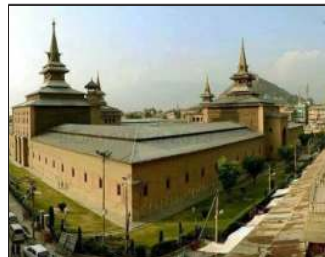


# KASHMIR OBSERVER

Wednesday 21 July | 10 Zil Hajj | 1442 Hijri | Vol:24 | Issue: 170 | Pages:12 | Price: ₹3

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P3 CITY

## NO EID-UL-ADHA PRAYERS FOR THIRD YEAR AT JAMIA MASJID SRINAGAR

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohamad Aijaz Asad Monday urged the general public of Srinagar district to ensure strict adherence to Covid-19

P6

## SECULAR-LIBERAL BAKRA

Of late, a new fad has caught the imagination of those around the world, Muslim and non-Muslim alike, who are trying to re-interpret the animal sacrifice that marks the festival of Eid-ul-Zuha as an expression of charity that is more



P5 STATE

## FLASH FLOOD PREPAREDNESS TRAINING HELD AT KOKERNAG

A special training course on enhancing preparedness for flash floods was organised by SDRF in collaboration with the Subdivisional Administration Kokernag at Kokernag,



## Quote!

Set your goals high, and don't stop till you get there.  
—Bo Jackson

## NEWS DIGEST

### Train Services Suspended For 2 Days

**SRINAGAR:** The railway authorities on Tuesday decided to suspend train services in the Kashmir Valley for next two days, in view of the ongoing COVID-19 situation. An official said that the train services between Banihal-Baramulla section and vice-versa will remain suspended with effect from July 21 to 22. He said that the train services have been suspended. **More On P10**

### Wall Collapse Kills Employee

**JAMMU:** An employee of the Municipal Council in Rajouri died after the boundary wall of Army's signal regiment fell due to continuous rains at old bus stand in Rajouri district on Tuesday. Dhani Ram son of Lachuu Ram of Peer Kanju died on spot after he came under the falling wall while he was at work outside it, a local news agency CNS reported. They added that Dhani Ram's body was later retrieved. **More On P10**

### Govt Orders Transfer Of 2 JKAS Officers

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday transferred two JKAS officers in the interest of administration with immediate effect. According to an order issued here, Chander Parkash, JKAS, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Vijaypur, holding additional charge of Sub-Registrar, Vijaypur, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Director (Audio-Visual). **More On P10**

### 30-Kg IED Recovered In Srinagar: Army

**SRINAGAR:** Army on Tuesday claimed to have averted a major militant attack by recovering a 30-Kg Improvised Explosive Device (IED) at Tangpura Bandh in the outskirts of this capital city. In a statement issued here, the Army said that a major militant attack was averted when the IED was detected by 'Explosive Detection Dog' at Tangpura Bandh on the outskirts of Srinagar in Central. **More On P10**

### J&K BJP Sacks 3 Party Officials

**JAMMU:** The BJP in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday removed three office-bearers for "anti-party activity" in Kathua district. The disciplinary committee led by the party's chief spokesperson in J&K Sunil Sethi probed a complaint against the three leaders. The committee submitted a report to J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina who ordered the three persons to be removed from their. **More On P10**

# Pegasus Snooping Issue Rocks Parliament



Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Pegasus snooping controversy rocked the Lok Sabha proceedings on Tuesday, leading to continued disruptions and repeated adjournments of the House.

Soon after the House assembled at 3 pm, the opposition

members again started raising slogans on the Pegasus snooping issue, forcing the chair to adjourn the House for the day.

The Lok Sabha will now meet on Thursday after the Eid holiday.

This was the second day of the Monsoon Session that the House could not transact any legislative business. **More On P10**

## Oppn Demands Probe, Amit Shah's Ouster

The issue of "snooping" using Pegasus spyware snowballed into a massive political row in Parliament and outside as various parties demanded a thorough investigation and sacking of Home Minister Amit Shah, while the government maintained it had nothing to do with it. **More On P10**

## Extremely Alarming: UN Rights Chief

The apparent use of the Pegasus software to spy on journalists, human rights defenders, politicians and others in a variety of countries is "extremely alarming" and the States concerned should take steps to protect against such "invasions" of privacy, the UN high commissioner for human rights said on Monday. Politicians, rights activists and journalists **More On P10**

## Ex-JNU Students, Many Activists On Pegasus List

The phone numbers of former JNU students Umar Khalid, Anirban Bhattacharya, Banijyotsana Lahiri and several prominent Indian activists are among those listed as the potential targets of Israeli spyware Pegasus. **More On P10**

**PLEASE GO BACK TO YOUR SEATS.** I will facilitate a debate on every issue. (But) sloganeering is not right. The government is ready to debate on whatever issues you want to debate on." Speaker OM Birla

## VDC Members Being Trained In Drone Sighting, Weapon Handling Agencies

**JAMMU:** In the wake of drone attack on the Jammu's Air Force Station (AFS), the army is busy holding special training sessions with Village Defence Committee (VDC) members in Rajouri and Poonch districts to train them about drone spotting and handling of sophisticated weaponry.

The VDC members are being imparted training about drone spotting, drone flying sequence and foiling possible drone attacks.

Defence sources said that the training was organized for VDS members from twin border districts Rajouri and Poonch, where graph of militancy was on decline but recent trend of frequent movement of drones have shown a sudden spurt.

Sources further said that the army regularly meets VDC members in most remote areas of Jammu province, where **More On P10**

## Eid-ul-Azha Being Celebrated Today

No Congregational Prayers Being Allowed Due To Covid-19; Feverish Pitch Missing In Markets



Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Eid-ul-Azha will be observed with religious fervour across Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday. Muslims throughout the world offer animal sacrifices on Eid-ul-Azha, also called Bakr Eid, to commemorate the sacrifice offered by

prophet Abraham.

This year there would be no congregational Eid prayers in revered shrine of Hazratbal, historic Jamia Masjid here besides other major shrines as government has decided the situation was not good enough to allow the gathering amid covid-19. **More On P10**

## Ease In Curbs Help Traders Make Up For Losses

Easing of the COVID-19 restrictions ahead of Eid-ul-Azha in Kashmir has helped the business fraternity make up for some of the losses they have suffered since August 2019 due to back-to-back curfew and **More On P10**

## China Building New Air Base Near Ladakh: Report



### Observer Monitoring Desk

**SRINAGAR:** As the ongoing military standoff between India and China seems to be nowhere in sight, the neighbouring nuclear country is developing an airbase for fighter aircraft operations close to the Eastern Ladakh area in Shakche town in the Xinjiang province, news agency ANI reported.

Quoting government sources, the report says that the base is being built

between the existing airbases of Kashgar and Hegan which have been carrying out fighter operations along the Indian borders for a long time. This new base for fighter operations, sources said, will fill the gap for the Chinese Air Force in this region, the report said.

They also said Shakche town already has an airbase and it was being upgraded for fighter aircraft operations.

According to the report said the gap **More On P10**

## Militants Attack Police Vehicle In Srinagar

Izhar Nazir Ali

**SRINAGAR:** Unidentified militants on Tuesday opened fire upon a police vehicle in Saida Kadal area of the city; however no one was injured in the surprise attack.

Around 5:50 pm Tuesday, unknown militants opened fire upon a police vehicle near the Jammu and Kashmir Bank, Saida Kadal branch along the University of Kashmir

road, witnesses told Kashmir Observer. They said the sudden burst of gunfire prompted the traders to down their shutters and run towards the safer places. Many passerby, they said, were also seen running helter skelter after the gunshots resounded in the area.

"I was returning home when the gunfire rattled in Saida Kadal Chowk. I got into a house and remained took shelter there for nearly 15 minutes," **More On P10**

## Militants Injure Cop's Wife, Daughter In Anantnag

Suspected militants on Tuesday shot at and injured the wife and daughter of a police constable in Verinag area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district. According to reports, suspected militants barged into the house of policeman Sajad Ahmad Malik **More On P10**

## Govt Forms STF To Rid JK Of Single Use Plastic

Observer Monitoring Desk

**SRINAGAR:** Government on Tuesday constituted a Special Task Force headed by the Chief Secretary for elimination of Single Use Plastic and addressing

the issue of plastic pollution in Jammu and Kashmir.

The 8-member Task Force has been asked to prepare a comprehensive Action Plan for implementation of provisions of **More On P10**

## Transformation Of J&K Must Be Visible On The Ground: LG



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government is working with a mission to transform the urban living through technological innovations and streamlining fundamental infrastructure changes required for the future, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said Tuesday.

Chairing a review meeting of Housing and Urban

Development Department (HUDD) here at Civil Secretariat, the LG said that the transformation of J&K must be visible on the ground and not just confined to official plan's file.

"The government machinery must adopt a pragmatic approach to deliver necessary projects without any further delay and fulfill the vision of making Jammu & Srinagar

Smart Cities," Sinha said, as per an official spokesperson.

While reviewing the flagship schemes & key initiatives in urban sector, the LG, he said, directed for initiating transformative projects in both Jammu and Srinagar. The LG, he said, underlined the importance of incorporating drainage and sewerage systems during the planning process of developing urban areas **More On P10**

## Greets People On Eid-ul-Azha

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Tuesday greeted the people of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Azha. In his message of felicitation, the LG observed that the festival is celebration of the spirit of inclusiveness and endorses the sense of generosity amongst all the sections of the society.

"On this auspicious occasion, I convey my best wishes to the people and hope that the spirit of benevolence and selfless service symbolized by the Eid-ul-Azha will foster peace and harmony," Sinha said, as per an official spokesperson.

"May this occasion deepen the bond of communal harmony and amity among all sects, and bring progress & prosperity in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir **More On P10**

## India's Covid Death Toll Could Be In Millions

US Study Reveals India's Covid Toll May Be Close To 50 Lakh; Worst Human Tragedy Since Partition

Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** India's excess deaths during the pandemic could be a staggering 10 times the official COVID-19 toll, likely making it modern India's worst human tragedy, according to the most comprehensive research yet on the ravages of the virus in the South Asian country.

Most experts believe India's official toll of more than 414,000 dead is a vast undercount, but the government has dismissed those concerns as exaggerated and misleading.

The report released Tuesday estimated excess deaths — the gap between those

recorded and those that would have been expected — to be 3 million to 4.7 million between January 2020 and June 2021. It said an accurate figure may "prove elusive" but the true death toll "is likely to be an order of magnitude greater than the official count."

The report was published by Arvind Subramanian, the Indian government's former chief economic adviser, and two other researchers at the Center for Global Development, a non-profit think tank based in Washington, and Harvard University.

It said the count could **More On P10**

## J&K Reports Lowest Covid Cases In 4 Months

Observer Monitoring Desk

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir reported sudden rise in covid-19 deaths with six persons succumbing to the virus in the last 24 hours even as 88 new infections, lowest in over four months, were reported during the time, officials said.

They said five deaths were reported from Jammu Division and one from Kashmir Valley, taking the fatality count in J&K to 4371. Regarding the fresh cases, they said, 35 were reported from Jammu Division and 53 from Kashmir Valley, taking the case tally to 320112.

Providing the district-wide details, the officials said that Srinagar reported 16 cases, Baramulla 10, Budgam 5, Pulwama 0, Kupwara 6, Anantnag 7, Bandipora 5, Ganderbal 4, **More On P10**





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**2**

**Wednesday| 21-07-2021**

# Younger Athletes At Greater Risk Of Atrial Fibrillation Than Older Athletes: Study

## Agencies

A new study suggested that younger athletes are at a higher risk of atrial fibrillation than older athletes. The study also found that athletes appear to be almost two and half times more likely than non-athletes to experience irregular heart rhythms (atrial fibrillation). The findings of the study were published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine.

In addition, those athletes involved in mixed sports such as football, rugby or netball appear to have the highest risk when compared with athletes taking part in endurance sports such as Nordic skiing, orienteering or rowing. Previous studies have shown that physical activity can improve cardiovascular health and is associated with reduced illness and deaths, but they have suggested there is a threshold beyond which exposure to increasing levels of exercise is linked to heart issues including atrial fibrillation - a condition that can raise the risk of stroke, heart failure and other heart-related problems.

UK researchers led by Canterbury Christ Church University in Canterbury set out to review existing studies on the subject and explore what impact the type of sport in which athletes took part had on their risk of atrial fibrillation to reach a more conclusive picture of overall prevalence among athletes. They reviewed and analysed 13 suitable studies that were published between 1990 and December 2020 which

had looked at athletes who took part in sports including cycling, running, swimming, Nordic skiing, orienteering, rowing, football, rugby, and netball.

The 13 studies included data on 70,478 participants, collectively, which included 63,662 controls and 6,816 athletes.

The authors found that the risk of atrial fibrillation was 2.46 times higher among athletes than non-athletes.



When the authors split the studies into those that involved participants with and without cardiovascular disease risk factors (such as type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure), they found there was no significant difference in the relative risk of atrial fibrillation in athletes and non-athletes with these risk factors.

However, in athletes and non-athletes without cardiovascular disease

risk factors, athletes had a significantly higher relative risk (3.7 times higher) of atrial fibrillation than non-athletes.

In addition, younger athletes (aged under 55) had a much higher risk (3.6 times) of atrial fibrillation than older athletes (aged 55 and older) who were 76 per cent more likely to have the condition than non-athletes.

Analysis also showed that athletes taking part in mixed sports rather than endurance sports had a higher risk of atrial fibrillation.

Their study had some limitations such as the fact that it analysed research with different approaches such as case control and cohort design, and there was limited data on female athletes, making it difficult to look at the relative risk of atrial fibrillation by gender. Nevertheless, the researchers said, "Athletes have a significantly greater likelihood of developing atrial fibrillation compared with non-athlete controls."

"Younger aged athletes have a greater relative risk of atrial fibrillation compared with older athletes; however, exercise dose parameters, including training and competition history, as well as potential gender differences for the risk of atrial fibrillation requires future research," the researchers concluded.




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 ضلع کمشنر شوپیاں

میں تمام اہل اسلام بالخصوص باشندگان  
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 مبارک کہتا ہوں، امید ہے کہ باشندگان  
 شوپیاں تہوار کے دوران حکومت کی طرف  
 سے جاری کردہ رہنما خطوط پرتن و من سے عمل کریں

## Office Of The Dy General Manager, Mech Unit JKPCC Ltd Srinagar

Brick & Tile Factory Premises, Opposite SRTC Yard,  
Pampore, Kashmir-192121

Fax No:, | Email:-dgmmechSrinagar@jkpcc.com  
No: Mech/K/ DATED: / /

Gist of e-NIT No: JKPCC/MU/K/ 33 of 2021-22 Dated: - 19-07-2021  
Issued under endorsement No: - Mech/K/1357-61 Dated:19-07-2021

For and on behalf of the Managing Director of J&KPCC, e-tenders pledged valid for 180 days, are invited from the Registered/ reputed / experienced firms / contractors having expertise as detailed in the tender document for the following works: -

| Name of Work                                                                              | Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs) | Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees) | Time of completion (in months) | Technical Sanction No. | Position of AAA/funds |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1                                                                                         | 2                       | 3                          | 4                              | 5                      | 6                     |
| Providing and Fixing of Fire Extinguishers at Community Health Centre Pakherpora Budgam.. | 1.39                    | 2500/-                     | 30 days                        | Under Process          | Available             |

1. Downloading of Bids: - The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from 20-07-2021 (1800hrs) downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from 20-07-2021 (1800 hrs).
2. Uploading: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 20-07-2021 (18.00 hrs) to 02-08-2021 (1200 Noon ) in two (02) covers.
3. Opening of Bids: - The bids received up to due date and time shall be opened on 02-08-2021 at 1500 hrs or any other date convenient to the department in the office Deputy General Manager JKPCC Ltd Mechanical Unit Srinagar.

Dy General Manager,  
Mech Unit JKPCC Ltd  
Srinagar

DIPK-NB-1928/21

Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir

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

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Fresh NIT No- 58 of RnB-Sopore of 2021-2022 e-tendering DATED- 19.07.2021.

