interview for the various post/(s) of Lecturer/ Consultant in the Health and Medical Education Department has been notified in the last few days. However due to administrative reasons the date of interview for some of the disciplines have been changed.

It is notified for the information of all the eligible candidates that the revised interview schedule for the post/(s) of Lecturer/ Consultant in the Health & Medical Education Department in various disciplines shall be as under:

S NO	Name of the discipline	Previous date of interview	Revised date of interview
1.	Lecturer Medicine	26.07.2021 to 28.07.2021	No change
2.	Lecturer Surgery	26.07.2021 to 27.07.2021	No change
3.	Lecturer Radio Diagnosis & Imaging	28.07.2021	No change
4.	Lecturer Anesthesia	29.07.2021 & 30.07.2021	No change
5.	Lecturer Pathology	29.07.2021 & 30.07.2021	No change
6.	Lecturer Pediatrics	29.07.2021 & 30.07.2021	No change
7.	Lecturer Dermatology/ Consultant Dermatology	02.08.2021	No change
8.	Lecturer Gynae & Obs.	02.08.2021	No change
9.	Lecturer Ophthalmology / Consultant Ophthalmology	02.08.2021 & 03.08.2021	No change
10.	Lecturer Psychiatry	03.08.2021	No change
11.	Lecturer Blood Bank	03.08.2021	No change
12.	Lecturer Radiotherapy	05.08.2021	No change
13.	Lecturer Epidemiologist	04.08.2021	31.07.2021
14.	Lecturer Medical Record Officer	04.08.2021	31.07.2021
15.	Lecturer Microbiology	06.08.2021	31.07.2021
16.	Lecturer Anatomy	31.08.2021	31.07.2021
17.	Lecturer Forensic Medicine	31.08.2021	31.07.2021
18.	Lecturer Pharmacology	31.08.2021	31.07.2021

19.	Lecturer Urban Training	31.08.2021	31.07.2021
20.	Lecturer Community Medicine/ Social Preventive & Medicine	31.07.2021 & 06.08.2021	31.07.2021
21.	Lecturer Cardiology Super Specialty	-	05.08.2021
22.	Lecturer CD & TB	31.08.2021	05.08.2021
23.	Consultant Orthopedics	04.08.2021 to 06.08.2021	04.08.2021 & 05.08.2021
24.	Consultant ENT	04.08.2021 & 05.08.2021	04.08.2021
25.	Consultant Anesthesiology	17.08.2021 to 19.08.2021	09.08.2021 to 11.08.2021
26.	Consultant Gynae & Obs.	17.08.2021 to 19.08.2021	09.08.2021 to 11.08.2021
27.	Consultant Pathology	20.08.2021 & 21.08.2021	12.08.2021 & 13.08.2021
28.	Consultant Pediatrics	20.08.2021 & 21.08.2021	12.08.2021 & 13.08.2021
29.	Consultant Medicine	23.08.2021 to 26.08.2021	06.09.2021 to 09.09.2021
30.	Consultant Surgery	23.08.2021 to 26.08.2021	06.09.2021 to 09.09.2021

The candidates are advised to regularly visit JKPS website: <http://jkpsc.nic.in> for change/ update in this regard.

DIPK-4831/21

No: PSC/DR/H&ME/2021

(R. K. Katoch) KAS  
Secretary

J&K Public Service Commission  
Dated: 14-07-2021

## Office Of The Executive Engineer Lake Division No. 2nd, S.T.P Hazratbal, J&K LAKES AND WATERWAYS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, SRINAGAR.

(Phone and Fax No.0194-414194)

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departmental website: [www.jkllda.org](http://www.jkllda.org)

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It has been observed in the Authority that there are some allotted works and in certain cases the work/s have been executed partially at Rakhi-Arth Colony Bemina. Details of works are mentioned in Annexure "A" :

The Authority intends to close the works mentioned in Annexure "A", accordingly all the contractors/ agencies are directed to contact the Executive Engineer Lake Division 2nd J&K LDA, Hazratbal Srinagar within 15 days from the publication of this notice with all the documentary proofs enabling the Authority to close the contracts under rules.

It is further informed that if any work other than the works mentioned in Annexure "A" of Rakhi-Arth are yet to be closed, the same shall also be intimated to the Executive Engineer Lake Division 2nd J&K LDA, Hazratbal Srinagar within the stipulated time with documentary proofs. If any person/s have any objections regarding the closure of contracts, the same shall be intimated to the Executive Engineer Lake Division 2nd J&K LDA Srinagar. Any objection/s will not be entertained after the specified time which may please take note of.

No:LDL/993-97  
Date:15.07.2021.

Sd/-

Executive Engineer Lake Division No.2nd Sgr.

### ANNEXURE "A" LIST OF WORKS

S.No.	Name of work.	S.No.	Name of work.
1	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Bemina Sec-1st	12	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in Bay 12 section 1st.
2	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in segment B section 2nd.	13	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in Bay 02A RDX 124-247 RDY 155-205 section 2nd. Site changed to bay no 02
3	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in Bay no 05 (Section 2nd)	14	Construction of approach road 2nd (Bemina Side)
4	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in Bay no 05 (Section 1st)	15	Construction of approach road 2nd main road Bemina side at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina. Section 11
5	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in Bay no 05 (Section 4th)	16	Construction of approach road 2nd main road Bemina side at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina. Section 09
6	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in Bay 14 section 12.	17	Construction of approach road 2nd (Bemina side)at Rakhi-Arth Colony Sec-4th
7	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in section 10B part 1st bay no 03.	18	Construction of approach road 2nd (Bemina side)at Rakhi-Arth Colony Sec-3rd
8	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in bay no 1A section 1.	19	Construction of approach road 2nd (Bemina side)at Rakhi-Arth Colony Sec-3rd
9	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in Bay 6 part 1st	20	construction of sub main Road lane (1-2) by way of laying of GSB at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina
10	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in Bay 13 section 2.	21	construction of sub main road 12m wide bay no 03 & bay 07 by way of GSB filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina
11	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in Bay 02 section 11B part 3rd B.	22	Construction of sub main road between bay no 09 & 10 (site change to between bay 02& 03 section 2nd) at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina.
23	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in part on darbal side bay no 03	34	Up-Gradation of main Road from RD 1400 to 1600 at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina
24	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in bay no 16 section 3rd.	35	Construction of lane/by lanes by way of gab filling bay no 01 at Rakhi-Arth housing colony Bemina.
25	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in bay no 16 section 4th.	36	construction of sub main Road between bay no 16 & 16A section 1st at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina
26	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in bay no 16 section 1st.	37	construction of road from approach road 1st site office to rakhan ghat side/ shop line) at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina
27	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in bay no 16 section 2nd.	38	Up-Gradation of internal Road in Bay no 1 at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina Part-B.
28	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in bay no 16 section 6th.	39	construction of lane /by lane in bay no 03A at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina
29	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in bay no 16 section 5th.	40	construction of lane /by lane in bay no 02A at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina
30	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in Bay no 15 Sec-4th.	41	Construction of internal road of Bay no 3 at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina.
31	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in Bay no 08 RD-174 to RD-384.	42	up gradation of sub main road between 2 & 3 at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina
32	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in bay no 13 remaining portion.	43	Up-Gradation of sub main Road between bay no 4A to 08 (receiving station side)at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina
33	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in Bay no 05 Section C (RD-X 64 to 96 Mt RD-Y 0 to 140 Mt)	44	construction of sub main road 12m wide between 7 & 8 RD 250-414 at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina

45	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in Bay no 05 (Section D)(Remaining portion RD-X 96 to 128 Mt & RD-Y 0 to 126 Mt)	55	Construction of lane /by lane in bay no 08 part A at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina. Length 1107m
46	Filling of available Earth in Bay no 14 balance portion at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina Section-y.	56	Construction of internal road in bay no 05 by way of GSB filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina.
47	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in Bay no 07 (RD-X 60 to 90 Mt) & RD-Y (0-250 Mt).	57	Construction of Road 6 mt width in bay no 06 within store premises at Housing Colony Bemina
48	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in Bay no 07 (RD-X 30 to 60 Mt) & RD-Y (0-250 Mt).	58	Construction of internal road 6m wide in bay no 14 at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina.
49	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in Bay 06 RD x 0 to 90 RD Y 0 to 100	59	Construction of internal road 6m wide in bay no 03A at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina.
50	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in Bay 06 RD x 90 to 180 RD Y 0 to 165	60	Construction of internal road 6m wide in bay no 02A at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina.
51	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in Bay 07 RD x 270 to 300 RD Y 0 to 250 site changed to Bay no 07 RD x 180-210	61	Construction of main road Goripora side from RD 150-250 section 14 at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina.
52	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in Bay 07 RD x 150 to 180 RD Y 0 to 250	62	construction of sub main road 12m wide bay no 05 to 09 at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina
53	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in Bay 07 RD x 210 to 240 RD Y 0 to 250 site changed to bay no 02	63	Providing Sewerage System and storm drainage system (Main/sub-main/lateral Sewer) at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina. Package 5 Phase 1st
54	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in Bay 06 RD x 180 to 240 RD Y 0 to 250	64	Providing Sewerage System and storm drainage system (Main/sub-main/lateral Sewer) at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina. Package 4 Phase 1st
65	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in Bay no 07 (RD-X 240 to 270 Mt) & RD-Y (0-250 Mt). Site change to Bay no 02.	69	Providing cement concrete posts for demarcation of boundary at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina
66	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in Bay no 14 (Balance Portion)	70	Construction of Chain-link fencing along the approach road 1st (Site office side part -c) at Housing Colony Bemina.
67	Development of proposed Housing Colony by way of Earth filling at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina in Bay 09 section 1st.	71	Development of land for Masjid Sharif by way of construction of Boundary wall and earth filling near receiving station in bay no 04 at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina
68	Development of graveyard in bay no 13A at Rakhi-Arth Housing Colony Bemina		

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Lake Division No.2nd Srinagar

DIPK-NB-1845/21



## US Warns Companies About Doing Business In Hong Kong



### Agenceis

WASHINGTON: The Biden administration issued a blanket warning Friday to US firms about the risks of doing business in Hong Kong as China continues to clamp down on political and economic freedoms in the territory.

