



## P6 THINK

### INDIA'S FINANCIAL SYSTEM RESET

India's non-performing assets (NPAs) increased at the beginning of the last decade because of the natural turn of the business cycle, but also because much of the underwriting was done based on political due diligence rather than commercial

## P7 A CASE FOR READING

"A good book is an event in my life", says Stendhal in his novel, 'The Red and the Black'. It is not necessary for someone to present a logical justification for why he or she does not read; all that is required is for someone to be lazy enough to avoid reading literature. With the advent of



## P11 SPORTS

### TALIBAN SACK AFB DIRECTOR, BAN IPL 2021 BROADCAST

The Taliban have sacked the executive director of Afghanistan's cricket board, and on Tuesday directed to ban IPL 2021 broadcast in the country.



**Quote!**  
Wonder is the beginning of wisdom.  
- Socrates

## NEWS DIGEST

### IED Defused Along Airport Road

**SRINAGAR:** The government forces detected and defused an improvised explosive device in high security Gogo area of Budgam district in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Tuesday. The area is close to several **More On P10**

### Patwari Caught Red Handed With Bribe

**SRINAGAR:** The Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday arrested a revenue official while accepting a bribe for issuing revenue extracts to a person in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, Patwari Halqa **More On P10**

### U.P Resident Among 2 Held With Pistol

**SRINAGAR:** A joint team of police and army arrested two people, including a non-local, after a pistol was recovered from their possession in south Kashmir's Kulgam district, reports said Tuesday. Mohammad Javid Sulmani, a **More On P10**

# Army Intensifies Search Ops In Uri

## Internet, Phone Services Remain Suspended For Second Day

### Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** A combing operation launched by the Army after it detected suspicious movement in Uri along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir entered the third day on Tuesday, officials said. All telecommunication facilities including the internet in the border town remained suspended.

The combing operation was launched on the intervening night of September 18-19, the officials said. A defence spokesman here said the search operation were going on in the area but did



not elaborate if the forces had found anything to lend credence to the reports of major infiltration bid in the sector. Officials said one soldier had

sustained injuries in the "initial contact" with the adversary near the fence along the LoC, which had prompted the massive search **More On P10**

### Youth Hit By Bullet During Searches

A youth was injured on Tuesday during a cordon and search operation (CASO) in Khag area of central Kashmir's Budgam district. Bilal Ahmad Rather of Charhar received a bullet injury in the leg during a search operation launched by army's 62 Rashtriya Rifles, CRPF and police in Lasspora Khag area of the district, reports said. The search operation, reports said, have been launched on the inputs suggesting presence of militants in the forest area. According to reports, the government forces have sealed all entry and exit points to **More On P10**

### Army Chopper Crashes, 2 Pilots Killed

**JAMMU:** Two pilots were killed when an Army helicopter crash-landed in a dense forest near Patnitop in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on Tuesday, officials said. "Today, during a training sortie in Patnitop area, Indian Army's Cheetah helicopter crash-landed in Shiv Garh Dhar area in the district," a Jammu-based defence spokesman said. He said that two pilots -- Major Rohit Kumar and Major Anuj Rajput -- were injured in the incident and evacuated to the nearest medical facility but they succumbed later. Army Commander, **More On**

### BATTLE AGAINST COVID-19

## Police To File FIRs Against Repeat Offenders

### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** As coronavirus cases in this capital city continue to show an upward trend, the Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday warned to file cases against the people who are repeatedly found violating

Covid-19 protocols. The decision to slap FIRs against the offenders was taken in a meeting of police officers chaired by SSP Srinagar, Sandeep Chaudhary on Tuesday to discuss the measures for ensuring CAB (Covid Appropriate) **More On P10**

### J&K Logs 145 New Cases, 2 Deaths

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Tuesday 145 fresh cases of novel coronavirus while the deadly infection claimed lives of two more people in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. According to the officials, Kashmir Valley reported 121 new cases of coronavirus while **More On P10**

## J&K Is Crown Of The Country: MoS Finance

### Observer News Service

**GANDERBAL:** Terming Jammu and Kashmir as the crown of the country, the Union Minister of State for Finance, Dr. Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad said on Tuesday that the Central Government is focused to provide every support to the administration in its endeavours for overall development of the Union Territory. He made these remarks



### Discusses Development Issues With LG

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday met Union Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad and discussed issues pertaining to development of the union territory. Earlier, the minister concluded his two-day visit to **More On P10**



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# Racket Involved In Issuing Fake Income Certificates Busted, Four Arrested

## Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Authorities on Tuesday claimed to have busted a racket by arresting four persons who were allegedly involved in issuing fake income certificates by using forged signatures and seal of Tehsildars.



Chowk and busted a racket of accused who were involved in forging fake documents.

The documents include income certificates under the fake signatures and seals of

Tehsildar Eidgah, Khanyar and Srinagar central, they said. During the raid, seals of CMO and other offices and dozens of fake income certificates were recovered, they said, adding that laptops and cash around Rs 40 thousands were also confiscated.

The main accused identified as Zeeshan Ahmad along with three others were arrested on the spot, they said, adding that a case has also been registered in police station Zadalal—(KNO)

# CS Directs Universal Vaccination In City Within 15 Days

## KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the rising COVID cases in the summer capital of Srinagar city.

Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Medical Education, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Inspector General of Police Kashmir, Director of SKIMS, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Superintendent of Police Srinagar, Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), Principal GMC, Principal SKIMS Medical College, Baramulla, Director Health Kashmir, and Director Family Welfare, participated in the meeting.

To arrest a further surge in reported cases, it was decided that a dedicated vaccination drive will be conducted for universal coverage in Srinagar district. As such, medical teams were directed to ramp up the vaccination machinery to administer 25,000 doses per day for the next 15 days.

Further, to intensify targeted vaccination through sweeping drives across the district, the Health Department was asked to deploy 100 mobile vaccination teams at various interchangeable locations.

Observing that COVID Appro-

**MOREOVER,** the markets at Batmaloo, Zadalal and Lal Bazar were advised to adhere to the established SOPs and CAB protocols, violation of which will lead to a complete shutdown of these areas as they are becoming the new hotspots of infections.

appropriate Behaviour (CAB) is largely being ignored at various public places, the Chief Secretary directed imposition of high fines and penalties on defaulters.

Moreover, the markets at Batmaloo, Zadalal and Lal Bazar were advised to adhere to the established SOPs and CAB protocols, violation of which will lead to a complete shutdown of these areas as they are becoming the new hotspots of infections.

Dr. Mehta urged the enforcement agencies to strictly implement CAB, COVID SOPs, and protocols throughout the district by deploying 100 additional enforcement teams. They were asked to check the movement of unvaccinated people in public places, tourist destinations, and public transport.

# Schools Reopen For Classes 10, 12 With Covid-19 Protocols In Place

## KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Adhering to COVID-19 protocols, schools in Srinagar reopened on Monday for classes 10 and 12. Students were seen happy and enthusiastic at the resumption of physical classes.

A student of Government Girls Higher Secondary School in Kothibagh, Srinagar, Bushra said, "I am feeling very happy at the resumption of classes. Teachers were putting a lot of effort in online classes, but we were not comfortable. Physical classes are good because we can interact with teachers whenever we want."

She further said that schools are properly taking care of COVID-19 protocols and providing masks and sanitizers.

"I was missing school a lot. I was not able to study properly in online classes due to internet issues. In-person classes are always best, so I always en-

joy physical classes in school," another student, Arbeena from the same school said.

Expressing happiness about meeting friends in the school, a student, Humaira Manzoor said, "I am very happy that schools have reopened. Now I can meet my friends and teachers. I was not able to study anything at home due to network issues."

Further, a teacher of the English faculty in the same school, Shabina Taj said, "We are getting very good response from students. All the students are very happy about physical classes. Students are even bringing their queries to discuss with us. Also, staff and students, both are following the SOPs issued by the government."

On Sept 5, Jammu and Kashmir Government ordered the reopening of schools for students of class 12 and 10 and staff with 50 per cent capacity. (Agencies)

# 9 Srinagar Youths Scale Kousernag Lake In Five Hours

## Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** A team of nine members from central Kashmir's Srinagar District created a record by reaching to a summit of a 4,000 mtrs after a five and half hour climb.

The nine-member team completed a travel to Kousernag lake which is situated in pir panjal range at a height of 4,000 metres above sea level to the south of Shopian District with the distance of 35km to and from.

One of the member told Kashmir News Service that they started trek at 6:45 AM and reached Kousernag at 12:15 PM and started that return was started at 2:30 PM and reached Aharbal at 7:30 PM.

The team members include Jibrin Nisar, Mujtabid Mush-taq, Tabeeb wani, Majid Misger, Akeel, Ikhlalq Ahangar.

# MG Motor India Launches Astor In Srinagar

## KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Arise Autroz Pvt Ltd MG Dealer J&K on Tuesday organized the launch of MG Astor at Hyderabad Srinagar.

The car was unveiled by Prof Saleem Wani, HOD Urology SKIMS Soura in presence of the company Managing Directors Sajad Ahmad Beigh, Omar Ismael Beigh and General Manager Owais Ahmad Bhatt.

According to a press note, on September 15, MG Motor India unveiled MG Astor, India's first SUV with personal AI assistant and first-in-segment Autonomous (Level 2) technology. Astor is based on the MG's successful global platform, ZS.

Based on MG's design philosophy of emotional dynamism, Astor's contemporary style will connect with consumers. It has a prominent bold celestial grille that makes a solid on-road impression.

The much-awaited mid-size MG Astor will be on display at MG showrooms from today and bookings will start soon thereafter. Rajeev Chhaba, President and MD, MG Motor



India, said, "We have introduced several industry-firsts with our SUVs to the Indian automotive market. This time we have Autonomous (Level 2), MG Astor, with a personal AI assistant. With its elegant exteriors, luxurious interiors, and futuristic technology, we believe that Astor is a desirable package

that will strike a chord with the customers." Astor has 80 plus internet features residing on MG i-SMART technology.