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

| S. No. | Name of Work                                                                                     | Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs) | Cost of T/DOC (In Rs) | Time In days | T&D of Opening of Bid | Class of Contractor | M. H of Account | Position of AAA |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1      | 2                                                                                                | 3                       | 4                     | 5            | 6                     | 7                   | 8               | 9               |
| 01     | Restoration of Balhama Naribal road by way of providing grate protection bunds at required spots | 6.90 lacs               | 300/-                 | 15 days      | 27.07.2021            | DEE/ CEE            | 3054 M&R        |                 |

Position of Funds: Available

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

|     |                                            |                                                                                       |
|-----|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01. | Date of issue of Tender Notice             | 19.07.2021                                                                            |
| 02. | Period of downloading of bidding documents | From 19.07.2021 (10.00 A.M) to 27.07.2021 (4.00P.M)                                   |
| 03. | Bid submission start date                  | 19.07.2021 from (04.00P.M)                                                            |
| 04. | Bid submission end date                    | 27.07.2021 upto (4.00 P.M)                                                            |
| 05. | Date & time of opening Bids (on line)      | 28.07.2021 at (04.10 P.M) in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore |

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

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

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

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

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

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, PULWAMA

email : [xenphepulwama@gmail.com](mailto:xenphepulwama@gmail.com)  
Notice Inviting e-Tender

E-NIT S. No.28/PHEP/Fresh of 2021-22

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of J&K e-tenders (Two cover System) on Turn-key Basis including free trial run of three months after completion of all the components of scheme in all aspects and there after maintenance for a period of one year which includes 6 months DLP are invited from Reputed and resourceful contractors/ Firms/Companies/Joint Venture of repute in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments for the following works, which should be uploaded on the Procurement web portal: <http://jktenders.gov.in> for the subjected work(s) referred below to be received by the Superintending Engineer, Hydraulic Circle Pulwama/Shopian HQ: Shopian and as per the details mentioned in this e-tender notification and to whom all the terms and conditions of detailed e-NIT /Tender Documents/ PWD Form No-25 double are accepted. The detailed tender document and Specifications etc. can be downloaded on the e-procurement portal <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

I. All Bidders have to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department ( Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Appendix XII)

II. The 1<sup>st</sup> lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 05 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.

| S. No | Name of Work                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Estimated Cost (in lacs) | Cost of TD (in ) | Time of completion (in months) | Class of Contract | Accord of Administrative Approval |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1     | Design, construction, testing and successfully commissioning of RCC Over Head Tank 0.35 lac gallons capacity , pump house cum operator quarter ,Chowkidar quarter ,sluice chamber , chain link fencing around structures , approach path , improvements to existing pipe network and providing laying of G.I/D.I pipes, including conducting complete necessary survey, soil tests as required at selected site, as per the Parameters/ specifications, installation of 86 FHTCs, including Electrical /Mechanical works, Construction of Gravel Packed/ODEX Type Production Tube Well, for WSS N.C Rajpora (JIM) including free trial run of three months after completion of all the components of scheme in all aspects and there after one year's maintenance period which includes 6 months DLP.                                                                                                                   | 297.11                   | 5500             | 6 months                       | AAY               | Available                         |
| 2     | Design, construction, testing and successfully commissioning of 0.24 MGD RCC Rapid Sand Filtration Plant, Pre Settling Tank, Flash Mixer, Clarifloculator, Sludge Disposal System, 0.60 lac gallons RCC S.R. , Pump house cum operator quarter ,Chain link fencing around structures ,Sluice Chamber, Chowkidar quarter/Chemical Shed, Anchor /Saddle Blocks ,Approach path , Development of premises, providing laying of G.I/D.I pipes, Conducting complete necessary survey and soil tests as required at selected site as per the Parameters/ specifications, Electrical /Mechanical works, installation of 143 FHTCs for WSS Tenghar Payer (JIM) including free trial run of three months after completion of all the components of scheme in all aspects and there after one year's maintenance period which includes 6 months DLP.                                                                               | 431.97                   | 5500             | 6 months                       | AAY               | Available                         |
| 3     | Design, construction, testing and successfully commissioning of 0.14 MGD RCC Rapid Sand Filtration Plant, Pre Settling Tank, Flash Mixer, Clarifloculator, Sludge Disposal System, 0.35 lac gallons RCC OHT , pump house cum operator quarter , 0.20 Lac gallons capacity clear water sump ,chain link fencing around structures ,nallah training works Sluice Chamber Chowkidar quarter/Chemical Shed, Anchor /Saddle Blocks , approach path , development of premises & providing laying of G.I/D.I pipes, including conducting complete necessary survey, soil tests as required at selected site, as per the Parameters/ specifications Electrical /Mechanical works, installation of 154 FHTCs for WSS N.C. Naina (JIM) including free trial run of three months after completion of all the components of scheme in all aspects and there after maintenance for a period of one year which includes 6 months DLP. | 376.31                   | 5500             | 6 months                       | AAY               | Available                         |
| 4     | Design, construction, testing and successfully commissioning of 0.20 lac gallons RCC S.R. , pump house cum operator quarter ,sluice chamber , chain link fencing around structures , Construction of Anchor/Saddle blocks ,Approach Road , development of premises & providing laying of G.I/D.I pipes, including conducting complete necessary survey, soil tests as required at selected site, as per the Parameters/ specifications Electrical /Mechanical works, Construction of Gravel Packed/ODEX Type Production Tube Well, installation of 197 FHTCs for WSS Chikier Renzipora (JIM) including free trial run of three months after completion of all the components of scheme in all aspects and there after maintenance for a period of one year which includes 6 months DLP.                                                                                                                                 | 184.16                   | 2600             | 6 months                       | AAY               | Available                         |
| 5     | Design, construction, testing and successfully commissioning of construction 0.45 lac gallons RCC OHT , pump house cum operator quarter ,sluice chamber , chain link fencing around structures , Chowkidar quarter, development of premises & providing laying of G.I/D.I pipes, including conducting complete necessary survey, soil tests as required at selected site as per the Parameters/ specifications, Electrical /Mechanical works, Construction of Gravel Packed/ ODEX Type Production Tube Well, installation of 426 FHTCs for WSS Tumlahal Zasow (JIM) including free trial run of three months after completion of all the components of scheme in all aspects and there after one year's maintenance period which includes 6 months DLP.                                                                                                                                                                 | 309.85                   | 5500             | 6 months                       | AAY               | Available                         |
| 6     | Design, construction, testing and successfully commissioning of 0.40 lac gallons RCC OHT , pump house cum operator quarter ,sluice chamber , chain link fencing around structures , Chowkidar quarter, approach path , development of premises & providing laying of G.I/D.I pipes, including conducting complete necessary survey, soil tests as required at selected site, as per the Parameters/ specifications, Electrical /Mechanical works, Construction of Gravel Packed/ ODEX Type Production Tube Well, installation of 385 FHTCs for WSS Kharpura Litter (JIM) including free trial run of three months after completion of all the components of scheme in all aspects and there after one year's maintenance period which includes 6 months DLP.                                                                                                                                                            | 276.16                   | 5500             | 6 months                       | AAY               | Available                         |

Position of Funds: Available;  
Major Head of Account: Jal Jeevan Mission (JIM)  
Status of Technical Sanction: Vide No. PHEDB/12260-72 Dtd. 03-10-2020, No. PHEDB/22464-71 Dtd. 19-01-2021 & No. PHEDB/22472 Dated:- 19-01-2021

The Bidding documents consisting of eligibility criteria, specification, drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms & conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the e-procurement Portal "<http://jktenders.gov.in>" as per schedule of dates given below: -

| S. No. | Description                        | Date       | Time      |
|--------|------------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| 1      | Publishing date of NIT             | 19 07 2021 | 1600 Hrs  |
| 2      | Download start date                | 19 07 2021 | 1600 Hrs  |
| 3      | Bid submission start date          | 19 07 2021 | 1600 Hrs  |
| 4      | Bid submission end date            | 09 08 2021 | 1600 Hrs. |
| 5      | Bid opening date (Technical Cover) | 11 08 2021 | 1000 Hrs. |

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of Jammu & Kashmir

No: -PHEP/1860-72  
Dated:- 19-07-2021

DIPK-5046/21

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
(JSD) PHE Div, Pulwama,

DIPK-5035/21

For and on behalf of the,  
Lt. Governor of J&K UT,

Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Sopore



## ‘Remember Sacrifices’: Mirwaiz Greets People On Eid-ul-Adha

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Kashmir’s chief cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq Tuesday extended heartfelt greetings to the Muslim World on Eid-ul-Adha, and said that the Festival of Sacrifice, in essence, carries the life-giving message in which is hidden the true prosperity of humankind.

In the Eid message, Mirwaiz said this auspicious occasion teaches us the lessons of self-sacrifice, faith and belief in Almighty Allah and most importantly submission to his command, the traits of Prophet Ibrahim (AS).

Mirwaiz said, “as in the rest of the world this Eid is being celebrated in J&K too while we are grappling with

the challenge of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Due to which people are facing immense problems; however as Muslims we have pinned our hopes and faith on Allah Almighty that He will see us through.”

Mirwaiz said, “This is also the time to remember the great sacrifices that people of this nation have given and continue to do so, as a consequence of the lingering Kashmir conflict. Leaders of our nation and thousands of Kashmiris, mostly our youth are languishing in jails and detention centres. We remember them in our prayers and in our celebrations. We are hopeful that all the sacrifices rendered will inshallah be rewarded.”

## Anjuman Nusrat-ul-Islam Appeals People To Donate Sacrificial Animal Skins

Srinagar: Anjuman Nusrat-ul-Islam has appealed to the people of Kashmir to voluntarily submit the skin of their sacrificial animals at the two centres set up by it at Mirwaiz Manzil and Islamia School, in Rajouri Kadal area of Srinagar’s Old City.

Anjuman, in a statement, said that the institution, set up in 1899, runs the Islamia Oriental College since the same year where students have been introduced to religious sciences and arts for over a century. In every era, the leading scholars, muftis, preachers and imams in Jammu and Kashmir have graduated from this institution which has a golden history, it said.

“All the needs of the students residing in the college including accommodation and food are the responsibility of the institution. However, due to COVID-19 this year too, the members, volunteers and sympathisers of the Anjuman are unable to go to different areas for collecting the skin of the sacrificial animals.”

“As such, the Anjuman has set up two centres, at Mirwaiz Manzil Rajouri Kadal and Islamia School Rajouri Kadal, to collect the animal skin. Therefore, all the well-wishers are appealed to voluntarily submit their sacrificial animals’ skin at these centres for the sake of Allah (SWT),” the statement said.

## D&FCO Conducts Checking Of Drug Sale Establishments In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Drugs and Food Control Organization (D&FCO) during a special drive conducted at Srinagar and Budgam inspected 50 drug sale establishments and issued show cause notices to 27 Retail/Wholesale establishments of which 07 were closed on spot for various violations.

The action was taken against the erring drug establishments for contravening certain clauses of Drug and Cosmetics Act including maintenance of sale and purchase records, not storing drugs properly, unhygienic conditions of premises and non-issuance of bills/cash memos.

Meanwhile, the inspection was carried out by D&FCO on the directions of

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir to curb the Psychotropic/ Habit forming. And in this regard various teams have been constituted to carry out comprehensive market checking of drug sale establishments of district Srinagar and Budgam.

The teams comprise 3-4 Drug Control Officers and Inspectors from Legal and Meteorological Department.

During the drive thorough inspections were conducted and on spot instructions were issued to the license holder’s for strict adherence to the conditions of the license. The Chemists were asked to maintain sale and purchase records of various drugs properly, to maintain storage conditions of the drugs as per their requirement and issue bills/cash memos regularly.



Sacrificial animals being sold in a makeshift market in Srinagar on Tuesday. KO Photo Abid Bhat

## No Eid-ul-Adha Prayers For Third Year At Jamia Masjid

Observer News Service

Srinagar: No Eid-ul-Adha prayers would be held at historic Jamia Masjid in downtown Srinagar on Wednesday. All congregational prayers in the historic Masjid have remained suspended for the past more than two months to prevent spread of coronavirus.

This decision was taken by Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid (AAJM), headed by Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, who is under house arrest since August 5, 2019.

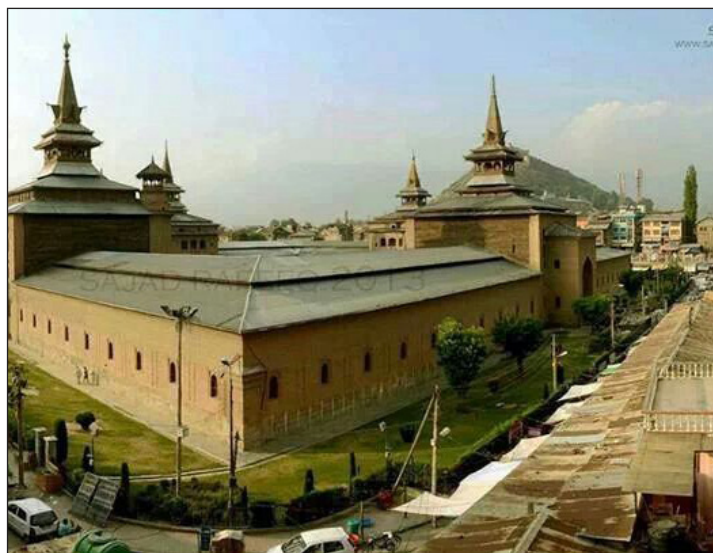
Since all congregational prayers in major worship places are not allowed in view of the COVID, no Eid-ul-Adha prayers would be held in the Jamia Masjid, officials of the management body said.

They said all congregational prayers, including Friday, remained suspended in the Mas-

jid for the past more than two months.

All gates of the historic Masjid remained closed for

devotees, they said, adding that a decision to reopen the grand mosque will be taken only after consulting experts and officials.



## Div Com Seeks Details About Slaughter Houses In Srinagar

Agencies

Srinagar: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir P K Pole on Tuesday held a review meeting with regard to the efforts and steps to be taken for putting in place the facilities for slaughter houses and other facilities for the general public in Srinagar city and other towns of Valley.

A local news gathering agency has learnt that divisional administration in a meeting has asked the Urban Local Bodies (ULB) to provide all requisite details in a weeks’ time for the mutation and transfer of land for the slaughter houses, solid waste management plants and public parks.

“ULB is in possession of land for slaughter houses in various places of Kashmir division but the same has not been mutated and transferred yet, the chair directed mutation and transfer of Government land,

ULB is in possession of land for slaughter houses in various places of Kashmir division but the same has not been mutated and transferred yet, the chair directed mutation and transfer of Government land, shall be completed within one week’s time positively and without any fail

shall be completed within one week’s time positively and without any fail,” the official said.

With regard to the Solid Waste Management Plant, it was mentioned in the meeting that Non-Objection Certificates (NOCs) for some identified sites have not been issued by Pollution Control Board due to some technical reasons and it was directed that some alternate site shall be immediately identified and transferred to indenting department.

“In case the identified land is Kachari land then papers in

this regard shall be submitted within a week positively. Further, in order to cater the rush of sewage/garbage disposal on scientific pattern during the peak tourist season, the Tourism Department shall identify suitable patches of land for the purpose within one week,” it stated.

In the meeting, the DC also apprised that at certain places the identified places for development of public parks, the land belongs to Irrigation and Flood Control Department Kashmir and the NOCs for the same is still pending with Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC).

“All such cases shall be taken up with the Chief Engineer, I&FC, Kashmir who shall explore the possibility of issuing NOCs at an earliest. Further, land parcels already under the possession of Municipal Corporation (MC) shall be mutated,” it stated.

## DHSK Greets People On Eid-ul-Adha

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr Mushtaq Ahmed Rather has greeted people on the eve of Eid-ul-Adha and appealed to the general public to follow all the Covid-19 SOPs.

“My best wishes on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Adha to people in general and health workers in particular who have been fighting the pandemic for one and half years and will continue to do so in future. I pray for everyone’s good health,” he said.

The director said the holy festival teaches us the principles of sacrifice, humility and beneficence. He hoped that the day will bring peace and prosperity to the whole of humanity.

Dr Mushtaq in his message urged people to work for the well-being of society and the country and observe the guidelines related to COVID-19.

“Let us all resolve to deal with this pandemic of Covid-19 by following all the rules and guidelines and work for the well-being of society and the country,” he said.

The director appealed to people to follow all the SOPs during the rituals of the Eid-ul-Adha.

## Death Remembrance



Late Syed Ghulam Jeelani Baihaki

Today on your seventh death anniversary, when you are not physically with us, it reminds us your love, affection, respect, care, shelter, support, trust, sacrifices and many more things showered on us which are beyond our imagination. The feeling of separation cannot be described in words. We always pray to the Almighty to accept our prayers to give your noble soul a beautiful place in heaven. We will always keep you in our prayers. Losing you was something which we could not cope with, but we are of the fervent hope that you will be glowing wherever you are watching our actions & deeds. Always enlighten us and stay close to our hearts, as we feel so that we will march ahead on the path of humanity with humility.

Deeply Remembered by:  
Your Loving Son, Grand Daughter’s,  
All your family members & All Nears & Dears.

## Eid Mubarak



Eid-ul Adha (Eid-i Qurban) Mubarak to all Muslim Ummah especially my nears and dears. May Allah bring you joy, happiness, peace and prosperity on this blessed occasion. Wishing you and your family on this happy occasion #EID. May Allah flood your life with happiness, your heart with love, your soul with spiritual, your mind with wisdom. May Allah accept all your prayers and forgive all your faults. #EID MUBARAK.

Regards:-  
Janisar News Agency Ang  
7780878931

### 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
- BUIBHARA: 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**  
10 Zil Haj  
1442

### PRAYERS

|        |       |
|--------|-------|
| FAJR   | 3: 54 |
| ZUHR   | 12:37 |
| ASR    | 5:34  |
| Magrib | 7:43  |
| ISHA   | 9:19  |

## This Day In History

- 1921 - To prove his contention that air power is superior to sea power, US Colonel William Mitchell demonstrates how bombs from planes can sink a captured German battleship
- 1933 - Haifa Harbor in Palestine opens
- 1947 - Indonesia begins 1st political election
- 1951 - Dalai Lama returns to Tibet
- 1960 - In Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) Sirima Bandaranaike is world's 1st woman PM
- 1961 - Launch of Mercury 4 (Liberty Bell) with Grissom
- 1962 - Battles on Chinese & Indies boundary
- 1965 - Pakistan, Iran & Turkey sign Regional Co-Operation pact
- 1969 - Neil Armstrong becomes the first person to step on the Moon at 2:56:15 AM (GMT)
- 1969 - Russia's Luna 15 impacts moon after 52 lunar orbits
- 1970 - Aswan Dam opens in Egypt, enables human control of the flooding of the Nile
- 1972 - Bloody Friday: within the space of seventy-five minutes, the Provisional Irish Republican Army explode twenty-two bombs in Belfast; six civilians, two British Army soldiers and one UDA volunteer were killed, 130 injured
- 1973 - USSR launches Mars 4 for fly-by (2600 km) of red planet
- 1974 - US House Judiciary approves two Articles of Impeachment against President Richard Nixon
- 1977 - Libyan-Egyptian border fights
- 1978 - US Postal Service & unions agree on a contract averting mail strike
- 1978 World's strongest dog, 80-kg St Bernard, pulls 2909-kg load 27 m
- 1984 - USSR performs underground nuclear Test
- 1986 - Pleasure Island plans unveiled
- 1988 - ESA's Ariane-3 launches 2 communications satellites (1 Indian)
- 1994 - Tony Blair is declared the winner of the leadership election of the British Labour Party, paving the way for him to become Prime Minister in 1997.
- 2002 - Telecom giant WorldCom files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, the then largest such filing in United States history
- 2004 - The United Kingdom government publishes Delivering Security in a Changing World, a paper detailing wide-ranging reform of the country's armed forces.
- 2011 - NASA's Space Shuttle program ends with the landing of Space Shuttle Atlantis on mission STS-135
- 2014 - After 3 weeks, the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) has struck about 2,800 targets in Gaza, while Gaza has fired 1,497 rockets at Israel

*From KO Archives*

## Car-Bomb Attack In High Security Zone

Major among 3 soldiers, Civilian killed; 20 injured

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR - Militants attacked passing army vehicles in the high security Ram Munshi Bagh area with a powerful car bomb this morning, leaving a civilian and three security men, including an army major, dead.