Four Cabinet agencies -- the departments of State, Treasury, Commerce and Homeland Security -- released the nine-page advisory that alerts companies about the shifting legal landscape in Hong Kong and the possibility that engaging with Hong Kong business could incur reputational and legal damages.

At the same time, Treasury announced sanctions against seven Chinese officials for violating the terms of the 2020 Hong Kong Autonomy Act, which calls for asset freezes and other penalties against those who participate in the crackdown.

President Joe Biden had previewed the new advisory on Thursday, telling reporters at the White House that the business environment in Hong Kong is deteriorating and could worsen.

"Businesses, individuals, and other persons, including academic institutions, research service providers, and investors that operate in Hong Kong, or have exposure to sanctioned individuals or entities, should be aware of changes to Hong Kong's laws and regulations," said the notice, which is titled "Risks and Considerations for Businesses Operating in Hong Kong."

"This new legal landscape... could adversely affect businesses and individuals operating in Hong Kong. As a result of these changes, they should be aware of potential reputational, regulatory, financial, and, in certain instances, legal risks associated with their Hong Kong operations," it said.

The United States under both the Trump and Biden administrations has determined that since the passage of a new national security law last year, Hong Kong no longer enjoys the significant autonomy from mainland China that Beijing had pledged to respect for 50 years when it assumed control of the former British colony in 1997.

As such, Hong Kong no longer enjoys preferential US trade and commercial privileges and certain officials in Hong Kong have been hit with US sanctions for their actions in cracking down on democracy.

China is one of the rare areas in which the Biden administration has largely hewed to Trump's policies.

Friday's warning came on the heels of a similar advisory issued earlier this week reminding American companies about potential sanctions liability if they engage in business with Chinese entities that operate in the western Xinjiang region, where China is accused of widespread repression of Uyghur Muslims and other minorities.

The seven officials targeted for sanctions are Chen Dong, He Jing, Lu Xinning, Qiu Hong, Tan Tieniu, Yang Jianping and Yin Zonghua.

## Delhi Airport Set to Reopen T2 on Thursday

**NEW DELHI:** GMR Group-led consortium - Delhi International Airport Ltd - will recommence flight operations from Indira Gandhi International Airport's Terminal 2 with effect from Thursday, July 22.

Accordingly, the resumption of operations at T2 will be with approximately 200 air traffic movements per day and increase progressively up to 280 expected by the end of August.

"The terminal will resume operations with IndiGo's 2000-2999 series flights and entire operations of GoAir and is expecting to witness around 25,000 passenger footfall in the initial phase."

"About 27 counters - 11 for GoAir and 16 for IndiGo - are available to cater to the passengers of respective flights," DIAL said.

According to DIAL, the first flight scheduled from T2 after reopening of this terminal would be a Kolkata-bound IndiGo flight.

"DIAL has taken several safety



measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 and ensure safety of passengers, as directed by the Government of India."

After resumption of flight operations on October 1, 2020, commercial operations of domestic flights were suspended again at T2 on May 18, 2021, following significant drop in domestic air traffic.

"The decision to resume T2 operations has been taken after Delhi Airport started witnessing gradual growth in passenger footfall post relaxation in lockdown and travel norms by various states since June."

## SOP Signed Regarding Execution of NCPUL Scheme Certificate Course in Paper Machie in J&K

### KO NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR:** Secretary in Skill Development Department and Director Craft Development Institute Srinagar, Nazim Zai Khan and Director, National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL), New Delhi, Professor Akeel Ahmad, today signed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) regarding finalization of execution of National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL) Scheme Certificate Course in Paper Machie in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The scheme is not only promoting the Urdu language but also creating skilled workforce in the country and contributing its efforts towards achieving Center government's objective of promoting Skill Development Mission.

Research Officer, NCPUL, S M. Khurram, Assistant Director, NCPUL, Shama Kausar Yazdani,



Faculty CDI, Srinagar, Hina Qazi and Research Assistant, NCPUL, New Delhi, Afzal Khan were present on the occasion.

The signing of this SOP is one step forward towards promotion of Urdu language through handicraft, increasing awareness, knowledge, skill and employability of local youth with mutual understanding of both the Institutions. The SOP is significant for launching "Six months certificate course in Paper Machie" at three training locations under NCPUL scheme.

Pertinently, NCPUL has been

actively engaged in developing the skill based courses to suit the needs and choices of students by offering vocational courses through Urdu medium. It is aimed at to generate employment opportunities through Urdu language, promote, develop and propagate Urdu language through Art and Craft, provide quality education/training through Urdu medium to participants for upgrading their Vocational as well as Technical skills to meet the demand of rapid change in the Paper Machie Craft and manufacturing technology.

## 2-Day Gurez Festival Concludes Amid Overwhelming Response From People

### KO NEWS DESK

**BANDIPORA:** The Two-day Gurez Festival organised by the Department of Tourism and District administration Bandipora concluded successfully on Friday witnessing an overwhelming response from the people from across the country.

Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, PK Pole participated in the concluding ceremony that took place at the Habba Khatoon Springs. The festival marked the display of rich art, craft, culture, heritage and sports activities besides organization of several adventures including trekking, hiking and water sports.

Several local artists under the umbrella of Habba Khatoon Dramatic Club presented cultural programmes depicting the rich cultural heritage and traditions of the erstwhile Dardistan and the Dard Tribe residing in Gurez Valley.

The cultural programme witnessed a huge participation of locals and tourists from across the country. Sub-Divisional Magistrate Dr Mudasar, Deputy Director Tourism Ehsan Chisti, District Youth Services Officers Gh Qadir Bhat, Senior Army and civil officers also attended the concluding ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, Div Com said that the aim of organizing such festivals is to promote the Gurez valley as a tourism destination. He said the tourist in contemporary times doesn't want only sightseeing but want range of activities along with sightseeing including adventure, sports etc. He said Gurez Valley, in particular, has everything to offer for tourists of all types be it site seeing, adventure tourism, Sports tourism etc.

He said the Lieutenant Governor's administration is



keen to bring the Valley on the international tourist map and called for improving tourism infrastructure in Gurez Valley while taking care of its flora and fauna. He said measures are being taken to improve connectivity to the picturesque valley particularly during winter months to boost the tourist arrival.

He appreciated the role of youth in Gurez in exploiting the tourism potential by offering range of facilities to the tourists and earning their livelihood. He said the youth have set up hotels besides providing tents to the tourists and earning a handsome amount. He said the government will provide hand holding to such youth so that they are able to develop an eco-friendly eco tourism and earn their livelihood in a dignified way.

Earlier Several Government Departments including the Department of Handicrafts, Handloom, NRLM, Fisheries, Forests, Agriculture, Horticulture, Indian System of Medicines and

Tourism had installed stalls to showcase local products.

The stalls attracted a large number of people who not only purchased several products but were also informed about the rich heritage and culture of the Gurez valley.

While highlighting the measures being taken by the government to promote tourism, PK Pole said Gurez has tremendous tourism potential and the department is in process to upgrade infrastructure facilities to attract more tourists to the picturesque valley. He said the UT government has been making every effort to promote the beautiful Gurez valley on the international tourism map and has published extensive publicity material to showcase its culture, heritage, art and craft in addition to its scintillating beauty.

Later, the Div Com gave away awards to best performing artists including to a young student who received huge applause by performing with elder artists and singing in Shina language.

## Petrol Price Moves Up Further, Diesel Rate Unchanged

### Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** Global cues pushed petrol prices to increase again across the country on Saturday adding further pressure to the stretched budgets of consumers grappling with rising food prices amidst shrinking income. However, unlike uniform price movement earlier, oil marketing companies on Saturday increased the pump price of petrol only and kept diesel rates unchanged offering some relief to the transport sector.

Accordingly, while the price of petrol increased by 30 paise per litre to Rs 101.84 a litre in Delhi, diesel price remained at Friday's level of Rs 89.87 a litre. Across the country as well, Petrol price increased in the range of 30-40 paise per litre, while diesel prices remained unchanged. Before Saturday, oil marketing companies had kept fuel prices unchanged on Friday but had effected increases for both petrol and diesel on Thursday. With expectation of increased global supply of oil as

OPEC agreed to taper production cut in line with growing demand.

In the city of Mumbai, where petrol prices crossed Rs 100 mark for the first time ever on May 29, the fuel price reached new high of Rs 107.85 per litre on Saturday. Diesel prices in the city is also at Rs 97.45, the highest among metros. Petrol prices in all metros have now crossed Rs 100 per litre mark and OMC officials said that if international oil prices continue to firm up, rates may rise further.

With Saturday's price hike, fuel prices have now increased on 41 days and remained unchanged on 37 days since May 1. The 41 increases have taken up petrol prices by Rs 11.44 per litre in Delhi. Similarly, diesel has increased by Rs 9.14 per litre in the national capital. Consumers can now expect that any further rise in fuel prices is checked only after OMCs start cutting the retail price of petrol and diesel over next few days to provide relief. With crude staying low at \$73 a barrel, lower fuel prices is a possibility.