Astor has 80+ internet features residing on MG i-SMART technology. On top of it, building on CAAP (Car as a platform), MG Astor hosts subscriptions and services, including maps and navigation with MapMyIndia, 4G connectivity, the first-of-its-kind Blockchain-protected vehicle digital passport by KoineArth and more. MG car owners will also get access to music on the JioSaavn app, along with the industry-first feature of reserving a parking slot through a head unit (powered by Park+), select cities to begin with) and access to unlimited information with Wikipedia.

# Srinagar To Require 3 Lakh Additional Houses In Next Two Decades, Reveals Official Report

## Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Authorities have projected that nearly three lakh additional houses would be required in the next two decades for the inhabitants of Srinagar city.

According to the approved Srinagar Metropolitan Region (SMR) Master Plan 2035, "For additional future population and meeting the backlog of about 0.12 lakh units, about three lakh houses will be required over the next two decades."

The SMR reports that on the projected population of 28.50 million by 2035, the estimated housing stock is projected around 5.93 lakh dwelling units against existing housing supply of dwelling units in 2011.

The official document available with the news agency further states, "To harmonize the residen-

tial development, the master plan envisages re-densification of low and medium density areas especially along the North-South axis."

"Over and above, the Master Plan envisages additional 10% housing (25,000 DUs) for floating population, move population and for the rehabilitation of those affected by the implementation of Master Plan proposals which shall have to be catered to in phased manner," the master plan reads.

As per the master plan, "Housing in Srinagar is a people's activity with the informal private sector investments, accounting for more than 90 per cent of the total investment."

"While housing shortage is modest in terms of new construction, the problem is more serious in terms of affordability as well as up-gradation of existing housing stock of 24 per cent," it reads.

## DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2450292, 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
- BUBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

## HIGHWAY STATUS

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

## This Day in History

- 1913 - Turkey and Bulgaria sign peace treaty in Constantinople
- 1922 - US President Warren G. Harding signs a joint resolution of approval to establish a Jewish homeland in Palestine
- 1938 - Winston Churchill condemns Hitler's annexation of Czechoslovakia
- 1943 - Soviet 13th/61st Army reconquer Chyernyov
- 1955 - Last allied occupying troops leave Austria
- 1964 - Malta becomes independent from the United Kingdom
- 1970 - Soviet space probe Luna 16 leaves the Moon
- 1979 - Stephen Jay Gould and Richard Lewontin publish influential paper (cited more than 4,000 times) "The Spandrels of San Marco and the panglossian paradigm", introducing idea of "spandrels" into evolutionary biology
- 1982 - STS-5 vehicle moves to launch pad
- 1983 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1984 - NASA launches Galaxy-C
- 1990 - Reports that US refinery problems will lead to a loss in capacity and aggressive remarks by Saddam Hussein send crude prices to new highs
- 1991 - Armenia votes on whether to remain in Soviet Union
- 2003 - Galileo mission terminated by sending the probe into Jupiter's atmosphere, where it is crushed by the pressure at the lower altitudes
- 2004 - The Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) People's War and the Maoist Communist Centre of India merge to form the Communist Party of India (Maoist)
- 2004 - Construction of the Burj Dubai starts
- 2008 - President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa resigns from office, effective September 25
- 2008 - Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel formally resigns from office, effective as soon as his successor Tzipi Livni has successfully assembled a new government
- 2012 - Japanese Prime Minister, Yoshihiko Noda, wins a leadership ballot
- 2013 - 100 people are killed in a series of attacks across Iraq
- 2013 - 59 people are killed and 175 wounded in a shopping mall gun battle in Nairobi, Kenya
- 2016 - Three genetic studies published in "Nature" conclude all non-Africans descended from one migration out of Africa 50,000 years ago
- 2016 - Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and his wife Priscilla Chan pledge \$3 billion to medical research to "cure, prevent or manage all diseases by the end of the century"
- 2016 - Migrant boat carrying 450-600 people capsizes off the Egyptian coast, only 163 rescued
- 2016 - Genomic study finding Australian Aboriginal oldest known civilisation on earth published in "Nature"

## From KO Archives

# AI Urges US To Discuss Kashmir With India

## Agencies

**WASHINGTON:** Amnesty International, the world's largest human rights organization, has called upon President Clinton to discuss civilian suffering as a result of human rights violations in Kashmir during his meeting with the Prime Minister, Vajpayee. "President Clinton must use this opportunity to seek meaningful improvements in human rights in India," said William F. Schulz, executive director of Amnesty International, USA, (MUSA).

"The human rights violations in Kashmir need to be investigated and the perpetrators brought to justice," Amnesty International is concerned about continuing occurrences of torture, deaths in custody, disappearances and political killings in Kashmir.

Kashmiri civilians are suffering the brunt of these human rights violations, which are committed by both Indian troops and armed groups. India also has restricted the free movement of Kashmiri leaders such as Yasin Malik, who is not allowed to travel despite a deteriorating health condition.

"While Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee is visiting the U.S., Kashmiri political leaders are prevented from enjoying the same freedom," said T. Kumar, AUSA Asia advocacy director.

President Clinton should seek a commitment from India that Yasin Malik and other Kashmiri leaders are allowed to travel freely without any restrictions.

"Amnesty International urged Indian authorities to demonstrate respect for human rights by allowing the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to independently investigate allegations of human rights violations committed by India's armed forces, which enjoy virtual immunity from prosecution under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act. Amnesty International has documented rape by security forces in areas of armed conflict in India in the context of military operations, known as "cordon and search operations." Amnesty International has also voiced its alarm at what it described as the draconian measures in a proposed legislation at the central level by Vajpayee's government, which would make bail virtually impossible to obtain and undermine the right of presumption of innocence. The bill revives many of the features of the lapsed Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (TADA) Act of 1987, which was used to detain thousands of political prisoners without charge or trial.

(Kashmir Observer, September 22, 2000)

# Have Pooled All Resources For Dewatering And Lily Extraction In Dal Lake: LAWDA



## KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** On the instructions of the Chief Secretary of J&K UT and Principal Secretary H&M&D, the Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) in collaboration with the SDRF on Tuesday launched a cleanliness drive in Dal Lake.

The SDRF team consisted of the volunteers along with motor boats who worked side by side with labourers engaged by LAWDA in the cleaning operation of Dal Lake. The drive shall continue initially for 10 days

and is extendable. The LAWDA has also established a floating site office in Dal Lake to monitor lake activities and also extraction of lily for which the authorities have engaged Pontoon based machines. And with the help of these machines so far 0.70 Sq Km approx. has been successfully cleared and extraction process is going on. LAWDA has pooled all its resources for dewatering and lily extraction in Dal Lake to clean the water expanse and reclaim the aesthetics of Dal Lake.

# GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM, KASHMIR E-mail: ddtreg123@gmail.com

Subject: Change of ownership of Houseboat "New Ritz" category (B) located at Dal Lake, Srinagar.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, Mr. Sahil Sidiq & Mr. Shahzan Sidiq S/o S/o Mr. Mohammad Sidiq Badayari R/o Nageen Lake Srinagar has/have approached this office for change of ownership of Houseboat under the name and style of "New Ritz" category (B) in their favour under the provisions of J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1987/82/2011-12.

Whereas, the said Houseboat is registered with this office vide Registration No. Reg./598/4-CS/2022-8/CT/64/B-1/22 dated 21/10/1982 and is renewed up to 31/03/2018 in the name of Mr. Mohammad Sidiq Badayari S/o Mr. Ghulam Mohammad Badayari R/o Nageen Lake, Srinagar, who has expired on 13/05/2018 as per death certificate submitted by the applicants.

Whereas, as per legal heir certificate submitted by the applicants, the deceased left behind following members:-

1. Rehana W/o Lt. Mohammad Sidiq Badayari
2. Sahil Sidiq S/o Lt. Mohammad Sidiq Badayari.
3. Shahzaan Sidiq S/o Lt. Mohammad Sidiq Badayari.

However, it is important to mention here that Rehana W/o deceased owner of houseboat also expire on 14/04/2020 as per death certificate submitted by the remaining applicants/legal heirs.

Whereas, applicants/legal heirs submitted following documents for change of ownership of houseboat in their favour:-

1. Death certificates of Both Father & Mother.
2. Affidavit (Notary)
3. NOC from JK Bank & KHBOA.
4. ID proofs.
5. Legal Heir Certificate.
6. Domicile certificates.
7. Original Registration Certificate.
8. Photograph of applicants.

Now therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under J&K Registration Tourist Trade Act 1987/82/2011-12 under section 39 before the request of applicants for change of ownership of Houseboat is considered in their favour, the matter is hereby notified for information of General Public/ Financial Institutions/Banks/Organizations, etc. that in case 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 necessary change will be effected in the registration records of this office in respect of the above mentioned Houseboat under rules after submission of all documents/Formalities

No. Reg./Bee/07/348/DTK  
Dated:- 20/09/2021  
DPK-9005/21

SD/-  
Deputy Director Tourism,  
Registration Kashmir



## CIA Officer Reports 'Havana Syndrome' Symptoms On India Trip: Reports



WASHINGTON: A CIA officer who was traveling with agency director William Burns to India this month reported symptoms consistent with Havana syndrome, CNN and the New York Times reported on Monday.

The victim, who was not identified, had to receive medical attention, CNN reported, citing unnamed sources.

Some 200 U.S. officials and family members have been sickened by Havana syndrome, a mysterious set of ailments that include migraines, nausea, memory lapses and dizziness. It was first reported by officials based in the U.S. embassy in Cuba in 2016.

A CIA spokesperson said in a statement to Reuters the agency does not comment on specific incidents or officers. "We have protocols in place for when in-

dividuals report possible anomalous health incidents that include receiving appropriate medical treatment," the spokesperson said.