Twenty others, including five women and four security personnel were injured in the blast. The attack took place at around 9: 10 am near the Sher-e-Kashmir cricket stadium close to the Burn Hall School when an explosive-laden Maruti car blew up just as army vehicles were passing by.

The residences of several ministers, politicians and senior bureaucrats are located in the area, and it remains under round-the-clock vigil of the police and the security forces. Eye-witnesses, quoted by the CNS, said they saw the driver of the Maruti car leap out and disappear through a lane after slowing the vehicle down. The Maruti rammed in to an army Gypsy and was hurled several feet into the air by the explosion, they said. The police, quoted by the PTI, said that the explosion occurred in a stationary vehicle.

The Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, which has owned responsibility for the blast claiming to have inflicted heavy casualties on the security forces, has said that it was a suicide attack.

The blast killed Major Kupil Vinayak, two other personnel, identified as Ram Krishen and Subhash Chander, and a civilian, Naseer Ahmad Bhat of Buchwara, Dalgate, who worked as an accountant in the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST).

Those injured in the attack include Kaiser Hussain Mir of Pandrethan, Abdul Rahman Wani of Sonawar, Shugufta of Haft Chinar, Ruby Akhtar, Ghulam Qadir Dhoobi, Muhammad Sultan, Abdul Majeed Ganai, Mushtaq Ahmad Wani and Azad Ahmad Khan of Dooru Anantnag, Muhammad Suban of Zero Bridge, Ghulam Muhammad Bhat, Sakina Akhter of Tangmarg, Convent School employee Roshni Akhtar, constable Tahmina, Dara Singh of Mattan, Muhammad Yousuf Wani of Haft Chinar, and Narendar Hakka of Shiwpora.

Two of the four injured security personnel have been identified as Shankar Rao and driver Ghosh.

The blast, which was heard over a large area, left the area strewn with bleeding bodies and twisted metal of damaged vehicles. The Maruti car used in the blast was blown to bits and only its engine could be recovered by the police. The army Gypsy was wrecked, and three other vehicles were damaged.

Window panes of the nearby LIC office, the Highland Motors showroom, the official residence of the chief justice of the state high court, and several other buildings were smashed by the impact of the explosion.

(Kashmir Observer, 21 July, 2005)



## Iraq Market Bombing Claimed By ISIS Kills Nearly 36 On Eve Of Eid Holiday

**BAGHDAD:** Iraq was in mourning on Tuesday for at least 36 people killed when a bomb ripped through a crowded Baghdad market in what the Islamic State group's jihadists claimed as a suicide attack.

The bloody carnage Monday evening, one of the deadliest attacks in years in the war-scarred country, killed mostly women and children on the eve of Eid al-Adha, the Muslim festival of sacrifice.

It sparked revulsion and renewed fears about the reach of the IS, which lost its last territory in Iraq after a gruelling campaign that ended in late 2017, but retains sleeper cells in remote desert and mountain areas.

The Sunni Muslim extremists claimed on the Telegram messenger service that an IS suicide bomber had detonated an explosives belt in the bustling Woheilat market of Baghdad's Shiite district of Sadr City.

In the panic and chaos of the attack, screams of terror and anguish filled the air. When the smoke cleared, human remains lay strewn amid scattered sandals, market produce and the charred debris of stalls.

Iraqi President Barham Salih condemned the "heinous crime of unprecedented cruelty on the eve of Eid," writing on Twitter that the perpetrators "do not allow people to rejoice, even for a moment".

The United Nations Mission in Iraq said the attack showed that "the scourge of terrorism knows no bounds", while the German embassy expressed its "sadness after this senseless and brutal attack".

No official death toll has yet been released by Iraqi authorities, but medical sources told AFP on Tuesday morning that at least 36 people were killed and about 60 wounded.

'Cowardly attack'

Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi said the "cowardly attack illustrates the failure of terrorists to regain a foothold after being defeated by our heroic security forces" and vowed that "terrorism will not go unpunished".

The attack came days before Kadhemi was to meet US President Joe Biden in Washington, and months ahead of a scheduled parliamentary election in October.

"This is a clear message that IS is still present and is able to strike targets in Baghdad," said Osama al-Saidi, head of the Iraqi Political Science Association.

"Whenever elections approach,

terror attacks happen with the aim of sending a political message that those governing are weak."

Deadly attacks were common in Baghdad during the sectarian bloodletting that followed the US-led invasion of 2003, and later on as IS swept across much of Iraq.

Iraq declared IS defeated in late 2017 after a fierce three-year campaign and attacks became relatively rare in the capital -- until January this year when a twin suicide bombing claimed by IS killed 32 people in a Baghdad market.

The US-led coalition that supported Iraq's campaign against IS has significantly drawn down its troop levels over the past year, citing the increased capabilities of Iraqi forces.

The United States, which provides the bulk of the force, has 2,500 troops left in Iraq -- down from 5,200 a year ago. They carry out air strikes, drone surveillance and training of Iraqi forces.

US forces have come under repeated attack from Shiite paramilitary groups, integrated into the Iraqi security apparatus, that support neighbouring Iran, the arch enemy of the United States.

'Tired of everything'

The latest attack sparked re-cremations among Iraqi political leaders.

Parliament speaker Mohamed Halbousi called for "leadership changes among senior security officials who have proven their dereliction of duty".

Lawmaker Adnan Al-Zurfi accused commanders of the Falcon Cell counter-terrorism unit of having turned from "intelligence gathering to politics".

Iraqi analyst Jassem al-Moussouai said the attack highlights "the weakness of the security forces which have not been formed on a professional basis but according to their political loyalties".

Many ordinary Iraqis meanwhile shared their grief, exhaustion and sense of helplessness in a country that has endured decades of war and insurgency, as well as an ongoing economic and political crisis.

In a widely shared social media post, comedian Ahmed al-Basheer recalled that only days ago at least 60 people died when a fire tore through a Covid hospital unit in the southern city of Nasiriyah.

"Every day there's a new calamity," he wrote. "We're tired of everything."

## Lockdowns, Covid Curbs Dampen Celebrations As Some Countries Mark Eidul Azha



### Agenceis

Muslims in different countries around the world, including the United States, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Indonesia and Afghanistan, were observing on Tuesday yet another Eidul Azha in the shadow of the pandemic and amid growing concerns about the highly infectious Delta variant of the coronavirus.

Eidul Azha is typically marked by communal prayers, large social gatherings, and, for many, slaughtering of livestock and giving meat to the needy.

This year, the holiday comes as many countries battle the Delta variant first identified in India, prompting some to impose new restrictions or issue appeals for people to avoid congregating and follow safety protocols.

Scaled-down Haj

The pandemic has already taken a toll for the second year on Haj. Once drawing some 2.5 million Muslims from across the globe to the holy city of Makkah in Saudi Arabia, the pilgrimage has been dramatically scaled back due to the virus.

This year, 60,000 vaccinated Saudi citizens or residents of Saudi Arabia have been allowed to perform the Haj, preventing Muslims from other countries from fulfilling the Islamic obligation.

Indonesia marked a grim Eidul Azha amid a devastating new wave of coronavirus cases in the world's most populous Muslim majority nation.

Large gatherings were banned and tougher travel restrictions were imposed. Vice President Ma'ruf Amin, also an influential cleric, appealed to people to perform holiday prayers at home with their families.

"Don't do crowds," Amin said in televised remarks ahead of the start of the holiday. "Protecting oneself from the Covid-19 pandemic is obligatory."

The surge is believed to have been fuelled by travel during Eidul Fitr and by the rapid spread of the Delta variant.

Malaysia

In Malaysia, measures have been tightened after a sharp spike in infections despite a national lockdown since June 1 -- people are banned from travelling back to their hometowns or crossing districts to celebrate.

House visits and customary trips to graveyards are also banned.

Healthy worshippers are allowed to gather for prayers in mosques, with strict social distancing and no physical contact. Ritual animal sacrifice is limited to mosques and other approved areas.

Health Director General Noor Hisham Abdullah has urged Malaysians not to "repeat irresponsible behaviour", adding that travel and celebrations during Eidul Fitr and another festival on the island of Borneo led to new clusters of cases.

"Let us not, in the excitement of celebrating the Feast of Sacrifice, cause us all to perish because of Covid-19," he said in a statement.

Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin urged Muslims to stay home. "I appeal to you all to be patient and abide by the rules because your sacrifice is a great jihad (holy war) in Allah's sight and in our effort to save lives," he said in a televised speech on the eve of the festival.

The World Health Organisation has reported that Covid-19 deaths had climbed after a period of decline. The reversal has been attributed to low vaccination rates, relaxed mask rules and other precautions, and the Delta variant.

### Australia

Lockdowns will severely curtail Eidul Azha festivities in Sydney and Melbourne, Australia's two largest cities.

Sydney resident Jihad Dib, a New South Wales state government lawmaker, said the city's Muslims were sad but understood why they would be confined to their homes with no visitors allowed.

"It's going to be the first Eid in my life I don't hug and kiss my mum and dad," Dib told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

Melbourne Muslims face their second Eidul Azha in lockdown in as many years. The sudden announcement of the Melbourne lockdown last week will also deal a huge financial blow to retailers who had stocked up on food ahead of what they thought would be usual Eid festivities.

Iran

Iran on Monday imposed a week-long lockdown on the capital, Tehran, and the surrounding region as the country struggles with another surge in the coronavirus pandemic, state media reported. The lockdown begins on Tuesday (today).

Bangladesh

Not everyone is imposing new restrictions.

In Bangladesh, authorities have allowed an eight-day pause in the country's strict lockdown for the holiday that health experts say could be dangerous.

Egypt

In Egypt, Essam Shaban travelled to his southern hometown of Sohag to spend Eidul Azha with his family. He said ahead of the start of the holiday that he planned to pray at a mosque there on Tuesday while taking precautions such as bringing his own prayer rug and wearing a mask.

## Erdogan Calls For US Support For Turkey To Protect Kabul Airport

### Agenceis

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has called on the United States to meet "conditions" including financial, logistical and diplomatic support, so that Turkey can run and guard Kabul airport after other foreign troops withdraw from Afghanistan. Turkey has offered to deploy troops to the airport after NATO fully withdraws and has been in talks with the US for several weeks.

Erdogan and US President Joe Biden discussed the issue in their first face-to-face meeting on the margins of a NATO summit in June.

The Taliban, which has gained territory as US-led foreign forces pull out, has warned Turkey against it.

Erdogan, speaking in a televised address on Tuesday from Northern Cyprus, acknowledged that the Taliban had reservations but said Turkey would nonetheless carry out the mission as long as the US, a NATO partner, meets three specific Turkish requirements.

The conditions are US support in diplomatic relations, the handover of logistical facilities, and financial and administrative backing.

"If these conditions could be met, we are thinking of taking over the management of Kabul airport," he said.

"There will be serious financial and administrative difficulties ... (the United States) will give the necessary support to Turkey in this respect as well," Erdogan added, after attending morning prayers during the Muslim Eid al-Adha holiday.

Turkey hopes the airport mission will help soothe US ties that

are strained on several fronts including its purchase of Russian S-400 missile defences.

"The Taliban, who held some talks with America, should be able to talk about these issues with Turkey more comfortably," Erdogan said, adding that he believes an agreement can be reached.

Al Jazeera's Resul Serdar said securing the operation of Kabul airport is vital as it is the only gateway for the international community.

"Turkey wants to keep it international because it is afraid of a scenario of being left behind once the international community is out of the country, and having a confrontation with the Taliban," he said, speaking from Istanbul.

Serdar said that by taking such an active role as a peace-building country in Afghanistan, Turkey hopes to improve relations with the US and the European Union.

"Erdogan also said he would like to have direct talks with the Taliban regarding Kabul airport, so in that sense -- if any time soon the direct talks start -- then it wouldn't be a surprise to the world," Serdar added.

'Reprehensible plan'

The Taliban ruled Afghanistan with an iron fist from 1996 to 2001 and has fought for 20 years to expel foreign forces, topple the Western-backed government in Kabul and reimpose Islamic rule.

The Taliban, emboldened by the departure of foreign forces by a September target, called Turkey's plan "reprehensible".

Ankara and others have said the airport must stay open to preserve diplomatic missions there. Erdogan said on Monday that the Taliban should "end the occupation".

## No Sign Of Pfizer, Moderna Covid Vaccines In Breast Milk, Study Shows



**Los Angeles:** Researchers have found no evidence for the presence of Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines in human breast milk in a small study, suggesting that the mRNA preventives are safe during lactation.

The study, published in the journal JAMA Pediatrics, offers the first direct data of vaccine safety during breastfeeding and could allay concerns among those who have declined vaccination or discontinued breastfeeding due to concern that vaccination might alter human milk.

The researchers at University of California, San Francisco (USCF) in the US analysed the breast milk of seven women after they received the Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines, and found no trace of the preventives.

Previous research has demonstrated that vaccines with mRNA inhibit transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that breastfeeding people be vaccinated, the researchers noted.

According to the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine, there is little risk of vaccine nanoparticles or mRNA entering breast tissue or being transferred to milk, which theoretically could affect infant immunity, they added.

"The results strengthen current recommendations that the mRNA vaccines are safe in lactation, and that lactating individuals who receive the COVID vaccine should not stop breastfeeding," said study corresponding author Stephanie L Gaw, an assistant professor at UCSF.

"We didn't detect the vaccine associated mRNA in any of the milk samples tested," said study lead author Yarden Golan, a post-doctoral fellow at UCSF.

The study, conducted from December 2020 to February 2021, provides an experimental evidence regarding the safety of the use of mRNA-based vaccines during lactation.

The mothers' mean age in the study was 37.8 years and their children ranged in age from one month to three years.

Milk samples were collected prior to vaccination and at various times up to 48 hours after vaccination.

Researchers found that none of the samples showed detectable levels of vaccine mRNA in any component of the milk.

The study was limited by the small sample size, the researchers noted, adding that further clinical data from larger populations were needed to better estimate the effect of the vaccines on lactation outcomes.

## Pandemic Recovery To Push Emissions To All-Time High: Energy Watchdog



### Agenceis

**LONDON:** The global rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic is set to drive emissions of greenhouse gases that stoke climate change to all-time highs, the Paris-based International Energy Agency said in a report on Tuesday.

"We estimate that full and timely implementation of the economic recovery measures announced to date would result in CO2 emissions climbing to record levels in 2023, continuing to rise thereafter," it said.

Spending plans for clean energy allocated by governments around the world in the second

quarter of this year add up to \$380 billion, making up just 2% of their total stimulus funds in response to the pandemic, the IEA said.

The energy watchdog said the figure represented around a third of what it envisioned was needed in order to put the world on course to reach net zero emissions by mid-century.

"(Countries) must then go even further by leading clean energy investment and deployment to much greater heights beyond the recovery period in order to shift the world on to a pathway to net-zero emissions by 2050, which is narrow but still achievable -- if we act now," IEA chief Fatih Birol wrote.

## Pegasus Scandal: French Prosecutors Open Probe Into 'Spying' On Media

### Agenceis

PARIS: Prosecutors in Paris said Tuesday that they had opened a probe into allegations that Moroccan intelligence services used the Israeli surveillance software Pegasus to spy on several French journalists.

The investigation will examine 10 different charges, including whether there was a breach of personal privacy, fraudulent access to personal electronic devices, and criminal association.

Investigative website Mediapart filed a legal complaint on Monday over the spying claims, which Morocco has denied, and the satirical weekly Le Canard Enchaîné has said it plans to do so as well.

A collaborative investigation by The Washington Post, The Guardian, Le Monde and other media outlets, based on a leaked list of 50,000 phone numbers, claimed Monday that spying worldwide using the technology from the NSO Group had been far more extensive than previously thought.

Mediapart revealed that the phones of its founder Edwy Plenel and one of its journalists were among those targeted by Moroccan intelligence services.

In an article published Monday, it said that Morocco had "violated the privacy of two journalists, undermined the profession of informing people and the freedom of the media, stolen and exploited personal and professional data."

Around 30 journalists and bosses in the French media were allegedly targeted by Moroccan security services, including employees of Le Monde, Le Figaro, France Televisions and Agence France-Presse, Le Monde reported. Morocco denied the claims, saying it "never acquired computer software to infiltrate communication devices."

The country ranks 136 out of 180 countries in the 2021 World Press Freedom Index, and journalists there "continue to be subjected to judicial harassment,"

according to the Reporters without Borders media freedom group.

Journalists reporting on the ruling monarchy, corruption or events in the disputed Western Sahara region are known to face particular scrutiny.

French government spokesman Gabriel Attal told French public radio that "these are extremely shocking acts and, if proven, are extremely serious."

He said that France was "extremely attached to press freedom" and that any attempt to curtail journalists' freedom to report was "very serious."

The joint investigation into Pegasus identified at least 180 journalists in 20 countries who were selected for potential targeting between 2016 to June 2021.

Among them were reporters for The Wall Street Journal, CNN, The New York Times, Al Jazeera, El Pais, The Associated Press, Bloomberg, The Economist and Reuters, The Guardian reported.

### NEWSMAKERS

## China Unveils Maglev Train, "Fastest Ground Vehicle Globally": Report

### Agenceis

**BEIJING:** China unveiled a maglev train capable of a top speed of 600 kph on Tuesday, state media said.

The maximum speed would make the train, self-developed by China and manufactured in the coastal city of Qingdao, the fastest ground vehicle globally. Using electro-magnetic force, the maglev train "levitates" above the track with no contact between body and rail.

China has been using the technology for almost two decades on a very limited scale. Shanghai has a short maglev line running from one



of its airports to town.

While there are no inter-city or inter-province maglev lines yet in China that could make good use of the higher speeds, some cities including Shanghai and Chengdu have started to conduct research.