## Committed To Bolster Regional Air Connectivity: Scindia

### Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** The Centre is committed to bolster regional air connectivity, Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Friday.

He was speaking at a function to virtually flag off eight new routes bolstering the aerial connectivity from Madhya Pradesh to Maharashtra and Gujarat.

"I would like to congratulate the people of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat on the commencement of the new flight operations. Besides, additional flights on the Delhi-Jabalpur route will also commence from July 18 onwards, and Khajuraho-Delhi-Khajuraho flights from October 2011 onwards," he said.

"We are committed to bolster regional air connectivity and take the Prime Minister's vision of 'Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik' (UDAN) to greater heights!"

These eight new routes includes Gwalior-Mumbai-Gwalior, Gwalior-

Pune-Gwalior, Jabalpur-Surat-Jabalpur, and Ahmedabad-Gwalior-Ahmedabad route. SpiceJet will commence operations on these routes.

"Inauguration of these routes achieves the aim of the 'Sab Uden Sab Juden' initiative under the UDAN scheme to strengthen the established aerial network of the country while providing a catalyst to the local economy and tourism," the ministry said in a statement.

Earlier this month, under the scheme, IndiGo started another flight to connect Kolkata, and Imphal, Manipur with Assam's Dibrugarh.

"To date, 359 routes and 59 airports including 5 heliports and 2 Water Aerodromes have been operationalised under the UDAN scheme," the ministry said.

"The number of domestic passengers is on the rise as flying emerges as a preferred, safe and time-saving mode of transport."

On July 15, 1,56,450 passengers travelled on 1,450 flights.

## HDFC Bank Q1 Results: Profit Rises 16.1% to Rs 7,730 crore

**Mumbai:** HDFC Bank on Saturday reported a 16.1 per cent year-on-year rise in standalone net profit at Rs 7,729.60 crore compared with Rs 6,658.60 crore in the same quarter last year. HDFC Bank said the second wave of Covid disrupted business activity for close to two-third of the quarter, leading to a drop in efficiency in collection efforts and higher levels of provisions. Net interest income (NII) for the quarter rose to Rs 17,009 crore from Rs 15,665.70 crore YoY, led by 14.4 per cent rise in advances and a core net interest margin of 4.1 per cent.

The bank said it made provisions worth Rs 4,219.70 crore for the quarter compared with Rs 3,891.5 crore in the year-ago quarter and Rs 4,694 crore in the March quarter. Provisions

and contingencies for the quarter included specific loan loss provisions of Rs 4,219.70 crore and general and other provisions of Rs 611.10 crore.

Gross non-performing asset (NPA) came in at 1.47 per cent compared with 1.32 per cent in the March quarter, and 1.36 per cent in the year-ago quarter. "The disruptions led to decrease in retail originations, sale of third-party products, card spends, efficiency in collection efforts. The lower business volumes, coupled with higher slippages, resulted in lower revenues, as well as enhanced levels of provisioning," the bank said.

Pre-provision operating profit (PPOP) for the quarter rose 18 per cent to Rs 15,137 crore. The liquidity coverage ratio stood at 126 per cent, well above the regulatory requirement.

## Banks Consortium Gets Over Rs 792 Crore In Vijay Mallya Loan Default Case: ED

### Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** The consortium of banks led by State Bank of India (SBI) on Friday recovered Rs 792 crore from absconding businessman Vijay Mallya by selling shares of Kingfisher Airlines. The Enforcement Directorate, which had attached several assets and properties of Vijay Mallya, had handed over the shares to the consortium.

The ED, in a statement on Friday, said that the consortium has so far recovered Rs 7,181.50 crore by liquidating assets handed over to it by enforcement agency. On June 23 this year, the SBI-led consortium had realised Rs 5,824 crore by selling of Mallya's shares in United Breweries to Heineken NV. Besides recoveries from Vijay Mallya, the ED has also recovered money from fugitive businessmen Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi.

Recently, Fugitive Economic Offense Court allowed banks to take control of assets worth Rs 1,060 crore in the PNB loan fraud case involving Nirav Modi. ED had also confiscated Rs 330 crore from the businessman who is lodged in UK jail. On July 1, 2021, Purvi Modi, sister of Nirav Modi, had transferred Rs 17.25 crore from her foreign bank account to ED.

Earlier, ED had also handed over assets worth Rs 3,729 crore to the SBI-led consortium including shares of Rs 3,645 crore, demand draft of Rs 54.33 crore and immovable properties worth Rs 29.57 crore. According to the Enforcement Directorate, Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi together have defrauded public sector banks of Rs 22,586 crore. Till date, ED has transferred assets worth Rs 12,762.25 crore to the public sector banks and confiscated assets of Rs 329.67 crore. As on date, assets worth 58% of the total loss to the banks have been either confiscated or handed over to banks. ED has, so far, attached/seized assets of Rs 18,217.27 crore under the provision of PMLA in cases involving the three businessmen.



## OLA'S ELECTRIC SCOOTER Gets 1 Lakh Bookings In 2 Days

Ola Electric on Saturday said it has received around 1 lakh bookings for its upcoming scooter within the first 24 hours of initiating the process.

The company had opened booking for its electric scooter in the evening of July 15. "I am thrilled by the tremendous response from customers across India for our first electric vehicle. The unprecedented demand is a clear indicator of shifting consumer preferences to EVs. This is a huge step forward in our mission to transition the world to sustainable mobility," Ola Chairman and Group CEO Bhavish Aggarwal said in a statement.

Ola claims the electric scooter would be class leading in terms of speed, range, boot space as well as technology. The company has stated that the model would be priced aggressively to make it widely accessible.

Ola plans to reveal the features and price of the scooter in the coming days.



The scooter will be made-in-India for the world. It would be manufactured at the company's two-wheeler factory, being built in Tamil Nadu. The first phase of the

Ola Futurefactory is nearing completion and will be operationalised soon, while the full capacity of 10 million vehicles per annum will be built by next year.



# All Gaps In Indian Borders Will Be Plugged Before 2022: HM

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah Saturday asserted that unfenced gaps along India's over 7,500-km-long land border will be sealed before 2022, thus covering areas that lead to infiltration and smuggling of arms and narcotics.

He also asserted that India's security policy was either "influenced or was overlapping" with the foreign policy and it was only after Narendra Modi became prime minister that the country got an independent security strategy.

Shah was delivering the annual 'Rustamji memorial lecture' instituted by the Border Security Force (BSF) in the memory of its first director general (DG) K F Rustamji.

An officer of the 1938 batch of the British-era Imperial Police, Rustamji headed the 1965 raised force for nine years. He died in 2003.

Shah also gave away gallantry medals to the serving personnel and to the family members of those who were killed in the line of duty from the country's largest frontier force.

"I assure that there will no gap in our fencing before 2022 (2022 se pehle)," he said.

Shah said about three per cent of the unfenced area leaves a "big gap" and makes the border vulnerable for infiltration of terrorists and other border crimes like smuggling of arms, ammunition and narcotics among others.



India has fenced borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh and there are certain areas including the riverines ones which are not fenced.

The Modi government has been plugging these gaps after resolving administrative obstacles and even by talking to neighbouring countries, he said.

"I believe that (ensuring) border security is (ensuring) national security," Shah said adding they are developing a "new model" of the border fence that cannot be cut or broken.

He also spoke about the security policy of the Modi government.

"I used to think if there is a security policy of this country or not? Till Narendra Modi became the prime minister we did not have any independent security policy," Shah said.

"It was either influenced by foreign policy or it was overlapping with the foreign policy," he said.

After Modi became prime minister, the country got an independent security policy.

"Our idea is to have peaceful relations with all but if someone disturbs our borders, if someone challenges our sovereignty, the priority of our security policy is that such an attempt will be replied in the same language," Shah said.

He said this security policy was a "big achievement" as the country wanted such a good plan.

"I believe without this (security policy) neither the country can progress nor democracy can prosper," the home minister said.

"Modiji (PM) has done this big job. I do not want to give examples as it is well known," he said adding the policy was made operational on the ground by his government.

Shah said India was working to soon develop an indigenous counter-drone technology, which is being carried out by technical organisations like the DRDO and some other agencies.

His comments came in the backdrop of the first-ever drone attack on the IAF station

in Jammu last month where two unmanned aerial vehicles dropped bombs injuring two airmen and damaging a portion of a building inside.

He added that the security establishment of the country is preparing a long-drawn project to thwart artificial intelligence and robotic technology enabled attacks from across the borders.

Shah gave out figures to showcase how the Modi government worked to enhance and fortify border security.

He said while only 3,600 km of border roads were made between 2008-14, the period between 2014-20 (Modi being the PM) it has seen a jump of 3.5 times with 4,764 km of these roads being constructed.

The budget for this job was enhanced from Rs 23,000 crore to 44,000 crore, a total of 14,450 metres of bridges were made during 2014-20 as compared to 7,270 metres made during 2008-14, he said.

While one border tunnel for transportation was made earlier, six tunnels have been made by the Modi government in the last one year while 19 such structures are in the pipeline, Shah said.

Similarly, a total of 170 km of border roads were resurfaced during 2008-14 and it was enhanced to 380 km after the Modi government came to power.

The cutting and formatting of roads along the China border has now been enhanced to 470 km per year as compared to the earlier 230 km per year.

Shah said the government has sanctioned 32 more border roads measuring about 683 km for the Sino-India frontier.

"The prime minister believes that till border infrastructure is upgraded and strengthened the security forces will not be able to do their job properly."

"The PM has said that if border infrastructure is not proper the local population will continue to migrate from these areas and this will make our borders unsafe," he said.

