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# KASHMIR OBSERVER

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P7 THINK

## THE POLITICS OF COVID-19

Sweeping across the globe like a wildfire, the Covid-19 pandemic shook the very foundations of our life and its assumptions, and challenged the world's mechanical order dictated by market forces. Pandemic! Covid-19 Shakes the World...

P6 THINK

## END OF AMERICAN EMPIRE?

AS Afghanistan continues to be in the spotlight of international media after the Taliban takeover of Kabul, familiar tropes are being regurgitated by the usual suspects. The "graveyard of empires" – is there a more used and abused orientalist trope? – is a



P5 STATE

## 12 OXYGEN GENERATION PLANTS FUNCTIONAL IN KASHMIR

The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K. Pole Saturday convened a meeting here to review the Oxygen capacity of hospitals in Kashmir.



## Quote!

Either you run the day, or the day runs you.

– Jim Rohn

## NEWS DIGEST

### Teachers Are Our Nation Builders: LG

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday greeted the teaching fraternity on the eve of Teachers' Day. Paying tributes to Dr. S Radhakrishnan, the LG said our teacher's dedication and commitment will shape [More On P10](#)

### Soldier Injured In Landmine Blast

**SRINAGAR:** A soldier sustained injuries in a landmine blast in Krishna Ghat Sector along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. According to official sources, the soldier was injured when a landmine went off when the army's patrolling party was [More On P10](#)

### Prisoner Dies At GMC Anantnag

**SRINAGAR:** A 55-year-old jail inmate lodged since January 2021 at District Jail Kheribal has died after suffering multiple ailments, two days after his admission at Government Medical College here, officials said. The deceased identified as Mushtaq Ahmad Khan son of Abdul Ahad Khan, a resident of Anchidora Anantnag had been [More On P10](#)

### ARTOs Anantnag, Kupwara Attached

**SRINAGAR:** Assistant Regional Transport Officers Anantnag and Kupwara have been attached with the office of Divisional Commissioner Kashmir with immediate effect. Peerzada Shabbir Ahmad, ARTO, Anantnag and Mukhtar Ahmad Sofi, Incharge ARTO, Kupwara as per an order number 824-JK (GAD) of 2021, Dated: 04.09.2021 maintain [More On P10](#)

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# Curbs Eased 2 Days After Geelani's Death

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday eased restrictions in most parts of the Kashmir Valley, even as mobile internet service remained cut-off while train service also remained suspended for the third day in wake of veteran separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani's death.

Geelani, 92, died at his residence in Srinagar on Wednesday night after a prolonged illness. He was buried at a graveyard near his residence in Hyderpora.

Following his death restrictions on public movement and communications were imposed, paralysing the normal life.

However, the restrictions were gradually eased on the third day Saturday in most parts of the Valley, though section 144 CrPc, banning assembly of more than four people remained in force, officials said. They said restrictions remained in place in Srinagar's Old City and around Geelani's final resting place. [More On P10](#)

## Keeping Eye On 'Fake News' Promoters: JK Police

J&K police in a statement issued here Saturday evening said that barring one incident of stone pelting in Narkara area of Budgam, the situation across the valley remained peaceful and no untoward incident was reported from anywhere.

"Several preventive measures have been taken to maintain L&O situations including preventive arrests of dozens of miscreants so far. Traffic was seen plying normally and most of the shops remained open in various parts of the valley," the police spokesperson said.

He said that the cooperation of the general public helped police & security personnel deployed on ground to maintain the law and order.

"In view of the peaceful situation, mobile internet services shall be restored after reviewing the overall security situations while cellular service (voice call) and broadband of all TSPs were already restored yesterday," he added.

Quoting IGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar, the police spokesperson urged people not to pay any heed to the rumours being "maliciously" spread by the anti-national elements especially across the border with an objective to disturb the prevalent peaceful atmosphere in the valley.

"Several social media platforms including Kashmir Media Service which are running from Pakistan have been trying to spread fake [More On P10](#)

**EVEN A FEW LOCAL MEDIA PERSONS** and channels have been found spreading fake news. We are observing it, maintaining evidence and appropriate actions shall be taken against them. Such elements are advised not to spread fake news without consulting law enforcement agencies."

## 3 Day Kailash Yatra Starts In Bhaderwah

Press Trust Of India

**BHADERWAH:** The three-day-long pilgrimage to the 14,700 feet high Kailash Kund commenced here Saturday with a limited number of devotees accompanying the holy mace for the second consecutive year due to COVID-19 outbreak, officials said.

The 'Charri Mubarak' (holy mace) was taken out from 2100-year-old Vasuki Nag Temple at Gatha around 8.30 am and was joined by another mace from Vasuki Nag Temple Vasik Dhera Bhadarwah, officials said.

Former MLC Naresh Kumar Gupta and senior leader Mast Nath Yogi also participated in the rituals connected with the ancient yatra at Vasik Dhera.

A good number of 'Nag devotees' see off the holy mace of Kailash Yatra amidst strict adherence to Covid-appropriate behaviour, officials said. Thousands of

## LG Meets Members Of Parliamentary Panel On IT



Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday met the visiting members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology here. Sinha met the members of the committee, which is led by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, at the Raj Bhavan. [More On P10](#)

## 'Bhagat's Win Will Inspire Millions'

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday congratulated badminton player Pramod Bhagat on winning a gold medal at Tokyo paralympics, saying his feat will inspire millions of youth. "What an incredible achievement! Pramod Bhagat, You've made the entire nation proud by winning the Gold medal. Heartiest congratulations for this massive win in Badminton at Tokyo Paralympics. Your feat will inspire millions of our youth," the LG said on Twitter. Reigning world champion Pramod Bhagat on Saturday claimed a historic badminton gold medal in men's singles SL3 class after notching up a thrilling [More On P10](#)

## Shashi Tharoor Meets Dr Farooq In Srinagar

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, who heads the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology which is on a visit to Jammu and Kashmir, Saturday called on National Conference president Farooq Abdullah here.

The meeting took place at Abdullah's residence this evening where his son and party vice president Omar Abdullah was also present.

"Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on IT @ShashiTharoor called on his Lok Sabha colleague & @JKNC President Dr Farooq Abdullah in Srinagar this evening," Omar wrote on Twitter. "It was good seeing you @ShashiTharoor [More On P10](#)

## Ladakh Admin To Issue Resident Certificates To PRC Holders

Press Trust Of India

**LEH:** Nearly three months after reserving all subordinate services for the locals, the Ladakh administration on Saturday issued an order to temporarily define 'residents of the Union Territory' for the purpose of appointment to all the non-gazetted posts.

According to the Ladakh Resident Certificate Order 2021, any person who possesses a Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC) issued by the competent authority in the districts of Leh and Kargil or belongs to a category of persons who would have been eligible to be issued PRC by the competent authority would be eligible to receive

## J&K Gets X-Band Weather Radar To Provide Better Forecast

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** An X-band doppler weather radar has been installed here to provide improved weather services to people of Jammu and Kashmir, the India Meteorological Department said on Saturday. Union minister Jitendra Singh will dedicate the radar along with an indigenous GPS based pilot-sonde to public at the meteorological office in Jammu on Sunday, it said in a statement.

The state-of-the-art indigenous GPS based pilot-sonde helps to gather data in



all weather conditions with minimum human intervention and has facilities of auto detection of balloon launch and balloon burst.

The new radar will help in providing a nowcast (very short range) [More On P10](#)

## IAF Personnel Killing, Rubaiya's Abduction

# Malik Pleads To Cross Examine Witnesses In 30-Yr-Old Case

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The cross-examination of witnesses in the three-decade-old cases of the gunning down of four IAF personnel and the abduction of then Union Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed's daughter Rubaiya Sayeed began at a special court here on Saturday.

Abdul Rehman Sofi, a prosecution witness in both the cases, and Saleem alias 'Nanaji', an accused in the killing of IAF personnel, were present in the court, officials said.

Yasin Malik of the proscribed Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front, who has been charged in both cases separately along with other accused, joined the proceedings through video-conferencing



from Delhi's Tihar Jail where he is lodged.

Officials said the cross-examination was deferred after some time as many other accused could not appear in the court for what their counsels termed "disturbance" in

the Kashmir Valley.

Senior counsel Monika Kohli, who has been appointed as the CBI chief prosecutor in these cases, led the examination on behalf of the agency.

Kohli has been [More On P10](#)

## 5 Held For Sharing Communally Sensitive Video

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Five persons were arrested for sharing a communally sensitive video in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Saturday.

The action followed registration of a case on August 31 under relevant sections of the law.

Five trouble mongers were arrested for their act which tantamount to disrupting communal harmony in the district, a police spokesman said.

After preliminary investigation, it surfaced that the clip, which showed the skin of a bovine, was shot near a team in Palmar area of Kishtwar.

Keeping in view the sensitivity of the case, the spokesman said Senior Superintendent of Police (SP), Kishtwar, constituted a special [More On P10](#)







## New Executive Body Of GPC Constituted At Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A new Executive Body of Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (GPC), Srinagar was constituted under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad.

The move was taken after the majority of members of Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee Srinagar moved a motion of no confidence against existing office bearers of GPC Srinagar.

The motion was supported by six out of eleven members of the GPC and was taken under rules in consonance with the Sikh Religious Endowment Act-1993.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Assistant Commissioner Revenue and other concerned were present on the occasion.

Pertinent to mention that, the writ petition bearing No. 1726/2021 was filed by the outgoing Committee and was dismissed by the High Court.

## SDRF Conducts Drill At Shankar Acharya Hills

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The personnel of SDRF 1st Bn, Srinagar today conducted a routine drill practice under the supervision of Dy. SP Rashid Khan at Shankar Acharya hills.

Besides, a cleanliness drive was also conducted under Swach Bharat Abhiyan and all the plastic waste and non biodegradable wastes were collected and dumped at a designated location.

SDRF 1st Bn, Srinagar is regularly conducting these cleanliness drives at Shankar Acharya hills and adjoining areas to create awareness among the general masses about keeping the environment neat and clean.

## Imam-e-Hai Condoles Geelani's Demise

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Imam-e-Hai Maulana Syed Ahmed Naqshband of historic Jamia Masjid Srinagar Saturday expressed grief and sorrow over the demise of senior leader Syed Ali Geelani.

In a statement, Imam-i-Hai expressed condolences and solidarity with bereaved family, especially his sons Naseem Geelani and Naeem Geelani, and prayed to Almighty Allah for granting Jannatul-Firdous to the departed soul.

## On Fourth Day Abdullah's Condole Geelani's Demise

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Four days after the death of Hurriyat patriarch Syed Ali Geelani, National Conference President and Member of Parliament from Srinagar Dr. Farooq Abdullah and party's Vice President Omar Abdullah on Saturday expressed grief over the demise of 'prominent political leader'.

In his condolence message, Dr Farooq, former 3-time Chief Minister of the erstwhile state of J&K, said, "May Almighty Allah grant peace to the deceased and forbearance to the grief-stricken to bear the irreparable loss."

In a condolence message, Omar, former chief minister of the erstwhile state of J&K, said, "I pray to Almighty to bestow peace to the departed soul in Janat and give courage to the bereaved family members to bear the loss."

## DAK Condoles Demise Of Endocrinologist Dr Manzoor

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) Saturday held a condolence meeting at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar to mourn the sad demise of noted endocrinologist Dr Manzoor Ahmad Bhat who breathed his last on Thursday morning at his Rawalpura residence. He was 42.

Paying rich tributes to the deceased, DAK members prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and expressed heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family.

A medical luminary, Dr Manzoor graduated from ASCCOMS Jammu and after completing his DM Endocrinology at SKIMS was working as a consultant at JLNH hospital Rainawari Srinagar.

He was a compassionate and empathetic doctor and had attained great respect from his patients.

## 6 Patwaris Suspended For Dereliction Of Duties

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Taking cognizance of the dereliction of duties by some officials of Revenue Department, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad today suspended six Revenue Officials (Patwaris).

In an order issued today, the Deputy Commissioner suspended six Patwaries who were

transferred vide NO. 21-DCS of 2021 on August 02, 2021 but failed to comply with the orders. Though the said Patwaries were informed several times to join their new place of postings, the officials failed to comply with the orders.

The reluctance of said officials to join in the Patwar halqas where they have been posted recently has caused inconvenience to the general public of the said

halqas and a serious notice has been taken in this regard.

All the suspended Patwaris were attached with the office of Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar. Furthermore the Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Srinagar has been asked to conduct an immediate enquiry in the dereliction of duties and submit the findings along with the recommendations within seven days of the issuance of the order.

## Covid-19 Situation, Containment Measures Reviewed

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Saturday chaired a meeting to review the present Covid-19 situation and containment measures undertaken to control the spread of infection in wake of 3rd wave as warned by the Medical Experts. While taking stock of the preparations to tackle any such medical emergencies, the DC asked the Health functionaries to strengthen health infrastructure with focus on paediatric care units.

With regard to ongoing Covid-19 vaccination, the DC directed the Chief Medical Officer and all Zonal

Medical Officers to scale up the percentage of the vaccination in Srinagar district. He stressed them to achieve the set target by inoculating Vaccine doses to all eligible persons to break the transmission/ chain of infection in the district. He also stressed on efficient contact tracing.

The DC also directed for collecting details about the vaccination of Staff and Students of all Colleges and Universities in Srinagar for further course of action regarding opening of Educational Institutions.

While taking strong note of violations with regard to Covid Appropriate Behaviour, the DC directed all Tehsildars of Srinagar to strictly enforce Covid protocol and take

administrative actions against the violators. He asked Tehsildars to involve Religious leaders and other influencers to motivate people to adhere to Covid-19 SOPs in letter and spirit.

The DC further asked the concerned officers to enforce strict restrictions in all notified Containment Zones to ensure its effectiveness and restriction of outward movement to prevent any spread infection of Covid-19.

SDM East, Owais Mushtaq, SDM West, Akhshay Labro, Chief Medical Officer, Dr Jameel, all Tehsildars, all Zonal Medical Officers and other concerned were present in the meeting.



### DEPARTMENT OF HOSPITAL ENGINEERING OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (Electric) Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences Soura Srinagar Notice inviting E-tenders

NIT NO: SIMS/HEE/E/ET/09 of 2021-22 Dated: 26-08-2021

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of J&K, E-tenders in two covers are invited from registered "A" Class Contractor, Original manufacturers, authorized dealers of OEM/OEA having experience in DG Set related jobs for following work:-

Name of the Work	Advertised Amount	CDR Amount	Cost of tender document.	Time of completion	Qualifying Criteria
Supply Installation Testing Commissioning of 2 X 750 KVA DG SET for Newly constructed Maternity Block at SKIMS Soura.	Rs 126.00 Lacs	Rs2.52 Lacs/-	Rs5000/-	As Envisaged in the bidding documents	As Envisaged in the bidding documents

Bid forms and other details can be obtained from web site jktenders.gov.in from 27.08.2021 (04:00 PM). The tenders can be uploaded from 28.08.2021 (04:00 PM) to 15-09-2021 (up to 4.00 PM).

Last date of submission of hard copies: 16-09-2021 (02:00 PM)

SIMS 139/XEN/E/TN-09/2021-22-1821-28 Dated: 26-08-2021  
**DIPK-NB-3096/21**

---Sd/---  
Executive EngineerElectric SKIMS Soura

### Government of Jammu and Kashmir JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PHE MECHANICAL RURAL DIVISION, SRINAGAR, KASHMIR. Corrigendum- II Extension of date

Due to nil response, the last date for E-NIT No. PHE/MRD/TS/43 of 08/2021, DT:- 24/08/2021 issued vide this office No:- PHE/MRD/TS/1267-72 Dated: 24-08-2021 and published vide No: 2021\_PHE\_135844\_1, is hereby extended, as under:

Bid Submission/uploading End Date	10-09-2021 (05.00 P.M.)
Date and time of opening of bids (online)	13-09-2021 at (11.00A.M.)

Note: All other terms and conditions as laid down in the tender document shall remain same.  
No:PHE/MRD/1352-57  
Dated: 04-09-2021

Executive Engineer,  
PHE Mechanical Rural Division,  
Srinagar.

**DIPK-7838/21**

### Government of Jammu and Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Baramulla CORRIGENDUM (Extend dates)

Subject: General Overhaul of Mechanical / Electrical side to Tandem Vibratory Roller of Field Sub Division Kupwara  
Reference: This office E- NIT No. MDB/TS/E-tender / 67 of 2021-22 dated: 28-07-2021  
Due to inadequate participation of bidders in reference to above referred E-NIT, the critical dates are hereby extended as under:

S.No	Description	Re- Scheduled date
1	Date of Downloading	31-08-2021 (06:15 PM) to 09-09-2021 (04:00 PM)
2	Date of uploading	31-08-2021 (06:30 PM) to 09-09-2021 (06:00 PM)
4	Due date of opening of tender	10-09-2021 (01:00 PM)

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in original TS/E-Tender/67 dated: 28-07-2021.

No: MDB/TS/1917-19  
Dated: 31-08-2021

**DIPK-7770/21**

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Mechanical Division  
Baramulla

### DIAL-EMMA



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

### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



### RAILWAYS



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

### HIGHWAY STATUS



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

## This Day in History

- 1795 - USA and Algiers sign peace treaty
- 1800 - Malta surrenders to British after they blockade French troops
- 1814 - Battle of Masurische Meren: Germans chase Russians out of East Prussia
- 1864 - British, French & Dutch fleets attacked Japan in Shimonoseki Straits
- 1914 - Great Britain, France, Belgium and Russia sign pact of London
- 1914 - US President Woodrow Wilson orders US Navy to make its wireless stations accessible for any transatlantic communications - even to German diplomats sending coded messages; leads to interception of the Zimmermann telegram, helping bring the US into the war
- 1915 - Anti-war conference in Zimmerwald, Switzerland
- 1915 - Tsar Nicholas II, distressed by increasing Russian losses, assumes personal command of his nation's military forces; clearly a symbolic act and devastating for his leadership
- 1937 - Spanish Civil War: Llanes falls
- 1939 - FDR declares US neutrality at start of WW II in Europe
- 1939 - New Zealand Prime Minister, Michael Joseph Savage declares New Zealand's support for Britain in the war with Germany; Savage famously told the nation 'where she goes, we go. Where she stands, we stand'
- 1942 - Battle at Alam Halfa ends
- 1942 - British & US bomb Le Havre & Bremen
- 1944 - Allies liberate Brussels
- 1944 - Belgium, Luxembourg & Netherlands sign customs Unity treaty
- 1953 - 1st privately operated atomic reactor- Raleigh, NC
- 1953 - US give Persian premier Zahedi \$45 million aid
- 1958 - 1st color video recording on magnetic tape presented, Charlotte, North Carolina
- 1961 - JFK begins underground nuclear testing
- 1961 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalitinsk USSR
- 1973 - Conference of less developed countries approves forming "producers' associations" and calls for withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied Arab lands
- 1977 - Voyager 1 (US) launched toward fly-by of Jupiter, Saturn
- 1978 - Anwar Sadat, Menachem Begin and Jimmy Carter begin Egypt-Israel peace conference at Camp David
- 1980 - World's longest road tunnel, St Gotthard in Swiss Alps, opens
- 1983 - 8th Space Shuttle Mission-Challenger 3-lands at Edwards AFB
- 1984 - 12th Space Shuttle Mission (41-D) -Discovery 1- lands at Edwards AFB
- 1986 - Hijacking of aircraft Pan Am 73 at Karachi airport, Pakistan, 20 passengers killed
- 1986 - NASA awards study contracts to 5 aerospace firms
- 1986 - NASA launches DOD-1
- 1990 - Iraqi President Saddam Hussein urges Arabs to rise against the West
- 1991 - Nelson Mandela chosen as president of African National Congress
- 1996 - Following US cruise missile strikes on Iraq, crude oil prices rise as the market speculates when Iraq will begin exporting oil under UN Resolution 986
- 19970- Athens in Greece, selected to host 2004 Olympics

## From KO Archives

## Officer shifted for 7th time, goes on leave

Observer News Service

Srinagar - The principal secretary, revenue, Sonali Kumar, has proceeded on leave following the recent transfers and postings in the state administration. The high-ranking bureaucrat has been transferred for the seventh time in the changes announced yesterday.