At 600 kph, it would only take 2.5 hours to travel from Beijing to Shanghai by train -- a journey of more than 1,000 km (620 miles).

By comparison, the journey would take 3 hours by plane and 5.5 hours by high-speed rail.

## Bollywood Star Shilpa Shetty's Husband Arrested In Porn Case

### Agenceis

Mumbai police have arrested Bollywood star Shilpa Shetty's husband, Raj Kundra, for allegedly producing and broadcasting pornographic films online, six years after the businessman was banned from cricket-related activities over match-fixing charges.

Police announced Kundra's arrest late on Monday, calling the 45-year-old "the key conspirator" in a case involving the creation and publication of adult films via internet apps.

"We have sufficient evidence regarding this," police said in a press release, adding that investigations were continuing.



The arrest is the latest scandal to hit Kundra, who has two children with Shetty, the 2007 winner of Brit-

ish reality show, Celebrity Big Brother.

In 2015, Kundra was banned for life from all cricket-related activi-

ties, following an investigation into match-fixing during his stint as a co-owner with Shetty of the Rajasthan Royals, a franchise in the hugely successful Indian Premier League.

India has stringent laws against publishing and transmitting "obscene material", but watching pornography in private is legal.

According to the adult site, Pornhub, the nation of 1.3 billion was its third largest source of traffic in 2018, behind the United States and Britain.

In 2015, a government-appointed board of censors blocked the release of the erotic film, Fifty Shades of Grey, in cinemas, despite being shown a toned-down version, sparking allegations of moral policing.



## DDC Gbl Seeks Details For Tendering Process Of Works Under B2V3

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Ganderbal, Kritika Jyotsna Tuesday sought a detailed status department wise of work estimation and tendering process of the works approved under B2V3 program.

Threadbare discussion was held on the tendering process, feasibility of works, estimate cost and other issues that are hampering the progress of works approved under B2V3.

The DDC sought details from all departments about the works

should be completed at an earliest and disputes should also be settled so that all works are tendered in time.

The meeting also discussed the framing of estimates of works under District Capex Budget especially under PRI grants.

The DDC reiterated that district administration is committed to provide all basic facilities at the door steps of the people especially living in far-flung areas and exhorted upon all the line departments that all such works shall be taken in mission mode so that targets are achieved well in time.



approved under B2V3 program and was informed that 252 works are authorized for execution out of which 219 works have been tendered besides, 24 works are already completed and 53 works are under process.

Keeping in view the importance of such works, the DDC directed the concerned that tendering process of pending works

She chaired a meeting of line departments to review the progress on works approved under District Capex Budget and Back to Village (B2V) program in the district.

The DDC directed the concerned to expedite the work and fixed timeline for completion of works under execution to avoid further delay.

## NC, PDP, PC Others Greet People On Eid-ul-Adha

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President, Member of Parliament from Srinagar Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Omar Abdullah, Peoples Democratic Party President Mehbooba Mufti, Peoples Conference Chairman Sajjad Lone, State Congress President GA Mir and others on Tuesday extended warm greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.

In his message Dr. Farooq said, "As the Muslim Ummah unite to observe Eid Al Azha, let me at the very start felicitate people on the blessed and auspicious occasion of Eid-Al-Azha."

While extending warm felicitations to the people, Omar Abdullah said, "I wish Eid Mubarak to all."

Peoples Democratic Party President and former Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti greeted people on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.

In her message, the PDP President prayed that the blessed festival further inculcates the values of selfless service, piety and care about each other among us. She said that the Sunnah of Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) which embodies these values needs to be followed more in present times which are marked by acrimony, ill will and confrontation

all across the globe.

Peoples Conference Chairman Sajad Gani Lone extended warm greetings to the people of J&K on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.

In his felicitation message, Lone wished all Muslims around the world a peaceful and joyful Eid-ul-Azha.

"I extend my warm wishes to the people on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Azha. May this Eid deepen the spirit of harmony, peace and progress in Jammu and Kashmir. I urge people to take extra care in view of the COVID-19 pandemic on this occasion", he said.

The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President Ghulam Ahmad Mir in his message said Eid Ul Adha is a very sacred occasion, honouring the willingness of Prophet Abraham (AS) who, when asked by Allah to sacrifice a thing dear to him, and he readily agreed to sacrifice his son Ismail.

Senior Political Leader and Former Deputy Chief Minister Muzaffar Beig extended warm greetings to the people on the eve of Eid-ul-Adha, wishing them well-being and prosperity.

In his message of felicitations on the eve of this auspicious occasion, Beig said: "Eid gives us the message of love, unity and brotherhood. Sharing happiness increases them.

**As the Muslim Ummah unite to observe Eid Al Azha, let me at the very start felicitate people on the blessed and auspicious occasion of Eid-Al-Azha**



## Dulloo Asks Officers To Utilise ECRP For Revamping Health Infrastructure

Reviews Finalisation Of 'Covid Emergency Response And Health Systems Preparedness Package Phase-II'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Atal Dulloo, Tuesday directed the officers to utilise the resources under Emergency Covid Response Package (ECRP) effectively so that the health infrastructure is revamped across Jammu and Kashmir to its maximum potential.

Dulloo stressed upon the officers that Paediatric ICUs, Maternity ICUs and Hybrid wards should be made functional in all District Hospitals at the earliest.

He further asked the Principals of newly established Medical Colleges to make Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) fully functional at the earliest so that better paediatric care facilities are provided to the general public.

He also stressed on them to establish the Centre of Excellence one each at Jammu and

Srinagar at earliest for the advanced medical care facilities.

While reviewing other infrastructural facilities related to COVID-19, Atal Dulloo directed the officers that the new RTPCR testing labs in five district hospitals should be made functional at the earliest so that the testing frequency is increased across J&K. He further asked them that all possible formalities for acquiring DNA sequencer for GMC Srinagar and GMC Jammu should be completed at the earliest so that innovative and upgraded facilities for COVID response are established here.

Additional Chief Secretary also directed the concerned officers that retrofitting of ambulances should be done as per the modern level besides all the acquired Advance Life Supporting ambulances should be dedicated for the public use.

Highlighting the need of capacity building and training of health workers, Dulloo im-

pressed upon the officers to utilise the resources under ECRP for better capacity building of doctors and other health workers and asked them to utilise the manpower as per their skills and training them as and when required.

He was speaking during a meeting that he chaired of Executive Committee of State Health Society to finalise the 'COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Package Phase-II' at Civil Secretariat here.

Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM) J&K, Principal GMC Srinagar, Principal GMC Jammu, Managing Director, JK Medical Supplies Corporation, Director Health Services Jammu, Director Health Services Kashmir, Principals of newly established Medical Colleges of Anantnag, Baramulla, Rajouri, Kathua and Doda, CMOs of all districts, Medical Superintendents of all district hospitals and other concerned

## Doctors Body Urges People To Follow Covid SOPs On Eid

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) Tuesday advised people to wear masks and maintain physical distance while purchasing and sacrificing animals.

Ahead of Eid-ul-Adha being celebrated on July 21, the Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) advised the people

to follow the Covid related standard operating procedures (SOPs) while sacrificing animals.

"There is no harm in sacrificing animals on Eid-ul-Adha if SOPs in view of Covid-19 are followed in letter and spirit. There is no scientific evidence to suggest that animal sacrifice of animals will be in any way harmful if

protocols and advisories are followed," said DAK president Dr MY Tak.

Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) further requested people to celebrate Eid with austerity and help needy and poor people in view of prolonged Lockdowns as it has affected the economy of a large population.

## Flash Flood Preparedness Training Held At Kokernag

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: A special training course on enhancing preparedness for flash floods was organised by SDRF in collaboration with the Subdivisional Administration Kokernag at Kokernag, here.

Besides SDM, around

50 officials from Revenue, education, etc participated in the training course.

During the session, instructors from SDRF provided technical inputs to the revenue authorities, duty magistrates and other emergency team members on managing

crisis and saving lives and property during flash floods.

It was informed that such courses will be organised regularly and focus shall also be laid on dealing with the critical situations like earthquakes, fire, landslides and other calamities.

## Next Three Months Crucial To Avert Third Covid Wave: DC Budgam

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza Tuesday stressed that the next three months are going to be crucial to avert the looming threat of the 3rd wave of Covid-19, and in this regard, self-discipline and an element of seriousness needs to be displayed by the public in the district.

He said that although Covid-19 is under control in the district as less number of cases are reported on day to day basis, but the Pandemic is not over yet.

The DC emphasized for massive participation in the vaccination drive to stop the spread of Covid-19 pandemic.

Since the festival of Eid ul Adha will be celebrated tomorrow, the DC appealed to

all to follow Covid Appropriate Behaviour, all mandated COVID-19 SOPs and avoid unnecessary gatherings particularly in congested places.

He further appealed to the general public to offer Eid prayers at home as public gathering at any place is not permitted above 25 persons. Offering Eid prayer at home will help avert a surge in positive Covid-19 cases in the district shall be minimized, he added.

The DC emphasised that a bit of complacency has been noticed with some people not wearing face masks which creates a potential threat of spreading Covid-19 infection, such complacency is unreasonable and the public should adhere to Covid Appropriate Behaviour strictly.

## Mumkin Scheme...

## Div Com Launches MUMKIN Scheme In Kupwara



Observer News Service

KUPWARA: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole Tuesday launched MUMKIN scheme at DC Office Kupwara in presence of Chairman DDC, VC DDC, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara and other concerned officers and handed over keys of vehicles among 4 beneficiaries under the scheme.

He also directed district administration Kupwara to strictly implement the COVID-19 SOPs on ground to stop any kind of resurgence of pandemic, in view of Eid festival.

He also appealed the people of Kupwara district to support the administrative decisions by following COVID Appropriate Behaviour religiously and honestly and avoid holding big congregations.

The Div Com, who was on a day's visit to Kupwara district, was addressing a largely attended officers meeting at Conference Hall, DC Office, Kupwara today.

The Div Com said that the objective of his visit and holding meeting at border

district Kupwara is to review the ground situation with regard to COVID mitigation measures. He appreciated the efforts of district Administration and Health department for their best efforts in curbing spread of dreaded COVID pandemic, inspite of large size of the district in terms of population, topography and area.

The Div Com stressed upon all stakeholders to play their role in complete eradication of COVID from the district. He said PRIs have a vital role to play in motivating the people for vaccination and other Covid guidelines. He said Eid or any other religious festival should not become the reason for resurgence of COVID pandemic. He stressed for constituting of Village level Committees to monitor the vaccination process in consultation with BLOs.

Chairman DDC Kupwara and VC DDC spoke on the occasion and appreciated the district Administration, Doctors, paramedics and all other stakeholders for upholding remarkable services in curbing the pandemic.

## Bandipora Man Dies By Suicide

Bandipora: A 60-year-old man died of suicide in Quil Muqam area of Bandipora district on Tuesday after he allegedly set himself ablaze.

Officials said that the man, a labourer, set himself ablaze at his residence by pouring kerosene.

"Although he was rushed to a health facility in critical condition, but doctors declared him dead on arrival," they said.

Meanwhile, a police officials said that they have registered a case for investigation. (CNS)

## LG's Advisors, CS, DCs Greet People On Eid-ul-Azha

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Advisors to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar and Baseer Khan Tuesday extended greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.

In a message, Advisor Khan termed the occasion as a festival of sacrifice and selflessness saying that Eid-ul-Azha endorses the spirit of benevolence and generosity towards others.

"I hope that this auspicious occasion would further enhance the amiable atmosphere and provide a beacon of light for prosperity and development in the Union Territory. Such religious events bring great richness to our cultural landscape and pluralism binding together people of all faiths. Rather than keeping us apart, the

distinct tradition and composite culture that has found home in our country, is a source of understanding and compassion that enriches our nation," he asserted.

Advisor Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, in his message of felicitation, hoped that this auspicious occasion would bring in a renewed spirit of love and oneness through its message of self discipline and sacrifice among the people. "May this festival would further strengthen the bonds of communal harmony, brotherhood, amity among the people of the UT", maintained the Advisor.

Advisor Baseer Khan, in his greetings, Advisor expressed optimism that this festival would further cement the bonds of communal harmony, brotherhood and amity among people of all faiths.

Keeping in view the evolving COVID-19 pandemic situation,

Baseer Khan urged upon the people to follow COVID appropriate behavior religiously and maintain social distancing to prevent further spread of COVID-19.

The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, also extended greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Azha, wishing them well-being, peace and prosperity.

In his message on the eve of Eid-ul-Azha, the Chief Secretary said that the holy festival teaches us the principles of sacrifice, humility and benefaction. He expressed hope that the festival will further strengthen the bonds of communal harmony, mutual brotherhood, amity, and tranquillity. He asked the youth to come together and contribute to peace and progress of UT besides both personal and societal development.

Meanwhile the deputy com-

missioners of Kashmir districts also extended their Eid wishes to the people.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian interacted with the representatives of Auqaf Committee and shared the concern of Administration with regard to the COVID-19 SOPs and CAB for saving the lives of the people.

The DC greeted people on the eve of Eid-ul-Azha and requested them to stay indoors and offer Namaz at their respective homes as the COVID Pandemic is not over yet.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Piyush Singla in his message, expressed hope that the Covid Pandemic would end soon and the normalcy of pre-covid times is resumed. He wished blessings to the people and prayed for the collective well-being of the society.

## Kulgam Admin Restores Bailey Bridge At Chawalgam

Observer News Service

KULGAM: Following the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, the PWD (R&B) Division Kulgam successfully restored the Bailey Bridge at Chawalgam, Kulgam within a shortest span of time.

The Bailey Bridge was earlier damaged and the Deputy Commissioner had passed strict directions to the concerned agency for restoration of the Bridge at an earliest keeping in view the importance of the bridge.

Meanwhile, acting upon the directions, PWD (R&B) mobilized its men and machinery and successfully restored the bridge for traffic movement today.



KASHMIR  
OBSERVER

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the  
Kashmir Observer LLP  
Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001  
Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Ind Area, Srinagar.  
RNI Registration No: 69503/98  
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16  
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider  
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K O V I E W

## Eid Mubarak

**E**id-ul-Azha this year follows a period of relative normalcy after a devastating second Covid-19 wave that once again resulted in a nationwide lockdown through March to May. In Kashmir, one more pandemic-induced lockdown capped two years of extraordinary disruption, that has witnessed successive lockdowns, both security and healthcare-driven. In the process, the Valley's businesses have suffered a humungous loss. According to an estimate by the local business bodies, the Valley's economy last year suffered a loss of around Rs 50,000 crore. Its fallout on the ground has been grim: thousands of people have lost their jobs. Sectors of the economy like tourism, handicrafts, hotel industry, IT, transport etc have been crushed. Many people have been forced to shut down their old unviable businesses and start new ones.

Similarly, across the country, the disruption last year cut the country's GDP growth by a whopping one-fourth. In real terms, this meant a loss of lakhs of jobs, ruining of businesses, migration of labour, etc. This year the situation has, more or less, replicated.

The fallout on the livelihoods of the people has been far-reaching. What is more, there is little hope to look forward to. The continuing uncertainty in the situation has further deteriorated the situation turning the lives of many more people upside down.

So, while we celebrate Eid, a festivity that is incumbent on all Muslims, we need to be mindful of the immediate tragedy that has befallen a large section of our society, over and above the trauma and grief that we have been experiencing for so many years nows. This calls for us to be much more austere in our celebration. We need to show that we care about them on the Eid too.

Those of us who could afford to spend should instead donate the amount we would otherwise spend on consumables for our brethren in distress. The same goes for the people who spend lavishly on Eid feast. They would earn more Sawab and God's goodwill should they also contribute some amount to the people who have nothing. Let this Eid further strengthen and sustain the spirit of community effort that has made us resilient in the face of the worst adversity.

More than an occasion of joy, Eid in Kashmir is a time for reflection. And of mourning too, for the thousands who have died over the past thirty years. Eid is inherently also about joy and celebration but there is nothing routine about this joy. The festival is about spiritual renewal and a sense of fulfilment. In Kashmir and of course in other troubled spots of the world, Eid assumes a meaning that runs even deeper. It is a very solemn occasion for individual and collective reflection and remembrance. It is also about our obligation towards our society.

O T H E R O P I N O N

## The Kabul Dilemma

**T**he civil war in Afghanistan came home on Friday, with the formidable Indian photojournalist, Danish Siddiqui of Reuters, who was embedded with Afghan security forces, killed by the Taliban in Kandahar. Siddiqui's tragic death has led to an outpouring of grief globally, but it is the latest symbol of the tragedy that is unfolding in Afghanistan. The Taliban remains a monstrous force, committed to a medieval form of an Islamic Emirate, but it is winning. The Afghan government remains determined to preserve the Republic, with its democratic values, but is struggling to hold on to power. The international community (read the United States and its western allies) is still holding on to the fiction of a peace process and political settlement, but can't wait to flee after having ravaged the country for 20 years and left it without any sustainable and resilient institutions to defend democracy. And India is stuck, caught between its values and principles it holds dear and immediate strategic interests and imperatives.

The Taliban is officially participating in a peace process, but is on a military offensive. In two months, it has taken over one-third of the country's districts; captured crucial border posts; penetrated Kandahar; and caused massive civilian suffering in terms of death and displacement. Ashraf Ghani, the Republic's president, in an interview with The Hindu, put up a brave front and said while the Taliban has won battles, the Republic will win the war while still pointing to the need for a political settlement. The US has claimed that it will not recognise any forceful capture of power, but the Taliban intends to change the balance of power irreversibly, leaving little choice. The West is slowly reconciling itself to a Taliban-dominated regime in return for guarantees on security; China, Russia and even Iran seem to have cut bilateral deals with the Taliban; and despite sporadic differences with the Taliban, Pakistan seems to be smiling all the way to Kabul.

India is in a tough spot. Delhi recognises the threat the Taliban poses to not just its security but modernity. But it has little leverage to influence the outcome. It is unhappy with the manner of the US exit, but can't change that either. To secure its political, diplomatic and developmental investment in Afghanistan, it wants to support the Afghan government, which is indeed putting up a fight, but also knows that there is little choice but to deal with the Taliban, a force that it so dislikes for the right reasons. Between the right side and winning side, India will have to strike a balance to protect its core national interests and citizens.