The home minister stressed that forces like the BSF should take steps to ensure that border population is provided all basic amenities and that they do not migrate to other area because of these issues.

The officers of these forces should execute "out of routine" thinking and plan so that we are two steps ahead of the adversary, he said.

He asked them to maintain "regular touch" with their troops, resolve their problems and also take feedback from them.

BSF DG Rakesh Asthana said during the event that the force has made 61 drone sightings and unearthed 4 tunnels along the western front in the last one year.

The about 2.65 lakh personnel strong BSF guards over 6,300 km of Indian fronts with Pakistan and Bangladesh on the east.

Ministers of state for home Nityanand Rai, Ajay Kumar Mishra, home secretary Ajay Bhalla, Intelligence Bureau director Arvind Kumar and RAW chief Samant Goel attended the event.

## UP ATS Arrests Three Men In Nagpur Under Anti-Conversion Law

**NAGPUR/LUCKNOW:** The Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) has arrested three persons from Maharashtra's Nagpur in connection with a case registered in Lucknow under UP's anti-conversion law, an official said on Saturday.

The trio was arrested from the Ganeshpeth area of Nagpur city on Friday night, he added.

The accused were identified as Prasad Rameshwar Kavale alias Adam (from Nagpur), Kausar Alam Shaikat Ali Khan (from Jharkhand) and Bhupriya Bando Devidas Mankar (from Maharashtra's Gadchiroli), the police official said in Nagpur.

The three accused were staying at Hansapuri under the jurisdiction of the Ganeshpeth police station, he added.

The UP ATS had arrested some persons last month and claimed to have busted a nationwide racket of religious conversions. An FIR was lodged at the Gominagar police station in Lucknow under the state's anti-conversion law.

ADG (law and order) of the Uttar Pradesh police Prashant Kumar said in Lucknow the arrested persons are being brought to the state capital by road and will be produced before the court. Efforts will be made to secure their police custody for questioning in connection with a larger conspiracy.

The UP ATS had earlier arrested five persons, including Umar Gautam, who was running a conversion racket trapping poor as well as deaf and mute people with allurements with the help of his associates. They were also getting national and

international funding for this illegal act.

The arrests made in Maharashtra were in this connection, the ADG said, adding that among those arrested in Nagpur, Kavale was the focal point of the Maharashtra network.

Kavale alias Adam is a graduate and about 30 years of age. His wife is an Egyptian national. He was in constant touch with Gautam and involved in conversion activities in Maharashtra, the officer said.

Besides Egypt, he also has links to Central Asian and Muslim-dominated countries and was involved in spreading the Islamic propaganda, he added.

Another person arrested in Nagpur, Kausar Alam, around 50 years of age, has old ties with Gautam, the ADG said, adding that he was involved in the conversion conspiracy in Maharashtra and Karnataka among other places and had connections with others in the network.

Bhupriya Bando also had ties with the members of the conversion racket who worked in Maharashtra and looked after the funding work of the Maharashtra network and Gautam.

The Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020, which was promulgated in November last year, prohibits unlawful religious conversions and nullifies marriages if they are carried out for the sole purpose of religious conversion. The law provides for imprisonment of up to 10 years and a maximum fine of Rs 50,000 under different categories.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### Heavy Rains

(From Bay of Bengal) from 18th to 21st July.

"The system is most likely to cause widespread heavy to very heavy rain, thunder with lightning at most places of Jammu mainly Pirpanjal Range and plains of Jammu division from 19th to 21st and moderate to heavy rain/thunder with lightning in many places of Kashmir division during the said period."

The advisory, a copy of which has also been sent to the secretary disaster management, J&K for information and necessary action, has also warned of moderate to high risk of flash flood, temporary disruption of surface traffic, mainly on Jammu-Srinagar, Srinagar-Leh highways and Mughal road, connecting south Kashmir's Shopian district with Poonch under the impact of bad weather.

Also, the advisory warns about landslides and shooting stones at vulnerable places, water logging in low lying areas, suspension of agricultural and horticultural operations during the fresh rain spell.

Meanwhile, heatwave continued on Saturday in the Union Territory as Srinagar recorded a temperature of 34.1 degree Celsius.

A meteorological department official said that today's maximum temperature in the summer capital of J & K was 4.3 degrees Celsius, higher than the normal.

Jammu, the winter capital of J&K, recorded a maximum of 35.7 degrees Celsius against normal of 34.2 degrees Celsius and previous day's 34.9 degree Celsius, he said.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 32 (against normal of 27.9) degrees Celsius, Pahalgam 28.8 degrees Celsius while Kokernag recorded 31.8 degrees Celsius, the official said.

The border town Kupwara recorded a maximum temperature of 34.2 degrees Celsius against normal of 30.5 degree Celsius, he said.

World famous skiing and tourist resort Gulmarg in north Kashmir recorded a maximum of 24.0 degrees Celsius against the normal of 20.8 degree Celsius for this time of the season

for the place, the official added.

#### 5 Culprits Behind

platforms, Kumar said.

In one house alone, 32 mobile phones, one tablet, two laptops, four hard disk storage devices, seven memory cards and one dongle were seized, he added.

The IGP said five persons were arrested and have been identified as Nazish Yasrab Rehmani and Tabish Akbar Rehmani from Sanat Nagar, Sofi Mohammad Akbar from Rajbagh, Peerzada Raqif Makhdoomi from Batpora Hazratbal and Javed Khalid from Poonch.

Kumar said HYPERLINK "http://kashmirfight.wordpress.com" "kashmirfight.wordpress.com" was being run by "a white collar terrorist syndicate whose task was to prepare a strategic hit list of government officers, journalists, social activists,

lawyers and political functionaries".

"They were assessed by the syndicate to be responsible for harming the overarching objectives of furthering and sustaining the Pakistani supported terrorist programme with the eventual aim of secession of Jammu and Kashmir from the Indian union and its eventual annexation with Pakistan," he said.

With the arrest of the kingpins and the discovery of a huge number of digital devices and the analysis of the data therein, it is expected that the ultimate plans behind the murder of journalist Shujat Bukhari, advocate Babar Qadri and businessman Satpal Nischal would come to the fore, the IGP said.

He said the blog site HYPERLINK "http://kashmirfight.wordpress.com" "kashmirfight.wordpress.com" had designed a modus operandi wherein the name of the victim was first published and then profiled giving detailed justification as to how and why he is a legitimate target for the militants and subsequently his actual execution by the ultras.

#### LG Pitches For

officials must take proactive steps to facilitate the return of Kashmiri Pandits community who were forced to flee their homes and now settled in various parts of the country, an official spokesperson said.

The LG said that there were many families living in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and other parts of the country and abroad who are willing to return home or register themselves. He said that the officials of the UT Government must roll out an extensive exercise to reach out to them through proper means of communication

First of all, we must ensure that the entire population of Kashmiri Migrants is registered with the J&K Government. "Many people yearn for their old lives and would like to return to their homeland. Some families are well settled elsewhere but may want to come here to pay obeisance to their motherland and get registered as Kashmiri migrants. Work on this with utmost sensitivity and sincerity," Sinha said, as per the official spokesperson.

"It is government's responsibility to make sure this dream of thousands of people turns into reality with proactive approach of the administration," he added.

The LG, as per the official spokesperson also told the officers to ensure that the benefits of Kashmiri migrants must reach all the communities which are falling under the said category.

Taking stock of the future deliverables of the department, the LG, he said, directed the officials to take effective measures for completion of works within committed timelines.

"Delays in delivering public services and execution of development works won't be accepted. Action will be taken against the officials responsible for the holding up of the works," the official spokesperson quoted Sinha as saying.

Setting the agenda straight, the LG, he said, fixed the deadlines for the completion of transit accommodations

for Kashmiri Migrant Employees across the valley. He said that the LG also directed for preponing the targeted timeframe for completion of the ongoing construction works and set November this year as new timeline for completion of Transit Accommodation at Ganderbal.

He further said that directions were also passed for the completion of construction work at Shopian by March, 2022 and at Baramulla & Bandipora by November, 2022.

"Timelines need to be adhered to for the completion of construction work of transit accommodations. Any official found responsible for delays shall be taken to task. Tenders for the upcoming works must be prepared in consultation with stakeholders for smooth and early execution of works," Sinha said, as per official spokesperson.

"We need to double our efforts to ensure that the benefits under various components are being extended to all eligible beneficiaries, especially those who are being left out from the ambit of the welfare measures. At the same, it must be ensured that no in-eligible person shall be entitled to any of the benefits which is the rightful claim of someone else," he added.

According to the official spokesperson, the LG also passed clear cut directions for identifying unauthorized allocation of accommodations and taking strict measures to vacate the same.

While taking detailed assessment of the works done under Civic Action programme, the LG, he said, directed for proper fund utilization for quality output and instructed the concerned Chief Engineer to submit a comprehensive report chart on the work executed so far.

"Instructions were passed to the senior officials for taking a periodic review of the progress made under ongoing projects, besides putting dedicated efforts through comprehensive measures to remove bottlenecks, if any," the official spokesperson said.

Earlier, he said, Simrandeep Singh, Secretary to the Government, Department of DMR&R, gave a detailed briefing on the working of the department and measures initiated in respect to extending Relief to Kashmiri and Jammu Migrants; Implementation of PMDP component of providing 3000 Jobs to Kashmiri Migrants; Constructing 6000 Transit flats for Migrants Employees in Kashmir; providing Financial package to P&K DPs; Financial package for West Pakistan Refugees; World Bank Funded Project of NDMA for Seismic Risk reduction.