Last month, Vice President Kamala Harris delayed her arrival to Hanoi for three hours after the U.S. embassy there said someone had reported a health incident consistent with Havana syndrome.

Burns said in July he had tapped a senior officer who once led the hunt for Osama bin Laden to head a task force investigating the syndrome. A U.S. National Academy of Sciences panel found that the most plausible theory is that "directed, pulsed radio frequency energy" causes the syndrome.

Burns has said there is a "very strong possibility" that the syndrome is intentionally caused and that Russia could be responsible.

## India Asks UK To Revise COVID Quarantine Rules, Warns Retaliation

NEW DELHI: India's foreign minister has urged the United Kingdom for an "early resolution of quarantine issue" in the wake of a new British rule requiring Indians visiting there to quarantine even if they are fully vaccinated.



Even if they are fully vaccinated, England and Scotland will ease pandemic restrictions from early October, but the list of countries with approved vaccines does not include India, despite the country using a locally made version of the AstraZeneca vaccine developed in the UK.

India's Covishield vaccine, developed jointly by the Oxford University and AstraZeneca and manufactured by Pune-based Serum Institute of India, is not recognised by Britain under the new rule despite being identical to the doses given to millions of Britons.

The rules, that come into effect next month, have caused anger, with many Indians branding the decision as discriminatory. Britons vaccinated in the UK with the same Indian-made doses are not required to quarantine.

"Urged early resolution of quarantine issue in mutual interest," Foreign Minister Subramanyam Jaishankar said in a tweet on Tuesday after a meeting with his British counterpart Liz Truss in New York, where both are attending the United Nations General Assembly.

Britain's move could also lead

to retaliation from New Delhi, with an Indian government official saying it was likely to take reciprocal steps if the issue is not quickly resolved.

"The basic issue is that, here's a vaccine — Covishield — which is a licensed product of a UK company manufactured in India of which we have supplied five million doses to the UK at the request of the government," India's Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla told reporters in New Delhi, according to an AFP news agency report.

Calling the non-recognition of Covishield "a discriminatory policy," he said negotiations were under way with the UK over the new requirements.

"But if we don't get satisfaction we would be within our rights to impose reciprocal measures," The British High Commission in New Delhi said the UK was working with India to resolve the issue.

"We are engaging with the Government of India to explore how we could expand UK recognition of vaccine certification to people vaccinated by a relevant public health body in India," a spokesperson said.

The rule, that mandates 10 days of self-isolation for travellers arriving from India, also apply to many other countries using Covishield, including most African ones.

## US Congress Urged To 'Prevent Human Catastrophe' In Yemen By Ending Support For Saudi War



### Agencies

NEW YORK: Anti-war groups in the United States are urging US Congress to "prevent a human catastrophe" in Yemen by ending military support for Saudi Arabia's aggression on the war-ravaged country.

The 56 organizations called on American lawmakers in a letter to take advantage of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to end the sale of arms to the aggressors.

"By suspending the sale of arms and ending US participation in the Saudi coalition's war and blockade, Congress can prevent a humanitarian catastrophe from spiraling further out of control as it reasserts its constitutional authority on matters of war and peace," they said.

Unless the lawmakers take such an action, Washington would remain complicit in the tragedy created by the Saudi monarchy in Yemen, they further suggested, asserting that the lawmakers have the power to "legislate an end to ongoing US complicity in the war and blockade in Yemen."

"With the help of US logistical and maintenance support, Saudi Arabia's blockade of Yemen has created untold suffering for tens of millions of people and contributed to hun-

dreds of thousands of deaths," Hassan El-Tayyab, legislative director for Middle East policy at the Friends Committee on National Legislation, one of the letter's organizers, said in a statement.

If the lawmakers refuse to endorse an amendment to the bill filed by Rep. Ro Khanna, the US would continue abetting the Saudi kingdom and its crimes against humanity, he noted.

"It's now critical Congress support Rep. Khanna's amendment to the FY2022 National Defense Authorization Act and finally terminate US participation in Saudi's aerial operations for the sake of millions of Yemenis in desperate need," El-Tayyab added. "Members of Congress have two choices: vote for this amendment, or vote for an active US role in crimes against humanity for millions of people, including children."

The amendment would block funding for "logistical support in the form of maintenance or the transfer of spare parts for aircraft that enable coalition strikes," as well as "sharing intelligence for the purpose of enabling coalition strikes."

It would also oblige the US military not to "command, coordinate, participate in the movement of, or accompany

the regular or irregular military forces of the Saudi-led coalition forces."

Despite the growing outrage among lawmakers and the public, the United States continues to aid and abet the cruel war on the Yemeni nation.

"Without real action, millions of lives are at risk, and the US will be complicit," Marcus Stanley, advocacy director at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, said in a statement. "The Khanna amendment offers an opportunity to genuinely end American support for Saudi aggression and take a crucial step to end the humanitarian crisis in Yemen. We urge a vote for this amendment. Half measures like reporting requirements or partial restrictions will not do. It is time to definitively end our support for this war."

In February, President Joe Biden announced that he was ending the US support for the war in Yemen, including "relevant arms sales," touting the move as part of efforts to restore an emphasis on human rights, but that pledge is yet to materialize.

Saudi Arabia and its regional allies launched a devastating war in Yemen in 2015 to reinstall a former friendly government and crush the popular Ansarullah movement.

## "Wake-Up Call": Germany Joins Chorus Supporting France On Submarine Row

BRUSSELS: The US and Australian decision to strip France of a submarine supply contract was a stark reminder the EU must bolster its own capacity to act independently of its allies, Germany's Europe minister said Tuesday.

"It is once again a wake-up call for all of us in the European Union to ask ourselves how we can strengthen our sovereignty, how we can present a united front even on issues relevant to foreign and security policy," Michael Roth said, arriving at ministerial talks in Brussels.



## Mullah Baradar, Who Led Talks With US, Was Attacked In Palace Shootout

KABUL: The man the U.S. and its allies hoped would be a moderate voice in Afghanistan's Taliban government has been sidelined after a dramatic shootout in the presidential palace in Kabul, according to people with knowledge of the matter.



Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the group's most public face who led peace talks with the U.S., was physically attacked by a leader of the U.S. terrorist-designated Haqqani Network in early September during talks at the palace over forming the cabinet, the people said, asking not to be identified discussing the incident.

Baradar had pushed for an "inclusive" cabinet that included non-Taliban leaders and ethnic minorities, which would be more acceptable to the rest of the world, the people said. At one point during the meeting, Khalil ul Rahman Haqqani rose from his chair and began punching the Taliban leader.

Their bodyguards entered the fray and opened fire on each other, killing and wounding a number of them, the people said. While Baradar was not injured he has since left the capital and headed to Kandahar — the group's base — to speak with Supreme Leader Haibatullah Akhundzada, effectively the Taliban's spiritual head.

The cabinet lineup released on Sept. 7 included no one from outside the Taliban, with about 90 of spots going to ethnic Pashtuns from the group. Members of the Haqqani family received four positions, with Sirajuddin Haqqani — leader of the Haqqani Network who is on the FBI's most wanted list for terrorism — becoming act-

ing interior minister. Baradar was named one of two deputy prime ministers. The Taliban and Haqqani groups merged around 2016.

The people said the head of Pakistan's intelligence agency, who was in Kabul during the discussions, backed the Haqqani over Baradar, who spent about eight years in a Pakistan prison before the Trump administration facilitated his release to participate in peace talks. The little-known Mullah Mohammad Hassan was chosen as prime minister instead of Baradar because he has better links with Islamabad and isn't a threat to the Haqqani faction, they said.

The media office of the Pakistani military didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Over the past week, members of the Taliban have rejected reports of a clash. Baradar appeared on state-run television on Thursday to deny rumors he'd been wounded or even killed. Baradar wasn't present on Sept. 12 to welcome Qatar's foreign minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, and he missed the Taliban's first cabinet meeting this week.

"Praise be to God, I am safe and sound," he said in the brief address. "Another statement made by the media that we have internal disputes is also completely not true."

## Karnataka Dalit Family Fined Rs 23,000 After Their Toddler Son Enters Temple

KOPPAL (KARNATAKA): The parents of a Dalit boy were fined Rs 23,000 after their 2-year-old son entered a Hanuman temple to seek blessings of the god at Miyapur village near Hanamysagar in Koppal district of Karnataka.

The toddler was taken to the Hanuman temple by his father on his birthday. As Dalits here are not allowed inside the temple, they always prayed from outside standing in front of the temple.

The father wanted to pray to the god from outside along with his son. However, the toddler in excitement ran inside the temple and prayed to the god and came back. The incident took place on September 4.

This became a big issue as upper caste villagers thought that the temple was desecrated as a Dalit boy had entered it. They held a meeting on September 11 and asked the parents to pay Rs 23,000 as fine which is going to

be used to carry out purification rituals in the temple.

However, the district administration which came to know about the development has sent police, revenue and social welfare department officials to the village. The officers have conducted an awareness programme with regard to untouchability for all villagers.

The officers took members of the upper caste to task for imposing a fine on the Dalit boy's parents and let them off after warning that legal action will be initiated if they repeat this.

T. Sridhar, Superintendent of Police, Koppal, told IANS that he visited the spot. The culprits were admonished. They apologized to the father of the boy. Though the police went to the house of the victim to convince him to lodge a complaint, the community elders decided not to do so as it will breed animosity.

### NEWS MAKERS

## India's Largest E-Ticketing Platform IRCTC Fixes Bug After School Student Raises Alarm

CHENNAI: The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) fixed a bug on its e-ticketing platform after a plus two student from the city raised an alarm over the presence of insecure direct object references (IDOR) — a type of access control vulnerability in the booking site.