During the two-and-a-Half year tenure of the coalition government, Kumar has been shifted \$ax times from her posts.

Before the coalition government " came to power, Sonali Kumar had been made the commissioner secretary, education, on May 1, 2002.

Soon after the new government took over, she was transferred to the technical education department as commissioner secretary in November 2003. In February the next year, she was transferred to industries and commerce, and four months later, in July 2003, to the higher and technical education department

After serving on that post for one year, she was transferred again in July 2004, and made the principal secretary of the forest department. The government shifted her again in April 2005, this time to the health and medical education department.

Yesterday's revamp, which made her the principal secretary of the revenue department, was the sixth time she was transferred in 2-and-a-half years. Fed up with the repeated transfers and postings, Sonali Kumar, has gone on leave in protest, sources told the KNS. She has asked the government to grant her leave till October.

(Kashmir Observer, September 05, 2000)

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## Biden orders release of secret 9/11 terror attack documents

AFP

He is responding to pressure from families of some of the approximately 3,000 people killed by Al-Qaeda on September 11, 2001.

US President Joe Biden on Friday ordered declassification over the next six months of still secret documents from the government investigation into the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Biden is responding to pressure from families of some of the approximately 3,000 people killed by Al-Qaeda on September 11, 2001.

They have long argued that the classified documents might contain evidence that the government of Saudi Arabia, a close US ally, had links to the hijackers who flew into the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

"Today, I signed an executive order directing the Department of Justice and other relevant agencies to oversee a declassification review of documents related to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's September 11th investigations," Biden said in a statement.

Declassification must take place "over the next six months."

"We must never forget the enduring pain of the families and loved ones of the 2,977 innocent people who were killed during the worst terrorist attack on America in our history," Biden said.

The move comes ahead of the 20th anniversary of the attack, which spurred then-

president George W Bush soon after to order the invasion of Afghanistan, where the Taliban sheltered Al-Qaeda's leadership.

Biden pulled the last US troops out of Afghanistan this week, completing a dramatic evacuation from Kabul's airport after the Taliban defeated the US-backed government and surged back to power.

The push for more information is being driven by victims' families suing Saudi Arabia for alleged complicity in the horrific attack. The families have long expressed frustration at the number of documents that remain off limits.

The official 9/11 Commission, which was set up by Congress, said there was "no evidence that the Saudi government as an institution or senior Saudi officials individually funded" Al-Qaeda.

That phrasing has been interpreted by some as suggesting that unofficial or lower ranking Saudi figures might have played a role.

Some of the investigation may still be deemed too sensitive to release.

In an executive order triggering the declassification process, Biden noted the "events in question occurred two decades ago or longer, and they concern a tragic moment that continues to resonate in American history."

"It is therefore critical to ensure that the United States Government maximizes transparency... except when the strongest possible reasons counsel otherwise."

## NZ supermarkets take knives off shelves after 'extremist' stabbing

Reuters

The attacker had been under surveillance since 2016 because of his support for a violent ideology inspired by the Islamic State.

New Zealand supermarket group Countdown said on Saturday it has removed knives and scissors from its shelves, a day after a man the authorities called an Islamist extremist stabbed six people in one of the company's stores.

"Last night, we made the decision to temporarily remove all knives and scissors from our shelves while we consider whether we should continue to sell them," said Kiri Hannifin, Countdown's general manager for safety.

"We want all of our team to feel safe when they come to work, especially considering the events of yesterday," she said in a media statement.

Other supermarket chains had also removed sharp knives from sale, local media reported.

Police shot dead the attacker, a Sri Lankan national who cannot be named due to

court suppression orders.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said the man was inspired by the Islamic State militant group and had been under constant police surveillance.

Police were following the man when he went into the Countdown supermarket in New Lynn mall in Auckland. They said they had thought he had gone in to do some shopping, but he picked up a knife from a display and started stabbing people.

Police said they shot him within a minute of the start of the attack. Three of the six victims are in critical condition.

Ardern said the attacker had been under surveillance since 2016 because of his support for a violent ideology inspired by the Islamic State. By law the man could not be kept in prison, so he was being constantly monitored instead.

The government has sought an urgent lifting of the suppression orders so more details on the person could be made public. Ardern is expected to address the media at 0200 GMT.

## ISI chief rushes to Kabul as Taliban struggle to form inclusive govt acceptable to international community

Agencies

Islamabad, September 4: In a surprise move, Pakistan's powerful intelligence chief Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed on Saturday dashed to Kabul, according to media reports here, amidst the Taliban struggling to finalise and install an inclusive government in Afghanistan that would be acceptable to the international community.

A delegation of senior Pakistani officials led by Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Director General Lieutenant General Hameed arrived in Kabul to conduct discussions with the incoming Taliban government, the Pakistan Observer newspaper reported.

The ISI chief is expected to meet top Taliban leaders and commanders. "Issues relating to Pak-Afghan security, economy, and other matters will be taken up with the Taliban leadership," the report said, quoting sources.

According to the Express Tribune, Hameed will also meet Pakistan's envoy in Kabul to discuss the matter of repatriation and transit through Pakistan of foreign nationals and Afghans fleeing Taliban rule.

"The issue of pending requests from countries and international organisations for the repatriation/transit through Pakistan and the need to determine the mechanism through which Pakistan could allow these, in coordination with the ground authorities in Afghanistan will be discussed during the meeting with the Taliban officials," it said, quoting sources.

The intelligence chief will

spend a day in the Afghan capital, the Geo News reported.

Border management is another important issue that will come under discussion during

administration acceptable to the international community.

This is the second time that the Taliban have delayed the formation of the new gov-



A family from Afghanistan cross into Pakistan via Friendship Gate crossing point in the Pakistan-Afghanistan border town of Chaman, Pakistan, on September 4, 2021. Reuters

the visit of Hameed, it said.

Pakistan was often accused by the Afghanistan government of giving the Taliban military aid, a charge denied by Islamabad.

The ISI chief's trip is the first high-level visit by a Pakistani official since the Taliban took over Kabul on August 15 in a move that surprised both their foes and friends. Since then, the insurgent group has been trying to form its government, but has been postponing the announcement.

The Taliban have postponed the formation of a new government in Afghanistan for next week, their spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said on Saturday, as the insurgent group struggles to give shape to a broad-based and inclusive

government in Kabul since their toppling of the US-backed Afghanistan government. The insurgent group was expected to announce the formation of the new government led by its co-founder Mulla Abdul Ghani Baradar on Friday, but later postponed it by a day to Saturday.

Hameed's visit to Kabul came as Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa met with British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab earlier in the day and said that Pakistan will assist in the formation of an inclusive administration in Afghanistan.

Raab arrived in Islamabad on Thursday night to meet top Pakistani leadership and discuss the Afghanistan situation. --- PTI

## Biden wants Afghan exit to end US global cop role

Agencies

Decision about Afghanistan is not just about Afghanistan, it is about ending an era of major military operations, says the US president.

"America is back," goes President Joe Biden's catchphrase, but his unapologetic exit from Afghanistan shows America will not be back to business as usual.

Beyond the trauma of the Kabul evacuation, Biden is pitching a much broader retreat: a halt to using vast military resources to impose order and US values around the planet.

"This decision about Afghanistan is not just about Afghanistan," Biden said in what many see as a historic speech on Tuesday. "It's about ending an era of major military operations to remake other countries."

"Human rights will be at the centre of our foreign policy but the way to do that is not through endless military deployments," he said. "Our strategy has to change."

Benjamin Haddad, director of the Europe Center at the

Atlantic Council and an expert on transatlantic relations, called the speech "one of the most eloquent repudiations of liberal internationalism by any US president in the last decades".



For those Americans fond of imagining their country to be a unique, invincible superpower -- winner of the Cold War, then awesome military interventionist everywhere from Iraq to Africa ever since -- this is a shock.

For most, though, polls show Biden's pivot is likely to be popular.

Where Trump, Biden agree Biden's presidency is usu-

ally seen as a repudiation of the Donald Trump administration.

It's true that a lot -- from things like White House decorum to re-entering the Paris climate accord -- changed the moment Biden walked into the Oval Office on January 20.

But Biden's abandonment of open-ended US military adventures -- what detractors call being "the world's policeman" -- is Trumpian.

When Biden announced "it's time to end this forever war", about Afghanistan, "it could just as easily be Trump," said Charles Franklin, a Marquette Law School professor and director of the Marquette opinion poll.

Today "the public is not committed to a large international role, certainly not of the sort the US played in the 1950s-1990s," Franklin told AFP.

Regarding Afghanistan in particular, polls show strong backing for exiting -- 77%, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News poll -- even if Biden is taking a battering for the chaotic manner of the withdrawal.

## 17 killed in celebratory gunfire in Kabul

Reuters

At least 14 people were injured in celebratory firing in Nangarhar province.

At least 17 people were killed in celebratory gunfire in Kabul, news agencies said

bul on Friday killed 17 people and wounded 41. Tolo news agency gave a similar toll.

At least 14 people were injured in celebratory firing in Nangarhar province east of the capital, said Gulzada Sangar, spokesman for an area hospital in the provincial



on Saturday, after Taliban sources said their fighters had seized control of Panjshir, the last province in Afghanistan holding out against the Islamist group.

Leaders of opposition to the Taliban have denied that the province has fallen.

The Shamsbad news agency said "aerial shooting" in Ka-

capital of Jalalabad.

The gunfire drew a rebuke from the main Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid.

"Avoid shooting in the air and thank God instead," Mujahid said in a message on Twitter. "Bullets can harm civilians, so don't shoot unnecessarily."

## Shia Leader Grand Ayatollah Mohammed Saeed Al-Hakeem Dies In Iraq

Agencies

Funeral ceremonies for top Shia leader expected to be held in holy city of Najaf and its twin city of Karbala.

Najaf- Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Mohammed Saeed al-Hakeem, one of Iraq's top Shia leaders, has died aged 85 in the southern holy city of Najaf.

Al-Hakeem's office an-

The United States expressed its condolences in a statement from its embassy in Baghdad.

Born in Najaf in 1936, al-Hakeem was considered to be among the highest Shia religious authorities in the country.

At the time of his death, he was one of four ayatollahs of the Hawza, Najaf's Shia seminary, along with Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq's top Shia spiritual leader.

Along with the Afghan-born Mohammed Ishaq al-Fayadh, al-Hakeem was seen as the most likely contenders to succeed al-Sistani.

His maternal grandfather was Mohsen Al-Tabataba'i Al-Hakeem, a scholar and one of the most prominent thinkers of Shia Islam. His father was Muhammad Ali al-Hakeem, one of the most respected Shia leaders in Najaf.

His second cousin, Sayyed Ammar al-Hakeem, leads the al-Hikma, or National Wisdom Movement, one of the largest Shia political parties in Iraq.

Al-Hakeem was imprisoned between 1983 and 1991 under the government of Saddam Hussein who feared neighbouring Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution would set off "a similar event" in Iraq, political commentator Marsin Alshamary said on Twitter.

Al-Hakeem has written many books and publications, some of which were translated into several languages. He is survived by a wife and eight children.



nounced on Friday that he died of a sudden medical condition it did not specify. A relative, Mohsen al-Hakeem, told The Associated Press news agency that al-Hakeem died at the Al Hayat hospital in Najaf where he was taken after suffering a sudden heart attack.

Funeral ceremonies will be held on Saturday in Najaf and its twin holy city of Karbala, a source within his office told AFP news agency.

Iraqi President Barham Salih in a statement paid homage to the "prominent figure" in Shia Islam.

## British Queen Elizabeth's secret funeral plans leaked

The 95-year-old is to be buried 10 days after she dies and her son and heir, Prince Charles, will embark on a tour of the UK before the burial is held.

Leaked documents have revealed for the first time on Friday the extent of the huge operation that will be launched in the hours and days after Britain's Queen Elizabeth II dies, reports PTI.

Details of what will happen under the codename "Operation London Bridge" were leaked to US-headquartered news organisation, Politico, which reports that officials will refer to the day the Queen dies as "D Day".

The 95-year-old monarch, the longest-serving in British history, is to be buried 10 days after she dies and her son and heir, Prince Charles, will embark on a tour of the UK before the burial is held.

According to the plans, the late sovereign's coffin will lie in

state for three days at the Houses of Parliament, with authorities anticipating hundreds of thousands of people to descend on London -- sparking fears over gridlock, policing and even food shortages.

A vast security operation has been planned to manage the unprecedented crowds and travel chaos that are expected in the lead-up to her funeral. One memo warns that London could be stretched to breaking point as hundreds of thousands of people make their way to the UK capital.

There will be a supposedly "spontaneous" service at St Paul's Cathedral, according to Politico, and the new King Charles will tour the four nations of the United Kingdom in the days after her death.

The British prime minister and the monarch are said to be in agreement that the day of her state funeral will be a day of national mourning. It will effec-



tively be a holiday, although not described as such.

Buckingham Palace officials have declined to comment, either on the leak or the plans.

In 2017, The Guardian published a long article revealing details about Operation London Bridge, which covered how the new King (Charles) will be proclaimed at St James's Palace amid visiting royalty.

## Google Locks Afghan Government Accounts As Taliban Seek Emails: Report

Washington: Google has temporarily locked down an unspecified number of Afghan government email accounts, according to a person familiar with the matter, as fears grow over the digital paper trail left by former officials and their international partners. In the weeks since the Taliban's swift takeover of Afghanistan from a U.S.-backed government, reports have highlighted how biometric and Afghan payroll databases might be exploited by the new rulers to hunt their enemies. In a statement on Friday, Alphabet's Google stopped short of confirming that Afghan government accounts were being locked down, saying that the company was monitoring the situation in Afghanistan and "taking temporary actions to secure relevant accounts."

One employee of the former government has told Reuters the Taliban are seeking to acquire former officials' emails. Late last month the employee said that the Taliban had asked him to preserve the data held on the servers

of the ministry he used to work for.

"If I do so, then they will get access to the data and official communica-



tions of the previous ministry leadership," the employee said.

The employee said he did not comply and has since gone into hiding. Reuters is not identifying the man or his former ministry out of concern for his safety. Publicly available mail exchanger records show that some two dozen Afghan government bodies used Google's servers to handle official emails, including the ministries of finance, industry, higher education,

and mines. Afghanistan's office of presidential protocol also used Google, according to the records, as did some local government bodies.

Commandeering government databases and emails could provide information about employees of the former administration, ex-ministers, government contractors, tribal allies and foreign partners.

"It would give a real wealth of information," said Chad Anderson, a security researcher with internet intelligence firm DomainTools who helped Reuters identify which ministries ran which email platform. "Just even having an employee list on a Google Sheet is a big problem," he said, citing reports of reprisals against government workers. Mail exchanger records show that Microsoft Corp's email services were also used by several Afghan government agencies, including the ministry of foreign affairs and the presidency. But it isn't clear what steps, if any, the software firm is taking to prevent data from falling into the hands of the Taliban.



## DGP Sanctions Financial Assistance For 108 Police Personnel

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Director General of Police Dilbag Singh Saturday sanctioned over rupees ten lakh in favour of 108 police personnel/ SPOs with two different orders of PHQ. He also sanctioned meritorious scholarship in favour of wards of SPOs who have secured above 80% marks in the annual examination of class 10th & 12th during the academic sessions 2020-21.

Vide order no. 2489 of 2021 medical relief has been sanctioned in favour of twenty six SPOs to defray the expenses in connection with self treatment or treatment of their dependents. The medial relief amount sanctioned ranges from rupees 5000 to rupees 50,000.

Vide order no. 2628 of 2021 financial assistance of rupees five thousand each has been sanctioned in favour of 82 police personnel/SPOs who had tested positive for Covid-19 during the 2nd wave of the

pandemic.

The financial assistance/ medical relief has been sanctioned out of SPOs Contributory Fund/Police Pariwar fund.

Meanwhile, the DGP J&K has sanctioned over rupees seventy five thousand in favour of meritorious wards of SPOs who have secured 80% and above marks in the annual examination of class 10th & 12th during the academic session of 2020-21 to boost their morale.

Vide order No. 2631 rupees six thousand each for the three wards of class 10th and rupees seventy two hundred each for the six wards of class 12th has been sanctioned for securing 90% and above marks in the annual examination during the academic session of 2020-21.

Similarly, rupees six thousand each has been sanctioned in favour of three wards of class 12th who have secured 80% and above marks in the annual examination.

## Concrete Lining Work For USBRL Project Completed In Record Time

Observer News Service

Srinagar: AGE-Patel Engineering, which is currently implementing the Rs 2,377 crore tunnelling project for Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd and IROCON Saturday announced that the company has completed highest concrete lining for T-2 tunnel for on Katra-Banihal section) for the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project.

As on August 31, 2021, the project had achieved a total concrete lining of 775 metric tonnes from two faces of main tunnels of T-2, which is a landmark record in the construction industry in the country. It has completed Face 1 (Main Tunnel) – 375 m, 30 Gantries of 12.5 m each (1 Traveller & 1 Shutter) with average cycle time of 23.20 hours per gantry. While Face 2 – 400 m, 32 Gantries of 12.5 m each (1 Traveller & 1 Shutter) with average cycle time of 22.50 hours per gantry.

AGE Patel Engineering -

a joint venture company - is currently implementing these two projects, which includes construction of tunnel T-2 and T-15, (part tunnel T-14 including bridge no. 61 on Katra-Banihal section) on the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project.

AGE Construction and Trading Inc is a well-known Turkish construction company while Patel Engineering is a civil engineering firm involved in design and construction of power projects, hydroelectric projects, commercial building, industrial complexes, dams, tunnels, underground structures, irrigation projects, steel and concrete structures, bridges, marine works, flyovers and national highways in India and abroad.