"While enquiring about the present status of the 6000 Transit flats for Migrants Employees in Kashmir, the chair was informed that 304 Units are being constructed at Kulgam (208) and Budgam (96), besides accumulative 1200 Transit Accommodations are coming up at Ganderbal, Shopian, Bandipora, Baramulla, Kupwara, and land for other 2744 Units has been identified at 07 locations," he added.

#### Reviews PDD's Action

"Power infrastructure must be ready for extreme weather conditions,

besides proactive measures need to be taken on the ground to meet the winter power demand. All gaps in power Transmission, Distribution must be filled by October," the LG directed the officers while chairing a meeting to review the action plan of PDD for winter preparedness, as per an official spokesperson.

The LG, he said, postponed the timelines of several power augmentation projects to October this year and further directed for making all procurements before the arrival of the winter season.

"Take experiences of the previous years along. Prioritize high load areas and keep topography into consideration while formulating the multi-pronged strategies to ensure the uninterrupted power supply to the people during winters. Plan ahead for power supply in Snowbound, remote and inaccessible areas of both the divisions of the UT," Sinha said, as per official spokesperson.

The LG, he said, laid special emphasis on meeting the needs of the people and directed the power department to augment the transmission and distribution capacities in order to fill the Power Supply and Demand gap.

According to the official spokesperson, instructions were also passed to submit a comprehensive plan for reaching out to the habitations with grid electricity who are living in tough terrain areas like Gurez, Machil, and Tulail.

He further said that the LG directed the officers to work in convergence mode for the speedy completion of projects.

"Technical evaluation and administrative approvals shall not be delayed. Committed timelines & targets must be met in letter and spirit for the larger interest of the public," the LG, as per the official spokesperson said, adding that Sinha also asked the power officials to come out with a strategy in a week's time on how to reduce the power purchase costs.

"Along with improving the power supply position in J&K and reducing the AT&C losses, we also need to mobilize our resources on increasing revenue generation. Consumers paying bills should not be deprived of electricity," Sinha said.

He further said that the LG fixed 3 months timeline to reduce the losses by 10%.

"Reiterating the directions passed in the previous meeting, the Lt Governor called for effective monitoring of feeder losses. Specific directions were passed to strengthen the public grievance mechanism in the power department," the official spokesperson said.

The projects directed to be completed by October this year included Augmentation of - Grid Station Mirbazar from 320 MVA to 475 MVA; 220/132kV Grid Station Delina from 320 MVA to 480 MVA; replacement of existing 0.2 ACSR by HTLS Conductor of D/C 132 kV Delina-Amargarh Transmission line; construction of 100 MVA, 132/33 kV Grid Station Khanayr (GIS) and construction of 160 MVA,

220/33kV Grid Sub Station Batpora, Tailbal (GIS).

Managing Directors of Power Corporations gave a detailed overview of the winter preparedness measures of the power department. The meeting was informed that the 220 kV Transmission Network Ring of JKPTCL Kashmir will be ready soon.

#### Govt Notifies

will be the "Common High Court for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh".

"The present nomenclature is found to be rather long-winding and cumbersome. The said nomenclature may be substituted as High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, which besides being convenient would also be in consonance with the name pattern followed in other common High Courts, namely, Punjab and Haryana High Court, which has jurisdiction over the states of Punjab and Haryana and the Union Territory of Chandigarh," it said.

Considered views on the proposal were sought from the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Ladakh and the Chief Justice of the High Court.

"The Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir vide letter dated October 27, 2020, and the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Ladakh vide letter dated October 20, 2020, have conveyed their agreement to the proposed change in the name of the High Court.

"The then chief justice of the common High Court for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh vide letter dated November 21, 2020, has also conveyed her no objection to the proposed name," the order said.

#### SSB Chairman's

immediate effect," reads a government order.

"During the period of his suspension, the officer shall remain attached in the General Administration Department."

The government also ordered that Shabir Hussain Keen (JKAS) Additional Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department shall conduct an enquiry into the matter and submit a report along with recommendations within a period of (15) days.

#### J&K Logs 177

Valley during the last 24 hours, as compared to 179 new cases detected across the Union Territory during the same time.

Of the new cases, officials said, the Valley reported 117, while 62 were detected from the Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic last year in the Union Territory to 319755.

Giving district-wise details, the officials said that Srinagar reported 59, Baramulla 6, Budgam 12, Pulwama 13, Kupwara 8, Anantnag 2, Bandipora 5, Ganderbal 5, Kulgam 7, Jammu 13, Udhampur 1, Rajouri 10, Doda

15, Kathua 7, Kishtwar 9, Poonch 6, Ramban 6 and Reasi 1 new case of coronavirus. Shopian and Samba districts in the Union Territory reported no new cases of Covid-19.

Also, officials said, one more person succumbed to the deadly infection in the winter capital, raising the overall fatality count to 4363 in the UT.

There was no new confirmed case of mucormycosis (black fungus) reported today and thus the cumulative number of confirmed cases increases to 33 in J&K, the officials added. (With GNS inputs)

#### Ensure All Rights

enjoy the right to equality, life with dignity and respect for his or her integrity equally with others as well as the right to free education of the child, aged between six to eighteen years, in a neighbourhood school, or in a special school, of his or her choice.

As per Section 75 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, Chief Commissioner for persons with disabilities on his own motion or on application of any aggrieved person or otherwise is mandated to look into complaints inter-alia, with respect to matters relating to deprivation of rights of persons with disabilities

The plea filed by three activists—Zaheer Jan, Dr Chintanjeet Kour and Mudasir Shaban— says that after Abrogation of article 370, Right to Person with Disability Act stands implemented in Jammu and Kashmir.

As per this Act, they say, every school should give admission to every special child in the mainstream.

"Last year the Government of Jammu & Kashmir implemented the Act but schools still didn't allow special children in mainstream," the activists said in the plea, seeking the court's interference in the matter so that children with special needs get admission in different schools in the Valley. This, they say, would be in the "best interest of the child" which is the focal axis of the Child Protection Policy. (GNS)

#### Mortar Shell

Kashmir district in a week. On 10 July, an old shell was recovered and defused by state forces in Habber Lasipora forests of the district.

#### Woman Dies

Meanwhile, police have registered a case and started proceedings under relevant sections of the law to ascertain the cause of the accident.

#### Fire Kills 2 Children

the fire, they said. Satya Devi (30) and her three children—Sahil (5), Sourav (3) and Gaurav (3) received burn injuries in the incident, they said.

While Sahil and Sourav succumbed to injuries, Satya and Gaurav are undergoing treatment at the hospital, they added.

#### 4 Soldiers Injured

identified as Sep MA Vaghela, S K Pandey, S Suraj and V Prakash.

All the injured were shifted to Central MI Room Baramulla for treatment, they further said. (GNS)



## India's White-Ball Newbies Start Lankan Audition For T20 World Cup Slots

Press Trust of India

**COLOMBO:** A bunch of fresh faces will be desperate for a fair T20 World Cup audition when India's different-looking yet formidable white-ball squad face an under-fire Sri Lanka in the six-match limited overs contest, beginning with the first ODI here on Sunday.

Winning any international series will be paramount but one can expect a few combinations being tried out during a series which got delayed by five days due to COVID-19 scare in the Sri Lankan camp. The series comprises three ODIs and as many T20s.

Dasun Shanaka is their 10th captain in four years and barring a classy batsman like Dhananaya de Silva and a steady pacer in Dishmantha Chameera, this team lacks quality to challenge the might of Indian team led by Shikhar Dhawan.

The suspension of Kusal Mendis and Niroshan Dickwella due to bio-bubble breach in UK along with injury to former skipper Kusal Perera puts Sri Lanka in a tight spot. If they can manage to win one game, that will be an achievement in itself after a disastrous tour of England.

Expect Prithvi Shaw, Vijay Hazare Trophy's top scorer to open alongside Dhawan, while seniors Hardik Pandya and Bhuvneshwar Kumar are expected to find automatic slots in the playing XI.

However there are multiple contender for other slots.

Will it be Devdutt Padikkal or Ruturaj Gaikwad for No 3 slot? Will Suryakumar Yadav's 360 degree hitting ability be used or Manish Pandey get a final chance to show some consistency?

Will Krishnappa Gowtham's off-spin and big hits be preferred over Krunal Pandya's left-arm darts along with cheeky batting skills? How is Rahul Chahar placed against Yuzvendra Chahal, who hasn't been in best of forms of late?

And who will don the big gloves? Is it Rahul Dravid's protégé Sanju Samson or the mercurial Mumbai Indians man Ishan Kishan, who can really pack a punch?

These are questions that needs to be answered by the team management during the next 11 days in Colombo.

India's bench strength has been a matter of envy for all top cricketing nations and has allowed two national teams to compete in dif-

ferent parts of the globe in COVID times.

While Virat Kohli's men are keen to set their dismal Test record in England straight, the team led by Dhawan and coached by Dravid — the man responsible for creating the pool, will never accept that this is a "second string" outfit taking on islanders, who are going through their lowest ebb.

A team that has Dhawan and Shaw at the top along with likes of Pandey, Suryakumar, Pandya brothers — Hardik and Krunal, seasoned Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Deepak Chahar along with spin twins Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav can be anything but pushovers.

Some of these players are T20 regulars and while the 50 over format is of lesser importance going into the global event in next three months, both Dravid and Dhawan know the importance of game time.

While there are six uncapped players in this Indian line-up, Dravid had recently made it clear that it will be difficult to provide game time to all the available payers.

It is expected that both Dravid and Dhawan would be consulting with Ravi Shastri and Kohli on what they would be looking for from the assortment of players available with them.

One thing is crystal clear. There aren't many slots available in the Indian team for the T20 World Cup and it would need some out of the world show from the rookies in order to find a slot in the UAE bound team.