Hindustan Times

Mohammad Nizamuddin Pasha

**O**f late, a new fad has caught the imagination of those around the world, Muslim and non-Muslim alike, who are trying to re-interpret the animal sacrifice that marks the festival of Eid-ul-Zuha as an expression of charity that is more appropriately expressed in money terms in today's day and age. In their own understanding, this is an attempt to make Islam more compatible with what they perceive to be the demands of the 'modern' world. Unfortunately, this fad proceeds on a mistaken understanding of both Islam as well as the 'modern' world.

To begin with, let me straight-away clarify that this is not an attempt to argue with animal rights activists. If you believe that animals are not meant to be eaten and advocate vegetarianism, then all I can do is to quote the Quran where it says "to you be your way and to me be mine". Though I will say this in fairness – at least your philosophy is internally consistent and does not contradict itself. But if you enjoy steaks and kababs and naharis all year round and save your animal rights and environmental activism for this one day of the year, then this article is for you. To begin with, I would like to inform you that the processed meat you buy from the frozen foods section of your local supermarket was once a frisky lamb or a fluffy chick that had its throat cut open by a gutka chewing man in a banyaan. I just wanted you to know that.

A study conducted by the Institute of Management Sciences, Peshawar in 2009 found that the sacrifice of animals on Eid-ul-Zuha constituted a direct transfer of money to rural households with fewer intermediaries and generated employment for thousands of opportunistic animal rearers, livestock traders, butchers and leather industry workers among others, who look to Eid for a small annual windfall.

Further, as per the numbers of livestock sales in Pakistan annually and during Eid for the year 2016 quoted in a Dawn article, the total sales of goats and cattle around Eid work out to around 5% of the total annual sales, and given that there is a sharp drop in meat sales in the days following Eid since most families are well-stocked for days to come, the total deviation from normal, month on month, for the livestock industry is probably a lot less than we imagine. But these are matters that can be debated endlessly and which require a lot more facts and figures than are available. In any event, the arguments being made for dispensing with the ritual are more ...what's the word for someone who's talking through their hat?...philosophical.

It is well known that animal sacrifice is performed on this day following the Abrahamic tradition that is common to both the Quran and the Old Testament where Ibrahim (Abraham) has a vision the he is to sacrifice his own son. Abraham unquestioningly follows the command of God and takes his son to the place of slaughter. Just as Abraham is about to slit his son's throat, God speaks to him and tells him that he has fulfilled his vision. God replaces the son with a ram which Abraham proceeds to sacrifice. God is pleased with Abraham's unquestioning adherence to His command and so bestows His blessings on Abraham and promises to grant his descendants glory and multiply them throughout the earth.

The first thing to understand is that the entire import of the story is about unquestioningly following the command of God. Abraham could well have argued that his son's sacrifice served no purpose and there were many things he could sacrifice instead that would be far more environment friendly and beneficial to the people around him. Therefore, coming up with alternatives of what else can be sacrificed instead of an animal is to miss the entire point of the Biblical and Quranic tradition.

There is no doubt that Islam provides room for contextual interpretations through ijma (consensus of scholars) and qiyas (self-reflection and study) when confronted with a situation not contemplated in the Quran or authentic traditions of the Prophet known as hadees. But none of these applies where the text of the Quran or the hadees on the subject are abundantly clear and unequivocal. The verses of the Quran that deal with Eid-ul-Zuha leave no man-

ner of doubt that God's command is to sacrifice an animal, to eat its meat and to distribute it amongst those who are in need (Surah Al-Hajj 22: 34-37). The verse which is misquoted in this context is verse 22:37, which says "It is not their meat nor their blood (of the animal) that reaches God; it is your piety". This is only to dispel the pre-Islamic custom according to which the blood and meat of the sacrificed animal was brought to the Kaaba and placed before the idols housed in it, or the Jewish tradition according to which the sacrificial meat was completely burnt at the altar in the temple and was not consumed. It is to completely distort the evident meaning of the text to suggest that the idea here is to substitute animal sacrifice with other forms of piety, as the verses immediately prior to it describe in detail how the animal is to be sacrificed and divided. Hadees on the subject too are abundantly clear and the Prophet is reported in Sahih Bukhari, the most authentic source of hadees for Sunni Muslims, to have said,

"The first thing to do on this day (Eid-ul-Zuha) is to offer the Eid prayers and on returning from the prayer, we slaughter our sacrificial animals, and whoever did this, he acted according to sunnat (Prophetic tradition)".

In Sunan Ibn Majah, another collection of hadees, the Prophet is reported to have said

"As for the Day of Fitr, it is the day when you break your fast, and on the Day of Azha you eat the meat of your sacrifices."

So this is definitely not one of

universal currency.

In fact, the tradition of sacrifice on Eid itself clearly does not presuppose that every person would own livestock, as is evident from the fact that one of the conditions of sacrifice is that one person may sacrifice a goat or sheep whereas seven people may get together and sacrifice a larger animal like a camel, buffalo or cow. If every person was merely sacrificing a part of their own livestock, there would be no question of seven people obtaining shares in one animal to perform a joint sacrifice.

Secondly, and more importantly, Islam has an entire system of charity in money terms known as zakaat, which is one of the five fundamental tenets of Islam. Each year, every person who has money or assets that are unused for an entire year has to give 2.5% of their value in charity. This form of compulsory charity is both denominated in money terms and distributed as such. And zakaat is just one form of charity in Islam. There are many more such as sadaqa which are not bound by any percentage and depend on the inclination of the giver. Just the first 2.5% is zakaat, and for that too, the Sufi saint revered by Indian Muslims and Sikhs alike, Baba Fariduddin Ganjshakar has said – there are several kinds of zakaat. Zakaat-e-shariyat is those who spend 2.5% and keep 97.5%. Nobody is generous for giving zakaat-e-shariyat. That is your religious duty and is bound by religious precepts. Spending more than 2.5% is generosity, till zakaat-e-tariqat is when you spend 97.5% and keep 2.5% for yourself. And finally,



**Those who feel they have come up with a brilliant new idea not contemplated in Islam of giving money in charity need to first study and understand Islam before they speak. It is abundantly clear that the precept of sacrificing an animal in the Abrahamic tradition exists independently of all other forms of charity that are dealt with at length separately, and cannot be substituted by them**

those instances where there is any room for doubt or need for creative re-interpretation.

Which brings us to the alternatives being suggested. It is being said that livestock was merely representative of wealth in seventh century Arabia, and that is why animals were sacrificed on this day, and money as the new form of wealth may be given in charity as a modern-day replacement of the offering. As a recent article in The Wire put it, "Real sacrifice requires us to give up some of what is dear to us. Today, the most cherished possession is money". Again, this proceeds on a completely mistaken understanding of Arabian society at the time of the Prophet.

Mecca, where Islam was born, thrived in the pre-Islamic period as an important pilgrimage centre that trade caravans from far and wide altered their routes to visit to pay homage and obtain blessings. The Kaaba, said to have been built by Abraham at a spot ordained by God and having embedded in it a stone that had descended from heaven, was a pantheon of gods containing idols of the followers of many faiths and was consequently holy to all of them. The economy of the city was centred around trade with these caravans and the tribute that the faithful brought to the site. While rearing of animals, particularly camels, was important to the lives of people, it was far from a universal occupation. So, while it is true that livestock was a far more important asset in those days than it is today, it was by no means what the wealth of a person was calculated in. This was not the age of the barter system and money, represented by the dinar and dirham, was very much in vogue. Monetary transactions are, in fact, discussed in several Prophetic traditions. Trade with foreign caravans was in terms of silver and gold, the

zakaat-e-haqiqat is those who spend all they have for others and have faith that Allah will look after their own needs tomorrow. There is also a hadees reported by Sahih Bukhari where the Prophet is reported to have said "do not withhold your money by counting and hoarding; spend towards charity as much as you can afford".

Whether you call it zakaat-e-tariqat or sadaqa, all of these are Islamic principles that advocate giving up more of your wealth than is mandated towards charity in the hope of pleasing your maker. In fact, even on Eid-ul-Fitr, the other major annual feast for Muslims worldwide, every Muslim who has wealth in excess of his or her day's need is required to give zakaat-al-fitr, which is 2 or 3 kg of the staple food-grain of the area or its money equivalent given for every man, woman and child in the household. This charity has to be given before the Eid prayer so that the poor too can enjoy Eid.

So those who feel they have come up with a brilliant new idea not contemplated in Islam of giving money in charity need to first study and understand Islam before they speak. It is abundantly clear that the precept of sacrificing an animal in the Abrahamic tradition exists independently of all other forms of charity that are dealt with at length separately, and cannot be substituted by them.

In fact, the entire set of practices around the Hajj, which Eid-ul-Zuha celebrates, are a re-enactment of Abrahamic traditions. Whether it is circumambulation of the Kaaba that Ibrahim constructed, offering namaaz at the spot where he prayed after completing the construction, throwing pebbles at the spot where he chased away Satan by throwing stones at him, or sa'ee, which involves running between

two hills, Safa and Marwa seven times in honour of the seven times Ibrahim's wife, Hajar, ran up and down the hills looking for water for her crying son Ismail after Ibrahim left them in the valley upon God's command. Today, Safa and Marwa are housed within a large building that has been constructed over them with marble floors, air conditioning and water dispensers every few yards. Slaughtering an animal is just the last in this series of Abrahamic traditions around Hajj. If you wish to question traditions for contemporary relevance, you may as well question them all. And if you start questioning each of the traditions of Hajj as mindless emulations of a bygone era, then to you be your way and to me be mine.

And this issue is all the more important because it is much larger than just slaughtering an animal. The outcome of vilification of the Islamic faith in popular discourse has reduced educated Muslims to apologists trying to distance themselves from their religious practices or attempting to portray them in a "modern" light in the hope that critics of the faith will be more forgiving of them. The need of the hour is for Muslims to take pride in the precepts of their faith, to first study and understand Islam and then see for themselves what religious practices are about, how much room there is for interpretation, whether there is actually any need to 'modernize' and how much controversy is created by ignorance and deliberate misinformation.

No resurrection of a beleaguered community is possible

until they begin to take pride in the identity that is under fire and embrace it. Until you take pride in who you are, you cannot command the respect of others. The Jews remained a scattered persecuted lot while they were trying to be invisible. The Sikhs could emerge from the vilification they faced in public discourse during the heyday of the Khalistan movement only because of the pride they take in their Sikh identity. Today, the Muslim identity is under attack more than ever before. A lot of Muslims who have been through the western education system react by expending their efforts in trying to become invisible and effacing whatever makes them stick out. Unfortunately, it seems to take very little for us to start believing that we have risen above our shariyat and are living in times that God did not contemplate when revealing the last verse of the Quran "This day I have perfected your religion for you".

Everyone begins by trying to improve upon religion without first understanding it. There is no doubt there are certain practices and interpretations that have crept into Islam that need to be reformed out. But one can never reform that which one does not understand. And if you try, you will merely succeed in distancing yourself from adherents of the faith and will not have their ear even when you are saying something that is actually relevant.

*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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# A Sacrifice for Celebration

Eid ul Azha Mubarak!

Editor's Note:

Modern world is a world of individual growth. Every aspect of a human being's life is considered of value if it is able to "progress". This is an offshoot of history's shift to a world order where profit is king. This paradigm shift has been bolstered over the years through discourses that supplement this idea. For instance, the stories that show the journey of an individual from "rags to riches". Such ideas of individual growth and profit obscure the many obstacles that people coming from different socio-economic conditions face in their journey. It disguises privilege as "merit" and profit as growth.

In such a machiavellian schema, the idea of sacrifice is revolutionary. It decenters a human being from their position of self-interest to a position of submission. In the modern world which worships rationality as universal, our observance of "faith" in Allah's commandment radically subverts the hegemony of rationality and acknowledges the supremacy of divine wisdom.

Sacrifice is beyond "ifs" and "buts". It is an unflinching and unsweaving declaration of your faith and submission to Allah swt.

Kashmir Observer got in touch with some of our readers. Following are their responses to our question "As a muslim, what does sacrifice mean to you?"

When I first heard the story of Prophet Ibrahim's reverence and devotion towards Allah SWT as a child, I was not only in awe but also in a conflicted state. Could I ever have the same amount of devotion and unwavering faith? Over the years, as I crossed my teenage years I have come to realize the personal and subjective importance of Eid Al Adha. This is one of those auspicious days where I as a Muslim can show my devotion towards Allah SWT. The sacrifice of a goat is not only to enjoy the meat that Allah SWT has blessed us with, but it is to let go and seek forgiveness of the sins I have committed. It is me sacrificing my anger, jealousy and distrust to forge a path of devotion and love. It is also a time that reminds me of the beauty and importance of a family. That one meal served with the kurbaani meat, shared by the entire family, on the dining table is enough to let go of all our rifts and arguments. This festival not only reminds me about the beauty of Islam but the sacrifice I offer also instills in me my faith that makes me go back to my younger self, telling her 'It is going to be alright'

Neha Sheikh

"As the Muslim world is gearing up to celebrate Eid-Al-Adha and preparing to offer animal sacrifices on this day, it is important to understand the essence of sacrifice. I think that the act of sacrificing establishes a connection between today's Muslims and those who have lived before us. It is a continuation of the act started by Prophet Ibrahim (A.S.), as all Muslims, who came after Prophet Ibrahim

(A.S.) perform (ed) the act to remember his legacy. Moreover, the act embodies the message that for any Muslim, submission to Allah (SA.W.) is important. If the act of sacrificing is taken as a reference, a Muslim should be able to understand that (s)he is expected to sacrifice his/her desires/precious things so that the will of Allah (S.A.W) prevails. Finally, the act serves as a means of sharing and socializing, as Muslims distribute sacrificial animals among the needy people, relatives, and neighbours"

Suhail Rumi

"Sacrifice for me is : something that is important and valuable for you but you give up and offer that to Allah just for His happiness. From Muslim perspective, the motive of sacrificing is offering something to Allah that is dear to man. For me it also means submission to the will of God, as revealed in Quran"

Falak Naz

"As a Muslim, sacrifice to start with means remembering the instance when Hazrat Ibrahim, for the love of Allah and to obey His command went on to sacrifice his son without any questions. This leads us to believe the power of one's faith in their Lord. Secondly, it enables and inspires us to value the afterworld more than our worldly material possessions, be it our wealth, our children or anything that's dear to us. We have to sacrifice our desires and wishes (no matter how much they mean to us) for the sake of our Lord. Lastly, it's a practical experience of what Hazrat Ibrahim must have gone

through when he went on to sacrifice his dearest son. We buy animals, take care of them, develop a bond with them and at the end, sacrifice them to fulfill the orders of Lord Almighty"

Zabirah Fazili

"To me, it means cultivating the spirit of surrender. To be a Muslim means to surrender to Allah's will in all tribulations and tests He puts you to and sacrifice one of the many but major pathway to attain that submission. It should detach us from the lure of this world because nothing here belongs to us. We ourselves don't belong to us. We belong to him. Sacrifice reminds us that"

Ayman Ayoub

"I believe that the purpose of sacrifice is to give up what we cherish the most but unfortunately we witness that this festival becomes a contest, where most people become more haughty and claim moral superiority by engaging in extravagance. We forget that gloating over our purchase of the biggest animal doesn't elevate us in the moral hierarchy, rather it defies the whole purpose of sacrifice. We should lay more emphasis on the essence of sacrifice which is to give up what we value the most"

Dania Sheikh

"In the current times of systemic identity crisis Muslims are faced with, the message of the event of sacrifice on Eid al Adha is ever so important to us. To me it signifies the highest of beliefs I hold as a Muslim: Ultimate submission to the Will of Allah. To keep going in hard times holding onto the wisdom of Allah with sabr and tawakkal"

Sadaf Masoodi

"Sacrifice means a submission to the divine will and an assertion of one's compliance to it. Besides, it is also a practise to perform a communal identity - to recognise one identifies with this group or Community"

Huzaira Pandit

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Could I ever have the same amount of devotion and unwavering faith? Over the years, as I crossed my teenage years I have come to realize the personal and subjective importance of Eid Al Adha. This is one of those auspicious days where I as a Muslim can show my devotion towards Allah SWT. The sacrifice of a goat is not only to enjoy the meat that Allah SWT has blessed us with, but it is to let go and seek forgiveness of the sins I have committed









## Small Commercial Vehicles Distributed Among Beneficiaries In Five Districts



### KO NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR:** To uplift, mentor and provide sustainable livelihood to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, the UT administration has launched youth livelihood programme 'Mumkin' under Mission Youth in transport sector, in partnership with Ashok Leyland.

Mission Youth of J&K government is working with its vision and strategy for engaging and channelising the youth of J&K through systematic Livelihood Generation programmes.

Under the 'Mumkin' scheme, small commercial vehicles are being provided to the youth with reasonable subsidies both from the manufacturer and the government, enabling them to earn a decent livelihood.

At Baramulla: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Bhupinder Kumar in presence of SSP Baramulla Rayees Mohammad Bhat today distributed highly subsidized small commercial vehicles among 28 young beneficiaries of the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC complimented the beneficiaries and emphasized upon them to work with zeal and dedication in their respective areas. He added that providing sustainable livelihood opportunities to our unemployed youth is our top most priority for which various initiatives are being taken.

He also urged upon the youth to come forward and avail the benefits of several welfare schemes that can reach to them.

While giving further information about the programme, the DC said that Banking Partner shall extend loan facility to the extent of 100 percent of the On-road Price of the vehicle to be purchased.

He added that Mission Youth shall provide 10 percent of on-road price of the vehicle (whichever is lesser) as upfront subsidy. The Vehicle manufacturer (Scheme Partner of Govt.) shall also provide an upfront special discount, not less than the amount of subsidy.