The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) connect Kashmir with the rest of the country will be completed by next year and will facilitate ease of transport for the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

# People Assail Govt Over Rising Inflation

Agencies

Srinagar: The skyrocketing of prices of commodities including fruits, milk, meat and vegetables have irked consumers who have expressed anguish over the failure of district administration to control price-hike in the capital city Srinagar.

A market survey revealed that one dozen 'Banana' and one kilogram melon are being sold at Rs 100-120 and Rs120-150 in city markets whereas one kilogram of grapes is being sold at Rs220, which are beyond the purchasing power of the middle class.

Cooking gas consumers were shocked to see the sudden increase in the price of

liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders.

Locals in Kashmir said with the latest hike in the fuel prices, they find it difficult to make ends meet and it would put more burdens on their monthly household budget.

Sameer Ahmad, a resident of the old city, said that earlier the spike in prices of oil and pulses and now the rise in the cost of gas made his kitchen budget go awry.

"The government should curb the rise in prices of everyday items," he said.

While the price of mustard oil was Rs 110 to 120 per kg last year, the price is now Rs 185 to 195 per kg. Refined oil is now being sold for Rs 150 to 165.

Another city resident

Ghulam Nabi said, "Fuel is an essential commodity and a hike in their prices affects the monthly budget of any income group. Without a doubt, single-earning hand families with limited income will be the most affected. The government seems to have failed to deliver its promise of easing people's problems.

The consumers and people have requested Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and other senior officials of district administration to make a close check on price of daily commodities and take strict action against profiteers and hoarders imperative for provision of all essential items to Consumers at affordable rate.

## 12 Oxygen Generation Plants Functional In Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K. Pole Saturday convened a meeting here to review the Oxygen capacity of hospitals in Kashmir.

During the meeting, the Div Com reviewed the progress achieved in capacity building of Oxygen plants across Kashmir. The meeting was apprised about the functioning of all the 12 Oxygen generation plants across Kashmir which were received by the divisional administration under P.M Cares Fund (PMCF), (Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situation fund).

The Div Com expressed

his pleasure over this achievement and described it as an important milestone in the preparation of the 3rd wave in Kashmir.

These plants were installed at JLNH Hospital Srinagar, DH Ganderbal, DH Pulwama, DH Shopian, DH Kulgam, DH Kupwara, DH Bandipora, GMC Anantnag, GMC Baramulla, SDH Magam, CD Hospital and DRDO Khanmoh. With the installation of these 12 oxygen generation plants there has been an increase of 11250 LPM in the Kashmir division.

Before the onset of the 1st wave, the Oxygen capacity of the Kashmir division was just 12466 LPM and it has now reached 60391 LPM. This additional capacity of Oxygen gen-

eration plants is an important step in the upliftment of vital capacity in the form of Oxygen which is the most important remedy in treating moderate and severe cases of Covid-19 infection.

The Div Com directed all the district administrators to form CAB monitoring teams in their respective districts so that a strong surveillance mechanism is put in place as the general public is showing complacency vis-à-vis adopting CAB; which can prove disastrous for the division in view of 3rd wave threat.

The Div Com directed the concerned to pace up the vaccination coverage in all districts of Kashmir division at war footing basis.

## Five Illegal Crusher Units Shut In Anantnag

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr Piyush Singla Saturday ordered immediate closure of five Stone Crushers operating unauthorizedly on state/ kacharai land in Tehsil Anantnag and Qazigund.

Taking cognizance of ille-

gal operation of stone crushers on state/ kacharai land, the DC directed Tehsildars to close down the operation of these units within their jurisdictions.

The inhabitants of these villages had complained that the operation of these crusher units promotes illegal extraction of river bed material from the adjoining rivers and streams,

which has choked irrigation facilities to the farmers.

Dr Singla asked the District Mineral Officer to calculate the royalty payable by the owners of these Crusher Units and ensure recovery of the government dues. He also issued directions to the Executive Engineers of KPDCL to snap the power supply to these units forthwith.

## Ladakh Admin Signs Agreement To Upgrade Road Network: Report

Agencies

Leh: The Ladakh administration and the Border Roads Organisation signed an MoU for upgradation and improvement of road network in the Union territory, officials said today.

Calling the MoU a "historic" move, they said the Union territory (UT) administration also assigned seven projects to the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) considering their expertise in hilly areas to construct tunnels and roads.

"This initiative will ensure the overall development of Ladakh in the long run. It will further enrich the relationship and coordination between BRO and UT Ladakh," an official spokesman said.

He said the memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed by Chief Engineer, Project HIMANK, Brig Arvinder Singh, Chief Engineer

Project VIJAYAK Brig Ashish Gambhir; and Chief Engineer, Public Works (Roads and Buildings) Ladakh PC Tanoch at the UT secretariat here on Friday in the presence of Principal Secretary Pawan Kotwal and Director General BRO Lt General Rajeev Chaudhary.

Commissioner Secretary, PW(R&B), Ajeet Kumar Sahu, who was also present, said the BRO has agreed to upgrade the roads on fast track mode for which funding would be provided by the UT administration.

With the completion of road construction projects, the overall economy of the region would get a boost, especially in the tourism industry, the spokesman said, adding that it would also ensure safety of local people as well as tourists besides reducing distance and increasing tourist influx.

## Health Secretary Reviews Vaccination Coverage In J&K, North East States

Agencies

New Delhi: Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan on Saturday reviewed the vaccination coverage in North East and the Hill States/UTs - Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttarakhand, the Health Ministry said in a release. He urged the States/UTs to quickly finish the first dose coverage among the population aged above 18 and more.

He also asked the States to focus on the 60+ age group as the coverage of both the doses in this category is unsatisfactory in Assam, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Meghalaya. The vulnerability of this age group to Covid-19 makes this exercise of prime importance.

Meanwhile, India reported 42,618 cases on Saturday with 330 cases. The daily cases are marginally lower than the previous day's cases of 45,352. There was a spike in the active caseload by 5,903 cases to 4.05 lakh cases.

Mizoram, Kerala, Puducherry and Andhra Pradesh are among few States/UTs which witnessed surge in active caseload.

In addition, 36,385 patients recovered in the last 24 hours till 8:00 am, aggregating to 3,21,00,001 recoveries so far. Consequently, the country's recovery rate stood at 97.4 per cent. Further, the weekly positivity rate stood at 2.63 per cent, less than 3 per cent for the last 71 days, and the daily positivity rate was at 2.50 per cent.

Besides this, India conducted 17.04 lakh tests during the previous day, and with this, the cumulative tests done so far stood at 52.82 crore.

Meanwhile, the Government informed Saturday that more than 66.07 crore vaccine doses have been provided to the States/UTs so far through the Government's free of cost channel and the direct state procurement category. Further, more than 85 lakh doses are in the pipeline.

Also, more than 4.49 crore vaccine doses are available with the States/UTs to be administered.

### Teachers Day...

## Dr Farooq Lauds Seeks End To Pay Anomalies Of Private Sector Teachers

Srinagar: National Conference (NC) President and Member of Parliament from Srinagar Dr. Farooq Abdullah on Saturday said that societies all around the world are indebted to teachers, who not only impart academic knowledge but also share ethical values, and imbibe morality that shapes a student's future and through him a nation's.

Teachers deserve our utmost gratitude and respect, the students in particular and society in general should be deferential towards teachers every time, Dr. Farooq said while expressing gratitude to all the teachers for their efforts towards nation building.

"The day is marked by the birth anniversary of an iconic teacher and erudite personality, Sarvapali Rada Krishnan.

My father Sher-e-Kashmir also started his career as a teacher, at the outset his teaching was confined to the classroom, but eventually he took it upon himself to change the fate of the entire wretched, poor, illiterate populace of J&K. Education remained on the top of his priority list. One of the foremost decisions that he took soon after the dismantling of autocratic rule was to set up a university. It was his passion for education that enabled the setting up of the J&K University, which was later bifurcated into Jammu and Kashmir universities with their campuses in Jammu and Kashmir respectively. He also took other drastic measures to increase the literacy rate in J&K. Free and Gender neutral education; Adult schools were few among

the sleuth of measures taken by him that went a long way in furthering the cause of education in J&K," he said.

He also lauded the teachers for their efforts to impart education to students through online mode during the prevailing pandemic situation. He however expressed concern over the plight of teachers in the private education sector, saying that the teachers working in the private sector have been at the receiving end due to the unbroken clampdown and subsequent prevailing lockdown. Most of the teachers in the private sector, he said, continue to remain underpaid.

"There is a great need to do away with the discrimination and end the festering pay anomalies faced by the teachers working in private sector," he said.

## E&TO Seeks Objections For Renewal Of Liquor Licenses

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Excise and Taxation Officer, Srinagar-Budgam-Ganderbal Excise Range Saturday sought objections if any regarding the renewal of the licenses for retail sale of liquor for consumption by the public at various places given underneath. These places include The Lalit Grand Palace, 09/JKEL-3A, Gupkar Road, Srinagar; Vivanta by Taj C/o Saifco Hillcrest Hotels Pvt Ltd., 98/JKEL-3, Kralasangri Opposite Cheshmashahi, Srinagar; Kashmir Golf Club, 17/JKEL-7, Maulana Azad Road, Srinagar; Amar Singh Club, 18/JKEL-7, Sonwar, Srinagar; Srinagar Club, 23/JKEL-7, The Bund, Srinagar; The Royal Spring Golf Club, 14/JKEL-7, Cheshmashahi Srinagar; Highlander Bar & Restaurant, 83/JKEL-4, Adjacent erstwhile Broadway Cinema Complex, Sonwar, Srinagar and Lake View Bar and Restaurant, 121/JKEL-4, Boulevard, Srinagar. Objections, if any, may be filed in the office of the Excise & Taxation Officer, Srinagar-Budgam-Ganderbal Excise Range within a period of one month from the date of issuance of this notice.

## Prisoner Dies In GMC Anantnag

Agencies

Anantnag: A prisoner, who was lodged in Anantnag jail, has died at GMC Anantnag after brief illness, an official said on Saturday.

An official said that Mushtaq Ahmad Khan, son of Abdul Ahad Khan of Anchidora, who was booked in NDPS case and was in Kheribal jail since February, died at GMC Anantnag in this afternoon.

He said his health condition worsened on Saturday morning, following which the jail authorities took him to GMC Anantnag where doctors declared him brought dead.

Incharge Superintendent of Kheribal Jail, Sheroz Ahmad said that Khan needed hospitalization this morning. However, he died at the hospital, Sheroz said.

## Govt's Priority Expeditious Settlement Of Claims Under FRA: Div Com Jammu

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner, Dr Raghav Langer Saturday chaired a meeting of Deputy Commissioners and officers of Forest, Rural Development and Tribal Affairs to review the implementation of "The Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights Act 2006)" and status of settlement of claims received in the districts.

Pertinently, the Forest Rights Act of 2006 provides rights to forest dwellers. The Act was earlier not applicable or implemented in Jammu and Kashmir it became applicable to J&K only after 31st October, 2019, hence, recognizing the rights of forest dwelling communities for the first time in this part of India. Under the Act, members of the Scheduled Tribes dwelling in the forests along with other traditional residents will have the right over forest land for habitation or self-cultivation or livelihood.

It was informed that under the Act the Gram Sabha will submit decisions on all the claims in the form of resolution to Sub Division Level Committee and after their statutory duties will be forwarded to District Level Committee headed by Deputy Commissioners for final approval.

During the meeting, it was informed that the Gram Panchayat Level Forest Rights Committee(s) (FRC) have been constituted in all the districts of the division and the survey of claimants by the forest rights panels for assessing the nature and extent of rights claimed at the

village-level was in progress.

During the meeting threadbare deliberations were held on different aspects/ provisions of the Act wherein the concerned officers of Forest, Revenue and Rural Development Department briefed the Div Com about the current status and other related necessities with regard to its implementation

ceived by the Forest Rights Committees (FRCs) at Gram Sabha, Block and district Level and status on verification by the Forest Rights Committee.

The Div Com asked the DFOs to coordinate with Deputy Commissioners and Sub Divisional level Committees for verification by the Forest Rights Committees, so that verification is carried out and

awareness at grassroots level to provide necessary awareness at Panchayat level more especially in remote and inaccessible areas.

Dr Langer emphasized upon the concerned departments to work with added zeal for getting the desired results within the fixed time frame. He also exhorted to work in close coordination with For-



on the ground level.

Key issues were discussed in detail like receiving of claims, consolidation by Forest Rights Committee, verification process to be carried out with Forest and Revenue officials, preparation of verification report, resolution by Gram Sabha and submission of processed claims to Sub Divisional Level Committee.

The Deputy Commissioners also apprised the Div Com about the number of claims (individual/ community) re-

Gram Sabha considers the same for its decisions.

The Div Com directed the DFOs to take initiative to reach out to Deputy Commissioners and officials of Revenue Department for expediting the process and ensure that claims are processed and disposed of immediately.

After taking a thorough review, the Div Com stressed on adopting a coordinated approach for its effective implementation. He underlined the need for disseminating

est Rights Committees (FRCs) that have been constituted for the purpose.

The Div Com also stressed on the development aspect and directed the DCs to focus on the development process/activities to ensure the genuine needs and requirements like pathways, water and power are available to forest dwellers.

The Div Com also issued directions to the concerned officers for expediting the process of claim settlement for timely completion.



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### NO HOLDS BARRED



### From KO Archive

## The Greeks of Kashmir

Prof Fida Muhammed Hassnain

The NilamataPurana, a 6th century work speaks about the emergence of valley out of a lake and the settlement by the 14 tribes. One of the tribes among these is that of the Yavanas, who came along with the Khashas or the Kassites of Mesopotamia, the Pahlavis or the Parthians. Now, these Yavanas are none other than the Unanis or the Greeks, who introduced Yunani system of medicine. It is evident that we Kashmiris have in us Greek blood also.

The Greek period in the history of Kashmir is completely shrouded in mystery. However, it has been, now established through the evidence we found both archeological and numismatic that at the time of Alexandra's invasion, Kashmir formed a part of Gandhara. This country came under the influence of the Achaemenid and the Greek Kings. It may be stated that in the latter half of the 6th century B.C Achaeminian monarchy rose to power in Persia under the leadership of Cyrus. He is believed to have subjugated Gandhara. In Kashmir are found the Kactrian, the Seythian and the Parthian coins.

During the 6th century B.C; the Achaemenian monarchy rose to power in Persia, Afghanistan and other regions of Central Asia under the leadership of Cyrus the Great. The valley of Kashmir, which formed a part of Gandhara, came under the influence of the Bactrians, the Scythians and the Parthians. Alexander the great marched his armies into India in the beginning of 326 B.C. After his departure, many small Greek over- lord lords, who established their small kingdoms in Kashmir, owed their allegiance to their masters in the beginning but after lapse of some time and, when the central rule had week- end, they assumed independent posture. It was during their rule that the cultural traditions and art of Rome Byzantium, Syria and Persia traveled to Kashmir. The Sun Temple of Kashmir has its closs- est links with the Temple of the Sun at Baalbeck in Lebanon. Similar foreign influences can be traced in the constructional style of Takht-e-Sulaiman, and Buddhist Terra-Cottas of Harwan, Ushkar and Akhnur. The Kharoshti inscriptions and statues found by the author in the Lolab valley and numerous Greek coins preserved in the Srinagar Museum, all point out to the factual existence of the Greeks in Kashmir. It was during the rule of the Greeks that Buddhism was introduced in Kashmir.

The following are the Greek kings, whose coins have been located in Kashmir.

1. Euthudemos. 220. B.C.
2. Eukratidos. 175 B.C.
3. Apollodotos.
4. Menandrou.
5. Nikephoro-antimakhos.
6. Soterios.
7. Megalou-Azou.
8. Basileos Basileon Megalon Azon.
9. Megalou Azilion.
10. Spali-risou.
11. Abada-gasou.

The Greeks made donations to the Buddhist Sangha, erected stupas over the sacred relics, constructed virharas and installed images in them.

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# End of American Empire?

The American appetite for entering into conflict to preserve global dominance seems to be abating.



Zalan Khan

AS Afghanistan continues to be in the spotlight of international media after the Taliban takeover of Kabul, familiar tropes are being regurgitated by the usual suspects. The “graveyard of empires” – is there a more used and abused orientalist trope? – is a favourite reference in analyses and commentaries, as if Afghanistan, like other places, has not been conquered and ruled by foreign forces countless times in history.

Questions and doubts abound about whether Afghans are “fit” for the trappings of civilised society, as if these trappings are reserved only for western nations or whether as “noble savages” they were well-intentioned but just too weak or naïve to fight for and preserve what was given to them.

But as the western narrative focuses on Afghans and their supposed “failures”, few have reflected on what the events in Afghanistan say about America, the retreating superpower, and its increasing inability to decide global matters.

As I was watching Kabul fall to the Taliban, I was reminded of a comment by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger – “it may be dangerous to be America’s enemy, but to be America’s friend is fatal”.

The richest country with most powerful military in the world spent two trillion dollars, deployed as many as 775,000 military personnel since the invasion in 2001, and trained, equipped and nation-built for two decades. And when it decided to pull out, its Afghan allies surrendered within a week.

Is Afghanistan marking the end of the American century or is it just a temporary blip in its world dominance?

Indeed, there are other similar moments in history where America has shown weakness. There is the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour that decimated the US Pacific fleet in 1941, which was followed by the loss of the Philippines to invading Japanese forces. Bu then the US rebuilt its navy and within three years brought Japan to its knees.

There is also the 1973 war in which Egyptian and Syrian forces supported by the Soviet Union launched a surprise attack on territories occupied by Israel. When the US started airlifting arms to its ally, Arab oil producers reacted by impos-



Perhaps it is too soon to declare the decline of the US, but the last two decades have brought significant shifts in global geopolitical dynamics. As Fareed Zakaria argued in his 2008 book *The Post-American World*, “The fact that new powers are more strongly asserting their interests is the reality of the post-American world.”

ing an oil embargo which badly hit the US economy. But ten years later, it had minimised Soviet influence in the region and detached Egypt from the Arab nationalist bloc.

Perhaps it is too soon to declare the decline of the US, but the last two decades have brought significant shifts in global geopolitical dynamics. As Indian-American political commentator Fareed Zakaria argued in his 2008 book *The Post-American World*, “The fact that new powers are more strongly asserting their interests is the reality of the post-American world.”

Only, he unconvincingly argued that the “rise of the rest” was the consequence of other powers adopting US policy principles and ideas.

Looking back, America’s debut on the world stage was dramatic and epoch-making. By 1913, it had become a major economic power, albeit one with little interest in global matters. This would change with its intervention in World War I on the side of the Allied Powers, ensuring their victory. After the end of World War II, it became clear that the US was replacing the British Empire as a dominant power in much of the world. And less

than 50 years later, Washington stood victorious, as the Eastern Bloc and the Soviet Union collapsed.