Among the newcomers, Varun Chakravarthy, who probably will be exclusively used in the shortest format, has a good chance of making the World T20 cut and Chetan Sakariya's left-arm seam bowling is an option they would like to look at.

Chahal and Kuldeep, the pair who could do no wrong till 2019 World Cup, are both on borrowed time right now and it couldn't have been a better time to face a struggling Sri Lanka.

However, Dhawan himself is still not assured of a ticket to UAE extravaganza with Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and KL Rahul being contenders to open the innings.

Dhawan is someone, who can only bat at the top and the skipper himself would like to reassert his supremacy in both formats.

Ditto for Bhuvneshwar, who would like to see himself in that T20 attack along with Jasprit Bumrah.

## Opener Evin Lewis Leads West Indies To 4th T20 Win Vs Australia

Agencies

**GROS ISLET:** West Indies stand-in captain Nicholas Pooran won his first toss of the series and decided to bat against Australia in the final Twenty20 match on Friday. Then opener Evin Lewis took over.

Player-of-the match Lewis scored 79 runs off 34 balls, including 9 sixes, to put the Caribbean side well on its way to its fourth win in the five-match series. Despite a late collapse, the West Indies scored its highest total of the series — 199 for eight.

Australia finished with 183-9 to give the home side a 16-run win. The visitors were looking strong in reply when they lost two wickets for five runs, including a spectacular one-handed diving catch at long-on by Fabian Allen to remove captain Aaron Finch for 34. Andre Russell and Sheldon Cottrell took three wickets each for the West Indies.

Pooran added 31 to Lewis' dominant batting display and the West Indies were at 168-4 when they lost 4-25 before tailender Hayden Walsh Jr. hit a six to end the home side's innings. Andrew Tye made his first appearance of the tour and led the Australian bowlers with 3-37 while Adam Zampa and Mitch Marsh added two wickets each.

Australia, which won the fourth match after losing the first three, made four changes. Leg-spinner Mitchell Swepson was also named for his first game on tour while Josh Hazlewood and Josh Philippe returned to the side. Mitchell Starc was rested and Riley Meredith, Dan Christian and Ashton Turner were also left out.

Phillipe opened and was out for 1 after four deliveries.

The teams will now play three one-day internationals at Bridgetown, Barbados. The first match is scheduled for Tuesday.

JKFA PROFESSIONAL LEAGUE

## J&K Bank XI, Hyderya Sports Register Wins



R Elahi

**SRINAGAR:** In the ongoing 1st Edition JKFA Professional League 2021 two matches were played on Saturday at the Synthetic Turf Ground, TRC in Srinagar.

The 3:00 pm kick off game played between J&K Bank XI and SCFA XI proved to be a one-sided affair as the dominant Bank XI side created goal-scoring opportunities from the first whistle. J&K Bank took the lead in the 4th minute of the match through Adnan. The youthful team of SCFA boys struggled to equalize but failed. In the 29th minute of J&K Bank XI doubled their lead via a sheer mistake from SCFA players. In the second half of the match, J&K Bank scored their third goal via Prem in the 71st minute. Adnan then added another in the dying moments of a match that proved to be an easy outing for the Bank XI side.

The match ended with J&K Bank defeating SCFA by 4 goals to

nil. Adnan from J&K Bank was declared Man of the match.

In the second match, a 5:00 pm kick off, Hyderya Sports went head-to-head against Real Kashmir FC (Reserves). The game saw a penalty kick awarded to Hyderya Sports in the very 1st minute after a Real Kashmir player was deemed to have handled the ball. Gagan of Hyderya made no mistake from the penalty spot to give his side the lead.

The evenly balanced match enthralled the spectators as RKFC players tried their best to equalize. However, Hyderya Sports stood strong and managed to go into the second half with a 1:0 lead.

Real Kashmir (R) to their credit came out flying in the second half and managed to equalize the proceedings via a goal by Sahil. The Real Kashmir forwards made attempts at goal and were thwarted by the goal post. This woke up Hyderya Sports who also tried a beautiful shot at the RKFC goal, forcing the goalkeeper to

make a brilliant save.

Both the Clubs won laurels from the spectators for their magnificent ball control, shooting and man to man marking. In the 85th minute Shahnawaz Bashir, Hyderya Sports FC club captain, made a superb attempt from midfield and scored what could be considered as the goal of tournament. Hyderya Sports held on their 2:1 lead till the final whistle. Shahnawaz Bashir of Hyderya Sports FC was declared man of the match.

No matches are scheduled to take place today. The Professional League 2021 will resume on Monday with two matches set to be played. Lonestar Kashmir FC will take on Real Kashmir FC (R) at 3:00 pm kick off time. In the second match, Hyderya Sports FC will lock horns with Shaheen FC Jammu at 5:00 pm.

The tournament is organised by the J&K Football Association (JKFA) in collaboration with J&K Sports Council.

## Led By Virat Kohli, Team India Undergoes Net Session In Durham

Press Trust of India

**DURHAM:** From captain Virat Kohli to swashbuckling opener Rohit Sharma, the top guns of the Indian team underwent an extensive net session at the Durham County Cricket Club on Saturday, preparing in earnest for the marquee Test series against England.

Besides Kohli and his limited overs deputy Rohit, one-down batsman Cheteshwar Pujara and KL Rahul also hit the nets, as they trained to tackle a challenge that is expected to test their skills against the moving ball when they stand up to the likes of James Anderson, Stuart Broad and Jofra Archer.

The BCCI also shared snapshots of the team's bowlers with pacers Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj and off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin seen training hard ahead of their warm-up game.

The five-match Test series starts on August 4.

Before that, the Kohli-led Indian side is scheduled play a practice match against Combined Counties from July 20.

India, who straightaway jumped into the World Test Cham-



pionship (WTC) final without having any match practice last month, were beaten by a well-prepared New Zealand side that had already played a two-match Test series against the hosts England.

Earlier this week, explosive

wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant and the team's throwdown specialist Dayanand Garani tested positive for COVID-19.

Garani's positive report came on Thursday and other members of the India squad and the coaching staff, who were in contact with him, were isolated after that.

Bowling coach Bharath Arun, reserve wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha and India's standby opener Abhimanyu Easwaran are the three members of the Indian contingent in UK who have been isolated.

All three have tested negative for the virus, but have to follow the UK Government's Health Safety Protocol and stay in isolation.

Pant, Garani, Arun, Saha, and Easwaran are all in London and did not travel with the rest of the Indian contingent to Durham.

Both Pant and Saha are set to miss the practice, leaving Rahul to don the big gloves against Combined Counties.

Besides nets, the Indian players also underwent strength and mobility sessions as they regrouped for their upcoming challenges in the United Kingdom.

## Sri Lanka Captain Dasun Shanaka Says, Both Teams Will Start Evenly



Press Trust of India

**COLOMBO:** Newly-appointed Sri Lanka skipper Dasun Shanaka on Saturday said it will be an even contest between his struggling side and overwhelming favourite India as the visiting team is full of newcomers.

India have come here with a squad comprising six uncapped players.

"Both teams will start evenly because they (India) have got new players coming up. We all know that they have played IPL but still they haven't played international cricket, so both the teams have even chances," said Shanaka on the eve of the first ODI against India here on Sunday.

Shanaka on Friday became the 10th Sri Lankan captain in the past four years when he was named skipper of a 23-member squad for the six-match white ball series against India, to be played here.

The India team, which will play three ODIs and as many T20s, is led by Dhawan. The Test team led by Virat Kohli is currently in England to take part in the upcoming five match series.

Sri Lanka named the squad only on Friday night. Asked whether that was an advantage, the 29-year-old right-handed batsman answered in the affirmative.

"Yes, a slight advantage because they (India) haven't seen these guys in

international cricket, as well, so yes, I feel they have to prepare well for these newcomers as well," said Shanaka.

On how challenging it is to lead Sri Lanka in current times, he said, "Ya, it is always challenging, you know international cricket and the outside (off the field) problems, it all matters, but end of the day you have to get to it and perform as a team, it is the main concern we all have, so I am sure that boys will look on to it."

The players and board SLC have been locked in a longstanding battle over national contracts. For this series, the players have signed tour contracts, the way did it for the England tour.

The series was originally to start on July 13, but was later pushed to start on July 18, after a couple of COVID positive cases were found in the Sri Lankan squad.

According to Shanaka his side would get good experience after playing against India.

"The experience will be very good, you know playing against one of the top teams in the world, so it will be a very good to play with India at this point, because we can exactly measure the levels we are in, so it will be a good tournament for us," he added.

Sri Lanka failed to win a single game on the UK tour during which their three players were sent back home for breaching the bio-bubble.

## Pakistan Hit Back After ODI Humiliation To Win 1st T20I

Agencies

**NOTTINGHAM:** A lightning-fast opening stand of 150 in 15 overs between captain Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan set up Pakistan's 31-run win over England in the first Twenty20 International at Trent Bridge on Friday.

Babar hit 85 from 49 balls and Rizwan 63 from 41 in a Pakistan record total of 232-6.

England, in reply, lost four wickets in the first seven overs, and their hopes flickered thanks only to Liam Livingstone, who hit a record-breaking 103 from just 43 deliveries. But he was seventh man out in the 17th over and England were soon all out for 201 with four balls left.

England's senior stars returned from self-isolation but failed to copy the domination their second string achieved against Pakistan in the preceding One-day International series.

While England's big boys sat out the ODIs because of a coronavirus outbreak, a makeshift side of county players and fringe internationals overwhelmed Pakistan 3-0. With isolation over, only four of the B side were retained and none managed to contribute much.

Livingstone, from the main squad, shone with his century in a losing effort.