The IT wing of the IRCTC which took note of the complaint, immediately resolved the vulnerability issue that has been reported, a senior official said on Tuesday.

"Our e-ticketing system is well protected (now). The issue was reported on August 30 and it was fixed on September 2," he added.

The IDOR, a type of access control vulnerability, arises when an application uses user-supplied input to access objects directly.

"I accidentally discovered a critical IDOR that leaks the transaction details of millions of travellers, when I was trying to book tickets on August 30. It was the most common bug. Immediately, I reported about it to the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)," P Ranganathan, a plus two student of a private school in Tambaram here, said. "I've discovered a critical IDOR that



leaks the transaction details of millions of travellers. Go to your account ticket history, click on any ticket with burp suite turned on. Now change the transaction ID to gain access to another's tickets, you will get all the sensitive details. You can also cancel someone's ticket or do anything malicious," he said in an email complaint to CERT-In, under the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

As a mitigation, Ranganathan who identifies himself as ethical hacker and cyber security researcher, said the booked user and ticket should be validated so that no one else can access it

except the booked user. On September 11, 2021, he received a mail thanking him for reporting the incident to CERT-In and also a confirmation that the "reported vulnerability has been resolved" by the authorities concerned.

Ranganathan, currently pursuing commerce group, has been acknowledged by LinkedIn, United Nations, BYJU'S, Nike, Lenovo, Upstox for reporting security vulnerabilities in their web applications. Schools across Tamil Nadu re-opened only for classes ninth to twelfth on September 1. "I have opted for online classes owing to the pandemic," he said.

## "Thank You, Canada": Justin Trudeau Wins 3rd Term, Fails To Get Majority

OTTAWA: Canadians returned Liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to power Monday in hotly contested elections against a rookie conservative leader, but he failed to gain an absolute majority, according to projections by television networks.

Trudeau called the snap election last month, hoping to parlay a smooth Covid-19 vaccine rollout — the best in the world — into a new mandate to steer the nation's pandemic exit and pass his agenda without opposition support.

But after a bumpy five weeks of campaigning, his voice was raspy and he appeared set for a repeat of the close 2019 general election that resulted in the one-time golden boy of Canadian politics clinging to power yet weakened after losing his majority in parliament.

"You (Canadians) are sending us back to work with a clear mandate to get through this pandemic into brighter days ahead," Trudeau said, flanked by his wife Sophie Gregoire and their children on stage at a victory gala.

"That's exactly what we are ready to do," he said. At 49, Trudeau had faced tougher political bouts and still came out unscathed.

After six years in power, however, his administration is showing signs of fatigue, and it was an uphill battle for him to convince Canadians to stick with his Liberals after falling short of high expectations set in his 2015 landslide win.

Trudeau tied to us Throughout the day, long lineups outside polling

stations were observed by AFP journalists in several major cities.

Douglas O'Hara, 73, casting a ballot in Trudeau's Montreal electoral district of Papineau, said earlier that he was "very disappointed" with the prime minister.

Although he believes Trudeau "did a half-decent job" managing the pandemic, he recalled that the leader had pledged not to go to the polls until the outbreak had subsided.

"Then as soon as he gets a chance (when) he thinks he's going to get a majority, he calls an election," O'Hara said. "I really believe he lied to us." In Ottawa, Kai Anderson, 25, said Canada's pandemic response was her "number one" issue. "I think the prime minister did a good job managing the pandemic," she said.

Liz Math, 72, of Vancouver said she too hoped for a Trudeau win for "consistency in leadership" during the public health crisis.

Entering the final stretch of the contest, Liberals and Conservatives — the two main political parties that have ruled Canada since its 1867 confederation — were virtually tied, with about 31 percent support each in public opinion polls, and four smaller factions nipping at their heels.

Pollster Tim Powers predicted a Liberal minority win, with network projections giving the Liberal 156 seats, little changed from the 155 they held going in to the vote. "But that's a win for him?" he said, noting that Trudeau had hoped for more than just a plurality of seats.



## 2 Teachers Among 9 Held For Attacking Reasi Police Party

Press Trust of India



**JAMMU:** Nine people, including two government school teachers, were arrested on Tuesday in Reasi district in connection with an alleged attack on a police party which had arrested a criminal wanted in a rape case, police said.

The accused were all close associates of the arrested criminal and one of them was also accused in a case related to the abduction and rape of a woman in 2013, a police official said.

Prem Singh was arrested by the police party in connection with a rape case that was lodged recently against him but the party came under attack from his associates who tried to help him escape police dragnet by creating a law and order problem, the official said.

"Singh is a notorious history-sheeter involved in 10 FIRs, including murder, rape and firing on police by a weapon issued

under village defence committee, besides trying to disturb communal harmony and other violations during past elections," the official said.

He said Singh was "bound down" by executive magistrate twice in the past 25 years as a preventive measure to stop him from committing a crime.

Taking a serious note of the attack on the police party, the official said all the nine accused involved, including teachers Riaz Shah and Chait Singh, were arrested.

"The nine were arrested for endangering life and personal safety of others, attacking a police party and creating law and order problems in the Chassana area," he said.

He said both the teachers were booked in separate cases related to voluntarily causing hurt and other sections of the law in 2017 and 2020, respectively.

The official identified the other arrested accused as Chanan Singh, Pawan Singh, Balbir Singh, Sukhdev, Dalip Singh, Balbir Singh and Rakesh Singh.

A case of kidnapping and rape was lodged against Chanan Singh and a chargesheet already stands filed against him in the court of law, the official said, adding that another accused, Dalip Singh, was involved in a theft case in 2015.

## Prof. Alok Kumar Visits IUST



Observer News Service

**AWANTIPORA:** Prof. Alok Kumar Srivastava, President Designate Association of Food Scientists and Technologists (India) and Director Quality Control Lab, Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore on Tuesday visited the Department of Food Technology, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) here.

Dean Research and HOD Food Technology, Prof. H R Naik formally welcomed the guest.

Prof. Srivastava interacted with the faculty and visited IUST's Food Testing Laboratory and other labs of the department. He appreciated the stan-

dard of infrastructure and other facilities that have come up at the department.

While interacting with faculty members, Prof. Srivastava discussed about the collaboration opportunities between the CFTRI Mysore and the Department of Food Technology IUST in the areas of trainings and placements.

While lauding the efforts and contribution of the IUST towards excellence in the Food Technology, Prof. Srivastava expressed the hope that the University shall continue to grow in other frontier areas of science and technology. In the end, Er Tariq presented formal vote of thanks.

## J&K Put On Sale, BJP Dividing People: Mehbooba

Press Trust of India

**JAMMU:** Accusing the BJP of "dividing" Jammu and Kashmir on religious lines, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday alleged that the Union Territory has been put on sale by the central government.

"Jammu and Kashmir has been put on sale by the government for the people from outside. They want us to become bankrupt in order to make us dependent on (people from) other states," Mufti told reporters here.

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief claimed all projects which were launched during her tenure as the chief minister of the erstwhile state have been halted by the BJP-led government at the Centre.

"The contracts of liquor businesses under the excise policy have been given to outsiders. Liquor will be consumed by the people of Jammu and Kashmir but the profit will go to outsiders," she alleged.

She claimed all big projects, including mining contracts, have been allotted to outsiders.

Mufti, who is supporting the Jammu traders' call for bandh on Wednesday against the opening of Reliance retail stores in the city, said the shops will destroy small businesses.

"What we have in the country, they (BJP government) are selling to corporate houses," she said.

Replying to a question about investments coming to Jammu and Kashmir, she said: "Whatever investments we got earlier have also been destroyed. They

(industries) have gone back after closing their ventures here."

Earlier, there were strikes in Kashmir, but now they are taking place in Jammu, she said.

She also accused the BJP government of dividing people of Jammu and Kashmir on religious lines.

"J&K is laboratory where they are testing (divide and rule policy). It (policy) will then be applied to other states," she alleged.

"The BJP dubs those who raise any issue as anti-nationals. A sardar ji becomes Khalistani, we are dubbed as Pakistanis... BJP people only call themselves as Hindustanis," she said.

She further claimed that the present dispensation at the Centre has no clear policy on Jammu and Kashmir.

"Nehru ji and Vajpayee ji had a vision for Kashmir. They knew what they had to do on economic, political and emotional fronts... there is no vision of (this) government," she said.

Replying to a question about the government's decision to re-name institutions after martyrs, which the Hurriyat has dubbed as a "Hindutva agenda", Mufti asked what Prime Minister Narendra Modi was doing to tackle the high unemployment rate in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Unemployment rate in J&K is 18 per cent. Corruption is high here... Will students get jobs by changing names of schools, lanes and roads? So, it (renaming exercise) is all non-sense," she said.

## Jammu Traders, Apni Party Protest Against Reliance Stores



Press Trust of India

**JAMMU:** Traders and Apni Party activists on Tuesday staged separate protests against the proposed opening of 100 Reliance retail stores in Jammu, a claim which the company said is completely untrue.

The protest was staged on the eve of a strike call given by Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industries over various issues including the opening of a chain of Reliance stores, evoking widespread support from opposition parties, lawyers and various social groups.

The Jammu transporters, however, said they would not join the day-long September 22 strike.

Amid the ongoing protest over the purportedly proposed opening of the Reliance retail stores chain over the past many days, the company on Tuesday said it had a list of 100 stores being opened by us (in Jammu) is completely untrue.

"We have not opened any stores in Jammu. We have a few delivery points in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and these are set up by our delivery partners to support the small traders," a spokesperson of the Reliance Retail told PTI.

The Reliance said it has a long track record of supporting small traders and we remain steadfast in our commitment of partnering with small merchants.

Earlier, the JCCI alleged that businessmen in Jammu are facing the "highest degree of discrimination" due to the "directionless policies" of the Union Territory government like ending age-old biannual darbar move, new excise and the Geology and Mining Department policies, proposed move by big business houses like Reliance to open stores and restrictions on banquet halls, among other issues.