As the US came to dominate the globe, the order it was morally underpinned by its belief in “manifest destiny” and economically underpinned by the US dollar as the reserve currency maintaining the massive gap between its economic might and its nearest rivals and its control of the airways and oil supply lines.

This global order has unravelled mostly at the hands of the US itself. Its moral dimension started to come apart, when the US invaded Iraq in 2003, not only disregarding the United Nations but also propagating lies about Saddam Hussein’s regime possessing Weapons of Mass Destruction. The credibility of the economic order was in turn damaged by the great recession of 2008, when major US financial institutions collapsed one after the other.

All of this coincided with the resurgence of Russia and emergence of China as the global economic powerhouse. In the 2010s, signs of the internal socio-political crisis America was going through also started to emerge, reflected in the rise of

Trumpism, the growing racial injustice that triggered the Black Lives Matter movement and the near-collapse of the health system amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Viewing the humiliating withdrawal from Afghanistan within this larger context, one can say that the century of American dominance may well be coming to an end.

That, of course, does not mean that the US has become irrelevant. Historically, empires in decline – like the Ottoman in the 19th century and the Russian in the late 19th and early 20th century – have continued to wield imperial power and dominate world events.

The US remains the world’s biggest military power. The size and sway of its economy remains formidable. What has changed, however, is its appetite for direct and indirect conflict to maintain its power. Its allies – in Afghanistan and elsewhere – are the first to feel this growing American aversion to global dominance.

...  
*Zalan Khan is a columnist and founder of the social media forum Qissa Khwani. The piece was originally published in Al Jazeera.*

## Back To School – How Can Parents Best Help Children Deal With COVID Anxiety?

Tamsin Ford | Rasanat Fatima Nawaz

As children return to school this year – the third academic year to be affected by COVID – many parents, carers and teaching staff are worried about their safety from infection. They will also be concerned about the impact the pandemic has had on their academic progress and their mental health.

For children, the return to school after the summer break can of course be challenging in ordinary times. The past two academic years however have seen children and young people experience enormous change and uncertainty, with successive lockdowns and the self-isolation and remote learning they have brought.

Between May and July 2020, the University of Oxford conducted a survey of over 19,000 eight-to-18-year-olds in the south of England. When asked about how they felt about going back to school, over half of the respondents said they were looking forward to seeing their classmates, friends and taking part in extracurricular school clubs. One third, however, said they were worried about school work and attending lessons.

We all need time to adjust to the new academic year. So what are the factors parents and carers should keep in mind? How best can we support children in facing ongoing COVID uncertainty and any anxieties that might lead to?

### Talking together

Talking with your child about

the upcoming term is the first and most important step in supporting them, especially if they are starting a new school. For neurodiverse children it will be particularly important to make sure they know about things that will definitely be different in advance if possible.

Opt for neutral questions that encourage children to express their feelings rather than statements that assume negative or positive feelings. “How do you feel about...” is more likely to prompt an honest conversation than assuming you know how they feel.

For children, the return to school after the summer break can of course be challenging in ordinary times. The past two academic years however have seen children and young people experience enormous change and uncertainty, with successive lockdowns and the self-isolation and remote learning they have brought.

And honesty is key. Children and young people are quick to detect spin and it is better to explain uncertainty when it exists than to pretend that it does not. Anxiety arising from uncertainty can be supported by reminding children about what we know and what we can do.

It is important to listen to children and young people’s own thoughts about returning to school. For children who tend to get sucked into a whirlpool of worry, it might be helpful to make a worry box or introduce a worry time where a certain but limited amount of time is given to talk through any concerns they have.

Some young people may be concerned about returning to school and protecting themselves, or more fre-

quently vulnerable relatives, from COVID-19. It can help for the young person to feel in control where they can be. For example reminding them that regularly washing their hands, wearing masks, keeping a distance and opening windows or being outside as much as possible will help reduce the chances of catching or transmitting infections.

Others may feel particularly anxious or become obsessive over certain things such as checking the news often. They may feel reassured by gentle reminders of what is and what is not their responsibility –

and that scientists, healthcare staff and others are working hard to keep us all as safe as possible.

### Healthy habits

While we all love slipping out of our work and school schedule during the holiday, the return to a regular routine can be beneficial. So encourage healthy habits – regular times to eat, sleep, study and play – in order to increase a sense of structure throughout the day. This can help children and young people feel safe and secure.

Play is an important factor here. We all need to do things that we enjoy to support our mental health and well-being. However great the need to catch up on academic work,

children and young people learn best when mentally healthy, and it is important that school work does not squeeze out all the activities that children and young people find fun and engaging.

This is particularly important in the run up to exams, when given the increased stress and academic pressure, nourishing activities are all the more important. So prioritise time playing and exercising – outdoors where possible – in order to boost mood and help relieve anxiety and stress.

According to England’s Mental Health of Children and Young People Survey, there has been an increase in probable mental health conditions, from one in nine children aged five to 16 years in 2017 to one in six children in July 2020 across all age, sex, and ethnic groups. But we should note that this still means that five out of six children and young people are doing fine despite the disruption and uncertainty resulting from the pandemic.

While some mixed feelings are normal about the return to school, distress or difficult behaviour that persists over weeks or months and gets in the way of coping with the ordinary demands of life – however extraordinary life during COVID might feel – can signal a mental health problem. We would encourage parents, carers and teachers to seek help.

Further resources for parents and carers to support young people are available through the Mental Health Foundation, Young Minds, MindEd, Charlie Waller and Mentally Healthy Schools. Resources are also available in foreign language translations at Emerging Minds and for all practitioners working with children and young people via ACAMH

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The Conversation



LITERATURE

# The Politics Of Covid-19

Salman Altaf

SwEEPING across the globe like a wildfire, the Covid-19 pandemic shook the very foundations of our life and its assumptions, and challenged the world’s mechanical order dictated by market forces. Pandemic! Covid-19 Shakes the World by Slovenian philosopher Slavoj Žižek delves into the political, ideological and socio-economic aspects of our headlong plunge into chaos, and proposes nothing less than a radical change, to confront “a stupid, self-replicating mechanism of Covid-19.”

With his typical enthusiasm for paradoxes, Žižek pits spiritual reflection against his atheism and communism by lambasting state control in China. The avowed atheist’s book begins with a story from the Gospel preaching love and solidarity among people, and relates it to forced physical distancing in the pandemic’s wake. Žižek frequently references Hegelian idealism to further the idea of metaphysical need and its importance for sustaining life in times of social distancing.

In the same breath that Georg Hegel is quoted as “we learn nothing from history”, Žižek holds that “I doubt the epidemic will make us any wiser.” The pandemic, according to Žižek, has no deeper meaning to ponder; instead, it has dethroned humans from their central place in the universe by catching them unprepared and leaving them struggling for survival.

Despite being a proponent of communism, Žižek takes China head on, criticising its social and political controls over freedom of speech, and declares Dr Li Wenliang — the first to raise the coronavirus alarm and silenced under the pretext of controlling panic — a hero. Žižek maintains that “This control itself spreads distrust and thus helps create more conspiracy theories.”

Maverick philosopher Slavoj Žižek delves into the political, ideological and socio-economic aspects of the coronavirus pandemic and brings forth some of his own contradictions

However, seemingly in two minds, the author believes perhaps stricter state control in China’s Hubei province saved the world. Keeping Dr Li’s last words — “there should be more than one voice in a healthy society” — in view, can there be more than one voice in Žižek’s brand of communism? The book does not discuss it.

Taking the Marxist perspective further, Žižek finds class divisions taking a new dimension during the pandemic. Critiquing Korean-German philoso-



**“The avowed atheist’s book begins with a story from the Gospel preaching love and solidarity among people, and relates it to forced physical distancing in the pandemic’s wake. Žižek frequently references Hegelian idealism to further the idea of metaphysical need and its importance for sustaining life in times of social distancing.**

pher Byung-Chul Han — who believes that the external class struggle has now morphed into an inner conflict — Žižek argues for a new set of restrictions to be imposed on the “intellectual class” from the outside. Citing Pakistani-British Kamila Shamsie’s example of her being divested of the Nelly Sachs Prize after her support for boycott measures against the Israeli government for its Palestinian policies, Žižek invites us to think “where we stand today” — man confronting man.

While Covid-19 has called for working from home — possible for a certain class of people who, according to Byung-Chul Han, are “master and slave in one” — it has also made it necessary for others to work and fight for the survival and well being of the sick. In Žižek’s view, the selfless devotion of a medical worker “is a meaningful work for the benefit of the community which brings its own satisfaction, not the stupid effort of trying to succeed in the market.”

Each chapter deals with a variety of ideas, simultaneously drawing examples from science fiction and current political turmoil, to suggesting solutions as radical as post-nationalism and global coordination. Going beyond

nothing but a vague proposal of an organisation that “can control and regulate the economy”, the author feels content with clarifying that it is “not the old style communism.” But no clear roadmap comes from the author of this “little book” as to how the concept of global coordination on a humanitarian basis can be put into practice in the wake of what he calls “ideological viruses” of “fake news, conspiracy theories and racism.”

With multiple waves already widespread and deadlier variants hovering globally, predictions by this ‘most dangerous philosopher in the West’ have already begun coming true — writing during the first wave, Žižek predicted “if this wave recedes, it will likely reappear in new, perhaps even more dangerous, forms.”

The ideological virus seems to be most relevant in Pakistan’s context. Ranging from identifying Covid-19 with a Jewish plot against Muslims, to complete denial of the virus’s existence, conspiracy theories flourished in Pakistan in the absence of any cohesive national policy against the menace. The firm conviction on part of a large chunk of our society that it’s all a hoax, takes us to a character in Albert

Camus’s The Plague who, despite a doctor’s assurance of finding dead rats, adamantly believes “there were no rats in the house, so this one must have been brought from outside. In short, it was a practical joke.”

As the race to produce the vaccine subsided and the vaccine survived cyber attacks, it was also suspected of engineering human DNA through the planting of microchips. The mastermind of this plot was declared to be Bill Gates, whose support for the anti-polio campaign in Pakistan was met with allegations of running an undercover birth control campaign.

Marvelling at the pandemic’s paradoxes, the book, too, appears to have incongruities. While Žižek criticises China for being an authoritarian state, he appreciates the enforcement of large-scale quarantines in the country. On the one hand, he recognises the horrors of state control in a communist society; on the other, he proposes a neo-communism, lending the state active and strong control to tackle the problem in a manner he calls “war communism.”

Žižek admits that “when I suggested recently that a way out of this crisis was a form of communism, I was widely mocked.” Similarly, though he considers it anathema that the wheel of the economy be driven and guided by market forces, to deal with the pandemic he suggests the establishment of an organisation modelled on the World Health Organisation (WHO), which, from the Marxist perspective, is a bureaucratic arm of capitalism to ensure its agenda.

Lastly, in hopes of getting “back to normal”, while the author imagines a utopian state in “[d]ead time — moments of withdrawal, of what old mystics called Gelassenheit, releasement — ...crucial for the revitalisation of our life experience”, in more than one place he takes a scientific position, saying the pandemic “just happened and hides no deeper meaning” and that “this is not the time to search for some spiritual authenticity.”

Žižek proclaims Covid-19 a political situation. Whether we agree or not with his alternative model of neo-communism or with post-nationalism, capitalism has capitalised on Covid-19, both politically and economically. Vaccines from the inventing countries emerged with nationalistic labels as if competing in realpolitik. After masks, sanitisers and toilet paper, the vaccine is vulnerable to drug cartels creating a false shortage. Though the vaccine is a sigh of relief and it will have health benefits around the world, it enters into the market as a political vaccine.

## In Shape

### Grazing, gorging or skipping Which is better for weight loss?

Adam Collins

WHen it comes to diet and health, especially losing weight, most of the focus has been on what you eat and how much you’re eating. While eating fewer calories than you’re taking in is key to weight loss, another important factor is how you eat — such as how many times you eat a day.

In recent years, much attention has been put on meal patterns. While some diets suggest that the key to losing weight is to only eat one meal a day, other popular diets suggest people should eat up to six small meals a day. Many of us have also been brought up to eat three meals per day — so which is best?

Many diet plans also follow a three-square-meals eating pattern. Having such a rigid approach may leave people feeling hungry between meals. This can lead to people snacking between meals, potentially overeating in the process.

But while snacking between meals was long seen as a way to stave off hunger, some early studies showed that eating more meals a day was linked with lower bodyweight. Since then, research has looked at a variety of different eating patterns, ranging from “nibbling” (up to 17 small meals per day) to “gorging” (two to three meals a day).

There is a popular belief that nibbling increases your metabolism, but this is not the case. There is evidence from one study that nibbling causes a less pronounced insulin spike after mealtimes compared to gorging. This indicates better blood-sugar control, which may be indirectly linked to managing weight better by storing less fat. But pending more research, nibbling may not actually burn more calories than gorging.

Subsequent studies which looked at the effect of eating between two and four meals per day have failed to show whether nibbling or gorging is more beneficial to weight loss. Some studies show that eating more frequently helps with weight loss, but this can also increase hunger and impair your ability to clear fat from the blood — an important factor in cardiovascular disease risk.

But the way we eat has changed over many decades, with more of us snacking or following other patterns of eating, such as intermittent fasting, which advocate decreasing the number of meals eaten or leaving more time between meals. It’s thought that such eating patterns will help the body better lose weight.

These diets are based on an understanding of our body’s different metabolic states. After we eat, our body goes into the postprandial state. During this state, which can last for several hours, the body stores energy from the food we’ve just eaten — often as fat. The postabsorptive (or fasted) period is when the body begins to burn through stored fuel, which only really begins around ten or more hours after a meal.

When we follow a traditional eating pattern of three meals a day, we tend to spend a large part of our time (12 hours or more) in the postprandial state, with very little time in a truly fasted state. This is exaggerated further with grazing or “nibbling” eating patterns. Intermittent fasting diets are based on the idea that reducing meal frequency will ensure your body spends more time in the fasted state. It’s thought that this will improve your ability to manage the fat and carbohydrate in the meal. These diets can give better control over storing and burning fat stores and enhance your metabolic health.

This is also why some people choose to intentionally skip meals, such as breakfast, while still following a normal pattern of eating (as opposed to intermittent fasting, where they may still eat three meals but in a shorter period, such as eight hours). While skipping meals may or may not affect how much we eat, it may have other metabolic benefits that come alongside an extended fast without adversely affecting appetite.

#### Time of day

Alongside eating frequency, another factor that might affect your weight is the time of day that we eat. Research has found that eating later is associated with eating more overall, which may hinder weight loss.

The emerging field of chrononutrition has also found that humans are designed to eat during the daylight hours as opposed to later in the evening — similar to our preferred sleeping schedule. Some research has shown that eating later in the day is associated with higher bodyweight. Research also suggests we’re more likely to eat unhealthy foods when we eat outside of our natural circadian rhythm.

Another consideration is the timing of when we eat carbohydrates. How you deal with carbs in one meal can be influenced by whether we’ve eaten carbs in previous meals — known as the second-meal phenomenon. Carbohydrates are largely responsible for transitioning the body to the postprandial state, releasing insulin and control fat storage. This means that if we eat carbohydrates at every meal, we’re more likely to store these as fat. Some research suggests that limiting carbohydrates may help us burn more fat during exercise, and may improve exercise performance.

Different eating strategies may have different benefits for our body, such as better blood sugar control. But when it comes to losing weight, no strategy seems to work better than the other. At the end of the day, the eating strategy that works best for a person will differ. Knowing which strategy will work best for you depends on many factors, such as your goals, your lifestyle, your sleeping pattern and what type of exercise you do.

Author is Principal Teaching Fellow, Nutrition, University of Surrey, UK

GARDENING

## Five Ways To Use Your Garden To Support Your Wellbeing

Emma White | Sarah Golding

C OVID-19 has shown that pandemics can seriously affect people’s physical and mental health. Stress, anxiety and depression have increased around the world, with the greatest effects for those living under the strictest lockdowns. Many people’s physical activity levels also fell during lockdown. Gardens, though, can help us push back against these negative effects.

Before the pandemic, having a garden was associated with better health and wellbeing, and this pattern has continued during COVID-19. In our own research on garden use during the UK’s first lockdown — published as a working paper this summer — we found that more frequent garden visits were associated with better wellbeing. Other work has also found that gardens have helped reduce mental distress during the pandemic.

With that in mind, here are five ways of using your garden that research suggests can improve your mental health. If you have access to an outdoor space and have been finding things difficult, you could try these out to boost your mood.

And if you’re feeling good now, you could use this chance to get ahead. Just as world leaders are being urged to prepare for the next pandemic, you can prepare your garden and develop habits now to better support your wellbeing in the future should there be another lockdown.

#### 1. Do something (anything!)

People who garden every day are more physically active — and even those with a balcony, yard or patio are more likely to be active than those with no garden. Being more active is associated with better physical and mental health, including reduced risks of cancer, heart disease and depression.

You don’t have to be a gardener to get active in your garden (although we think you should give it a go). Gardens are great places to be creative and provide lots of opportunities to get moving. Play hide and seek, do yoga on the lawn, build a bug hotel for insects to live in — anything you like!

**“Before the pandemic, having a garden was associated with better health and wellbeing, and this pattern has continued during COVID-19. In our own research on garden use during the UK’s first lockdown — published as a working paper this summer — we found that more frequent garden visits were associated with better wellbeing. Other work has also found that gardens have helped reduce mental distress during the pandemic.**

And remember, if there’s another lockdown, being physically active in your garden can make up for lost opportunities to be active in other parts of your life.

#### 2. Do nothing

Gardens help restore the ability to concentrate on demanding tasks, providing the perfect space for a break when working from home in a pandemic. Natural things — such as trees, plants and water — are particularly easy on the eye and demand little mental effort to look at. Simply sitting in a garden is therefore relaxing and beneficial to mental wellbeing.

To get your garden ready for break time, create a space in which to unwind. Surround yourself with soothing things, such as flowers.

Garden seating also seems to be key. People in our research told us they enjoyed relaxing in hammocks, chairs and benches. So, make time to sit and watch the clouds, or relax with a book and a cup of tea. And don’t feel guilty about it — taking a break is important

for avoiding psychological fatigue.

#### 3. Be alone

Gardens are places to escape the anxieties and demands of the world around us. They are particularly restorative because they are places where we can get away from our day-to-day life. In our research, some people talked about needing space from other household members and got this by hiding in the garden shed. Others hid away in the bathroom or bedroom.

Should there be another lockdown, remember that the garden is a good space to get away from work and other people. Perhaps create a hidden nook in your garden that you can hide out in for a few minutes. You’ll most likely return to work and life feeling refreshed and more productive.

#### 4. Be social

Research also highlights the value of spending time with others outdoors. There are lots of ways to use your garden for socialising and building relationships. You could play a game outside, have a barbeque, chat to a neighbour over the fence, or invite a friend to drink hot chocolate in the snow (the Norwegians can teach us much about enjoying the outdoors during winter).