Pakistan rebounded from the ODI humiliation, and after being asked to bat first, Babar and Rizwan received good support from Sohaib Maqsood (19 from seven balls), Fakhar Zaman (26 from eight), and Mohamad Hafeez (24 from 10) as they easily eclipsed their previous highest T20 International score of 205 in 2018 and last April.

England's chase was undermined early when opener Dawid Malan and Moeen Ali were out for one run apiece.

Livingstone's 42-ball century, the fastest by an Englishman in T20s, arrived with his ninth six — more than the rest of the team combined — but he was out next ball to a boundary catch by Shaheen Shah Afridi at 183-7 in the 17th over, and so went England.

Livingstone's catch was one of five on the boundary, two of them taken by player-of-the-match Shaheen, who also contributed 3-30, including a caught and bowled.

Shadab Khan also starred in the field with 3-52, a catch, and a direct-throw run out of Tom Curran.

## Domestic Boxing Action To Begin This Month With Youth & Junior Nationals

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The national youth and junior boxing championships will mark the resumption of domestic tournaments after more than a year, the BFI announced on Saturday.

The fourth edition of youth men and women national championships will be held from July 18-23, while the third edition of junior boys national championships and the fourth edition of junior girls event are scheduled from July 26 to 31.

The tournaments, which will also serve as selection events for the upcoming ASBC Youth and Junior Boxing Championships, will be held at Delhi Public School (DPS) in Sonapat.

"It has been a very tough time for our players with the absence of domestic tournaments for more than a year now due to the pandemic. However, the situation has



improved and this gave us the confidence to resume the sport," Boxing Federation of India (BFI) President Ajay Singh said.

The participation from 34 states/UT units, including Ladakh, and Services Sports Control Board is expected for the Nationals Championships. The youth event is expected to witness the presence of more than 300 men and 200-plus women boxers.

The last edition of youth boxing nationals were held in June 2019 with Services Sports Control Board and Haryana emerging as the overall champions in men's and women's categories respectively.

## First Resident Of Olympic Village Tests Positive For COVID

Agencies

**TOKYO:** The first resident of the Olympic Village has tested positive for COVID-19, Tokyo Olympic organizers said on Saturday. Officials said it was not an athlete with the Games opening in just under a week on July 23.

Tokyo officials including Seiko Hashimoto, the president of the organizing committee, confirmed the case and said the positive test was Friday. Organizers say for confidentiality purposes they can only offer a vague description and few details.

"In the current situation, that positive cases arise is something we must assume is possible," said Toshiro Muto, the CEO of the Tokyo organizing committee.

The person is identified simply as a games-concerned personnel. The person is also listed as a non-resident of Japan. Tokyo officials said the person was placed in a 14-day quarantine.

The Olympic Village on Tokyo Bay will house about 11,000 ath-



letes during the Olympics and thousands of other staff. IOC President Thomas Bach said this week there was zero risk of athletes in the village passing on the virus to Japanese or other resident of the village.

Organizers say since July 1 and as of Saturday, 45 people under their jurisdiction have tested positive. Only one involves a person in the village and most are identified as contractors for Tokyo 2020 and games-concerned personnel." The list includes one athlete who tested positive on July 14 and three members of

the media. Of the 45, only 12 are listed as non-resident of Japan.

Organizers say that athletes and staff who have been away from Tokyo at training camps are excluded from this list and their accounting. Tokyo officials said they could not give an estimate of the number of people in the village as of Saturday.

New COVID-19 cases on Saturday were reported at 1,410. They were 950 one week ago, and it marks the 28th straight day that cases were higher than a week previous. It was the highest single

day since 1,485 on Jan. 21. IOC President Thomas Bach, as he has done all week in Tokyo, again asked the Japanese to support the Olympics. Opinion polls, depending how the question is asked, show 50-80% want the Olympics postponed again or canceled.

"We are very well aware of the skepticism, obviously that a number of people have here in Japan, Bach said Saturday in his first large briefing of the Olympics at the main press center in Tokyo. "My appeal to the Japanese people is to welcome these athletes."

Bach was asked the question about the absence of support at least twice, both times by Japanese reporters. "Even in Japan there was never 100% support for the Olympic Games or any other event. This is part of democracy, he said. You will always have different opinions and, that such a discussion is becoming more heated and more emotional in the situation of a pandemic, is something we have to understand. Many people feel under stress."

## Germany Cuts Short Olympic Warmup Match With Allegations Of Racism

Agencies

**WAKAYAMA:** Germany's Olympic football team walked off the field during a preparation match for the Tokyo Games on Saturday in response to alleged racist abuse from an opposing Honduras player toward German defender Jordan Torunarigha. The game was stopped with five minutes remaining and with the score 1-1, the German soccer federation said.

"The German team left the field together after our player Jordan Torunarigha was racially insulted," the federation said on Twitter.

Torunarigha's club, Hertha Berlin, responded by saying "that's the only correct decision!"

The friendly game in Wakayama, Japan was Germany's last preparation match before it plays Brazil in Yokohama on Thursday. Coach Stefan Kuntz' team also plays Saudi Arabia on July 25 and Ivory Coast on July 28 in Group D.

The 23-year-old Torunarigha, who is the son of former player Ojokoro Torunarigha of Nigeria, has faced racist abuse before. He was targeted with monkey chants by some Schalke fans in a German Cup game on Feb. 4, 2020. Schalke was fined 50,000 euros (\$54,600) for its supporters' abuse.



## 'Everyone Knows Who Their Intended Audience Is': Tharoor Hits Out At BJP



### Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** Amid a push for a population control policy by some Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled states, senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Saturday alleged the BJP's motive of raising the issue is political and aimed at targeting a "particular community".

The former Union minister said the population debate is "utterly misplaced" and half a century out-of-date as a large majority of Indian states have achieved replacement levels of fertility.

In an interview with PTI, Tharoor said the bigger challenge for India in the next 20 years will be to prepare for an ageing population, not a growing population.

He alleged the ruling party is raising this issue out of "thinly-concealed motivation" to target a "particular community".

"It is no accident that the three states where the government is talking about reducing population are UP (Uttar Pradesh), Assam and Lakshadweep, where everyone knows who their intended audience is," the Lok Sabha MP from Thiruvananthapuram said.

"The Hindutva elements in our polity have not really studied the demographic issues.

Their motive is purely political and communal," he said when asked about the push for population control in UP and Assam.

Tharoor's remarks come days after Uttar Pradesh's draft population control bill was made public and the Assam government proposed formulation of a policy in this regard.

Both states are ruled by the BJP. The UP draft bill has provisions to debar people who have more than two children from the benefits of government schemes and proposes perks to those who follow the two-child policy.

Also, some BJP MPs are set to introduce private members' bills on population control and uniform civil code in the upcoming Monsoon session of Parliament, according to information from the secretariats of both Houses.

The Monsoon session begins on July 19 and would conclude on August 13.

Asked about the upcoming Parliament session and the key issues the Congress and the Opposition would

raise, Tharoor said the government has been "so colossally inept" that there are multiple issues "we need to raise in the public interest".

"The ineptitude of the government in its disastrous mismanagement of COVID, especially the blunder-laden vaccine policy; the continued failure to resolve the farmers' agitation; the cratering economy, with GDP growth at its lowest in three decades," he said listing the issues the Opposition needs to focus in Parliament.

He also referred to the "price rise caused by extortionate fuel taxes; the worst unemployment ever recorded", the French investigation into corruption in the Rafale deal" the situation on the Sino-Indian border and the crisis in Afghanistan.

"And who knows what else may arise by Monday morning, given the government's many unsavoury sins of omission and commission?" Tharoor said.

On disruptions rather than debate becoming the norm in Parliament, the 65-year-old Congress leader said it was well known that he has been opposed to disruptions in principle and prefers to debate the issues.

"But if you look at those disruptions in recent years that have been called by the Opposition, they have always been caused by the ruling party's refusal to discuss a specific issue of burning national importance, which leaves the Opposition no choice but to draw attention to the issues the government wishes to avoid through disruption," he said.

If debates were allowed, disruptions would be unnecessary, he asserted. Tharoor urged the government to have the courage to debate any issue the Opposition wishes to raise.

"That's what Parliament is for. The government prefers to treat it as a notice-board where they can just announce their laws and policies," he said.

"If the ruling party treats Parliament with respect, which means agreeing to discuss the issues the Opposition raises and not just using their brute majority to push through the government's agenda, I am sure the Opposition will reciprocate in kind," he argued.

Asked whether the Afghanistan situation would also be a key issue to be raised in Parliament, Tharoor said, "Yes, that's why I mentioned it along with China as the two external affairs issues that require discussion."

## Behind Passionate Photojournalist, A Calm And Quiet Son: Father Remembers Danish Siddiqui



### Agenceis

**New Delhi:** "He was an extremely emotional person," said Mohammad Akhtar Siddiqui in a voice full of grief and pride as he remembered his "brilliant and dashing" photojournalist son, Danish Siddiqui.

Danish Siddiqui, in his early 40s, was killed during clashes in Spin Boldak district in Afghanistan's Kandahar on Friday, Tolo News quoted sources as saying. It said fierce fighting has been going on in Kandahar, especially in Spin Boldak, for the last few days.

The Indian journalist was covering the situation in Kandahar.

"He was a very calm and quiet, a very loving son. He loved children a lot. A very emotional person," the retired Jamia professor said a day after the grim news of Danish Siddiqui's death, something no fa-

ther would want to hear in his life, reached Delhi.

Talking about his work that required him to be in life-threatening situations, Akhtar Siddiqui said the family got used to his work life over the years.