At Anantnag: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Anantnag, Dr. Priyush Singla today handed over four Small Commercial Vehicles to the beneficiaries of the district under Customised Livelihood Generation Scheme, Mumkin, during a vehicle distribution ceremony held at Dak Bungalow Khanabal, here.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC said that the youth should

come forward and avail the benefits of self-employment schemes like 'Mumkin' which have been designed specially for their sustainable livelihood. He informed that Government has rolled out multiple self-employment generation schemes and administration will handhold youth who are desirous to establish their own units.

At Shopian: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya today distributed subsidized small commercial vehicles among two young beneficiaries of the district in presence of ADC, CPO, AO, District Lead Bank Officer Shopian, Representative of Leyland and other concerned officers and officials at mini secretariat Arhama, here.

On the occasion, the DC said that the District Administration in partnership with Ashok Leyland has moved towards achieving the vision of the prime minister to provide a sustainable livelihood scheme for the transport sector.

At Kulgam: The Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kulgam, Riyaz Ahmad Sofi and Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Showkat Ahmad Rather today handed over small commercial vehicles to 14 beneficiaries of the district under 'Mumkin' scheme during a distribution ceremony held here within the premises of Employment Exchange Kulgam.

Addressing the youth, ADC said that the unemployed youth need to come forward and avail the benefits of the schemes like Mumkin that are specially designed for their sustainable livelihood.

Speaking on the occasion, ADC impressed upon the fact that the youth need to establish their own livelihood units instead of waiting for Government jobs.

At Bandipora: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmad on Tuesday handed over commercial vehicles to the beneficiaries under 'Customized Livelihood Generation Scheme-Mumkin-New Possibilities'.

The candidates were earlier approved for the scheme by the District Level Implementation Committee headed by the Deputy Commissioner. The selected candidates received the vehicles in a function organized at Mini-Secretariat Bandipora. The vehicles included Ashok Leyland Dost having an on road price of Rs 7.76 Lac approximately and Mahindra Bolero Max Truck costing about 7.88 lac.

## 1000 Mini Sheep Farms, Poultry Farms And Milk Processing Units In Tribal Areas On Anvil:Govt

### KO NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR:** The government has invited tribal youth for various skill development courses and self-employment projects in livestock husbandry and food processing sector with an aim to make Jammu and Kashmir self-sufficient in milk, meat and wool production besides providing employment avenues in remote villages.

The Tribal Affairs department in convergence with Farm departments will provide financial support to tribal youth for skilling, entrepreneurship and employment. The Tribal Youth Skill and Employment Scheme in Livestock Sector envisages a Rs 15 crore plan to be rolled out covering skill development including up skilling, establishment of income generating units, sheep units, establishment of milk chilling plants, milk product management, food processing units, collection infrastructure, milk ATMs, distribution network, wool processing and other profitable enterprises.

Secretary, Tribal Affairs department, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, informed this in a meeting held with Director, Tribal Affairs, Directors Animal Husbandry, Jammu and Kashmir, Directors, Sheep Husbandry Department, Jammu and Kashmir besides Chief Animal Husbandry Officers, District Sheep Husbandry Officers and others. He called for formulating plans for district skill and self-employment for providing support to tribal youth in livestock sector.

It was informed that a target of 10,000 youth for skill development for both the departments included 500 youth to be selected in each



sector specific to livestock husbandry and livestock product management. The skill development courses will include both offered by departments and also universities, skill development institutions and academies. The skilled youth will be provided financial assistance for setting up of enterprises in the specific sectors.

The Tribal Affairs department has also sought proposals for establishment of 1000 mini Sheep Farms in all the districts of the UT for which an amount of Rs 10 crore will be extended by the government. Likewise, Animal Husbandry departments has also proposed setting up of mini dairy farms. Apart from this, departments have also been asked to screen and select 3500 youth from the tribal population to provide assistance for entrepreneurship.

The mini sheep farms are being set up on a cascading mechanism which envisages return of animals in a phased manner after three years upto a succeeding five years time and thereby setting further equal number of sheep farms every year. The department is targeting to

establish 12,000 mini sheep farms in next 5 years both with central funding and recycle scheme.

Further, the departments have been asked for initiating work on milk villages in such areas having huge potential of milk production under which such locations would get machinery and equipments along with market linkages. Likewise, establishment of poultry farms and milk processing units will be initiated in proposed areas.

Secretary has asked the departments to issue notification inviting applications for various schemes and select the beneficiaries through draw of lots. He said that a special scheme has been earmarked for nomadic families for which selection will be made from the database generated in ongoing survey being conducted at highland pastures.

Pertinently, the Chief Animal Husbandry Officers and District Sheep Husbandry Officers are working in convergence with Tribal Affairs Department for 5 years perspective plan of skilling, generating employment and increasing meat and milk production.

## HDFC Bank launches Covid Crisis Support Scholarship

### Agenceis

**Mumbai:** HDFC Bank today announced the launch of Covid Crisis Support Scholarship for students who have been impacted by Covid19. The scholarship is part of Parivartan, HDFC Bank's umbrella for its social responsibility.

The scholarship program is meant for school students as well as those pursuing UG, PG and diploma courses. Under this scholarship scheme, students will be provided with a one-time financial assistance ranging from Rs 15,000 to Rs 75,000. The program is available to students who have lost either or both of their

parent(s) and earning family member(s) have lost their employment (or livelihood) during the pandemic.

The bank has created a corpus of Rs 9 crore for the Parivartan Covid Crisis Support Scholarship. The Parivartan Covid Crisis Support Scholarship will help around 3,200 students from class 1 to 12 covering around 1,800 students and college (diploma, graduation & PG courses) covering around 1,400 students.

Ms. Ashima Bhat, Group Head - Business Finance and Strategy, Administration, and Infrastructure said, "Students are the future of our nation, and their education is important. During this time of crisis, we believe in

supporting talented young individuals who are going through hardships due to the pandemic and are at risk of dropping out from schools or colleges."

Students whose annual family income is less than Rs 6 lakh per annum, and are pursuing studies in Indian boards and universities, would be eligible to apply. This crisis support scholarship is especially for those students who are on the verge of dropping out due to financial constraints due to the pandemic.

This is the second scholarship programme run by the bank. HDFC Bank also has a flagship program Educational Crisis Support Scholarship (ECSS), which it runs annually.

## International Ratings Agency Moody's Sounds Alarm On Sri Lankan Debt



### Agenceis

**COLOMBO:** International ratings agency Moody's placed cash-strapped Sri Lanka under watch for a downgrade Tuesday on rising fears that the island could default on its foreign debt.

Foreign reserves of \$3.6 billion at the end of June was insufficient to cover Sri Lanka's annual foreign debt servicing -- of \$4 billion to \$5 billion -- over the next four to five years, Moody's said. It said Colombo's financing options were limited although it managed to obtain some bilateral loans.

Colombo has announced a \$250 million loan from Bangladesh, a fellow South Asian country with a much lower per capita income than Sri Lanka.

"The decision to place the ratings under review for downgrade is driven by Moody's assessment that Sri Lanka's increasingly fragile external liquidity position raises the risk of default," Moody's said.

In September, Moody's downgraded Sri Lanka's sovereign credit rating by two notches to "Caa1" (high credit risk), saying Colombo would struggle to secure funding to service its large debt.

In a desperate bid to save foreign exchange, Sri Lanka has banned luxury imports, including some food and spices, since March last year.

"Moody's expects Sri Lanka's foreign exchange reserves to continue declining from already low levels, further eroding its ability to meet sizeable and recurring external debt servicing needs," the agency said.

Sri Lanka's finance ministry reacted angrily to Moody's latest announcement saying it was "unwarranted", and warned it could reconsider employing the ratings agency.

"The unwarranted announcement by Moody's... re-emphasises the need for the Sri Lanka government to revisit its relationship with rating agencies," the finance ministry said in a statement.

Sri Lanka's central bank governor WD Lakshman said last month that the country would meet its debt obligations.

The economy shrank a record 3.6 percent last year on the back of lockdowns sparked by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the central bank expects growth of 4-5 percent this year with the gradual reopening of the economy and the roll-out of a vaccine programme.

## US Democrats To Introduce Bill To Impose Tax On Imports From Countries Without Climate Laws

### Agenceis

**WASHINGTON:** Two influential Democratic lawmakers are proposing to introduce bicameral legislation to impose a tax on imports from countries like China and many others who are not taking significant steps to address the challenge posed by climate change.

The FAIR Transition and Competition Act of 2021, which is also sponsored by Senator Chris Coons and Congressman Scott Peters, proposes to establish a border carbon adjustment (BCA) on polluting imports.

It will establish a border carbon adjustment on carbon-intensive imports to account for the cost incurred by US businesses to comply with laws and regulations limiting greenhouse gas emissions.

The two lawmakers said the border carbon adjustment will raise billions of dollars to support communities as they adapt to increasingly severe weather events and invest in new technologies to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions.

According to the bill, the list of goods covered by the tariff will expand as the United States improves processes for determining the carbon intensity of different types of goods.

"The FAIR Transition and Competition Act will facilitate a race to the top among US companies to produce the next generation of clean energy and technology. The move would ensure we remain a key player in international cooperation on climate action and show the world that the US is fully committed to addressing the climate crisis at home and abroad," Peters said.

International cooperation will be critical to reaching net-zero emissions, said Coons.

"We have a historic opportunity to demonstrate that climate policy goes hand in hand with providing economic opportunities as US innovators develop and scale clean energy technologies. The FAIR Transition and Competition Act will complement our efforts to reduce emissions at home, ensure the United States is at the table for reframing trade around climate, and provide resources to support vulnerable communities and energy innovation as we build back better," he said.

The bill also maintains a flexible approach to evolve the policy to achieve climate goals and support US workers.

Recognising the costs incurred by US companies in producing cleaner products due to emissions-related laws and regulations, it accounts for those costs by levying a fee on imports in carbon-intensive, trade-exposed sectors and support international climate cooperation and the reframing of trade around climate.

The bill proposes to levy a fee on imported pollution to address carbon leakage that undermines urgent climate action.

The import fee will be based on the domestic environmental cost incurred and will initially cover goods that are both carbon-intensive and exposed to trade competition, including aluminum, cement, iron, steel, natural gas, petroleum, and coal.

China emits more greenhouse gas than the entire developed world combined, according to a report compiled by Rhodium Group. The report said China emitted 27 per cent of the world's greenhouse gases in 2019.

The US was the second-largest emitter at 11 per cent while India was third with 6.6 per cent of emissions, the think tank said.

## YouTube To Acquire Indian Video E-Commerce Platform Simsim



### Agenceis

**YouTube** on Tuesday said it will acquire Indian video e-commerce platform Simsim, as part of its efforts to help small businesses and retailers in India reach new customers. "...We are taking another step to help viewers discover and buy products from local businesses: we have signed a definitive agreement to acquire Simsim and expect to complete the transaction in the coming weeks," Google said in a blogpost.

The company, however, did not disclose the financial details of the transaction. There will be no immediate changes to Simsim and the app will continue operating independently, it added. YouTube is working on ways to showcase Simsim offers to YouTube viewers.

In a joint statement, Simsim co-founders Amit Bagaria, Kunal Suri and Saurabh Vashishtha said the

platform was started to help users across India shop online with ease, enabled through small sellers and brands showcasing and selling their products using the power of content by trusted influencers.

"Being a part of the YouTube and Google ecosystem furthers Simsim in its mission. We cannot think of a better ecosystem in which to build Simsim, in terms of technology, reach, creator networks and culture," they added.

The blogpost noted that as more and more shopping happens online, video has an important role in helping viewers discover new products and find expert advice they trust. "Every day, people come to YouTube to compare products, watch reviews and find recommendations from their favorite creators. Simsim is helping small businesses in India transition to e-commerce by using the power of video and creators," it added.

Simsim app serves as a platform to connect local businesses, influ-

encers and customers. Creators post video reviews about products from local businesses, and viewers can buy those products directly through the app. Videos are available in three local languages including Hindi, Tamil and Bengali.

"For over 15 years, small businesses have used YouTube to expand their presence online -- and many of them use YouTube to reach customers outside of their local community... By bringing Simsim and YouTube together, our goal is to help small businesses and retailers in India reach new customers in even more powerful ways," it said.

With over 2,500 YouTube creators with over one million subscribers and YouTube Shorts that was launched in India first, Google said it is committed to bringing the best of YouTube to India and growing the creator community by making it even easier for the new generation of mobile-first creators to get started.

## Adani Companies Under SEBI, DRI probe: Minister Informs Lok Sabha

### Agenceis

**Pankaj Chaudhary**, minister of state for finance, on Monday informed Parliament that the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) are probing Adani Group companies for non-compliance to rules. However, it was not clear when the investigation was launched by the regulators.

"SEBI is investigating some Adani Group companies with regard to compliance with SEBI Regulations. Further, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) is investigating certain entities belonging to the Adani Group," Chaudhary stated in Lok Sabha on the first day of the monsoon session.

The stocks of Adani Group companies have been on a downward spiral ever since a report by The Economic Times said that the National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL), India's securities depository, has frozen the accounts of three foreign funds—Albula Investment Fund, Cresta Fund and APMS Investment Fund—which together own over Rs 43,500 crore worth of shares in four Adani Group companies. As a result, the funds would not be able to sell any of the existing securities nor buy any new securities.

The report said, citing an official, that the NSDL's move could be because of insufficient disclosure of information regarding beneficial ownership as per the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Typically, the accounts are frozen if the clients do not take



any action despite being notified.

Following the report, shares of Adani Group companies plummeted from as high as a 1000 per cent rise gained in over a year. After the explosive report on June 14, the shares of six Adani companies have fallen between 12.9-44.9 per cent.

"We have always been transparent with all our regulators and have full faith in them. While we have always been fully compliant with applicable SEBI regulations, we have made full disclosure to SEBI on specific information requests from them in the past. However, we have not received any communication or information requests recently. With regard to DRI matter, it issued a show cause notice to Adani Power, about 5 years back. Subsequently, DRI passed an order in favour of Adani Power confirming that there is no over-valuation of equipment. The department has approached the Tribunal and the matter stands sub judice now," the company said in a statement.

## Individuals Can Now Update Mobile Numbers On Aadhaar At Their Doorstep

### Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** Individuals can now update mobile numbers on their Aadhaar cards at their doorstep with the help of a postman.

India Post Payments Bank and Unique Identification Authority of India under an arrangement will allow postmen to update mobile numbers of Aadhaar cardholders.

The service will be available through a network of 650 India Post Payments Bank, 1.46 lakh postmen and Gramin Dak Sevaks (GDS).

"The mobile update service of

UIDAI through the ubiquitous and accessible network of post offices, postmen and GDS will help in actualising IPPB's vision of serving the underserved and unbanked areas, and bridging the digital divide," IPPB Managing Director and CEO J Venkatramu said in a statement on Tuesday.

At present, IPPB is only providing mobile update service and will very soon also enable child enrolment service through its network.

As on March 31, 2021, UIDAI has issued 128.99 crore Aadhaar numbers to residents of India.



## Pegasus Snooping

On Monday, the Opposition had disrupted the proceedings over a variety of issues, including price rise and three farm laws.

Earlier in the day, the House was adjourned twice after the Opposition created a ruckus over snooping and other issues.

Opposition members, including from the Congress and the TMC, started raising slogans and showing placards to attack the government on the snooping issue as soon as the House met for the day at 11 am.

The proceedings lasted for barely five minutes. The same scene was witnessed when the House reassembled at 2 pm.

One of the placards read that while people are suffering from unemployment, the government is busy with "Jasosi" (spying). The slogan was in Hindi.

Some Congress members were holding placards about Rahul Gandhi's name appearing in the list of potential targets of snooping.

Trinamool Congress (TMC) members alleged that party MP Abhishek Banerjee's phone number was selected for surveillance.

Abhishek Banerjee is the nephew of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

YSRCP members also flagged the issue of special status for Andhra Pradesh.

Speaker Om Birla said it is not right to disrupt the House and the government is ready to give answers on any matter.

"Please go back to your seats. I will facilitate a debate on every issue. (But) sloganeering is not right. The government is ready to debate on whatever issues you want to debate on," he said.

The issue of "snooping" using the Pegasus spyware has snowballed into a massive political row in Parliament and outside as various parties are demanding a thorough investigation and sacking of Home Minister Amit Shah, while the government maintains that it had nothing to do with it.

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, BJP ministers Ashwini Vaishnav and Prahlad Singh Patel, as also former election commissioner Ashok Lavasa and poll strategist Prashant Kishor were among those whose phone numbers were listed as potential targets for hacking through the Israeli spyware sold only to government agencies, an international media consortium has reported.

Rajya Sabha proceedings were also adjourned twice during the pre-lunch period on Tuesday after uproar by opposition members over various issues including the Pegasus snooping issue.

The House was first adjourned for a few minutes after it met in the morning and then again soon after it met at 12 PM.

Members of the Congress, TMC, left parties rushed to the well as the House reassembled at 12 and started raising slogans. They were also carrying placards with them.

Protesting members ignored the requests made by deputy chairman Harivansh to allow the Question Hour to function.

"Please go back to tour seats. Let the Question Hour continue. This is your time," he said urging the members to return to their seats and allow the House to function.

After continued uproar and sloganeering by opposition members, he adjourned the House till 1 PM.

He said members of various parties had met the Chairman, who decided that the House will take up a discussion on COVID-19 at 1 PM.

Earlier in the morning, opposition parties obstructed regular business over various issues, including the Pegasus snooping controversy.

Members of opposition parties, who had given as many as 15 notices under Rule 267 requiring setting aside of the business of the day to take up the issue they want to raise, raised slogans and rushed into the Well of the House, prompting chairman M Venkaiah Naidu to adjourn the proceedings till 12 noon.

The issues include alleged snooping of Opposition leaders, journalists and vocal critics of the government, fuel price rise and farmers' agitation against new farm laws.

No sooner had the House conduced the death of a former member, Ramadhar Kashyap, members of Congress, TMC, Left and DMK were up on their feet raising various issues.

With the chairman disallowing all the 15 notices as he did for the 17 served on Monday, Anand Sharma of the Congress said either the Rule 267 should be removed or the Chairman should consider notices given under them as long as it is there in the rule book.