A group of traders under the banner of Warehouse Traders Federation staged a peaceful protest at Nehru Market here against the purported plan to open the Reliance smart stores.

Federation president Deepak Gupta, on the occasion, said all shopkeepers would observe a complete strike on Wednesday to convey a message to the government that "we are not happy with the policy decision taken in closed rooms without consulting stakeholders".

Activists of the Apni Party, which had already extended its support to the strike call, also staged a demonstration at Gandhi Nagar market against the proposed opening of Reliance stores.

The protest was held by the Apni Trade Union and concluded peacefully, officials said. The Congress party, National Conference and the TDP have already extended their support to the bandh call.

**WE HAVE NOT OPENED ANY STORES IN JAMMU. WE HAVE A few delivery points in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and these are set up by our delivery partners to support the small traders,**

## 200 Employees Demand Repatriation From Ladakh

Agencies

**LEH:** Nearly 200 employees posted in the newly created union territory of Ladakh are desperate to be repatriated by the authorities desiring having completed a period of three to five years.

The employees were posted in the Ladakh region before the bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir for a time bond period of a maximum of two years but have not been repatriated by their concerned departments so far.

At least 200 employees of different departments including that of the Health Department, Education, PDD, Finance and Planning, Home Department PO, PWD (R&B), and PHE are posted in the region.

Talking to news agency KNO, the employees said that the authorities are forcing them to suffer when most of them have already rendered services of more than three to five years in the Ladakh region.

The employees said that many of them are facing severe personal issues including the family compulsions and health worries.



The aggrieved employees said they have made their representations to the highest authorities possible including the LGs of both the union territories but so far no concrete step has been initiated.

Dr Krishan Kant the president of the Non-local Employees Association while expressing dismay said that from time to time the General Administration Department (GAD) of Jammu and Kashmir issued letters to concerned departments seeking details of the employees posted in the Ladakh region but so far the departments have not submitted the names of substitutes for the region.

"Our repatriation is possible only if the concerned departments provide the substitutes to the GAD well in time and the justice is delivered to nearly 200 employees posted in the Ladakh region for the past many years," Kant said.

Kant said the authorities must consider the substitutes on time before September 30 and transfer all the non-local employees from the Ladakh region forcing of which they will be forced to hit the streets and protest against them.

## NIA Conducts Searches At Multiple Locations In J&K

Press Trust of India

**JAMMU:** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday conducted searches at eight locations in different districts of Jammu and Kashmir in connection with the recovery of an improvised explosive device here on June 27.

The searches were carried out with active assistance of the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Central Reserve Police Force in Doda and Kishtwar districts of the Jammu province and Anantnag, Baramulla, Kulgam and Srinagar in the Kashmir Valley, a spokesperson of the NIA said.

"During the searches, many digital devices and other incriminating material were recovered from the premises of suspects," the agency said.

The spokesperson said that the case was initially registered at the

Bahu Fort police station in Jammu following recovery of five kgs of improvised explosive device (IED) from a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militant in the Bathindi area of Jammu on June 27.

"The conspiracy by the LeT was aimed at causing an explosion in Jammu using the IED. The NIA had re-registered the case on July 19 and had earlier arrested three persons in this case," the spokesperson said.

He said investigation revealed that Pakistan-based handlers of LeT, and their associates based in Jammu and Kashmir are planning militant activities in the Union Territory using the Resistance Front (TRF) so as to maintain plausible deniability and evade law enforcement agencies.

Further investigation in the case continues, the spokesperson said.

## Want Full Empowerment Of Women In J&K: Bukhari

Launches Sahulyat Initiative For Women

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Apni Party President, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Tuesday said it is heartening to see women folk scaling new heights in the social, political and financial frameworks in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said Apni Party believes that women possess an immense potential to give a new direction to society and the only requirement is that they are provided with an equal opportunity to prove themselves in all the fields of private and public life.

Bukhari was speaking on the sidelines of Party's women convention at Party's Central Office in M2 Church Lane, Sonwar where a women specific initiative "SAHULIYAT" was launched by the Party.

He said that Apni Party wants socio-economic and political empowerment of the women whose emancipation lays the foundation of any civilized society in the world.

The gathering was convened by Apni Party Social Media Convener Sujada Bashir, Social Media and Communication Convener Sheema Farooqi and In-charge Public Grievance and Social Media Convener Syed Fazl Khashani.

Addressing the gathering, Apni Party Social Media convener enumerated the benefits of the initiative where all the grievances related with women

will be redressed.

"As our Party President Bukhari Sahab announced that any grievance related to women folk will be addressed in a three-days time period, under this comprehensive initiative Apni Party will also provide free legal aid to the distressed women who might be facing domestic violence," Khashani informed.

The women participants present on the occasion lauded the efforts of party leadership in relation to the resolution of women grievances and also vowed to strengthen the party cadres via connecting more women to this much needed initiative.

The leadership present on the occasion included Apni Party Senior Vice President: Chulham Hassan Mir, Former Minister and Senior Apni party leader Mohammad Dilwar Mir, General Secretary Rafi Ahmad Mir, Provincial President Kashmir Mohammad Ashraf Mir, State Secretary Muntazir Mohi-ud-din, Media Advisor Farooq Andrabi, Provincial President: Women Wing Dilshad Shaheen and Party Leader Mir Imad Rafi.

Besides Women District President Srinagar Iram Latief, Jameela Khan, Women District President Budgam Shakela Bano, Women District President Kulgam Arifa Begum, Sornia Sadaf, District Secretary Ganderbal Kulsum, Coordinator Srinagar Rafiq, Zamrooda and Shaista were also present on the occasion.

## Valley's Biggest Eye Hospital Launched In Srinagar

LG Sinha Inaugurates Facility At Barzulla



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Sharp Sight Eye Hospitals, on Tuesday announced the launch of its state-of-the-art facility and biggest eye hospital in Valley located at Baghat Chowk, Estate Barzulla, Srinagar.

The facility was inaugurated by Manoj Sinha, LG of Jammu & Kashmir UT.

Speaking on the occasion, Sinha said, "I welcome team Sharp Sight to Srinagar and I am delighted to see the achievements made by this organisation. It's also very heartening to know that Sharp Sight is committed to providing eye care for all irrespective of people's paying capacity as affordability is one of its key priority."

According to Dr Samir Sud, Co-Founder & Medical Director, Sharp Sight Eye Hospitals, "Over the years, we have endeavoured to provide the best in class treatment and technology to our patrons at affordable costs. This center will cater to the needs of the eye patients in Srinagar and neighbouring areas. We will continue to strive to bring the benefits of our clinical excellence to various parts of Jammu & Kashmir."

Another co-founder and medical director of Sharp Sight Eye, Dr Ka-

mal B Kapur, said, "Sharp Sight extends its services to all ophthalmic specialties including Refractive Procedures (Vision Correction Procedures), Cataract, Glaucoma, Vitreous Retinal services, Uvea, Cornea, Squint, Paediatric Ophthalmology, Neuro-Ophthalmology, Oculoplasty and tumours, Optics and Vision Aids, Contact Lens and Comprehensive Eye Check up. We seek to provide world-class ophthalmic care at our patient's doorstep and this facility at Srinagar marks our maiden foray into Jammu & Kashmir."

CEO, Sharp Sight Eye Hospitals, Deepshikha Sharma said, "We have a vision to provide world class eye care services at affordable cost. We now proudly announce the introduction of latest American Technology in J&K, Femto Cataract Technology for Cataract treatment and Best German Technology, Touchless Lasik for Refractive Errors. We also aim at creating employment opportunities in all the new areas we would enter especially women empowerment."

Sharp Sight has established itself as a leading eye care provider in North and East India with 13 centres, and with over 5 lakh successful surgeries and procedures.

## People Of J&K Have Great Faith In PM: Smriti Irani

Union MoS Is On A 2-Day Visit To Budgam

Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** Union Minister for Women and Child Welfare Smriti Irani on Tuesday arrived for her 2-day visit to Budgam as a part of the Union Government's outreach initiative.

The Minister presided over a day long function organized by Directorate of ICDS and Department of Social Welfare in connection with celebration of 4th Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2021.

"Everybody I met today has a message of faith in PM Modi and we are keen on delivering upon the promises made by the Union Government to the people of Jammu and Kashmir," Irani said.

The minister said that 31000 smart phones have been provided to 28000 Aganwadi centers operational in the UT of J&K and about 9 crore rupees have been allocated as monetary relief to the deserving women and children across the UT of J&K under Poshan Abhiyan Scheme.

Earlier the Minister laid the foundation stone for up-gradation and widening of 10 Km road from Budgam to Manat to Handjan coming at a cost of Rs 5.85 crore to be executed by NABARD.

The Minister later chaired the meeting of officials of district administration to review up-gradation and reformations besides completion of various developmental initiatives through different centrally and state sponsored schemes in the district.

The Minister also interacted with different delegations of DDCs, BDCs, FRIs and MCs about their demands and grievances. Delegations from traders, youth clubs, and local deputations also had an interaction with the Minister.

Irani also visited Sheikh ul Alam Hall, Budgam and distributed nutrition kits, sanction letters among the selected beneficiaries including adolescent children and old age persons. Later the minister participated in a plantation drive at the nearby Bihisti Zehra Park.



## KASHMIR OBSERVER

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### KO VIEW

## Covid Is Endemic Now

India has so far administered at least 800 million Covid vaccine doses by Sunday. Last Friday, the country inoculated over 20 million people in a record-breaking effort to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday. The effort surpassed by far the country's previous daily record of more than 13 million doses on August 27. The union government hopes to vaccinate all of the country's adult population by December and has so far given at least one dose to 61 percent of them. And with India getting close to vaccinating a substantial number of its population by the end of this year, the country wants to resume export of vaccines by next month.