#### 5. Go natural

Nature offers numerous benefits to mental and physical health. Being in the presence of greater biodiversity is linked to feeling of being restored, as is listening to birdsong and the sounds of water. Having more natural elements in gardens — such as scented flowers, insects and natural materials like stone — increases wellbeing.

Bringing nature into whatever garden space you have is therefore a good idea. Flowers are particularly desirable, with the added benefit that they support pollinators. You could also create a pond or get a birdfeeder.

Of course, not everyone has a garden. But even if you don’t have outdoor space of your own, you can still follow some of these tips. Indoor plants can be used to create a more “natural” environment and have been shown to improve mood.

Green exercise — such as cycling, walking or running in woodland or countryside — can boost mood and self-esteem. Walking alone in a park has also been shown to be revitalising.

If you want to spend more social time outdoors, you could help at an allotment or community garden, as these are often highly social pursuits that involve working together outside. And if you want to do nothing at all, you could find a small local park to just sit and relax in.

By arrangements with the Conversation



# 'Weight gain in pandemic increased type 2 diabetes risk'

Press Trust Of India

Extra weight gained as people lived through the Covid-19 pandemic and multiple lockdowns means they are at a higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes, a new UK study reported on Saturday.

The study, published in ‘The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology’, shows that people aged under 40 enrolling on the National Health Service (NHS) Diabetes Prevention Programme have seen the greatest differences in weight, and are an average of eight pounds heavier than those enrolling before.

The NHS estimates that weight gain of one kg, or 2.2 pounds, can increase someone’s risk of diabetes by around 8 per cent.

“The pandemic has changed every part of our lives and taken a toll on mind and body, with thousands of people paying a heavy price, and many gaining weight during lockdown,” said Dr Jonathan Valabhji, NHS national clinical director for diabetes and obesity.

“The increase in weight also means an increased risk of type 2 diabetes—which is

associated with many of the common types of cancer, blindness, amputations as well as heart attacks and strokes.

“As we return to normal life, there has never been a better time to make small changes to improve our health—our NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme can help people do just that,” he said.

The study compared the weight of people at high risk of Type 2 diabetes starting the NHS’s Diabetes Prevention Programme (DPP) during Covid-19 to that of participants starting the programme over the three years prior to the pandemic.

It found that people seeking the NHS help to lose weight during the pandemic are on an average five pounds heavier than those starting the programme during the previous three years.

The NHS is therefore urging people who fear they may be at risk of type 2 diabetes to come forward for help. It has fast-tracked access to the programme after research found that people are twice as likely to die from COVID-19 if they have type 2 diabetes.

“Type 2 diabetes is a complex condition with multiple risk factors that include age, family history and ethnicity. Living with



obesity is the single greatest risk factor, and accounts for 80-85 per cent of someone’s risk of developing the condition,” said Dan Howarth, Head of Care at Diabetes UK.

“This study suggests that during the

pandemic, there may have been an increase in the body weight of people at high risk of type 2 diabetes. This is concerning as it could lead to rates of the condition rising more steeply down the line,” he said.

People can check their risk online and self-refer themselves for weight loss support through the world leading programme. As well as being referred for support by their general practitioners, people can now self-refer for support by using an online tool, hosted by Diabetes UK, to calculate their risk of developing type 2 by answering a series of questions about risk factors including age, weight, and ethnicity.

Those who qualify will be able to choose how they complete the programme, either by joining group sessions by a video link or telephone with an experienced coach or through digital support, which includes online peer support groups, and in some areas, wearable tech.

The NHS has also been piloting low calorie diets for those recently diagnosed with type 2 diabetes to put the condition into remission.

According to official data, more than 405,000 people have been helped by the NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme since it was first established in 2016 and have been provided with bespoke advice on healthy eating, physical exercise, and weight management.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

SOURA, SRINAGAR

No. SIMS 302 02 (XXXVIII)/2021-3772

Dated: 02.09.2021

Caveat Notice

Be it known to Public at large / Public in general / interested persons having locus that a Government Order No. 818-JK(GAD) of 2021, dated 02.09.2021 has been issued for appointment of Principal for SKIMS Medical College and Hospital, Bemina.

In this connection, Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Srinagar through its Director & Ex-Officio Secretary to the Government states that a Caveat application will be filed before the Hon'ble High Court at Srinagar and prays that they may be given an opportunity of hearing, prior to granting of any interim order/ direction in favour of Public at large / Public in general.

Sd/-

DIPK-NB-3115/21

Director SKIMS & Ex-Officio Secretary to Govt.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir

E-mail: ddtreg123@gmail.com

Subject: -Grant of fresh registration for Paying Guest House/ home stay under the name and style of “KASHMIR BECKONS” situated at Sir Syed Abad Bemina, Srinagar.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, Mr. Bashir Ahmad Ganaie S/o Mr. Wali Mohammad Ganaie A/p Sir Syeed Abad Bemina, Srinagar R/o Tumber Hama Tangmarg has approached to this office for registration of his residential house as paying guest house/ home stay under the name and Style of “Kashmir beckons” paying Guest House /home stay situated at Sir Syed Abad Bemina, Srinagar under the provisions of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, the applicant has submitted following documents online as well as manually for grant of registration of paying guest house/ homestay, Building Permission, Land Ownership Certificate, Character Certificate, Drawing, ID proof, State subject, Pan Card, affidavit and other related documents.

Now therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under Section 10 of Tourist Trade Act, Before the request of the applicant is considered for registration of Paying Guest House/Homestay, the matter is hereby notified for information of General Public/Financial Institutions/Banks/Organizations, etc., that incase of any objection, the same should reach to this office within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice. No objection beyond period of 7 days will be entertained and registration shall be granted to the above mentioned Paying Guest House/Homestay under rules after submission of all documents/formalities.

No: Reg. / 324/DTK

Dated:- 01/09/2021

Sd/

Deputy Director Tourism

Registration Kashmir

DIPK-7740/21

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING WING BUGDAM

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No: 26 of 2021-22 DATED:-31-08-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of U T 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 under IWMP

S no	Name of work	Adv Cost Rs in Lacs	Cost of tender Documents	Time of completion	Class of contractor	Treasury challan account head
<b>BLOCK - SURASYAR</b>						
1	C/O IRRIGATION MINOR FROM H/O GULZAR AH BEIGH TO AB REHMAN BEIGH AT BEIGH MOHALLA HALQA NOWHAR	3.00	500	15 Days	DEE	0515
2	C/O WHT NEAR L/O GULZAR AH DAR HARDMUQAM HALQA SHUMNAG	2.50	500	15Days	DEE	0515
3	DEV OF IRRIGATION KHUL YIS KHUL AT VARIOUS SPOTS FROM BOYS MIDDLE SCHOOL HALQA KHERIGUND	3.00	500	15Days	DEE	0515
4	C/O WHT STRUCTURE AT SOSLIYAD AT DADOMPORA BALA	2.49	500	15Days	DEE	0515
5	DEV OF IRRIGATION KHUL BONEBAR DHARA L/O GH MOHD NAJAR AT WUDUR HALQA DADOMPORA BALA	4.00	500	15Days	DEE	0515
6	DEV OF IRRIGATION KHUL DAIGHAM KHUL AT VARIOUS SPOTS AT DADOMPORA BALA	3.50	500	15Days	DEE	0515
7	C/O CRATE WIRE P -WALL AT VARIOUS SPOTS N KANI NALLAH FROM L/O GH RASOOL MIR AND ON NALLAH DODDHGANGA AB RASHEED PARA ONWARDS HALQ BONIYAR	3.50	500	15Days	DEE	0515
8	DEV OF IRRIGATION MINOR FROM SHUMNAG KHUL TO KANIR KHUL AT PIRDAJI HALQA DADOMPORA BALA	4.00	500	15Days	DEE	0515
9	C/O WHTs 3 Nos NEAR L/O M ASHRAF JEHRRA ,M SHAFI JEHRRA AND GH HASSAN WANI AT WADEBAL HALQA BRENWAR	3.13	500	15Days	DEE	0515
10	C/O WHT AT BARTAL DAJI NEAR L/O GH MOHD WANI HALQA BRENWAR	1.80	500	15Days	DEE	0515
11	C/O WHT 3Nos AT PAHALWAD NEAR L/O AB RAZAAK BEIGH,GH MOHIDIN BHAT,M JAMAL BEIGH AND OTHERS HALQA NOWHAR	5.00	500	15Days	CEE/DEE	0515
12	DEV OF IRRIGATION KHUL SHUMNAG KHUL AT VARIOUS SPOTS HALQA DADOMPORA BALA	5.00	500	15Days	CEE/DEE	0515
13	REVNOVATION OF FLUME AND DEV OF CHANA KHUL AT VILLAGE CHANAGUND HALQA NOWHAR	1.87	500	15Days	DEE	0515
14	DEV OF SPRING PAN AD SPRING NEAR L/O WAHAB RANA HALQA KHERIGUND	2.00	500	15Days	DEE	0515
15	C/O WHT NEAR L/O ASHIQ HUSSAIN RATHER AARKHUD AT HALQA KHERIGUND	2.00	500	15Days	DEE	0515
16	C/O WHT AT SANDAJI NEAR L/O TAJDIN JEHRRA HALQA BRENWAR	1.80	500	15Days	DEE	0515
17	DEV OF IRRIGATION MINOR FROM WAGAM KHUL TO RANGER KHUL M SUBHAN RESRAY HALQA DADOMPORA PAYEEN	3.00	500	15Days	DEE	0515
18	DEV OF IRRIGATION KHUL GRATE KHUL AT SPOTS FROM NOWHAR BRIDGE TO ONWARDS AT HALQA NOWHAR VILLAGE CHANA GUND	3.00	500	15Days	DEE	0515
19	C/O WHT NEAR FAROOQ AH SHEIKH AT BANJI WADER AT HALQA KHERIGUND	2.00	500	15Days	DEE	0515
20	C/O WHT NEAR AB SAMAD WANI AT HEARIM DAJI HALQA BRENWAR	2.00	500	15Days	DEE	0515
21	C/O WHT NEAR L/O ABDULLAH MIR SORNI DUB HALQA KHERIGUND	2.00	500	15Days	DEE	0515
22	C/O WHT 2 Nos AT CHECK SURASYAR NEAR L/O GH MOHD GANIE AND FAYAZ AH WANI BRENWAR	2.04	500	15Days	DEE	0515
23	DEV OF IRRIGATION KHUL ZIL DHARA B/W/O DEEPENING AND WIDEINING AND P WALL AT VARIOUS SPOTS HALQA KHERIGUND	2.00	500	15Days	DEE	0515
24	C/O WHT AT HILMUND NEAR L/O GH HASSAN JEHRRA HALQA BRENWAR	1.80	500	15Days	DEE	0515
<b>BLOCK:- PAKHERPORA</b>						
25	C/O WHT NEAR L/O ROUF WANI AT HAREWADER HALQA SHANKERPORA	3.88	500	15Days	DEE	0515
26	C/O P BUND NEAR PRIMARY SCHOOL KHANCHI KHUL AT HALQA CHARIPORA	4.60	500	15Days	DEE	0515
<b>BLOCK:- NAGAM</b>						
27	DEV OF SPRING SARBAL NAG NEAR L/O RAMZAN NAJAR HALQA DALIPORA PHASE -I	4.00	500	15Days	DEE	0515
28	C/O CRATE P -BUND AT LOLAB NALLAH APZARI HALQA LOOLIPORA	4.00	500	15Days	DEE	0515
29	DEV OF IRRIGATION MINOR KHUL FROM L/O GH MOHIDIN BHAT VIA ALI MOHD DAR AT PEACE COLONY NAGAM-B	1.87	500	15Days	DEE	0515
30	C/O WHT /PERCOLATION TANK AT LAND OF AJAZ AH MAGRAY AT KHUDDAJI HALQA BADIPORA	2.45	500	15Days	DEE	0515

1. (I) Position of AAA:- Accorded(ii) Position of funds: Demanded

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

A	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	31.08.2021
B	Period of downloading of bidding documents	31.08.2021
C	Bid submission Start Date	31.08.2021
d	Bid Submission End Date	10.09.2021 4.00PM
e	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	11.09.2021 at 10.00 A.M in the Office of Executive Engineer Rural Engineering wing Budgam

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer Rural Engineering wing Budgam (tender inviting authority).

a. All bidders has to submit bid security declaration form instead of earnest money deposit (EMD) as per the circular of finance department. The bid security declaration form is enclosed below.

b. The first lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3 % of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR within 2 days before fixation of contract failing which the work will be put to tenders afresh. The CDR/FDR will be released only after successful completion of work.

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

4The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids 5The work shall be put to fresh tenders in case of:

a. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

Rural Engineering Wing Budgam

DIPK-7748/21

No: XEN/REW/BUD/ 5916-29

Date: 31/08/2021

Government of UT Of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Chairman Market Administrative Committee (MAC) F&V Market Parimpora Srinagar

e- AUCTION NOTICE 31 OF 2021-22

DATED:31-08-2021

For and on behalf of Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee/ MAC Srinagar Fruit and Vegetable Market Parimpora Srinagar, e-bids accompanied with CDR worth Rs. 1, 56,000 (One Lakh Fifty Sixty Thousand only) pledged to Member Secretary APMC/MAC Fruit and Vegetable Market Parimpora Srinagar as earnest money and DD for an amount of Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five Hundred only/-) pledged to Member Secretary APMC/MAC Fruit and Vegetable Market Parimpora Srinagar as tender processing fee are invited from the interested parties/ persons having valid GST registration for Outsourcing of Gate Entry Fee Contract F&V Market Parimpora Srinagar for the year 2021-22.

The minimum reserve bid is fixed at Rs. 52.22 lacs (Rupees Fifty-two Lac twenty-two thousand only) w.e.f. 23-09-2021 up to 31-03-2022. The tender documents can be downloaded from http:// jktenders.gov.in.

Critical Dates Table

1.	Publishing date	31-08-2021
2.	Document download/ sale start date	31-08-2021
3.	Bid submission start date	31-08-2021
4.	Bid submission closing date	08-09-2021 (upto 4:00 PM)
5.	Bid opening date	09-09-2021 (At 11:00AM)

The Gate Entry Fee for each type of transport vehicle entering the F&V Market Parimpora Srinagar shall be as per the following schedule:-

Tariff Schedule

S.No	Type of Vehicle/ Transport	Rate (in Rs.)
1.	14 tyre/18tyre/20tyre	250.00
2.	10 tyre/ 12 tyre	160.00
3.	Truck/Bus	100.00
4.	Tata Mobile/ Tata Sumo/Tractor/M ata dor/Trolley/J onga	30.00
5.	Auto /Load Carrier	10.00
6.	Reda/ Horse Cart	5.00

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The successful tenderer shall have to enter into an agreement with the Member Secretary APMC/ MAC F&V Market Parimpora Srinagar. The other terms and conditions of the agreement areas under:-

1. The offer shall be super subscribed as gate entry tender document of fruit and vegetable Mandi Parimpora Srinagar.

2. The successful tenderer shall deposit the offered bid amount in the office of the MAC Fruit Mandi Parimpora Srinagar in two instalments (1st Instalment i.e. 75% of the offered bid amount at the time of allotment of contract and 2nd Instalment i.e remaining 25% of the offered bid shall be paid by the successful bidder after three (03) months from the date of allotment of contract through assured payees account cheque or bank guarantee whichever is thought feasible in the interest of MAC Parimpora.

3. The allotment to the successful bidder shall be given after two days of opening of tenders after depositing the first instalment.

4. The agreement shall have executed only after the successful bidder deposits the first instalment of the bid amount.

5. The possession of the gates shall be given only after execution of the agreement with member secretary market administrative committee (MAC) Fruit and Vegetable Market Parimpora Srinagar.

6. In case the successful bidder fails to deposit the bid amount within the stipulated time, his contract shall be cancelled and the security deposit shall be forfeited and the contract shall be given to the second highest bidder under rules.

7. The offer should be coated in both figures and words duly covered with the transparent tape and without any cutting or tampering.

8. The successful bidder shall be bound by all labour laws for time being in force.

9. The highest offers received are excluding income tax /GST/Sales Tax and other of his own.

10. The successful bidder shall not raise any additional structure in the mandi premises for collection of gate entry fee and has to utilize the structure already existing in the mandi for the said purpose.

11. The fee shall be charged every time the vehicle enters in the mandi premises.

12. The Member Secretary Market Administrative Committee shall not be responsible and bound to provide any kind of relief / relaxation/ compensation in the event of any adversity or unavoidable circumstance like Hartal / Road blockage / less arrivals etc.

13. The defaulters of APMC / MAC Srinagar are not eligible to submit tenders unless and until the previous outstanding if any is not liquidated in full.

14. The successful bidder has to charge the entry fee as per the approved rates of Directorate of Horticulture P&M, any complaint with regard to the overcharging of rates will be viewed seriously which may lead to the cancellation of the allotment and in that case the amount deposited shall be forfeited along with the earnest money.

15. The Government vehicle/ police and security vehicles / APMC/MAC employees vehicles are exempted from entry fee at all the entry gates.

16. The successful bidder shall regulate the traffic of Entry gate in coordination with the fruit association.

17. The Chairman of Market Administrative Committee MAC F&V Market Parimpora Srinagar reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.

18. In case of any dispute between the parties, the decision of the Director Agriculture Marketing/ Director Horticulture P&M shall be final and binding upon both parties.

Sd/-

Member Secretary Market

Administrative Committee Parimpora , Srinagar

NO:42/APMC/sgr/2021-22

Date:16-08-2021

DIPK-7723/21



## India Seeks To Move Coal To Areas Of Shortage As Power Demand Rises

### Agencies

New Delhi (Reuters): India's power minister on Saturday asked officials to consider diverting coal to power plants with extremely depleted stocks as shortages at some plants push several utilities to the verge of running out of fuel.

Power minister R.K. Singh asked officials to "streamline the stock and supply of coal", including a reduction in inventory tar-

gets to 10 days from 14 days, to allow coal to be moved to areas of greatest shortage as energy demand rises.

Singh said India's electricity demand is likely to continue increasing and also asked utilities to consider blending imported coal with local fuel to address shortages.

India's electricity generation rose by 16.1% in August compared with a year earlier, a Reuters analysis of government data showed, lifted by a

23.7% jump in coal-fired power generation that has led to shortages at utilities.

Data from the Central Electricity Authority showed more than a half of India's 135 coal-fired power plants had less than a week's supply of coal left, of which 50 had fewer than three days left. Six plants had run out of coal.

India is the world's second-largest importer of coal despite having the fourth-largest reserves, and coal burning gener-

ates nearly three-quarters of the country's electricity demand.

Coal shortages occur periodically in India, with the last such shortage occurring in 2017. Production of coal typically slows during India's annual monsoon in June through September.

India has also urged utilities to import coal to meet the shortage. The country mainly imports coal from Indonesia, Australia and South Africa.

## India For Early Outcome Of TRIPS Waiver For Covid Vaccine, Diagnostics

New Delhi (PTI): India has pitched for an early outcome of the TRIPS waiver proposal for Covid-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), an official release said on Saturday.