"We used to tell him in the beginning what was the need for such a job, but we almost got used to it. He'd tell us they have security, they travel with full protection. We only told him to maintain all precautions," he told PTI.

In the last one year, Danish Siddiqui extensively covered the Covid-19 pandemic across the country.

"He was a brilliant and dashing chap. He had a lot of commitment towards his work, passion to face challenges. Even during the pandemic, Delhi riots, he reported the facts despite the challenges," he said. "Passionate and energetic" as a

child, Akhtar Siddiqui remembered, Danish would finish with perfection whatever he set his mind to.

"He was extraordinarily courageous," the father said before his voice trailed off.

Danish Siddiqui's work as a photojournalist with Reuters news agency since 2011 involved reporting on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the Rohingya refugee crisis, the protest in Hong Kong and earthquakes in Nepal. Based in Mumbai, he had received the Pulitzer Prize as part of the photography staff of the news agency.

He graduated with a degree in Economics from Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi. He had a degree in Mass Communication from the AJK MCRC in Jamia in 2007.

Starting his career as a television news correspondent, he switched to photojournalism and joined Reuters as an intern in 2010. — PTI

## Racist Campaign Against Danish Siddiqui Disturbing, His Death A Loss, Says Editors Guild

### Agenceis

**New Delhi:** The Editors Guild of India Saturday condoled the death of Danish Siddiqui, the Pulitzer winning photojournalist who was killed while covering the clashes between Afghan forces and the Taliban on 16 July.

Calling his death an "irreplaceable loss to journalism", the guild said his work was a "living testament to the axiom of photojournalism, 'if your pictures aren't good enough, you aren't close enough'".

Noting that his death is "stern reminder" of the risks journalists take to report from the frontlines of conflict, the guild said it deeply disturbed by the vicious racist campaign being run against Siddiqui on social media.

"His death is an occasion to remember him and all the journalists who have died in conflict reporting," the guild pointed out.

The statement was signed by guild president, Seema Mustafa, general secretary Sanjay Kapoor, and treasurer Anant Nath.

Editors Guild of India condoles the death of Pulitzer Prize winning photojournalist, Danish Siddiqui, on July 16, in Afghanistan, while he was covering a clash between Afghan security forces and the Taliban near a border crossing with



Pakistan. Siddiqui's death is an irreplaceable loss to journalism.

Over the past decade, he had covered some of most heart wrenching stories of conflict and humanitarian crisis from South Asia and the surrounding regions—the Rohingya refugee crisis, the Nepal earthquake, war in Iraq, Easter blasts in Sri Lanka, protests in Hong Kong, the riots in North East Delhi in 2020, and most recently, the coverage of the devastating human tragedy caused by the pandemic. He was part of the Reuters team that won the Pulitzer prize in 2018 for documenting the Rohingya crisis.

For the past week, Siddiqui had been embedded as a journalist with the Afghan special forces in

the southern province of Kandahar and he had been reporting on the on-going conflict between Afghan forces and the Taliban.

His work was therefore a living testament to the axiom of photojournalism, "if your pictures aren't good enough, you aren't close enough".

Danish Siddiqui's death is a stern reminder of the great risks journalists take to report from the frontlines of conflict.

At the same time, the Guild is deeply disturbed by the vicious and highly regrettable racist campaign being run against him by some sections of social media. His death is an occasion to remember him and all the journalists who have died in conflict reporting.

## DU Admissions 2021: Delhi University To Start Registration Process For UG Programmes On Aug 2



### Agenceis

The Delhi University will start the registration process of the 65,000 seats for undergraduate courses at its colleges on August 2 and is likely to announce the first cut-off list between September 7 and 10, acting vice chancellor P C Joshi announced on Saturday.

The registration process for 20,000 postgraduate (PG) seats and for the Delhi University Entrance Test (DUET) courses will begin on July 26, he said.

The last date for registration of PG programmes is August 21 and for UG programmes is August 31.

"To make the admission process hassle-free, a dedicated portal for admissions will be launched soon. This will facilitate students to fill the forms, pay fee and check all details without any problem from the comfort of their home," the VC said.

University officials present at the press conference said admission for the sports quota will be done on the basis of certificates like last year.

"We have had an intensive meeting of our education committee and have now come up with the dates for admission for this academic session," the VC said.

The admission process will be completely online like last year, he added. Joshi said the registration process for MPhil and PhD will also begin on July 26 and the last date will be August 21.

The admission to undergraduate courses will be merit-based, like previous year. There will be no change in the eligibility criteria for the candidates," he said.

Like last year, the admission process will be completely online this year too and efforts will be

made to make it smooth, he said.

The varsity has also decided that there will be no change in the registration fees for merit-based and entrance-based admissions.

The varsity said the first cut off will be released in the first week of September and academic session will begin latest by the second week of October.

"We are hoping to release first cut-off list between September 7 and 10. Admission process is likely to be completed in September. We are anticipating the start of the new academic session from October 1 but if the process takes more time, then we are planning to start it latest by October 18 this year," Rajiv Gupta, chairperson Admissions, who was also present in the press conference, said.

Last year Delhi University's academic session started on October 18.

University's cut-off had been soaring for past few years for UG courses. Last year cut-offs has gone as high as 100 per cent for some colleges.

Last year Lady Sri Ram College for Commerce had released its cut off-list at 100 per cent for some honours UG courses.

The board exams were cancelled this year due to Covid and the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) had said it will be adopting 30:30:40 formula for evaluation of marks for class 12 students based on results of class 10, 11 and 12 respectively.

"We have faith in the marking system of the CBSE and we will honour it. We are constantly in touch with our colleges regarding modalities of cut-offs. A calendar regarding release of cut-off dates will also be issued soon," Gupta said

## RDX Threat Onboard Dubai-Mumbai Flight Turns Out To Be Hoax



### Press Trust of India

Mumbai: A call about the presence of RDX onboard the Dubai-Mumbai flight was received on Saturday afternoon, following which security was beefed at the international airport in the city. It was later turned out to be a hoax, a Mumbai Police official said.

The call that RDX was placed onboard the flight was received by officials at the ATC tower around 3.40 pm, the official said. He said Mumbai Police was

immediately informed and security at the airport was beefed up.

The flight was checked thoroughly after landing by the police and security agencies, but nothing suspicious was found onboard, he said.

After investigation, it was found to be a hoax call, he said.

Security at the airport remains tightened as one more flight is scheduled to land in Mumbai from Dubai this evening, the official said. — PTI

## UGC Asks Universities To Complete Admissions To 1st-Year Courses By Sept 30, Start Session By October 1



### Agenceis

**U**niversity Grants Commission (UGC) on Friday directed colleges that the admissions to first-year courses for the session 2021-22 should be completed no later than September 30 and the academic session must commence on October 1, 2021.

UGC has issued guidelines on examinations and academic calendars in view of COVID-19 to all universities and colleges. Rajnish Jain, Secretary, UGC sent a letter to Vice-Chancellors of universities and principals of colleges and informed them about fresh guidelines on examination and academic calendar in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It said, "Admissions to the first-year courses/programmes for the session 2021-2022, shall be completed by no later than September 30, 2021. The last date for admissions to fill up the remaining vacant seats shall be October 31,

2021. The relevant documents of the qualifying examination can be accepted up to December 31, 2021." "The academic session 2021-2022 shall commence latest by October 1, 2021, for first semester/year students," UGC added.

As per guidelines of UGC guideline on examination, the current academic session 2020-21 the Terminal Semester/ Final Year Examinations (2020-2021) be compulsorily conducted in offline (pen & paper)/ online/ blended (online-offline) mode by no later than August 31, 2021, following the prescribed protocols/guidelines related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The results of all the school boards for Class XII are expected to be declared by July 31, 2021.

However, if there is a delay in the declaration of results, higher education institutions may plan and start the academic session by October 18, 2021. "The teaching-learning process may continue in online/offline/ blended mode," UGC added.

## "Not In Vedas": Uttarakhand Says No To Live Streaming Char Dham Yatra

### Agenceis

**DEHRADUN:** Uttarakhand will not conduct live streaming of Char Dham Yatra as there is no mention of the practice in the Vedas, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said on Saturday.

"After taking into account all suggestions, we have decided not to hold live streaming of Chardham Yatra as it is not written in the Vedas. We are also going to file an affidavit in the High Court in this regard," the chief minister told mediapersons.

Uttarakhand High Court had put a stay on the state government decision to allow the Char Dham Yatra from July 1 from Chamoli, Rudrapur and Uttarakashi districts. Following this, the state government challenged the High Court's decision in the Supreme Court and filed a plea in the top Court on Tuesday.

The Char Dham Yatra, which includes a visit to the Kedarnath Temple, attracts lakhs of tourists and devotees every year from across the country and abroad. But in view of COVID-19, the Uttarakhand government has only allowed Chardham Yatra for residents



of the three districts including Chamoli, Rudrapur and Uttarakashi this year.

Earlier, the Uttarakhand government had to issue a new guideline by amending the Standard Operating Procedure.

Meanwhile, the Uttarakhand government on Saturday allowed States to take 'Ganga Jal' from Haridwar in water tankers, days after the state government on Tuesday cancelled the Kanwar Yatra in light of COVID-19.

Additional Chief Secretary Anand Vardhan said that if there is a demand for carrying 'Ganga

Jal from the states, then the state government will provide full cooperation.

"Permission will be given to carry 'Ganga Jal' from Haridwar through water tankers," he added.

Haridwar Police has said that Kanwariyas will not be allowed to enter Haridwar and the border will also be sealed.

The Kanwar Yatra, in which Shiva devotees from northern states travel on foot or by other means to collect water from Ganga in Haridwar to offer it at Shiva temples in their areas, is set to begin from July 25.

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