The plan to export vaccines is also indicative of India's confidence about having reigned in the pandemic. Ever since the catastrophic second Covid-19 wave that killed thousands of people, India has witnessed a progressive decline in the number of Covid cases. India reported 30,256 new Covid cases in the last 24 hours. The country's active caseload now stands at over three lakh.

But at the same time, the experts are saying that Covid-19 may be heading towards endemicity in India. According to noted vaccinologist Dr Gangandeep Kang the third wave will comprise the smaller local flare-ups, but the scale will not be like before. The endemic stage is when a population learns to live with a virus. It is therefore very different from the epidemic stage. This means we have reached a point where the disease will be very much present in the society like other ailments.

So, in a sense, Covid is going nowhere and may surface again as an epidemic if we don't observe precautions. It also means that it may not be possible to eliminate the virus in the near to medium term. Strains like Delta are several times more infectious and also a tad resistant to vaccination.

Around two years after the coronavirus first surfaced in China's Wuhan, the world remains far from getting a grip on it. In the process, the virus has wrought havoc on the global economy. In the first quarter of 2020, India's GDP declined by one-fourth. It is only now that some recovery is underway. But to keep up the progress, the world needs to act in concert to ensure there is no further surge in cases of infections. This calls for the governments around the world to stay alert. There is a greater need for collaboration on vaccination and also strict observance and enforcement of Standard Operating Procedures.

### OTHER OPINION

## The Real Deficit In India's Health Care System

A new report by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) has revealed that India's health system struggled during Covid-19 because the country doesn't have an adequate number of trained health personnel. For example, the nurse-doctor ratio is 1.7:1, and that of allied health workers to doctors is 1:1. India's High-Level Expert Group (HLEG) on Universal Health Coverage recommends a nurse-doctor ratio of 3:1. Other than the lack of an adequate number of health workers, there is also a considerable variation in the number of health personnel available across states and the rural and urban areas.

The State's focus has been on building physical infrastructure and buying equipment. To be sure, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has spoken of the need for health workers at all levels, but this will take time to translate into reality. The second problem is the focus on tertiary care instead of primary and secondary health care centres, and a focus on the number of specialised health care professionals when India also needs frontline medical professionals. Third, India produces only 13 new medical graduates (doctors and nurses) per annum per 100,000 persons, compared with more than 55 medical graduates in developed countries. More than 30% of the doctors and 50% of the nurses are not part of the current workforce. The government is setting up 157 new medical colleges and 50 nursing institutions, likely to produce about 22,500 doctors and 2,000 nurses every year. This essentially implies, a PHFI calculation shows, that even if 100% of the new graduates join the health workforce, it will take more than 10 years to add 250,000 health professionals to the existing health workforce size of about 170,000.

To accelerate the pace and meet our global health commitments, India must build more institutions for producing professionals and create a conducive environment, with adequate pay packages, to attract and retain the best talent in the workforce.

Hindustan times



# India's Financial System Reset

Harsh Gupta Madhusudan

**INDIA CANNOT FULLY COPY** either the Anglo-American model of capital markets first because financial literacy remains an issue here (and indeed globally), nor can we copy the East Asian-Continental European model of banks having close ties to industry and unions because our society and polity is much more heterogeneous

India's non-performing assets (NPAs) increased at the beginning of the last decade because of the natural turn of the business cycle, but also because much of the underwriting was done based on political due diligence rather than commercial due diligence. As we entered a strong dollar cycle globally from 2011-12 to 2020-21, the chickens came home to roost with the pandemic being the final kick.

A new reformist and anti-cronyist government in 2014 ironically worsened things in the short-term. Inflation targeting, the Insolvency Bankruptcy Code (IBC), the Real Estate Regulatory Act and the Goods and Services Tax increased uncertainty, even though they were growth enhancers in the long-term. We also overdid the checks and balances on public sector lending, and some good solvent businesses entered the spiral of illiquidity even as many underlying frauds were exposed. Credit growth stalled and the NPA ratio worsened, with non-performing to gross loan ratio crossing around 10% in 2018, a number last seen in 2002. Despite some fiscal and monetary easing pre-Covid-19 (around 2019), it was clearly not enough.

An entire way of doing business was reset as India Inc was forced to embrace digitalisation and formalisation more thoroughly. The earlier mechanism of inflating invoices, setting up projects with next to no real equity, and, if things went south, the sovereign picking the tab, was no longer viable. Equally, siphoning off large sums from minority shareholders made less sense now because of better transnational vigilance as well as limits on spending huge sums in cash domestically. Demonetisation led to a lot of cash entering the banking system, but some of the benefits were wasted for two reasons. One, the then Reserve Bank of India governor, Ujit Patel, let the rupee strengthen inordinately in 2017-18 without seeing through inflation pressures – this gravely hurt exports and industry. He should have, instead, built up reserves. Two, the increase in personal peak income tax rates in 2019 was another stick, when a carrot was required to improve compliance.

Nonetheless, the bold steps outnumbered the mistakes. Corporate tax rates were cut and a bunch of aggressive reforms have continued right through the pandemic. India's Unified Payment Interface is being

taken global, and the equally revolutionary account aggregators idea will lead to tax and payment metadata being used for better analytics, and, hence, cheaper as well as more widespread credit. India is leading the world in public digital goods, and China's recent crackdown on walled data gardens is a doffing of the hat. Sooner or later, America will follow, despite all the entrenched lobbies.

But, in the here and now, bank balance-sheets remain damaged. IBC has led to some clear gains, and we now even have a prepackaged version for micro, small and medium enterprises. The idea of not

tor ordered. ARC will remove almost \$30 billion of NPAs from the system in two phases, and because the said debt will be owned by one entity, the further resolution through IBC is likely to be faster. The government guarantee is a reasonable \$4 billion, is time-bound, may not even be used but is absolutely critical. It may be a more efficient use of capital than more direct bailouts, though that cannot be ruled out. Depending on how this evolves, we may have to readjust a bit. Healthy financial intermediation allows, for example, the young who are rich in human capital but not financial capital to borrow from those who have the latter. It allows

**THE PANDEMIC HAS GIVEN US AN** opportunity to make a clean start, and we must grab it with both hands. Already, lower bond yields have partially repaired bank treasuries to some extent (lower yield means higher bond prices). If we are to build trillions of dollars worth of infrastructure in this decade, then we will need all hands on the deck – developmental financial institutions, capital markets (INVTs, REITs where the government is also liberalising), and, of course, healthy private and public banks.

immediately having a bad bank was based on avoiding moral hazard – if banks know they will be bailed out by having their worst assets bought with reasonable or no haircuts, they will have zero incentive to do any diligence. That is a valid fear but, right now, we are at the other end of the spectrum – economic-financial sadism and masochism.

The pandemic has given us an opportunity to make a clean start, and we must grab it with both hands. Already, lower bond yields have partially repaired bank treasuries to some extent (lower yield means higher bond prices). If we are to build trillions of dollars worth of infrastructure in this decade, then we will need all hands on the deck – developmental financial institutions, capital markets (INVTs, REITs where the government is also liberalising), and, of course, healthy private and public banks.

A consortium of banks coming together and floating an asset reconstruction company (ARC), with the government giving a limited guarantee for the paper (security receipts) that this National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) will issue, may well be just what the doc-

the poor and the neo-middle class to climb onto the property ladder while systematically building an equity portfolio as well as reducing risks through insurance.

India cannot fully copy either the Anglo-American model of capital markets first because financial literacy remains an issue here (and indeed globally), nor can we copy the East Asian-Continental European model of banks having close ties to industry and unions because our society and polity is much more heterogeneous.

Thankfully, we do not have to choose – while we will learn from everyone, we will craft our own way based on our genius, away from false binaries, and let others discuss the Indian model of finance. And that model just received a big reboot over the last few months.

Harsh Gupta Madhusudan is the author of A New Idea of India, and an investor by profession

The views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Hindustan Times



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MAIL

All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited for clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

MAIL YOUR LETTERS  
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## Heinous Crimes Against Women • Get The Flu Jab

It is sickening to see how crimes against women have been on a rampant rise. A woman was gang raped and murdered by two men. A six year old child was raped and murdered in Hyderabad. A 32 year old woman who was brutally assaulted and raped in Mumbai succumbed to her injuries. And these are just a few of the many cases which have been reported. We live in a society where we preach but don't practice. We talk about feminism and women empowerment but when it comes to doing something as basic as guaranteeing their safety, we turn a blind eye. How do you expect women to flourish in a society where their

very lives are at stake. It's high time we implemented strict and stringent laws for these heinous crimes. Judicial reforms are the need of the hour. But this shouldn't just be the end of our efforts. We also need to identify the root cause of the problem and target it. The lack of sexual education and gender studies plays a huge role here. Families need to educate their children and also inculcate gender sensitization in their upbringing. For how can women's rights be exercised in a society when women aren't even seen as equals?

Ayana  
ayanarajeev2003@gmail.com

Doctors in Kashmir have alerted people about the importance of flu shots. These have been advised for people across the globe especially in these days. Flu illnesses and covid-19 often have overlapping symptoms. From fever, cough, cold and shivers, flu can often be mistaken as covid-19 and vice versa. This is why we must get a flu shot.

Additionally and obvious benefits of flu shots are well known. This is why they have come to

people much before the covid pandemic knocked our doors. Influenza vaccines are especially important for people with respiratory illnesses.

With autumn and winter just around the corner, therefore, flu shots are important. Additionally, if you are not vaccinated for covid-19, doctors have given out briefs to simultaneously take both the jabs.