Addressing a meeting, which was attended by trade and economic ministers of BRICS countries on Friday, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal also stressed on finding a permanent, adequate and equitable solution to the public stock holding programmes for food security purposes.

He also asked for adoption of emerging new technologies in a swiftly changing world while finding solutions to the challenges of data protection and cyber security; and ensuring sustainable

consumption and production patterns.

The minister "emphasised, amongst other

Waiver proposal for vaccines," the release said.

In October 2020, India and South Africa had sub-

lation to the prevention, containment or treatment of Covid-19.

In May this year, a revised proposal was submitted by 62 co-sponsors, including India, South Africa, and Indonesia.

The agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights or TRIPs came into effect in January 1995. It is a multilateral agreement on intellectual property (IP) rights such as copyright, industrial designs, patents and protection of undisclosed information or trade secrets.

Further the minister has said that the BRICS countries should work together for strengthening the multilateral system, stating that there is a need for a balanced and inclusive outcome in the forthcoming WTO Ministerial Conference.



things, on the need for a permanent, adequate and equitable solution to the Public Stock Holding programmes for food security purposes; early outcome of the TRIPS

mitted the first proposal, suggesting a waiver for all WTO (World Trade Organisation) members on the implementation of certain provisions of the TRIPs Agreement in re-

## Supertech Twin Towers 'Built As Per Law', Says Chairman; To file review petition Against SC Order

New Delhi: Realty firm Supertech Ltd on Saturday said it will file a review petition against the Supreme Court order to demolish the company's twin 40-storey towers in Noida while asserting that the buildings were constructed as per the bye-laws with approval of the competent authority.

Last week, the apex court had ordered to demolish the twin 40-storey towers, which are part of the Supertech's Emerald Court project in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

"While we respect the Hon'ble Supreme Court order, we have decided to re-present the matter before the Hon'ble Supreme Court in a review application as the towers were constructed as per the approval of the competent authority conforming to the Building bye-laws," Supertech Chairman R K Arora said.

He said in a statement that the Apex and Ceyane towers are not linked to or part of any ongoing project of the company.

Supertech group is developing 10 crore sq ft across its projects, while Apex and Ceyane towers only constitute a mere 6 lakh sq.ft which is 0.6 per cent of the total portfolio, he added.

"While we have already refunded most of the customers in this project after the Hon'ble High Court, Allahabad decision passed in 2014 - we will further comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court directions as per the order passed," Arora said.

Supertech's chairman exuded confidence that the order will not have any adverse impact on the company as every project has its own independent RERA Account and cost centre.

"Supertech is a financially stable and strong group. Work is going on at all our project sites as scheduled.

"We would like to reassure all our customers, bankers, vendors and other stake-holders that we will deliver all our projects in the scheduled time

frame," Arora said.

In its order, the Supreme Court directed that the entire amount of home-buyers be refunded with 12



per cent interest from the time of the booking.

The Residents Welfare Association be paid Rs 2 crore for the harassment caused due to the construction of the twin towers.

A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and M R Shah had said that the April 11, 2014, verdict of the Allahabad High Court, which directed demolition of twin towers, does not

deserve any interference.

The bench had said the construction of Supertech's twin 40-storey towers having 915 flats and

shops was done in collusion with Noida authority and the high court was correct in holding that view.

The apex court ordered that demolition exercise of the twin towers be carried out within three months under the supervision of Noida authority and an expert agency, and the cost of the entire exercise has to be borne by Supertech Ltd.

## 15 Lakh Less Jobs In August Vs July: Report

New Delhi: There were 15-lakh fewer job opportunities in August as compared to July 2021 in the country, Mahesh Vyas, Managing Director (MD), Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), was quoted by NDTV in a report.

"This decline in job opportunities in August is mainly because of decline in jobs in the agriculture sector," added Mr Vyas.

The latest data from the independent think-tank body highlighted that the national unemployment rate jumped to 8.32 per cent last month from 6.96 per cent in July.

The comments from the industry leader come at a time when the country's economic activity registered a rebound in the first quarter of the current fiscal, with the gross domestic product (GDP) rising 20.1 per cent,

however, the job market is still struggling.

Urban unemployment rose to 9.78 per cent in August from 8.3 per cent in July and 10.07 per cent in June 2021, accord-



ing to CMIE data. The urban unemployment rate was 7.27 per cent in March, just before the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic hit the country. Rural unemployment also jumped to 7.64 per cent in August from 6.34 per cent

in July, primarily due to low sowing during the kharif season, according to CMIE data.

At least eight states across the country including Delhi, Haryana,

and Rajasthan, are still reporting double-digit unemployment rates. At 35.7 per cent, Haryana had the highest unemployment rate in August, followed by Rajasthan at 26.7 per cent, Jharkhand at 16 per cent, Bihar and Jammu

& Kashmir each at 13.6 per cent. National capital Delhi registered an unemployment rate of 11.6 per cent last month.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which has

## THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433760, 2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)

Website: <http://www.jkbopee.gov.in>, Email: [helpdesk@jkbopee.org](mailto:helpdesk@jkbopee.org)

Subject :- Admission Notification for B. Pharmacy Course 2021 in Govt./Pvt. Institutions of UT of J&K.

Reference :- i) SRO 505 of 2019 dated : 20-8-2019. ii) SRO 640 of 2019 dated: 24-10-2019.

Notification No.82 -BOPEE of 2021 Dated: 01-09-2021

Applications on prescribed format are invited from the desirous candidates from UT of J&K/Ladakh for admission to B. Pharmacy Course 2021 in Govt./Pvt Institutions of UT of J&K.

The selection of the candidates shall be governed by the J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examination Act, 2002, the Rules and Regulations there under, JK Reservation Act, 2004 as amended vide J&K Reorganization Act, 2019, S.O 69 dated 28-02-2020, S.O 127 dated 20-04-2020, O.M dated:- 09-05-2020, and S.O. 249 dated 23-06-2021, subject to further amendments, if any, made by the Competent Authority from time to time.

Eligibility:

a) B.Pharma Course

Candidate applying for above course shall be eligible, if he/she :

i) Is Domicile of UT of J&K/Ladakh.

ii) have passed 10+2 examination conducted by the J&KBOSE/ Central Government Authorities recognized as equivalent to 10+2 examination by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) with English as one of the subject and Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics (PCM) and or Biology (PCB),(PCMB) as an optional subjects individually any other qualification approved by Pharmacy Council of India as equivalent to any of above examination.

iii) must be 17 years of age by or before 31st December, 2021.

b) B.Pharma (Lateral Entry)

Candidate applying for above course shall be eligible, if he/she has passed D.Pharma course from an institution approved by the Pharmacy Council of India under section 12 of the Pharmacy Act.

Submission of Application Forms:

The interested candidates have to submit their respective Registration Forms through offline mode along with the following self attested certificates at BOPEE office Jammu/ Srinagar w.e.f. 03-09-2021 to 17-09-2021 upto 04.00 P.M. during working days only. The application Form shall be available at BOPEE office Jammu/Srinagar and is also annexed as Annexure "A" to this Notification the application form shall be accompanied by the following documents:-

I) Domicile certificate of UT of J&K/Ladakh as the case maybe. For Candidates of UT of Ladakh, ST certificate issued by the Competent Authority of Ladakh shall be treated as Domicile Certificate.

II) Marks card of Qualifying examination (10+2),

III) Marks card of D.Pharma course (For candidates applying for B.Pharm. Lateral Entry only)

IV) Date of Birth (10th Marks card/Diploma) issued by the Board,

V) Category certificate, including (TFW) i.e. Tuition Fee Waiver, if any,

VI) Fee of Rs 1500/= to be paid either through POS machine available at BOPEE office Jammu/Srinagar by Debit/Credit card.

However, it is for the information of all concerned that afore-titled documents as required for submission of application form shall be considered provisional and subject to change(s), if any, made /issued by the Government/ BOPEE subsequently.

Note-1:-

a) The eligibility is bare minimum/provisional and shall be subject to such changes/bench marks as may be fixed by the concerned University/Authority. The Board shall on receipt of any such communication from the concerned notify the same.

b) The information in the application form of the candidate shall in no case be construed as an acceptance of that information/category certificate by the BOPEE. Therefore, if at any stage, it is found that candidate has provided false or incorrect information in respect of any eligibility condition, his/her candidature will be cancelled without any further notice.

c) The category seats shall be allotted in Govt. Institutions only but not in the Pvt. Institution.

Instructions:

Original Documents as mentioned above are required to be submitted in the concerned Institutions at the time of Admission once Provisionally selected.

Mode of Selection/Admission:-

The seats shall be filled strictly on the basis of merit secured by the candidate(s) in qualifying examination i.e. in 12th class / entrance test if any held. 2 | Page In case two or more candidates having same score in 12th class , then their tie shall be resolved by considering the following:-

i) marks obtained by the Candidates in Chemistry, followed by

ii) marks obtained by the Candidates in Physics,

iii) the D.O.B of Candidates i.e candidate older in age shall be taken into consideration iv) in case of further tie, the first alphabet of candidate name be considered.

Intake capacity of Institute for B-Pharma. Course-2021

(Prabha Harjilal College of Pharmacy & Preclinical Sciences Madr-e-Meharban Campus of Health Sciences Jammu).

Total sanctioned intake	Supernumerary seats under Lateral Entry (10% of total intake)	Supernumerary seats under Tuition fee waiver (TFW) (5% of total intake)
60 seats	6 seats	3 seats

Note-2:-

a) In case, the Board receives any other approved B. Pharmacy course college/institute, before issuance of list of Provisionally selected candidates, the selection shall be made through counselling process on the basis of merit cum preference basis & fresh preferences shall be entertained by the Board on the day of counselling, wherever required.

b) Mere filling of Application form shall not confer any right to the Candidates for admission.

c) The Board has right to reject any application form at any stage, if found false without issuing any notice to the Candidates.

Note-3:-

i) The seats under Tuition Fee Waiver (TFW) shall be filled up by the Board after completion of first / second round of admission, as may be decided by the Board. ii) The supernumerary (10%) of total intake i.e 6 seats under Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) shall be filled as per SO 69 dated:- 28-02-2020 and OM dated:-09-05-2020, S.O. 249 dated 23-06-2021, issued by J&K Social Welfare Department "provided that the benefit of reservation under this clause shall be available only in respect of those institutions, where the intake capacity of seats has been increased by the Competent Authority from time to time for the said purpose" iii) The TFW seats in this course shall be allotted to those eligible candidates only whose annual income of the family from all sources is less than Rs. 4.50 lacs or likely to change as and when notified by the UT Government of J&K . The approved format for TFW certificate is available as Annexure "B"

iv) The category seats shall be allotted in Govt. Institutions only and not in the Pvt. Institutions.

Annexure:-A to the Notification No:-82-BOPEE of 2021 dated :-01-09-2021.

THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS  
Tele/Fax: 0194-2433760, 2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)  
Website: <http://www.jkbopee.org>, Email: [helpdesk@jkbopee.org](mailto:helpdesk@jkbopee.org), [coe@jkbopee@gmail.com](mailto:coe@jkbopee@gmail.com).

**REGISTRATION/PREFERENCE FORM FOR B.PHARMA COURSE 2021**

Name of the Candidate:-		PHOTOGRAPH	
Father Name:-			
D.O.B			
Candidate belonging to UT of		1. J&K ( ) 2. Ladakh ( )	
Mobile No:-	E mail Id:-		
Whether eligible for B.Pharma lateral entry		Yes/No	
Eligible for Tuition Fee Waiver		Yes/No	
Qualification :-			
a) For B. Pharma. Later Entry :-			
S No	Examination passed	Marks obtained	Max marks
			%age
b) For B. Pharma			
S No	Examination passed	Marks obtained	Max marks
1	12th class		%age
Whether PCB or PCM or PCMB		PCB	PCM
If PCB, then marks obtained in		PCMB	
1. Physics		3. Biology	
2. Chemistry			
If PCM, then marks obtained in		3. Math	
1. Physics			
2. Chemistry			
If PCMB, then marks obtained in			
1. Physics		4. Math	
2. Chemistry			
3. Biology			
Colleges Prefrences			
1		2	
3		4	
Declaration:-			
I hereby declare that all statements made above are true , to the best of my knowledge and belief. In the event of any information being found false or incorrect before or after examination, the J&K BOPEE shall cancel my candidature or selection/admission to the course without any notice.			
Note:- 1. Mere filling up of application form shall not confer any right of admission.			
2. I agree with the terms & conditions laid down by Board in Admission Notification No: 82-BOPEE of 2021 dated :- 01-09-2021.			
Place/Date		Signature of candidate	
Details of documents attached:-			
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

### Annexure-B to the Notification NO.082-BOPEE of 2021 dated 01-09-2021

Office of the Tehsildar

Income Certificate

It is certified that the Annual income from all sources of

Mr./Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ Father of \_\_\_\_\_

R/o: \_\_\_\_\_ Tehsil: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_ based on the inquiry conducted by this

office does not exceed to \_\_\_\_\_

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date:- \_\_\_\_\_

Tehsildar

(Dr. Sun if Gupta)  
Controller of Examinations,  
J&KBOPEE

No: BOPEE/Exam:-19/2021 Dated: 01-09-2021

DIPK-NB-3135/21



## Basic Human Rights Of Dead, Alive Suspended: Mehbooba

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar:** PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday said the Centre's claim that people of Jammu and Kashmir now enjoy equal rights is a "barefaced lie" and the ease with which it imposes a "complete siege" in the valley every time it anticipates a reaction is distressing and deeply insensitive.

Her remarks come after authorities snapped mobile telephone services, except on BSNL's postpaid, and internet services, except on BSNL's Broadband and Fiber, on Wednesday night immediately after the death of hardline separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani.

"GOI's dubious claims that people of J&K now enjoy equal rights is a barefaced lie as truth is that even their basic human rights dead or alive are suspended with pervasive impunity (sic)," Mehbooba said on Twitter.

The former chief minister of the erstwhile state said the ease with which the Government of India imposes a "complete siege", including communications blackout, in Kashmir every time it anticipates a reaction from people is distressing and deeply insensitive.

"Their misadventure of creating fear and suppression to eliminate a sentiment is counter productive since feelings and emotions don't dissipate or vanish into thin air. These feelings of betrayal, subjugation and anger are absorbed and passed on from one generation to the next," she tweeted.

The PDP chief claimed that instead of reaching out, every successive policy is undertaken to humiliate and collectively punish Jammu and Kashmir.

"These punitive actions compound this sense of betrayal and rage," she added.

## Afghanistan: BJP Clueless About Protecting India's Interest, Claims Salman Khurshid

**KOLKATA:** Senior Congress leader Salman Khurshid on Saturday alleged that the Centre had initially turned a blind eye to the Afghan situation and the BJP is clueless about protecting India's interest in the region.

Demanding that the government reveal what it discussed with the Taliban, Khurshid, a former external affairs minister, said the Congress would cooperate and support the Centre on the Afghanistan issue as it is a "matter of national security".

"The Centre initially turned a blind eye to the Afghan situation as if it was a problem only related to the US and its allies. There are serious concerns about security and threat to our national interests due to the ongoing situation in Afghanistan. The BJP is clueless about protecting India's interest in the region," he said while addressing a press conference here.

"The government has spoken to Taliban. They should now tell us what was discussed. The countrymen should know this. The Congress party stands solidly behind protecting India's interests and expects a mature political and diplomatic response from our government. We will



cooperate and support the Centre regarding the situation in Afghanistan as it is a matter concerning national interests," Khurshid said.

Indian Ambassador to Qatar Deepak Mittal met senior Taliban leader Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai on Tuesday and conveyed India's concerns that Afghanistan's soil should not be used for anti-Indian activities and terrorism.

The meeting took place at the Indian embassy in Doha at the request of the Taliban side and came two weeks after the outfit seized control of Kabul.

The Ministry of External

Affairs (MEA) has said the discussions also focused on the safety, security and early return of Indian nationals stranded in Afghanistan and the travel of Afghan nationals, especially members of minority communities, to India.

Khurshid also slammed the Centre's National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) policy, claiming that it was aimed at "looting" the people of the country and selling off India's assets.

"The anti-people policies of this government, just like NMP, aim at looting the people and sell India's assets created by using public money over the last 70

years. The government has mishandled the economy and does not know what to do now. As a last resort, they are selling everything. This is a huge tragedy; it is something everyone should oppose," he said.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman last month announced Rs 6 lakh crore National Monetisation Pipeline that will look to unlock value in infrastructure assets across sectors ranging from power to road and railways.

Khurshid said the privatisation policy of the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance was different from that of the BJP as the UPA government's strategy was never to sell strategic assets and profit-making companies. On the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls due next year, Khurshid said as of now, the Congress is focusing on increasing its organisational strength.

"Presently, the Congress and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra are focusing on increasing our strength in Uttar Pradesh. Yes, we were not very strong organisationally as of now, but the situation has changed in the last few months. We have increased our strength. But as of now, there are no talks of alliance with the Samajwadi Party," he said.

## TN to hire 10,000 personnel to enhance security of temples, deposit gold in banks



Agenceis

**CHENNAI:** As many as 10,000 personnel would be recruited to provide security for temples and donations of gold, barring those needed for worship, shall be deposited in banks and the interest earned utilised for development initiatives of shrines, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Minister P K Sekar Babu announced on Saturday in the Assembly.

A monthly incentive of Rs 1,000 would be provided to priests serving in 12,959 temples covered under a scheme that ensures pooja for a single time in a day and an allocation of Rs 13 crore shall be made, he said.

For providing security for temples, 10,000 personnel would be appointed and trained, he said, announcing fresh initiatives of his department for 2021-22.

This announcement on personnel for security purposes comes against the backdrop of ancient idols and precious items owned by temples getting stolen in the past. Several idols smuggled out of the country from various shrines have been brought back in recent years.

The Minister said except forms of gold that are needed by temples -for purposes like worship- all other types of gold received as donation over the past 10 years would be melted in the Mumbai based Central government Mint.

The melted gold in the form of bars shall be deposited in banks and the interest earned would be used for "Tiruppani" (development initiatives) purposes.

Such initiatives would be carried out through committees headed by retired judges and three zones shall be created for supervision, he said.

## Bangladesh Parliament Rejects Proposal By Lawmaker For Ban On Marriages Among Working People

Agenceis

**DHAKA:** Bangladesh Parliament on Saturday declined to consider a weird proposal by an independent lawmaker who suggested a ban on marriages among the working people to address the unemployment issue in the country, drawing criticism from fellow parliamentarians.

Lawmaker Rezaul Karim also argued that the children of working couples were often exposed to abuse by housemaids.

"Men holding jobs want to

marry working women, likewise, women in service want to marry service holders . . . if the trend continues you can't resolve the unemployment problem in the country," Karim said.

The proposal created laughter in the House and several of his colleagues ridiculed him.

Law minister Anisul Huq called the proposal a manifestation of "freedom of speech".