"These are issues of concern. We should not only read about it in newspapers or see on television," he said.

Naidu said he agrees with Sharma. "There is a need for (rule) 267. I have been there in the House and I understand the problem of national security, something serious happens, you have to suspend the business and then take up that matter."

But this provided the Chairman goes through the notice and then admits it, he said adding the notices given on Monday and Tuesday largely relate to "variety of issues... some of them ongoing for a long time, some of them discussed earlier."

The Chairman said he had received 15 notices on various issues.

The Zero Hour is the time when members can raise issues on which they have given notices, he added.

But Opposition members were not convinced and started to rush to the Well as Naidu called for listed official papers to be laid on the table.

As they raised slogans, Naidu adjourned the proceedings.

## Oppn Demands

The Congress accused the government of "treason" and held Shah responsible for the snooping and hacking of phones of journalists, judges and politicians, and demanded a probe into the "role of the prime minister" in the entire matter as well.

The demand for a probe came from opposition parties, including the Congress, TMC, NCP, Left parties, RJD and Shiv Sena.

The BJP hit back at the Congress and claimed "there is not a shred of evidence" to link either the ruling party or the Modi dispensation with the matter.

BJP leader and former IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad questioned the credentials of those behind the story as well as its timing, coming a day before Parliament's Monsoon Session that began on Monday, as he accused the opposition party of hitting a "new low" in making baseless allegations.

The government, on its part, categorically rejected the charges, with IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnav asserting in the Lok

Sabha that illegal surveillance was not possible with checks and balances in the country's laws, and alleged that attempts were being made to malign Indian democracy. Vaishnav's name also figures in the list.

Home Minister Amit Shah also lashed out at the opposition Congress and international organisations, saying such "obstructors" and "disrupters" will not be able to derail India's development trajectory with their conspiracies.

The issue also rocked Parliament, where opposition parties raised the issue and disrupted proceedings of both Houses. Several opposition members gave adjournment notices to discuss the issue, but were rejected by the chair.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the matter, saying, "We know what he's been reading -- everything on your phone." Gandhi wrote this as a reply to his own tweet two days ago in which he had asked people, "I'm wondering what you guys are reading these days."

The Congress and Gandhi termed the BJP "Bharatiya Jasos Party" and tweeted, "One feels like laughing at 'his' fear".

The CPI(M) accused the government of engaging NSO for carrying out surveillance and said it had raised the issue of this "dangerous spyware" in Parliament two years ago.

"The central government must come clean on what is its engagement with NSO, what are the terms and how much of our public funds have been paid for this," the party asked.

RJD's Manoj Jha, Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut, AAP's Sanjay Singh and NCP's Nawab Malik demanded a thorough probe and action against those involved.

Addressing a joint press conference, Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the party's first demand is Shah's immediate dismissal.

He said the Congress will take all opposition parties on-board over the issue and decide on whether to ask for a judicial or parliamentary probe in the matter.

He said the minister is responsible for deployment of this illegal spyware Pegasus. "Our first demand is the immediate sacking of Minister of Home and Internal Security Amit Shah and a probe into the role of the prime minister in the matter," he said.

Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge said Shah should immediately resign as he "does not deserve" to occupy the position he holds.

Kharge said the Congress along with other opposition parties will raise the issue strongly in Parliament.

Leader of Congress in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said, "Modi ji promotes digital India, but what we are seeing is Surveillance India".

The Congress also asked a set of questions to the PM, including why Shah, the in-charge of the country's internal security, should not be sacked immediately.

"Does this not warrant a full investigation into the role of PM, HM and others involved," the party asked.

Terming it an attack on democracy, Trinamool Congress MP Saugata Roy said, "This is a black day for democracy. This is shameful that the Union government is using spyware to snoop on phones of politicians, journalists, activists. This only reflects the authoritarian mindset of this government. The Union government should come clean on it. We condemn it."

"Two minutes of silence for the sore losers. Despite allies like ED, CBI, NIA, IT, ECI, BJP's money+might and PegasusSpying Mr Amit Shah couldn't save his face in BengalElections2021. Please come prepared with better resources in 2024," Abhishek Banerjee tweeted.

Terming it a very serious issue concerning national security, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said since the government has said that it has not done any snooping, this should be probed.

"I feel that there should be a thorough independent judicial inquiry or one by a joint parliamentary committee. We cannot just brush it under the carpet," he told reporters.

An international media consortium reported Sunday that over 300 verified mobile phone numbers, including of two ministers, over 40 journalists, three opposition leaders and one sitting judge besides scores of businesspersons and activists in India could have been targeted for hacking through the spyware.

Gandhi, BJP minister Prahlad Singh Patel, as also former election commissioner Ashok Lavasa and poll strategist Prashant Kishor were among those whose numbers were listed as potential targets for hacking, the consortium reported.(PTI)

## Extremely Alarming

were among those targeted in several countries including India, with a phone spyware sold to various governments by an Israeli firm, according to an international media consortium.

In a statement, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet said governments should immediately "cease their own use of surveillance technologies" in ways that violate human rights, and should take concrete actions to protect against such "invasions" of privacy by regulating the distribution, use and export of surveillance technology created by others.

"Revelations regarding the apparent widespread use of the Pegasus software to spy on journalists, human rights defenders, politicians and others in a variety of countries are extremely alarming, and seem to confirm some of the worst fears about the potential misuse of surveillance technology to illegally undermine people's human rights," Bachelet said.

Media reports on Sunday claimed that spyware Pegasus was used to conduct surveillance on about 300 Indians, including ministers, political leaders, government officials and journalists.

The Indian government has categorically rejected the attack on it by the opposition parties in the wake of the snooping row, saying attempts were being made to "malign" Indian democracy.

Bachelet said various parts of the UN Human Rights system have repeatedly raised serious concerns about the dangers of authorities using surveillance tools from a variety of sources.

"Use of surveillance software has been linked to arrest, intimidation and even killings of journalists and human rights defenders. Reports of surveillance also have the invidious effect of making people censor themselves through fear," she said.

Bachelet said journalists and human rights defenders play an indispensable role in societies, and when they are silenced,

everyone suffers.

"I would like to remind all states that surveillance measures can only be justified in narrowly defined circumstances, with a legitimate goal. And they must be both necessary and proportionate to that goal," she said.

Referring to the reports, the UN high commissioner for human rights said, "If the recent allegations about the use of Pegasus are even partly true, then that red line has been crossed again and again with total impunity."

She said companies involved in the development and distribution of surveillance technologies are responsible for avoiding harm to human rights and they need to take immediate steps to mitigate and remedy the harms their products are causing or contributing to.

"In addition to immediately stopping their own role in violations of human rights, States have a duty to protect individuals from abuses of the right to privacy by companies," she said.

"One key step to effectively prevent abuse of surveillance technology is for States to require by law that the companies involved meet their human rights responsibilities, are much more transparent in relation to the design and use of their products, and put in place more effective accountability mechanisms," she added.

## Ex-JNU Students

an international media consortium reported on Tuesday.

The Wire news portal, in the third part of its revelations from the international collaborative journalistic investigation called the Pegasus Project, reported that those marked as potential targets for surveillance include Ambedkarite activist Ashok Bharti;

academic and chronicler of life in Naxal-dominated regions Bela Bhatia; railway union leader Shiv Gopal Mishra and Delhi-based labour rights activist Anjani Kumar.

Anti-coal mining activist Alok Shukla, Delhi University professor Saroj Giri, Bastar-based peace activist Shubhranshu Choudhary and Bihar-based activist Ipsa Shatakshi are also on the list, the report noted.

"Without digital forensics, it is not possible to conclusively establish whether their phones were hacked or infected. But their appearance on the list suggests that they were persons of interest to an unidentified client of the NSO Group that was focused on India," the report said.

The Pegasus spyware was created by Israeli technology firm NSO.

The government has dismissed the reports on the use of Pegasus software to snoop on Indians, saying the allegations levelled just ahead of the Monsoon session of Parliament are aimed at maligning Indian democracy.

Ashok Bharti, the chairman of All India Ambedkar Mahasabha, an umbrella association of Dalit rights' groups, had led a nationwide Bharat Bandh on April 2, 2018 against a Supreme Court ruling, which he claimed took away the teeth of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

The ruling sparked massive demonstrations across the country, and the Bharat Bandh claimed 11 lives and left hundreds injured.

In 2019, WhatsApp stated that four of the activists mentioned above -- Saroj Giri, Bela Bhatia, Alok Shukla and Shubhranshu Choudhary -- were affected by a Pegasus attack that took place through a specific vulnerability in the company's security.

Two of the former JNU students -- Umar Khalid and Anirban Bhattacharya -- were among those charged for sedition over an event on JNU campus where anti-national slogans were allegedly raised.

Khalid is currently in jail for charges under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in connection with the northeast Delhi riots of February 2020.

The report has been published by The Wire news portal from India in collaboration with 16 other international publications including the Washington Post, The Guardian and Le Monde, as media partners to an investigation conducted by Paris-based media non-profit organisation Forbidden Stories and rights group Amnesty International.

The investigation focuses on a leaked list of more than 50,000 phone numbers from across the world that are believed to have been the target of surveillance through Pegasus software of Israeli surveillance company NSO Group. (PTI)

## China Building

between the existing air bases in China close to the LAC for fighter aircraft operations was around 400 kms but "this would be bridged with the operationalisation of the Shakche airfield."

Besides, the Indian agencies are also monitoring an airfield near the Uttarakhand border in Barahoti with China where the Chinese have brought in a large number of unmanned aerial vehicles which are continuously flying in that region.

Last week, a report said that the Chinese Army was building permanent concrete structure near the LAC, which will allow its troops access the disputed areas with India in a very short time.

Senior government sources told ANI that one such camp is coming up few kilometres inside the Chinese territory opposite the Naku La area in north Sikkim area, which is barely a few minutes distance from the area where Indian and Chinese troops had clashed last year when the confrontation started and also in January this year.

## VDC Members

"anti-national elements always try to revive militancy."

"However due to recent drone activities over military installations, the army met the trusted VDC members and educated them about the drone surveillance," a source privy to the development said.

"During the interactions, VDC members are provided training to handle weapons and they are also made aware about important aspects of surveillance. The VDC members are also made aware about the threats due to drones in the bordering region."

Sources said that the VDC members have been asked to keep a close watch on activities in and around their areas and inform local police or army units in case of any suspicious activity or movement.

"Interactions with VDC members are a regular feature for the Army," said defence spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Devender Anand.

He informed that an interactive workshop with Village Defence Committee

(VDC) members was held at Sangiot in Poonch where members displayed their training prowess and skills in weapon handling.

"Indian Army assisted all the members of VDC in further improving their self defence capabilities and laid emphasis on the role of Village Defence Committee," he added.

"A lecture cum demonstration on weapon handling and cleaning, musketry, firing positions and minor repairs of weapons was conducted as part of the workshop," the defence spokesperson said--(KNO)

## Eid-ul-Azha Being

This would be the fourth Eid in a row which will be celebrated amid covid-19 shadow. This year Eid-ul-Fitr was also observed amid the pandemic. Last year, the festivals also remained subdued due to the covid pandemic. In fact, it is fifth Eid festival which will be observed in quiet manner in Jammu and Kashmir as people remained confined to homes amid massive security and communication clampdown due to revocation of Article 370 by the centre on August 5 2019.

Eid-ul-Azha falls on the 10th day of the Islamic calendar's last month, Dhu al-Hijjah.

Muslims celebrate Eid-ul-Azha to commemorate Prophet Abraham's (AS) willingness to follow Allah's command to sacrifice his son prophet Ismael (AS).

The celebration of Eid-ul-Azha this year would be impacted with no congregational prayers and social gathering.

Traditionally, Muslims offer Eid congregational prayers in open spaces like grounds commonly known as Eidgah. There would hardly be any hug to extend greetings as would be done in normal times after Eid special prayers are over.

Other than the contemporary surreal times, thousands of people would attend Eid prayers in Eidgahs, mosques and shrines across Jammu and Kashmir. The biggest gathering would be seen at Eidgah and at Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar.

In run up to the festival, markets saw some buzz with mutton, chicken and bakery shops frequented by customers along with shops dealing with readymade garments and shoes. However, there was feverish shopping as would be associated with normal times.

## Ease In Curbs

lockdowns.

The Eid shoppers returned to markets, thronging bakeries and garment shops in the city and elsewhere in the valley, as Eid-ul-Azha will be celebrated on Wednesday, officials said.

However, the main economic activity was centred around the purchase of sacrificial animals -- mostly sheep and goats -- as Muslims across the world prepare to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha, a tradition following Prophet Ibrahim, who had offered to sacrifice his son Ismail to fulfil Allah's command.

The animal sales have been brisk but still not at par with the 2018 levels, livestock dealers said.

"We rear our flock for the year in the hope of making some money on the eve of Eid. The last two years were devastating as the sales were next to nothing. However, this year, I have sold 75 per cent of my stock," Ghulam Din Khatana, a resident of south Kashmir's Kulgam district, said.

Khatana is hopeful that he will be heading home on Wednesday or early Thursday "without having to care for any sheep".

While the Eid celebrations in 2019 were muted due to a curfew imposed across Kashmir following the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution just a week before the festival, several restrictions in the wake of the outbreak of COVID-19 saw business activity remaining almost suspended.

Irfan Ahmad, the managing director of Modern Sweets and Confectionery, said the sales have improved this year.

"There was a lot of confusion ahead of Eid as regards whether the restrictions will be more stringent or eased. The easing of the restrictions has come in the nick of time," he said.

Ahmad, however, said most of the city bakeries had cut down on production as they were not expecting much of a foothill.

While last year health experts had advised against distribution of meat on Eid, this year they have asked people to allow only those vaccinated against Covid handle the ritual of sacrifice and meat distribution.

## Militants Attack

Mohammad Asif, a local said.

He said that many shoppers ran for their lives, while the traders also downed their shutters fearing outbreak of encounter in the locality.

Soon after the attack, the eyewitnesses said, a contingent of police and CRPF personnel appeared in the area and launched a cordon and search operation to nab the attackers.

The eyewitnesses said that cops not only carried searches of several houses in the locality but also questioned the shopkeepers about the attack. The search operation, according to witnesses continued for several hours. However, no arrests were made.

Meanwhile, SHO Police Station Rainawari, Rakesh Pandita told a local news agency KNT that all cops are safe and sound. He said windownpanes of the vehicle were damaged in the attack.

## Militants Injure

in village Kokagund of Verinag on Tuesday evening and opened fire upon his wife and daughter leaving both of them injured.

The injured identified as Malik's wife Naidha Jan (43) and daughter Madhiya (17) were removed to District Hospital Anantnag, the officer said. However they were shifted to GMC Anantnag for specialized treatment.

A doctor at District Hospital Anantnag said that Naidha has suffered bullet injuries in leg and abdomen while Madhiya has bullet injury in gluteal region. He said both are stable.

It was not immediately known if Malik was at home at the time of the incident. The officer said that soon after the attack, the entire area was cordoned off and searches launched to trace the assailants.

Meanwhile, police quoting eyewitnesses said that Mufti Altaf of JeM was identified as one of the attackers.

"As per eye witnesses, #terrorist of proscribed #terror outfit JeM Mufti Altaf R/O Nathipura Dooru was identified as one of the #attackers. Further details shall follow," the police posted on its official Twitter handle.

## Govt Forms STF

Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016, and enforcement of the ban on single use

plastic items.

It has been also tasked to organize regular meetings of State Level Monitoring Committee for purpose of monitoring of implementation of the PWM Rules, 2016 and further strengthen Urban Local Bodies and Gram Panchayats for fulfilling responsibilities cost under the Rules.

Besides Chief Secretary of J&K as its head, the committee comprises of chairman J&K Pollution Control Board, administrative secretaries of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj department, Housing & Urban Development Department, Industries and Commerce Department, School Education Department, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department and Higher Education Department.

The task force, asked to meet once in six months, has been also asked to leverage funds available under Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 for development of waste management infrastructure to mitigate plastic pollution in J&K, according to a government order.

Besides it has been mandated to effectively strategize the implementation of SRO-231 dated 26-03-2019, for banning Single Use Plastic (SUP) in J &K and also mobilize and build a strong public movement for elimination of SUP with wider public participation including educational institutions (Schools, Colleges, Universities etc, NCC, NSS, Scouts, Youth Clubs, Eco clubs, Opinion Makers and Voluntary Organizations through Urban Local Bodies.

The committee has been also tasked to encourage and incentivize the industry involved in the manufacture of eco-friendly biodegradable substitutes for SUP.

## Transformation Of J&K

and directed the officials to integrate the same in the Master plans to change the landscapes of the cities.

The official spokesperson said that Sinha asked the officials to rope in best professional experts in their respective fields and make them a part of the urban development planning process.

The LG, he said, also advised the H&UDD department to identify and engage graduates from IIT Jammu, IIM Jammu, NIT Srinagar, and other National Institutes having relevant work experience, under Lieutenant Governor's Sustainable Development Fellowship for making the delivery structure of the department more efficient and robust.

The LG further stressed on taking ecology factor into consideration, besides active participation of the public & elected representatives of Urban Local Bodies in the development process.

"Solid waste management is another key component we must be focusing on. A comparative study should be done to develop a more sustainable model of waste management. Ensure strict enforcement of Plastic waste management, besides no blockage of natural drainage for clean urban areas," Sinha said, as per the official spokesperson.

The LG, he said, also passed strict directions for the completion of projects within timelines while maintaining standards of construction for ensuring long durability.

"The tendering process must be completed within fixed timeframes. Put in place a robust Mechanism for capacity building and audit of the manpower," the LG said.

As per the official spokesperson, directions were also passed for audit of community toilets for ensuring their proper usage and maintenance. He said that the LG further asked the concerned officials to put special focus on Devolution of greater financial powers to JMC/ULBs; Protection of Livelihood of Street vendors; Affordable Housing, Slum Redevelopment & Rehabilitation and Township Policy and Solid Waste Management & Plastic Waste Management Action Plans.

"Terming development of the parks with public-private partnership as a good initiative by the JMC, the LG stated that the good practice must be replicated by other agencies as well in the other cities for a better outcome," he said.