Husna Mir  
Husnamir@rediffmail



# A Case For Reading

## Why We Must Read Literature

Eyram Hamid Khan

### IN A SENSE, THE FIRST MAN WHO

painted on the cave walls lived longer than his cave companions. Only a small number of people have written down their ideas on pages, paintings, or walls; the majority have died with their thoughts

"A good book is an event in my life", says Stendhal in his novel, 'The Red and the Black'. It is not necessary for someone to present a logical justification for why he or she does not read; all that is required is for someone to be lazy enough to avoid reading literature. With the advent of technology, the book, which has reigned supreme in the realms of information and amusement since the dawn of civilization, has been dethroned in recent decades by digital media. Who wants to go through the laborious, time-consuming process of reading words when movies and documentaries can entertain and inform you passively while doing absolutely nothing? I am not writing this piece of article to argue why reading literature is preferable to viewing films or documentaries, other than the fact that they are overlapping but distinct modes of enjoyment and knowledge; rather I am writing it to revive the lost tradition of reading literature. I believe it is important to state here that when I refer to literature, I am referring to all written works that have artistic or educational value. Reading is not the focus of attention here because it was a tradition for us, just as practicing racism was a tradition for us, but rather, to remind you of an exercise that can be a source of optimism and assistance that we lack. A book can be a life-changing event that alters your sense of existence and other aspects of your life.

It is human nature to desire to be remembered after death. People had figured out a way to pass on their ideas to the next generation since



they were living in caves. In a sense, the first man who painted on the cave walls lived longer than his cave companions. Only a small number of people have written down their ideas on pages, paintings, or walls; the majority have died with their thoughts. According to Banksy, and I quote: "They say you die twice. One time when you stop breathing, and a second time, a bit later on when somebody says your name for the last time". These books are the echoes of our ancestors' voices, who attempted to tell us about who they were. Unfortunately, as we develop habits of squandering our time on endless newsfeeds, these echoes are dwindling. There would be no Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, or any other intellectual figure without literature. We would undoubtedly die anonymously without contributing anything to the world if we continued to study literature as we do now, and those philosophers, artists, and scientists who lived thousands of years be-

fore you would live on in perpetuity.

Aside from our first-hand sensory experiences, reading literature is one of the most important sources of learning, not just of the past or present, but also of the future. The past is the torch that guides you through the present so that you can overcome the dark and unexpected future. Those nations and civilizations that possessed this wealth of information had a distinct advantage over others. They were well aware of their forefathers' mistakes, which resulted in turmoil, as well as all of their actions, which brought them prosperity and happiness. The situation has not changed much since then. Books come in a wide range of subjects and can teach you about everything. As a result, everyone or any organization that wishes to achieve a goal can benefit from their experiences. In terms of both time and energy, it is cost-effective. You don't have to waste time or effort to find out whether smoking causes cancer. This topic



**READING LITERATURE SHOULD NOT BE** considered a monotonous hobby in which you sit there and stare at the pages of a book. It is the activity that saves your time and energy, educates you on issues you are interested in, and entertains you by letting you momentarily escape the artificial and mechanical life

has already benefited from extensive research, which has been documented. So, you can start from where people before you left the quest rather than starting from all the ways back from, 'does smoking cause cancer?'

Reading literature for enjoyment is also fun. All these novels, poems, and dramas will take you on a voyage to a world you have never seen before. According to Longinus, these worlds are constructed in the minds of novelists, poets, and dramatists, and their good use of words and word order has the potential to "transport" you to these realms. This reminds me of the Virtual Reality (VR) technology, in which you put on a headset and virtually go and catch sight of anything you desire. Everyone who wears the headset will see the same image, yet two readers reading the same novel will experience two different versions of the imagined world. This is because when a writer creates an image by describing details, he or she cannot tell you about every

bit. As a reader, you also contribute, resulting in multiple versions of the same novel. Furthermore, from my personal experience, in the long term, I can recall many scenes from a novel that I read rather than a movie I watch. This might be the reason that I actively contributed to make those scenes in my mind.

Reading literature should not be considered a monotonous hobby in which you sit there and stare at the pages of a book. It is the activity that saves your time and energy, educates you on issues you are interested in, and entertains you by letting you momentarily escape the artificial and mechanical life. When you close the book and put it on the shelf, the tale does not stop; rather it begins. It evolves you slowly yet steadily. It motivates you and teaches you a valuable lesson. At the conclusion of a book, a reader who begins with the preface emerges as a better person than before.

The author can be reached at eyramkhan786@gmail.com

After almost two years – and an extraordinary global hiatus whose impact remains as yet unclear – it is inevitable that many will write about COVID-19 for decades to come. Indeed, one of the first books – Spike, by Jeremy Farrar, one of the UK's leading scientists and a member of the Sage emergency committee – has just been published. As we enter a long period of reflection, arts and humanities scholarship has much to offer, especially once the intensity of scientific and medical coverage has begun to subside.

Early on, as many of us locked down and worried about how we would emerge from the pandemic, the only chapter of any book on COVID any of us wanted to read was the one on the vaccine. Would there be one and would it work? But the technical description of this precious medical intervention in publications to come will be concise and short. The fuller story lies elsewhere.

The medical history of plagues is fascinating, but it is seldom the critical issue. We don't know for sure what the Athenian plague of the fifth century BC was, or the devastating plague of the second and third century AD. The plague of the sixth to eighth century AD in the Roman empire is a matter of some discussion but was probably several different infections. We know how the Black Death was spread, but it's scarcely the most interesting thing about it.

What is more interesting is how people react to plagues and how writers describe their reactions. The account by the Greek historian and general, Thucydides (460-400BC), of how the Athenians responded to their virulent plague in the fifth century, directly or indirectly influenced how many later historians in antiquity described plagues. It set the pattern for a narrative of symptoms alongside social impact.

Athens was in the second year of what would turn into more than 20 years of conflict with its Greek rival Sparta. The plague spread rapidly and killed fast – its symptoms beginning with fever and spreading through the body. Some Athenians were dutiful in caring for others, which usually led to death, but many simply gave up, or they ignored family or the dead, or they chased pleasure of every kind in what time was left to them.

How far the plague changed Athens is debatable – it did not stop the war

## Plagues And Classical History

Misha Ketchell



or affect Athenian prosperity. What Thucydides does say is that the loss of their great statesman Pericles (495-429BC) to the plague altered the nature of their leadership, and removed some of its moderating features. It is left implicit that the Athenians may have abandoned more of their traditional piety and respect for social norms.

This was the generation that would produce the most radical questioning of the role and nature of the gods, of what we know of the world and how we should live. But it also led to a renewed sense of militarism and eventual catastrophe: Athens defeated by Sparta and the loss of her empire.

### Pandemics and their impact

The temptation is to say that pandemics change everything. The Byzantine historian Procopius (AD500-570), who survived the onset of plague in the sixth century AD, was alive to this. Everyone became very religious for a while, but then as soon as they felt they were free, they went back to old behaviour. The plague was a wonderful symbol of systemic decline, but people adjust.

**SO WHAT OF OUR OWN PANDEMIC?** What will it change? Tempting as it is to predict a complete overturning of social behaviour, the lessons of the past would suggest that this is unlikely. The strong bonds of society have survived well. Perhaps the worst consequence is how this has served back progress in the developing world

Was the Byzantine world so fatally weakened by plague and its resurgence that it was unable to resist the onslaught of the Arabs in the seventh century? This may well be partly true, but the plague significantly preceded the Arab conquest, there was as much continuity as disruption visible in their culture and city life, and the Arab world had its own pestilences. History is not so simple.

So what of our own pandemic? What will it change? Tempting as it is to predict a complete overturning of social behaviour, the lessons of the past would suggest that this is unlikely. The strong bonds of society have survived well.

Perhaps the worst consequence is how this has set back progress in the developing world.

That, and long-term mental health and educational impacts across the world, are exceptionally difficult to gauge – though this will be the most studied pandemic in our history. And it will be arts and humanities scholars and social scientists who will be doing much of this incisive work – and already are. For example, The Pandemic and Beyond at Exeter University is already mapping more than 70 COVID-19 projects in the Arts and Humanities Research Council's portfolio.

Pandemic science

So what does history tell us that is useful? Look harder and dig deeper. That's why the history of COVID won't just be the description of the virus and vaccine, or the mystery of whether it came from a bat or a lab. It will be the immensely complex story of how this disease intersected with our social behaviour, how we chose to respond as individuals and families, communities and politicians, nations and global agencies.

What the best historians from Thucydides on have told us is that the biology of disease is inextricable from the social construction of illness and health. And we also see that humans are very bad at thinking about consequences.

One of the most interesting potential consequences of this pandemic is the relationship between politics and science. The Athenian plague may have jolted thinkers to be more radical by questioning traditional views of life, death and the role of the gods. And the Black Death is often seen as gamechanging in terms of religion and philosophy, and encouraging changes to medical ethics and improvements in social care. It even changed the balance on the value of labour, but we have yet to see if our pandemic has lasting inroads into patterns of working in offices or virtually.

This latest pandemic has shown science at its best and most essential, but it has also placed it uncomfortably centre stage in political decision making. Alongside the much more dangerous climate crisis, the pandemic has encouraged politicians to claim to "follow the science". But science does not speak with one voice, seldom offers easy or unequivocal answers and resists the short term. How the conversation between politics and science plays out, and what the consequences of the trade-offs may be, might yet turn out to be one of the surprises of this strangest of moments.

In the long run, understanding the impacts of this virus – and the wider cultural, social and economic challenges in which it is embedded – will require us to deploy a more generous and holistic view of science. Only in that way will we write the account of this pandemic that its disruptive force demands.

The author is Executive Chair, Arts and Humanities Research Council, and Professor, School of Classics, University of St Andrews. The article is being reproduced by arrangement with The Conversation



## Government of Jammu &amp; Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR HANDLOOM  
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT SRINAGAR.  
DASTI QUOTATION

The office of the Assistant Director Handloom Development Department Srinagar, invites Quotation from interested Audio visual story tellers for making short film approx. duration 02-2.5 minute, titled "Documentary on Merits and Demerits of Pashmina Shawls made from Hand Spun and Machine spun made pashmina yarn" through multiple platform utility video regarding making of Pashmina and Kanishaw procedures. The interested bidders/ Film makers should fulfill the following conditions.