"I cannot move two steps off the House if I accept the proposal . . . this is unconstitutional," the minister said.

Huq said being a public representative himself, he could not endanger his own career by accepting such a weird proposal.

"Since we have the freedom of speech, he (Karim) can say whatever he likes and he is taking the advantage of that freedom," the minister said.

Karim, who became a lawmaker from a constituency in northwestern Bogra district for the first time in 2018, last year drew massive criticism by blaming the feminist campaigns for growing incidents of rape.

## SC achieved mere 11 per cent representation of women on its bench with great difficulty: CJI

Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** Expressing concern over the low presence of women in the judiciary, Chief Justice of India N V Ramana on Saturday said that "with great difficulty", the Supreme Court has achieved a mere 11 percent representation of women on its bench.

The apex court presently has four women judges among the 33 sitting judges.

Highlighting that majority of women advocates struggle within the profession, the CJI said after 75 years of independence, one would expect at least 50 percent representation

for women at all levels.

"Very few women find representation at the top. Even when they do, they still continue to face significant challenges.

"After 75 years of independence, one would expect at least 50 percent representation for women at all levels, but I must admit, with great difficulty we have now achieved a mere 11 percent representation of women on the bench of the Supreme Court," Justice Ramana said at a function organised by the Bar Council of India to felicitate him.

He said some states, because of reservation policy, may reveal higher representation but

the reality remains that the legal profession still has to "welcome women into its fold".

The apex court presently has four women judges -- Justices Indira Banerjee, Hima Kohli, B V Nagarathna and Bela M Trivedi.

History was created in the apex court on August 31 as for the first time nine judges, including three women, took oath of office at one go. The strength of the top court has now risen to 33, including the CJI, out of the sanctioned strength of 34.

Justice Nagarathna is in line to be the first woman CJI in September 2027.

Sending a message to the young

members of the bar, the CJI said at the function that they should never forget the age-old values of this noble profession and respect women colleagues. "Seniority has immense value in this profession. Give due regards to your seniors at the bar for their experience, knowledge and wisdom.

"Respect women colleagues and treat them with dignity. Respect the institution and the judges. You are the front line of the legal system, and you must protect the institution from targeted, motivated and mala fide attacks. It is inherent to the bar that it speaks up for what is fair and just, he said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Curbs Eased

Also, all roads leading to Geelani's residence remained sealed with barricades blocking the movement of people, the eyewitnesses said. Government forces were deployed in strength in the city and elsewhere to maintain law and order.

Mobile internet service of all cellular companies, including state-run BSNL, remained suspended, a day after voice call and fixed broadband services were restored on Friday night after remaining suspended for two days.

Train services also remained suspended in the Valley for the third straight day as a precautionary measure.

### Keeping Eye

news and videos to instigate miscreants to disturb situations. Even a few local media persons and channels have been found spreading fake news," he said.

"We are observing it, maintaining evidence and appropriate actions shall be taken against them. Such elements are advised not to spread fake news without consulting law enforcement agencies," he added.

The police spokesperson further said that all the police and security forces personnel have been sensitised regarding facilitating students appearing in different examinations.

### Police Books

later rejected the allegations and said that police instead lend a helping hand in burial.

Meanwhile, Director General of Police Dilbag Singh said the family members of Geelani misbehaved with the Senior Superintendent of Police and other policemen. "There was a lot of anti-national sloganeering and attempts to instigate people," the DGP said.

### 100% Vaccination

the Div Com stressed on 100 percent vaccination of staff and students in all colleges including, Medical Colleges, NIT, Universities, SKUAST, BE'd colleges, ITIs and other institutions by October-20. In this regard, he said, Director Health Services Kashmir was directed to ensure deployment of vaccination teams and setting of vaccination centres in all colleges and universities from October- 06.

Emphasizing on staff to gear up to ensure all students are vaccinated, Pole, as per the official spokesperson said that action and penalty shall be imposed on staff for poor performances. The Div Com said that every staff member must ensure that no student is left out in his/ her class to avoid facing action against him/her for poor performance.

Terming the vaccination as important for the safety of students, the Div Com said that those who will show reluctance and do not turn up for vaccination shall not be allowed to sit in the class.

"Not only non- vaccinated students shall not be allowed to attend classes but also after October- 20 they will not be given vaccine," Pole said, as per official spokesperson.

The Div Com, he said, also instructed concerned authorities to ensure availability of vaccine at all institutions to ensure all 100 percent coverage and said that below 75 percent vaccinated colleges will not be allowed to operate.

### J&K Sees 116 New

stands at 1,327. So far, 3,20,093 patients have recovered from the disease, the officials said.

There are 45 mucormycosis (black fungus) cases in the union territory. No fresh case has been reported since last evening, they said.

### 3 Day Kailash

devotees from across the country used to take part in the annual yatra which was hit by COVID-19. The administration decided to allow only the holy mace to proceed towards Kailash kund for the second consecutive year.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Bhadarwah, Rakesh Kumar said tight security arrangements were made for the peaceful conduct of the yatra.

'Charri Mubarak' would reach the high altitude lake on Monday morning and the accompanying devotees would perform the traditional prayers there.

"Due to COVID-19 threat, only holy Mace has been allowed to move towards Kailash Kund. We hope that Vasuki Nag will cure all our problems and vanish COVID-19 infection," Gupta said.

According to local belief, Kailash Kund was the original abode of lord Shiva, but he gave it to Vasuki Nag before moving to Manmahesh in Bharmour area of Himachal Pradesh.

The pilgrimage, which commences on the 14th day after 'Shravan Purnima', is considered as one of the toughest as pilgrims have to trek 21 Km steep Kailash mountains range to reach the holy Kund (lake), where devotees take a dip in the ice-cold water to take the blessings of serpent God, Gupta said.

### LG Meets Members

"Met members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology led by its Chairperson & Member Parliament Dr. Shashi Tharoor @ShashiTharoor

at Raj Bhavan," Sinha said.

Members of several parliamentary committees have recently visited Jammu and Kashmir. **'Bhagat's Win Will**

straight game win over Great Britain's Daniel Bethell in the summit clash at the Tokyo paralympics.

With badminton making its debut at the Paralympics this year, Bhagat, the current world No. 1, thus became the first Indian to win a gold medal in the sport.

### J&K Gets X-Band

forecast up to three hours) for all types of severe weather events affecting the region, especially thunderstorm, lightning, squall and heavy rain, the statement said.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said the system will also help in providing weather forecasts for different sectors, including tourism forecast for pilgrims of Mata Vaishno Devi shrine at Katra which has an average footfall of 8.5 million every year.

It will also provide inputs to numerical weather prediction models for generating better weather forecasts.

In conjunction with data from other sensors such as satellites and automated weather stations, better forecasts and warnings can be achieved leading to minimal loss of property and life, thus providing better services towards public safety and socio-economic benefits, the IMD added.

### Malik Pleads To

representing the CBI as a retainer counsel in the high court for the last seven years and had successfully opened trial against Malik in the two sensational cases which had taken place in 1989-90 when militancy erupted in the Kashmir Valley.

Malik, currently lodged in the Tihar Jail after he was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in April 2019 in connection with a militancy funding case, informed the court that he would like to cross-examine the witnesses himself and would not take any help from any lawyer, the officials said.

The charges were framed against Malik and six others on March 16 last year in the killing of four IAF personnel on the outskirts of Srinagar on January 25, 1990.

Besides Malik, others accused in the killing of IAF personnel are Ali Mohammed Mir, Manzoor Ahmed Sofi alias Mustafa, Javed Ahmed Mir, Showkat Ahmed Bakshi, Javed Ahmed Zargar and Nanaji.

The CBI had filed the charge sheet in the killing of the IAF personnel in August 1990.

According to the CBI, Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel were fired upon by militants in which 40 of them, including a woman, received serious injuries and four of them died on the spot.

In the 1989 abduction of Rubaiya Sayeed, the court had framed the charges against Malik and nine others on January 11 this year.

They all have been charged with murder, attempt to murder and under sections of the now-defunct Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, or TADA Act.

Decks for the trial of Malik and others in the case were cleared in April 2019 when the Jammu and Kashmir High Court struck down a 2008 order that had transferred the hearing to Srinagar.

In the abduction case, the court framed charges against Malik and nine others -- Ali Mohd Mir, Mohammad Zaman Mir, Iqbal Ahmad Gandroo, Javed Ahmad Mir, Mohd Rafiq Pahlloo, Manzoor Ahmed Sofi, Wajahat Bashir, Mehraj-ud-Din Sheikh and Showkat Ahmad Bakshi.

The 10 are among two dozen accused named by the CBI in its charge-sheet filed before the TADA court. Of the remaining accused, Mohammad Rafiq Dar and Mushtaq Ahmad Lone -- both top commanders of JKLF -- are dead and 12 are absconding.

The absconding accused are Halima, Javed Iqbal Mir, Mohammad Yaqub Pandit, Riyaz Ahmad Bhat, Khursheed Ahmad Dar, Basharat Rehman Noori, Tariq Ashraf, Shafat Ahmad Shangleo, Manzoor Ahmad, Gulam Mohammad Taploo, Abdul Majeed Bhat and Nissar Ahmad Bhat.

### Ladakh Admin

said quoting the latest order.

He said the provisions of the order authorises the tehsildar or any other officer notified by the administration as the competent authority to issue the 'resident certificate'.

The spokesperson said the Ladakh administration also enhanced the upper age limit for entry into government services against all posts meant for direct recruitment other than those pertaining to gazetted officers.

"The upper age limit has been enhanced for the reserved category candidates from 43 years to 45 years, for the general category candidates from 40 to 42 years and for the physically challenged candidates from 42 to 44 years," the spokesman said. However, he said this age relaxation will be a one-time exception and this relaxation shall remain in force for a period of two years.

Earlier on June 8, a notification issued by the Labour and Employment Department announced the "Union Territory of Ladakh Employment (Subordinate) Service Recruitment Rules 2021", reserving jobs

exclusively for the locals.

"No person shall be qualified for appointment to the service unless the person is a resident of the Union Territory of Ladakh, the notification read, however, clarifying that the rules shall not apply to persons allotted services in Ladakh under the provisions of section 89(2) of Jammu and Kashmir Re-organization Act 2019, or such rules as may be prescribed by the administration.

The recruitment rules, framed by Lt Governor R K Mathur, would come into force from the date of their publication in the official gazette, the notification had said.

### 5 Held For Sharing

investigating team (SIT) for immediate arrest of the accused persons.

The SIT after its tireless efforts, manages to arrest five persons who have committed the offence. Investigation of the case is still going on, the spokesman said and warned the miscreants against circulating any such content, which may disturb the peace and the communal harmony in the area.

### Shashi Tharoor

I look forward to continuing our conversation in Delhi one of these days soon," Omar said in another tweet.

### Teachers Are Our

the future of J&K and the country. "Dr. S. Radhakrishnan's work, dedication, and wisdom continue to inspire us generation after generation. Teachers are nation builders. The values that our children learn in school are very significant to build a strong nation with all the diversity in our society. On this auspicious day, I greet all the teachers across the UT," the LG said, as per an official spokesperson.

### Soldier Injured

passing through a field along the LoC in KG sector.

The injured soldier was rushed to hospital for treatment. (KNT)

### Prisoner Dies

arrested in case FIR number 08/2021 in Police Station Anantnag under section 8/20 of NDPS Act and was in judicial custody, they said, as per news agency GNS.

The deceased was an auto driver by profession, they further said.

### ARTOs Anantnag,

that the attachments have been made in the interest of administration.



## TOKYO PARALYMPICS

## Shooter Manish Narwal Clinches India's 3rd Gold, Adana Bags Silver

Press Trust of India

**TOKYO:** Shooter Manish Narwal smashed the Paralympic record to clinch India's third gold in the ongoing Tokyo Games, while compatriot Singhraj Adana bagged the silver to make it a sensational one-two finish for the country here on Saturday.

The 19-year-old Narwal, who holds the world record in the category, shot a total of 218.2, a Paralympic record, to claim the yellow metal in his debut Games.

The 39-year-old Adana, who had won the bronze in the P1 men's 10m air pistol SH1 event on Tuesday, added a silver to his kitty with an effort of 216.7 as India continued its medal rush in the sport.

With his feat, Adana joins the elite list of Indians who have won multiple medals in the same edition of the Games.

Shooter Avani Lekhara, who won a gold and bronze in the ongoing Games and Joginder Singh Sodhi, who fetched one silver and two bronze medals in the 1984 Paralympics, are the other two Indians who have achieved the feat.

Russian Olympic Committee's Sergey Malyshev took home the bronze with an effort of 196.8.

Narwal, who has an impairment in his right hand, had a sluggish start and was in danger of being eliminated after shots

of 7.7 and 8.3 but the teenager from Faridabad held his nerve.

On the other hand, Adana was off to a flying start, leading the proceedings after 10 shots but slipped in the middle.

However, both Indians upped their games when it mattered the most, edging out the challenge of two Chinese shooters and Sergey to go against each other for the gold medal.

In the final series, Narwal, who took up shooting in 2016, shot 8.4 and 9.1 while Adana finished with 8.5 and 9.4.

Earlier in the qualifying round, Adana progressed to the medal round in fourth place with a total of 536 while Narwal shot 533 to qualify at seventh at the Asaka Shooting Range.

The other Indian in the fray, Akash failed to make the final, finishing 27th in the qualifying round.

Indian shooters have claimed a haul of five medals, including two gold, in the ongoing Games.

As the pistol is held with one hand only, athletes in SH1 category have an impairment affecting one arm and/or the legs, for example resulting from amputations or spinal cord injuries. P4 is a classification for the mixed 50m air pistol competition.

Some shooters compete in a seated position, while others take aim in a standing position as defined in the rules.

## Pitch Invader Jarvo Arrested After Collision With Bairstow



Agencies

**LONDON:** Pitch invader Jarvo, with real name as Daniel Jarvis, was arrested on Friday after a collision on the field with England batsman Jonny Bairstow during day two of the fourth Test at The Oval on Friday. It was the third time that Jarvo ran onto the cricket field in the ongoing Test series after Lord's and Headingley.

Jarvis, a self-styled YouTube prankster with 127,000 subscribers on his channel named "Jarvo69 aka BMWJarvo", ran on the cricket field with ball in hand from the Vauxhall End in the 34th over of England's innings in the first session. He was trying to bowl to Ollie Pope but crashed into Bairstow at non-strikers end. Bairstow was visibly furious and tried to keep Jarvo away from himself.

The act by Jarvo was met with boos from the spectators. Jarvo was eventually escorted off the field by security staff at the stadium. Post this, Indian captain Virat Kohli was seen

having conversations with umpires Alex Wharf and Richard Illingworth. The assault allegation is related to a tussle with security staff rather than the collision with Bairstow.

"A man has been arrested on suspicion of assault following an incident at the Oval Cricket Ground on Friday, 3 September. He remains in custody at a south London police station," said the Metropolitan Police on Friday.

In Headingley, Jarvo entered the pitch wearing pads, helmet and a bat. This led to the Yorkshire County Club banning him from entering the stadium for lifetime. At Lord's, he had entered the outfield posing as an Indian bowler.

"Any pitch invasion is completely unacceptable. The ECB and our host venues do not tolerate any such behaviour which risks the safety of players, officials and staff. The ECB works closely with all our venues to share information and enhance their security operation," said a spokesperson from the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

## India 108/1 At Lunch On Day 3, Lead England By 9 Runs



Press Trust of India

**LONDON:** Rohit Sharma held firm as India lost just one wicket before lunch on the third day of the fourth Test against England at the Oval on Saturday.

India were 108-1 in their second innings at the interval, nine runs ahead of England's first innings 290 that saw Ollie Pope score 81 on his Surrey home ground and all-rounder Chris Woakes, also returning to Test cricket, make exactly 50.

Sharma was 47 not out, having been missed for the second time this innings by Rory Burns in the slips, with Cheteshwar Pujara 14 not out.

England great James Anderson took the only wicket of the session when he had KL Rahul caught behind for 46.

India resumed on 43-0 with the five-match series intriguingly poised at 1-1.

Sharma, having seen an edge on four off Anderson strike Burns on the boot at second slip, was

20 not out and Rahul 22 not out.

Saturday's overcast conditions, which aided swing movement and eventually saw the Oval floodlights switched on, made batting against Anderson and Woakes, who took 4-55 in the first innings, difficult.

But that did not stop Sharma driving Anderson's sixth ball of the day down the ground for a superb boundary, with Rahul later matching it with one of his own off Woakes. And when Woakes, dropped short, Rahul hooked him for six over long leg to go to 41.

Next ball, however, Woakes reverted to a much fuller length and Rahul was given out lbw.

Umpire Alex Wharf, however, had taken an unusually long time to make a decision and his verdict was overturned by an India review that showed the ball missing leg stump.

England's lack of a reliable slip cordon in the ongoing absence of all-rounder Ben Stokes due to mental health issues, as well

as other team changes, has long been a problem.

It was evident again when Sharma, on 33, edged Robinson only for a diving Burns to floor a right-handed catch — England's sixth drop of the match.

But after more than an hour without an England breakthrough, Anderson already Test cricket's most successful fast bowler, took his 632nd wicket at this level when he got one to nip away off the seam to Rahul, with wicketkeeper Jonny Bairstow holding a safe catch.

England's raucous appeal was turned down by Wharf but a review revealed a thin edge.

Rahul, who had also hit his pad with the bat, looked bemused when Wharf reversed his decision but, nevertheless, it was the end of a 101-ball innings including six fours and a six, with India now 83-1.

The often slow-scoring Pujara, however, struck three fours in 21 balls that saw India into the lead.

## Director DYSS Visits Khel Gaon In Jammu

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Director, Youth Services and Sports departmenet (DYSS) J&K, Gazanfar Ali on Saturday visited Khel Gaon in Jammu to take stock of inter-school competitions taking place here.

The Director was apprised by District Youth Services and Sports Officer Jammu Sukhdev Raj Sharma and other officers of the Department that the competitions are being conducted for all zones of District Jammu and student players of all age groups are participating in these competitions.

The Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) is conducting Inter-School Zonal Level Competitions in the disciplines of Volleyball, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Carrom, Chess, Tug of war & Cricket.

Director sports was told that the main objective behind conducting these competitions is to select the best players and teams for next level of competitions.

After interacting with the young and budding players and expressing his best wishes to the



field staff of the Department for organising the competitions in best possible manner, Gazanfar Ali also took stock of the construction works and development of playfields at the Khel Gaon.

Director YSS was accompanied by Jatinder Mishra, Deputy Director (Central), Ravi Kumar Deputy Director (plan) Y&S, team of engineers from J&K Sports Council and ZPEO Dansal Veena Tickoo.

## Babar Azam Confident About Pakistan's T20 World Cup Chances

Agencies

**KARACHI:** For a man regarded among the top batters in current world cricket, Babar Azam is a quiet individual in his role as the all-format Pakistan captain.