"As a part of the interventions made by the Government to strengthen the governance framework and making it more transparent, the Lt Governor e-inaugurated and laid e-foundation for multiple projects of Housing and Urban Development," he added.

According to the official spokesperson, the LG launched the Online Building Permission system aiming at simplifying the building permission process within defined timelines of 21 days to facilitate the people. With the system being made online, now the applicant can track the application status, get NOC, make fee-payment through online mode and receive real-time alerts.

The occasion, he said, also marked the launch of Enforcement App by JMC for ensuring factual reporting about unauthorized constructions and their status by enforcement inspectors, besides the JK LED Street Light Complaint App to bring ease of use, efficiency and transparency in the complaint resolution process.

Other important projects for which the e-foundation was laid today were Modernization of Narwal Fruit / Vegetable Mandi costing Rs 9.86 cr and Road improvement project from Dogra Chowk to KC Chowk Jammu at a cost of Rs 9.23 cr.

Meanwhile, the LG e-inaugurated various works and schemes and included Drainage Scheme and Dewatering station at Lal Chowk, Srinagar at Rs 9.96 cr; Stormwater drainage network at Malbarg, Srinagar costing Rs 6.15 cr; Dewatering station at Nund Reshi Colony Bemina, Srinagar worth Rs 3.23 cr, besides laying the e-foundation for Drainage Scheme at Khomaini Chowk, Bemina under AMRUT costing Rs 11.57 cr and Drainage Scheme at Iqbal Colony, HMT, Srinagar under AMRUT, at Rs 3.03 cr, the official spokesperson said.

He said that Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary, H&UDD gave a detailed briefing about the Initiatives, Action taken & Achievements of the department. He also informed the chair about the progress made under various flagship schemes including AMRUT; SBM(U); Smart Cities Mission; PMAY-HFA(U); DAY-NULM.

## Greets People

with good health for all," he added.

The LG also urged people to follow the Covid protocols, display Covid appropriate behavior, offer Eid prayers at home and stay safe in view of the evolving situation.

## India's Covid

have missed deaths that occurred in overwhelmed hospitals or while health care was disrupted, particularly during the devastating virus surge earlier this year.

"True deaths are likely to be in the



## Kohli, Rahane Rested For India's Warm-Up Game Against Select County XI



Press Trust of India

**DURHAM:** Skipper Virat Kohli and vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane have opted out of the three day first-class warm-up fixture against County Select XI along with senior-off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin.

Rohit Sharma is leading the side in Kohli and Rahane's absence as the game began today.

In an interesting move, India's reserve pacer Avesh Khan is playing for the opposition side. It is understood that it was done after both sides mutually agreed to give their players game time.

Incidentally, during Pakistan's 1987 tour of the country, 14-year-old Sachin Tendulkar was summoned as the reserve fielder for Imran Khan-led side during a match against India at Brabourne Stadium.

Mayank Agarwal, who is likely to open with Rohit Sharma in the first Test at Nottingham will be watched keenly along with Mohammed Siraj, who could preferred over Ishant Sharma in the playing XI.

First team regular like Mohammed Shami has also been rested from the game, which is one of India's rare first-class game in last 10 years.

It is understood that Kohli,

Rahane, Shami, Jadeja will be sweating it out at the nets alongside Ashwin, who has already bowled a whopping 58 overs and taken seven wickets in a County game for Surrey last week.

Regular keeper Rishabh Pant and senior reserve glovesman Wriddhiman Saha are currently isolating in London after the COVID scare but are expected to join the team before the intra-squad game scheduled at the Riverside ground during the last week of this month.

It is tentatively scheduled between July 26-28.

While Kohli, Rahane, Shami are also coming from a three-week break, playing a first-class match means that all the seniors will have to remain on field for a stipulated period of time.

The match also provides an opportunity to Hanuma Vihari to score a few runs and keep Rahane under pressure since he hasn't been scoring runs very consistently.

The five-Test series will be an acid test for both Cheteshwar Pujara and Rahane.

India: Rohit Sharma (C), Mayank Agarwal, Cheteshwar Pujara, Hanuma Vihari, KL Rahul (WK), Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Shardul Thakur, Umesh Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj.

## Cyclist Parwez Ahmad Chases Gold With Hopes On A Fundraiser Campaign

R Elahi

**SRINAGAR:** Born in Check-i-Ka-woosa village in Narbala area of Budgam district, 22-year-old Parwez Ahmad won Bronze medal at the National Road Cycling Championship 2020 in March of this year by gathering the required equipment, including a top-end racing cycle, from his friends and peers.

As a young boy, cycling was a way for Parwez to commute to school, run errands for his family and to explore the world he was born in. But after years of riding his labourer father's Roadster Jet bicycle for fun, Parwez realised that he was not only the fastest in his village but also that riding a bicycle had become more than just a passion for him.

"At 13, I participated in my first cycling competition," Parwez told Kashmir Observer. "I came 6th among dozens of cyclists while riding my father's Roadster."

Soon after, Parwez's father recognised his son's passion and couldn't say no when Parwez asked for a racing cycle.

"He bought me the basic Desi racing cycle. But it was enough for me to pursue my dreams."

Parwez credits his schooling in the art of cycle racing to Budgam's ace cyclist, Muhammad Akbar Khan.

"He is my inspiration. He took me and the other boys under his wing and showed us how professional cyclists train. Now there are 7 to 8 boys from our village who are National gold, silver and bronze medalists."

Under the shade of his mentor, Parwez participated in Mountain biking championships as well as National and local competitions as a teenager. Practising and improving his balance sense, the strength of his core muscles while also maintaining his diet, nutrition and fitness levels.

"We have the perfect platform for cycle racing in Kashmir that can't be seen anywhere in India or in the world. The geography and the climate can mould any cyclist's endurance and technique. What we lack is a dearth of equipment, nutritional support and coaches," Parwez told KO.

Parwez embodies the relentless spirit of a hard-working cyclist in real life as well. Apart from being a sportsman, Parwez is currently pursuing his Masters in Physical Education from Guru Nanak Dev University, having completed his Bachelor in PE last year from the same university in Amritsar, Punjab.

"I have been training at my Uni-



versity for the past 4 years and the coaches have been extremely helpful. I have improved my skills by training regularly at the University's Velodrome Stadium. We even get to use University-provided cycles for training and intra-university competition purposes. We have to give them back afterwards."

While studying outside, Parwez Ahmad competed in many more cycling championships including the prestigious 160-km long Mumbai-Pune Cycle Race. Yet again, Parwez had to lend equipment from his friends.

"Because I'm a full-time student my chances of finding a sponsor or financial assistance from corporations or Government are very less. After my Bronze in the National, Advisors to LG, Baseer Khan and Farooq Khan, both felicitated me. They said the Administration will help me in equipment and nutrition, but I had to go back to Amritsar for my final exams."

Now Parwez is eyeing Gold at the National Road Cycling Championship 2021 set to be held in November or December of this year. A medal is a direct ticket to All India Cycling Camp 2021, exactly where Parwez wants to be. He further hopes to break the current Srinagar to Leh cycling record – 440 kms in 26 hours 30 minutes.

"I'm certain that with the help of an upgrade in my equipment and proper diet, I would better the

current world record by at least 2 hours time."

A lot goes on behind the scenes when preparing for such record breaking events – months of preparation in terms of nutrition, diet, supplements, equipment and travel.

"I was in this state of mind when I wrote a Facebook post asking for help."

To Parwez's surprise an engineer and sports lover, Akshay Koul, saw the post and decided to support the young cyclist.

"I saw the FB post and immediately reached out to him. I felt an online fundraising campaign can help Parwez achieve his dreams," Koul told KO.

Koul has set up the campaign on 'milaap.org' website under the banner 'Help Parwez National Bronze Medalist – Cycling'. The campaign seeks to raise a sum of Rs 60,000 to help Parwez cover one year of nutrition costs. The fund has been able to raise 15% (Rs 8,865) thus far.

"If I get the support for my nutritional needs I can keep on training for the upcoming competitions."

Even without a top-end racing cycle in his armoury, Parwez Ahmad has proven time and again that he is the upcoming top gun in the world of cycle racing. All he needs is a bit of support at an important juncture of his sporting career: milaap.org/fundraisers/support-parwez-8

## Saqlain Mushtaq Wants ICC To Review 15-Degree Elbow Rule For Bowlers

Press Trust of India

**KARACHI:** Former Pakistan spinner Saqlain Mushtaq wants the International Cricket Council (ICC) to review its existing 15-degree arm/elbow extension law for bowlers.

Saqlain, who is presently head coach at the Pakistan Cricket Board's High Performance Centre in Lahore, said the law is discouraging youngsters from taking up the art of off-spin bowling.

"I would like to know how the ICC experts reached this conclusion of allowing only 15-degrees latitude to bowlers. Did they do research on Asian players, Caribbean players, others because everyone is different."

"Asian players' bodies are different, they tend to have more flexibility in their arms and some have hyper mobile joints. If you look at Caribbean or English players their bodies are different," Saqlain said in an interview.

He noted that even carry angle, meaning flexibility in arms while in standing posture, is different in Asian players.

"I think the ICC should review this law because the 15-degrees latitude is too little. It is discouraging players from the art of off-spin bowling."

"I personally believe that one can bowl off-breaks, doosra and top spin even within the law but since it came out I have seen players who used to bowl off-spin now becoming leg-spinners or wrist spinners," he said.

Saqlain, who ended an illustrious career with 208 Test and 288 ODI wickets and made the Doosra ball famous, believed that an off-spinner can also be successful in white ball formats if he has a good set of skills and it is not necessary to be able to bowl the doosra to be effective.

Saqlain also felt that teams were not relying on specialist off-break bowlers in white ball formats because of an increasing trend of using wrist spinners.

"It is an ongoing trend in white ball formats that teams want to have maximum wrist spinners

like India has Chahal and Yadav, Australia has Adam Zampa and Stephenson, England has Adil Rashid etc... And this is discouraging players from taking up the art of off-spin bowling."

He noted that it was only in Test cricket mainly that some countries still employed specialist off-spinners successfully like Nathan Lyon was a regular for Australia and R Ashwin for India while Moeen Ali has done his bit for England.

Saqlain, 44, who has worked as spin consultant/coach with different teams including England, West Indies, New Zealand urged countries to have budgets to have regular permanent spin coaches with their teams.

"Their is also a need to have permanent spin coaches at domestic level and the junior levels."

Saqlain had no doubt that spinners would have a vital role to play in the upcoming World T20 Cup in UAE and Oman provided the conditions remained dry.

"Role of spinners in the sub-continent and UAE is always vital but there is no dew factor because a lot of matches are held under lights."

"If there is no dew factor they will dominate in dry conditions but to do this they must be class bowlers with a very good set of skills. It is all about bowlers who try to get away with just bowling economically and those who try to take wickets as well."

Saqlain said that a spin bowler loses his bite, drifts in dew conditions and it becomes difficult to also grip the ball.

To a question, he had no doubt that India's resurgence in world cricket was due to the number of A team tours they arranged for their fringe players in the last 10-years.

"Pakistan cricket has suffered a lot because of no international cricket at home but India has done the right thing by investing on its under-19 and A team tours. I remember I was working in England for like four summers and once in Australia and every year I saw some Indian team touring those countries."

## Faster, Higher, Stronger & Now 'Together', IOC Adds Fourth Olympic Motto

Press Trust of India

**TOKYO:** The Olympic motto was amended to "faster, higher, stronger - together" during the International Olympic Committee's session in Tokyo on Tuesday as the world waited for the pandemic-hit Games to begin on July 23.

The word "together" after a hyphen has been added to the earlier motto, which was made up of three Latin words -- Citius, Altius, Fortius, translating to "Faster Higher Stronger" in English.

The proposal to include the word together was made by IOC President Thomas Bach, which was endorsed by the body's Executive Board (EB) in April.

Bach had suggested the motto should become "faster, higher, stronger - together" in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

The motto now reads 'Citius, Altius, Fortius, Communis' in Latin.

The IOC members unanimously approved an amendment of the Olympic Charter.

During the session, Bach stressed the importance of solidarity within the Olympic Movement and beyond.

"Solidarity is at the heart of everything we do. Solidarity fuels our mission to make the world a better place through sport. Because we can only go faster, we can only aim higher, we can only become stronger, if we stand together in solidarity."

"Strengthening solidarity in this



way also helps us to accomplish our 3,000-year-old mission to contribute to peace through sport. Without solidarity, there is no peace."

The Olympic motto was adopted with the launch of the Olympic Movement in 1894 at the urging of founder Pierre de Coubertin, who wanted a slogan that expressed excellence in sport. It was also supported by the International Pierre de Coubertin Committee.

Bach was determined to ensure the Olympics takes place this year despite the uncertainty around the COVID-19 pandemic.

"When you look at this situation in hindsight today, it may appear like it was smooth sailing. This is far from the truth. Over the past 15 months, we had to take daily decisions on very uncertain grounds."

"We had doubts every day. We deliberated and discussed. There were sleepless nights. Like everyone else in the world, we did not know, I did not know, what the future would hold."

## JKFA Professional League 2021: The Points Table After 14 Matches

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** As the eight football clubs competing in the 1st Edition JKFA Professional League 2021 take a breather till 24th July, here is how the teams stand in the points table after 14 matches.

JK& Bank XI take the top spot with 9 points from 3 games, scoring 10 goals and conceding just 1 in the process. Downtown Heroes FC take the 2nd place with 9 points from their 3 matches, scoring 5 and conceding none. In 3rd place, Hyderya Sports FC has also racked up 9 points from 4 matches, scoring 7 and conceding 6.

Lonestar Kashmir FC take the 4th position with 7 points from their 4 matches. Scoring 4 and conceding 3 in the process. Real Kashmir (R) are in the 5th position with 5 points from 4 games, while

| Sl | Club/Team           | Played | Won | Drawn | Lost | Goal Scored | For | Ag | Total Points | GD | Position |
|----|---------------------|--------|-----|-------|------|-------------|-----|----|--------------|----|----------|
| 1  | JK& Bank XI         | 3      | 3   | 0     | 0    | 10          | 1   | 9  | 9            |    |          |
| 2  | Downtown Hero's FC  | 3      | 3   | -     | -    | 5           | 0   | 9  | 5            |    |          |
| 3  | Hyderya Sports FC   | 4      | 3   | 1     | 0    | 7           | 6   | 9  | 1            |    |          |
| 4  | Lonestar KFC        | 4      | 2   | 1     | 1    | 4           | 3   | 7  | 1            |    |          |
| 5  | Real Kashmir FC (R) | 4      | 1   | 1     | 2    | 7           | 5   | 4  | 2            |    |          |
| 6  | Shaheen FC Jammu    | 4      | 1   | -     | 3    | 2           | 5   | 3  | -3           |    |          |
| 7  | Kashmir Avengers FC | 3      | -   | -     | 3    | 1           | 6   | 0  | -5           |    |          |
| 8  | SCFA XI             | 3      | -   | -     | 3    | 1           | 11  | 0  | -10          |    |          |

Shaheen FC Jammu are in the 6th spot with 5 points from their 4 games. Kashmir Avengers FC are in the 7th position with 0 points from their 3 matches. The SCFA XI is in the last spot with 0 points from their 3 matches.

Another round of 14 matches are set to be played at the Synthetic Turf TRC in Srinagar from July 14 till July 31 and the League table is

sure to see some ups and downs.

Top two teams of the Professional League 2021 will get nominated to play in the 2021-22 season of the I-League Second Division. However, the likes of JK& Bank XI, Real Kashmir (R) and SCFA XI won't be considered for the I-League because of the clubs being departmental team, reserves team and academy team respectively.

## Don't Compare IPL With 2000-plus Domestic Cricket Games: BCCI Secy Jay Shah

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** There is a world of difference between organising 60 Indian Premier League matches and 2000-plus domestic games, said BCCI secretary Jay Shah as he rejected "unfair and unwarranted" criticism that the Board prioritised the cash-rich event over national tournaments like the Ranji Trophy.

Last year, the blue riband Ranji Trophy as well as junior cricket were not held because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the operational difficulties of creating a bio-secure environment for thousands of players and support staff.

While players lost out on significant earnings, the BCCI copped a lot of flak for too much focus on the cash-rich league.



"I feel the criticism is unwarranted and unfair. In 2020 as well, in the middle of the pandemic, we conducted Syed Mushtaq Ali tournament, Vijay Hazare tournament and

Senior Women's One-day tournament taking all precautions," Shah, who was in Muscat and Dubai, to oversee T20 World Cup and IPL preparations, was quoted as saying

by "Gulf News".

Shah said the number of matches and required logistics between two tournaments are incomparable.

"It won't be a fair assessment if IPL is compared with other Indian domestic tournaments. The IPL has a franchise model and a platform for the world's best cricketers, coaches, support staff to come and showcase their skills."

"The Indian domestic season has over 2000 games, whereas the IPL has 60 matches. With a cricketing set-up as big and as diverse as India's, it is not easy to conduct a full season when so many states are grappling with COVID caseloads," Shah explained.

In case of IPL, it's always been a seven-week affair while an entire domestic season with men, women's

and age-group cricket takes around six months to be completed with 38 teams in fray.

"You also have to factor in the time taken to have an entire domestic season and the travel that is included. They are putting their lives at risk, which should never be the case. It is not ideal to have age-group tournaments in such an environment and put careers of young cricketers at risk," Shah reasoned about not having any U-19 or U-16 tournaments last year.

"However, with the situation improving, we have announced a full season comprising 2127 domestic games across age groups for both men and women," he said.

The BCCI has recently published the dates of the full domestic season that starts in September this year and ends in April next year.

## انتقال پُر ملال

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ اور افسوس کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ اہلبیہ مرحوم حاجی محمد رمضان گنگو ساکنہ جتھے قرداری متصل پٹرول پمپ 20 جولائی 2021 بقیہ 9 ذی الحجہ 1442ھ بروز منگلوار اپنے ماک حقیقی سے جا ملے۔ (اللہ وادہ) الیہ راجعون

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