While there is no denying his standing as the country's best batter — who currently tops the ICC One-day International batting ranking and has been overtaken by England's Dawid Malan as the No.1 batter in Twenty20 Internationals — Babar is focusing on leading Pakistan at the T20 World Cup in the UAE where Pakistan open against India in the Group 2 clash on Oct 24.

"Obviously our preparations for the World Cup will be as best as possible, and the seven matches [five against New Zealand, followed by two England fixtures] we play would surely help us before the mega event," Babar said in an interview with Dawn. "The stats say we've won 21 of the 31 matches and that is an indication our confidence level is high."

"We are quite familiar with the UAE conditions because we've played a lot on those pitches and it has been a lucky venue where Pakistan became the top-ranked T20 side. The [three-match] ODI and T20 series against New Zealand will be crucial for us as a group because it give adequate practice before the World Cup."

"Although it would have been nice if Pakistan had faced a full-strength New Zealand team just to give us good workout against one of the best sides who we'll also play in the World Cup," he added. "Our focus is to make sure Pakistan get to the UAE in a winning mode."

The captain is hoping that the successful opening partnership he has developed with

Mohammad Rizwan — who is the leading T20 run-getter this year with a tally of 752 from 14 innings (averaging 94.00) while maintaining a strike-rate of 140.03 — continues to prosper in the same vein.

"It's nearly a year since Rizwan started opening the innings [with me] and together it was a prolific partnership. Ideally, as captain my desire is that we continue to provide Pakistan decent starts as much as possible, particularly during the World Cup," Babar said. "Runs from the top matter a lot in T20 cricket, and as captain my wish is one of us should be batting deep into the innings, start power-hitting. And also make sure the momentum is not lost."

Babar conceded Pakistan's fielding has been a major worry and needs to be addressed with serious intent. "Definitely fielding is a grey area which needs drastic improvement. One can't expect good results if we field poorly because good teams seldom give you chance to bounce back."

Babar, in the meantime, lauded players for dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic, which he described as the biggest challenge over the past 18 months for sportspeople.

"Life is the bubble has been really chastening because it cuts everyone from normal way of life. Living in bio-secure environment is extremely demanding when vice versa you are either confined to your hotel rooms or the ground and cannot go outside to chill out," he stressed. "But the way our players have responded to this situation is remarkable because once you enter the bubble you are away from family and friends. All credit to the players for coping with the pandemic life because it is traumatic, both mentally and physically."

## Unplayable Practice Pitches Add To India Football Team's Woes

Press Trust of India

**KATHMANDU:** The Indian football team's practice session ahead of the second international friendly, scheduled to be played against Nepal on Sunday, has hit a major roadblock owing to the lack of basic practice amenities in Kathmandu.

The Blue Tigers haven't been able to get a practice field since their first match on September 2 and have been stuck in the team hotel since then.

A brief morning shower on Friday forced them to cancel their evening practice session, and the recovery process post has suffered a lot.

Though it looks decent from the surface, the heavy and wet underfoot conditions at the practice pitch made available to India at the Army Headquarters is extremely dangerous with almost the entire boot of the players being submerged in water the moment they take the field.

With that risking injuries, the team management is equally

concerned and confused as to how to go about the situation.

PTI has learnt that the head coach has been extremely upset at not being able to get a decent pitch to practice.

Further, the main pitch at the Dasharath Stadium is almost equally bad. The Indian con-



tingent had put in a request to practice at the main stadium but that was disallowed by match officials citing that an hour's practice will make the pitch unplayable on match day.

Interestingly enough, the Indian players had picked up pieces of big pebbles prior to the official practice on September 2, and even the entire ground wasn't available for practice.

## Sania Mirza-Rajeev Ram Pair Crashes Out Of US Open

Press Trust of India

**NEW YORK:** The Indo-American pair of Sania Mirza and Rajeev Ram made a first round exit from the US Open mixed doubles event after losing to Dayana Yastremaska from Ukraine and Australia's Max Purcell, here.

The unseeded Mirza and Ram lost 3-6, 6-3, 7-10 to their opponents in just 61 minutes on Friday night.

Mirza and Ram could convert only one of the three break chances that came their way while the winners converted the only breakpoint they got in the match.

With this defeat, Mirza's campaign folded at the last Grand Slam of the season as she had already crashed out of the women's doubles event after losing the first round with American partner Coco Vandeweghe.

India's Rohan Bopanna is still alive in the competition. Bopanna and his Croatian partner Ivan Dodig are scheduled to play their men's doubles second round against Hugo Nys from Monaco and Arthur Rinderknech from France.

## Depleted Brazil To Face Revamped Argentina In WC Qualifying

Agencies

**SAN PABLO:** When Brazil hosts Argentina in Sunday's World Cup qualifier, it may not be fair to call it a rematch of the Copa America final from less than two months ago.

Brazil is missing nine England-based players who did not travel because of Britain's coronavirus restrictions.

Meanwhile, Argentina star Lionel Messi is a slight doubt after being subjected to a harsh tackle by Venezuela's Adrian Martinez on Thursday, which led to a red card.

If Messi can play, as expected, Argentina will have a good chance of strengthening its status as the best team in South America after beating Brazil 1-0 in the Copa America final in July in Rio de Janeiro. Especially since it was able to bring four Premier League players: Aston Villa's Emiliano Martinez and Emiliano Buendia and Tottenham's Giovanni Lo Celso and Cristian Romero.

"What matters the most is not



to rest on past achievements and march on," Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni Scaloni said after the 3-1 win in Venezuela.

"It will be a different match against Brazil, everyone is available and whoever is at their best will play."

Brazil leads the South American

qualifying group with a perfect 21 points after seven games, while Argentina is second on 15.

But Brazil coach Tite is missing a big part of the team that started the Copa America final, including the suspended Marquinhos and England-based Thiago Silva, Fred and Richarlison.

Tite used four forwards in Thursday's 1-0 win at Chile but is unlikely to repeat that formation against Argentina, not only because he's facing a more dangerous opponent but also because it didn't work very well.

The winning goal came from substitute Everton Ribeiro in the 64th minute, with star forward Neymar having a sub-par game.

The uncertainty surrounding Brazil's team is such that midfielder Gerson, who hadn't even been called up by Tite for more than a year, hopes to start against Argentina.

"If it is meant to be, I am ready," said Gerson, who played in the second half of Brazil's win in Chile.

Also Sunday, third-place Ecuador hosts Chile and Uruguay takes on Bolivia. Colombia will travel to Paraguay, while Peru plays Venezuela.

The first four teams will automatically qualify for the tournament in Qatar next year. The fifth-place team will take part in a playoff against a team from a different confederation.

## Salah Joins Egypt For World Cup Qualifier In Gabon

Agencies

**CAIRO:** Egypt superstar Mohamed Salah arrived in Gabon to join the Pharaohs for their World Cup qualifying match, the Egyptian soccer association said Saturday.

The association said in a brief statement that Liverpool's Salah has joined the Egyptian team in preparing for Sunday's game against Gabon in Franceville. The 29-year-old Salah missed the Pharaohs' 1-0 win over Angola on Sept. 1 in Cairo after Liverpool refused to release him because of coronavirus restrictions. Arsenal midfielder Mohamed Elneny also missed the game against Angola.

Egypt is among countries on Britain's coronavirus "red list," so the two players would have been required to quarantine upon their return from Cairo and miss two Premier League games each.

Elneny did not travel to Franceville and will miss the game against Gabon because of a muscle injury sustained during training Thursday, the association said in a separate statement.

Salah was the first Egyptian player to become a Premier League champion after joining Liverpool in 2018 from Roma. Liverpool is seeking to strike a new deal to keep Salah with the club.



## PM Modi Speaks To Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Over Regional Developments



### Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on Friday discussed regional developments and agreed that there is no place for terrorism and extremism in the world, while stressing on the importance of the international community standing together against such forces. Their discussion comes amid the developments in Afghanistan, with the Taliban taking over the country and

America withdrawing its troops.

During their telephonic conversation, the two leaders positively assessed the continued progress in bilateral cooperation in various areas under the India-UAE comprehensive strategic partnership, a Prime Minister's Office (PMO) statement said.

Prime Minister Modi appreciated the UAE's support for the Indian community during the COVID-19 pandemic, and also conveyed best wishes for Expo-2020 to be held in Dubai from October 1, 2021, it said.

## PM Modi Likely to visit US in late September to Attend Quad Summit

A visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the US later this month is likely to depend on the finality over hosting of the first in-person summit of the Quad leaders by the Biden administration, people familiar with the development said on Saturday.

The tentative schedule explored for the visit was between September 22-27 and the preparations were focused on three segments -- Modi's address at the UN General Assembly in New York, participation at the proposed Quad summit in Washington and a bilateral meeting with President Joe Biden, they said.

However, the sudden decision by Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga to step down by the end of September triggered uncertainty over the US hosting of the in-person Quad summit as Tokyo is learnt to have requested for a hybrid format for the talks.

The people cited above said there was no final decision yet on the proposed visit to the US by Modi in view of the uncertainty over the holding of the Quad summit among the leaders of the US, India, Japan and Australia in Washington.

Suga, who became prime minister of Japan a year ago after Shinzo Abe stepped down, announced on Friday that he will not seek re-election as leader of the Liberal Democrat Party (LDP) at the end of September.

His announcement and the political turmoil in Tokyo have also thrown into doubt the holding of the in-person India-Japan summit for the third consecutive year.

The annual summit between Modi and his then Japanese counterpart Abe was cancelled in December 2019 in Guwahati in the wake of massive protests rocking the Assam city over the amended citizenship law.

In 2020, the summit could not be held due to the coronavirus

pandemic.

The people cited above said India and the US held a series of meetings as part of preparations for Modi's visit to the US, which if it takes place, will be the first one after Biden took charge of the US in January.

It is learnt that the issue figured during Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla's recent meetings in Washington.

The Biden administration has put cooperation with India a key aspect of its overall foreign policy priorities on the Indo-Pacific, a region that has witnessed growing Chinese military assertiveness.

The US has been looking at convening the in-person summit of the leaders of Quad to boost practical cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region as well as to send a strong signal about Washington's commitment to the grouping.

In March, President Biden hosted the first-ever summit of the Quad leaders in the virtual format that vowed to strive for an Indo-Pacific region that is free, open, inclusive, anchored by democratic values, and unconstrained by coercion, sending an apparent message to China.

The last time Modi visited the US was in September 2019 when he and then US President Donald Trump addressed the Howdy Modi event in Houston.

If Modi's visit takes place, then it could signal a new phase in the two-way strategic engagement between India and the US.

The Afghan crisis as well as developments in the Indo-Pacific region could be the major focus areas for discussion between the two sides, US Secretary of state Antony Blinken paid a two-day visit to India in July.

Before that, US Defence Secretary Lloyd J Austin had paid a three-day visit to New Delhi in March.

**SUGA, WHO BECAME PRIME MINISTER of Japan a year ago after Shinzo Abe stepped down, announced on Friday that he will not seek re-election as leader of the Liberal Democrat Party (LDP) at the end of September.**

## Govt Signs Peace Accord With 5 Insurgent Groups Of Assam



### Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** A tripartite agreement among five insurgent groups of Assam, the Centre, and the state government was signed on Saturday to end years of violence in the Karbi Anglong region.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who was present on the occasion, said the accord will bring lasting peace and all round development in Karbi Anglong.

The insurgent groups which signed the peace accord are: People's Democratic Council of Karbi Longri (PDCK), Karbi Longri NC Hills Liberation Front (KLNL), Karbi People's Liberation Tiger (KPLT), Kuki Liberation Front (KLF), and United Peoples Liberation Army (UPLA).

About 1,000 militants belonging to these groups have surrendered along with their arms and have joined the mainstream.

Shah said the signing of the Karbi-Anglong Agreement is

another milestone in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "insurgency-free prosperous Northeast".

"Over 1000 armed cadres have abjured violence and joined the mainstream of society, which reflects their trust in Modi ji's leadership," he said.

Shah said that a Rs 1,000 crore development package will be given to Karbi Anglong.

"I want to assure everyone that we will implement this accord in a time-bound manner," he said.

The home minister said the central and state governments are committed to all round development of Karbi Anglong and there will be peace in the region.

"We not only sign peace accords but implement them within our time too," he said, citing the example of similar peace pacts earlier signed with other insurgent groups of the Northeast—the NDFB, NLFT and Bru groups.

Shah said ever since the Modi

government came to power, its focus in the Northeast is not only to ensure peace but also overall development.

"We have ensured that there is all-round peace, no violence, no blast, no firing in the Northeast," he said. The accord is significant as Karbi Anglong, which is the territory of ethnic Karbi tribals, has seen years of violence, killings, and abduction in the rebels' fight for a separate homeland.

Union minister and former Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal, who was present on the occasion, appreciated the efforts of the prime minister and the home minister in bringing peace in Assam and the Northeast.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said it was a historic day as the militants of these five insurgent groups will now join the mainstream and work for the development of Karbi Anglong.

## Taliban Indicated They'd Be Reasonable To India's Concerns: Foreign Secretary

### Agenceis

India and the United States are closely watching Pakistan's actions in Afghanistan, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said on Friday.

In the limited engagement that India has had with the Taliban, the new Afghan rulers have indicated that they would be reasonable in addressing New Delhi's concerns, the foreign secretary added.

"Obviously, like us, they're also watching carefully and we have to watch Pakistan's actions with a fine tooth comb," he told a group of Indian reporters at the end of his three-day official visit to Washington DC adding that the US will have a wait-and-watch policy with regard to how the situation evolves in Afghanistan.

India also has a similar policy. "That doesn't mean you don't do anything. It simply means that you have to... the situation is very fluid on the ground, you have to allow it to see how it evolves. You have to see whether the assurances that have been made publicly are actually maintained on the ground, and how things work out," he said.

"Our engagement with them (the Taliban) has been limited. It's not that we have (had) a robust conversation. But for whatever conversation we've had so



far, they've been sort of. At least, the Taliban seem to indicate that they will be reasonable in the way they handle this," Mr Shringla said.

He was responding to a question about the recent meeting that India's Ambassador in Qatar had with a senior Taliban leader in Doha.

"In our statement, we have said that we have told them that we want them to be cognisant of the fact that there should be no terrorism that emanates from their territory directed against us, or other countries; that we want them to be mindful of the status of women, minorities and so on so forth. And, I think they have, also, you know, made reassuring... from their side," he said.

The top Indian diplomat was in Washington DC for a series of meetings with his American counterpart and top officials of the Biden administration in addition to interaction with

representations from the industry and think-tanks.

On Thursday, he had called on the Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

Observing that the situation in Afghanistan is very fluid and moving fast, Mr Shringla said that both India and the US are keeping a close watch on it. "Look on 15th of August, you had a situation where (Afghan) President (Ashraf) Ghani suddenly left. You had the Taliban come in. The situation is moving so fast it's so fluid that is difficult to comment at this point of time on anything," he said.

Mr Shringla said the US is watching the situation in Afghanistan very closely. "They will obviously see how different players get engaged in the situation in Afghanistan. Pakistan is a neighbour of Afghanistan. They have supported and nurtured the Taliban. There are various elements there that Pakistan supported," he said.

## Karnataka Cabinet Decides To Ban Online Gambling

### Agenceis

The Karnataka Cabinet on Saturday decided to impose a ban on online gambling or betting. However, lottery and horse racing have not been prohibited.

"We are amending the Karnataka Police Act, with an intention to put an end to online gambling, on the basis of the High Court directions. The cabinet has approved the amendments, it will be placed before the assembly," Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister J.C. Madhuswamy said.

Speaking to reporters after the cabinet meeting in Bengaluru, he said the government has decided to ban online gambling.

"The draft Bill defines online games as, games involving all forms of wagering or betting including in the form of tokens valued in terms of the money paid before or after the issue of it or electronic means and virtual currency, also electronic transfer of currency in connection with any game of chance,"



the Minister said.

He said, however, it does not include lotteries or wagering or betting on horse races done on any race course within or outside the state. The amendment bill to this effect will be tabled in the upcoming session of the legislature starting September 13.

The state government in July had informed the High Court, hearing a petition seeking a ban on all forms of online betting and gambling, that it had drafted a Bill. Last November, Tamil Nadu had promulgated an ordinance banning online gambling, and earlier this year, Kerala had imposed a ban on online rummy games.

## Turkey Issues New Travel Rules For Passengers From India

People travelling from India to Turkey will be required from Saturday to submit a negative COVID-19 report from RT-PCR test done not more than 72 hours before arrival, the Turkish Embassy in Delhi said.

The rule will also apply to those passengers who have been in India in the 14 days prior to their travel to Turkey.

In the updated rules for travellers from India to Turkey, the embassy said that effective from September 4, passengers

who certify that they have had at least two doses (single dose for Johnson & Johnson) of the vaccines approved for emergency use by the World Health Organization or Turkey, provided that at least 14 days have passed since the last dose, will be exempted from mandatory quarantine.

Passengers who cannot provide the above mentioned certificate will be quarantined in their residence or the address

they will declare, the statement said.

On the 10th day of quarantine, they will be subjected to a PCR test and if the result is negative, the quarantine will be terminated, according to the revised rules.

If the PCR test result is positive, treatment will be conducted in accordance with the COVID-19 guidelines of the country's Ministry of Health.

Quarantine period for those who do not have a PCR test on the 10th day will be extended to 14 days, the statement said.

The requirements are not applicable to transit and/or transfer passengers, the embassy said.

There will be no PCR requirement and quarantine for the crew, it said.

Passengers under the age of 12 will be exempted from PCR test and vaccination certificate applications on entry, the statement said.

## Two Gangetic Dolphins Found Dead In Assam

### Agenceis

The carcasses of two Gangetic dolphins, suspected to have been killed by poachers, have been recovered from Kamrup Rural district in Assam, a forest official said on Friday. The dead aquatic mammals, 1.09 metres and 1.18 metres in length respectively, were found at Salpara under Kamrup West Division on Thursday.

Divisional Forest Officer, Kamrup West Division, Dimpi Bora said it is suspected that the dolphins may have been hunted by miscreants which is an offence under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

An offence report has been lodged with the Nagarbera Range Office, the DFO said.

Dolphins, included in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, are frequently targeted by poachers for their skin and oil.

Assistant Conservator of Forests of the Division Uttam Basumaty was appointed as the inquiry officer and the

seizure list was prepared as per the procedure.

The dead dolphins were brought to the State Veterinary Dispensary at Boko for post-mortem examination which was conducted by Dr. Hiranmayee Hazarika in the presence of Chief Wildlife Warden M K Yadava, Chief Conservator of Forests, Central Assam Circle, Hemakanta Talukdar, and others.

Samples of blood and organs of the dolphins have been sent to the State Veterinary College, Forensic Laboratory, Guwahati, and North East Disease Digenetic Research Laboratory for ascertaining the exact cause of death.

The samples have also been sent to Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, for genetic analysis and toxicological study.

The DFO said since the carcasses had started decomposing, the remains were buried in the presence of an authorised officer with proper documentation of the proceedings.

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