1. The bidders/Film maker must possess the prior experience of executing similar assignments in the Handloom/ Handicraft sector and technical knowhow in production facilities.
2. Financial wherewithal that would be required for providing the satisfactory services.
3. The bidders/ Film makers shall have to attach the copies of relevant supporting documents as a proof for fulfilling the aforesaid conditions.
4. The bidders/ Film makers shall have to deposit EMD of Rs. 10000/- (Refundable) (Rupees ten thousand only) payable to Assistant Director Handloom Development Department Srinagar.
5. A presentation of adequacy and quality of the proposed methodology in executing plan shall have to be presented corresponding the requirement in the matter.
6. The successful bidder shall have to complete the whole process within a time limit of 05 days from date of issue of contract.
7. The undersigned shall be free to reject the proposal without assigning any reason. The Dasti quotations shall be received by the office of the undersigned up to 24th of September 2021 during office hours.

Sd/-  
(Dr. Shariq Iqbal) JKAS,  
Assistant Director,  
Handloom Development Deptt, Srinagar.

DIPK-8983/21

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU &amp; KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER DEPARTMENT OF  
FLORICULTURE KASHMIR SRINAGAR

## SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Fresh e-NIT No: 33 of 2021-22 Dated: 21.09.2021.

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

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of T./Doc. (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6
01.	Providing and installation of M.S. Frame for Hoardings at different locations of District Srinagar at Pratap Park, Polo Ground, Botanical Garden, Jhal Park on eve of Flower Show-2021.	3.26	200/-	07- days	DEE

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

1.	Period of downloading of bidding document	21/09/2021 from 03:00 PM to 28/09/2021 up to 04:00 PM
2.	Bid submission Start Date	21/09/2021 from 03:30 PM
3.	Bid submission End date	28/09/2021 up to 04:00 PM
4.	Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online)	29/09/2021 at 02:00 PM

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-Challan/copy of receipt from Treasury favouring of Executive Engineer, Floriculture Department, Kashmir (Tender inviting authority) indicating name of work by crediting the requisite charges to the M/H: 0406 02-112 Public Gardens (Floriculture Department Kashmir) in favour of Executive Engineer (Tender inviting authority).
2. All Bidders have to submit/upload Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest Money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form as per Annexure "A" below).
3. The lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/ within 02 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.
4. The date and time of opening of technical Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer Department of Floriculture Kashmir Srinagar (Tender receiving authority).
5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
6. The earnest money/performance security shall be forfeited, if:-
  - a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
  - b. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
7. All bid received beyond 15% above the advertisement cost of the work will be rejected.
8. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
9. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) to acquire bid submission process.
10. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
11. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
12. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
13. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of following necessary documents:-

- I. Tender document fee in the shape of Treasury Challan.
- II. Registration.
- III. Renewal of Registration (Current financial year).
- IV. Copy of GST of Current financial year up to June.
- V. PAN Card.
- VI. Bid Security Declaration.

However, hand copy from the successful (first lowest) bidder shall be obtained on call. In case of clarification, the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

Furthermore, the successful contractor shall also get the handover/takeover himself after completion of the desired work from the concerned Garden officer/F.O./A.O after obtaining handover/takeover letter from the AEE concerned.

12. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

DIPK-9082/21

No: EE/ FD/ 1648-54  
Dated: 21.09.2021

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Deptt: of Floriculture, Kashmir.

J&K TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED  
TOURIST RECEPTION CENTRE SRINAGAR

For and on behalf of Managing Director, Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation Limited. E-Tenders are invited for supply of firewood (Baghati dully chopped (Bukhari size) from registered/approved dealers on the terms and conditions mentioned in the tender document.

E-Tender Notice No. JKTDG/GMO/2571-75 Dated. 20/09/2021

Dumping sites	Requirement
I. JKTDG Tourist Establishment Gulmarg and Tangmarg	1000 Qtr's
II. JKTDG Tourist Establishment Pahalgam	The requirement (May increase or Decrease)
Earnest Money (EMD)	Cost of Tender Document
Rs. 40000/-	Rs. 1000/-
	Tender inviting authority
	General Manager Operation Kashmir JKTDG

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

1	Date of issue of tender notice	20.09.2021
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	21.09.2021 10:00 am
3	Bid submission Start Date	23.09.2021 4:00 pm
4	Bid submission End Date	11.10.2021 4:00 pm
5	Deadlines for receiving the Hard Copy (Original DD & EMD) with all relevant documents (in case of untoward situation/Govt. holiday) the hard copies will be received in next working day	12.10.2021
6	Opening of Technical Bid /hard copies (in case of untoward situation/Govt. holiday) the technical bid will be opened in next working day	14.10.2021 11:00 am

2. The cost of tender document is Rs. 1000/- (Rupees One thousand only) payable by Demand Draft in favour of General Manager (O) JKTDG payable at Srinagar, may be scanned/ submitted along with the Technical Bid. The cost of tender document is NON-REFUNDABLE. Tender submitted without cost will be rejected.
3. Submission of Earnest Money (EMD) equal to Rs. 40000/- (Rupees Forty thousand only) in the form of Demand Draft pledged to General Manager (O) JKTDG, TRC Srinagar, may be scanned/ submitted along with technical bid.

Sd/-  
General Manager (Ops)  
Kashmir

DIPK-NB-3654/21

THE ISLAMIA COLLEGE OF  
SCIENCE & COMMERCE

NAAC ACCREDITED GRADE 'A'

UGC AUTONOMOUS, AFFILIATED WITH UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR  
HAWAL, SRINAGAR, JAMMU & KASHMIR -190002

No. ICS/1209-11/L-14/A-35

Dated: 20-09-2021

EXTENSION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR  
FROM REGISTERED SUPPLIERS FOR PRINTING AND SUPPLY OF BANNERS/  
HOARDINGS AND RELATING ITEMS FOR THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2021-22

Due to poor response the last date of receipt of Expression of Interest invited vide this office No. ICS/1060-63/L-14/A-35 dated 08-09-2021 from registered firms/agencies for the printing and supply of Flex / Banners etc., to this College is extended up to 30 of September, 2021. The Sealed offers addressed to the Principal, Islamia College of Science & Commerce, Srinagar on the letter-head attached with EMD in the shape of CDR pledged to Accounts Officer, Islamia College of Science & Commerce Srinagar should reach the office of the undersigned by or before 30/09/2021 upto 4:00 p.m. However, all other terms and conditions laid down under EOI No. ICS/1060-663/L-14/A-35 dated 08/09/2021 shall remain unchanged.

The undersigned reserves the right to reject or cancel any or all offers without assigning any reason therefor.

DIPK-NB-3660/21

Sd/- Principal

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

SKIMS MEDICAL COLLEGE/HOSPITAL  
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY

BEMINA SRINAGAR, J&amp;K - 190017

Advertisement Notice No: 01 SKIMS-MCH OF 2021

Dated: 18 -09-2021

**Sub: Hiring of contractual staff for setting up of Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) under National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDTC) for SKIMS Medical College Hospital, Bemina.**

Application forms on prescribed format are invited from the eligible candidates of UT of J&K for engagement of the following posts for Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) at SKIMS Medical College Hospital, Bemina approved by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE), Government of India and Nationally coordinated by National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDTC), All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi purely on temporary/ contract basis initially for a period of one year (2021-2022) to be extendable on yearly basis subject to continuation of sponsored scheme by the Govt. of India & good performance & conduct of the candidate.

Name of the Post	No of Posts	Eligibility/Qualification	Remuneration
Medical Officer	01 (One)	1. Minimum MBBS from a recognized Medical Institution with NMC registration. 2. Preference: Trained in the management of substance use disorders. Age: Upto 65 Years	Rs. 60000/ Month
Nurses	06 (Six)	1. Minimum recognized ANM 2. Preference: Trained in the management of substance use disorder. Age: Upto 45 Years	Rs. 20000/ Month
Counsellors	02 (two)	1. Masters in Psychology / Social work / Sociology/ humanities 2. Preference: Trained in the management of substance use disorder. Age: Upto 45 Years	Rs. 20000/ Month
Data Manager	01 (One)	1. Graduation with one year course in Data Entry Operator from the recognized Institute. 2. Preference: Having working experience in a National / Health scheme / programme / Survey. Age: Upto 45 Years	Rs. 15000/ Month

Note: Last date of submission of application forms is: 05-10-2021

## Terms &amp; Conditions:

1. The hiring of staff shall be purely on contractual basis/ non transferable as per ATFs Centrally Sponsored Scheme norms.
2. The candidate must be domicile of J&K, UT.
3. The consolidated honorarium per month shall be inclusive of all allowances / benefits to be conveyed by NDTC.
4. The selection of candidate for each post shall be finalized as per criteria notified in this advertisement.
5. The hired persons will be purely on temporary/contract basis for a period of one year approved by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE), Government of India and will automatically cease/terminate once the scheme is over. It is emphasized that the services are not being hired against any substantive post and as such won't confer any right upon the hired persons to regular/permanent appointment.
6. The engagement can be terminated on account of non/poor performance without any notice keeping in view the public health importance of the programme.
7. No candidate is eligible for TA/DA.
8. The aspirants shall have to execute an agreement with the SKIMS MCH, Bemina to the effect that he/she will not leave the department before the completion of three months term. However, abandonment/termination of the arrangement in the specialty will require one month's prior notice on either side, failing which the remuneration shall not be paid for one month to the engage (hired person) which shall always remain in deposit with the department and shall be released on the completion of the sanctioned term.
9. Applications not accompanied with necessary supported documents shall be rejected.
10. Candidates are advised to keep themselves updated through the website i.e. [www.skimsac.edu.in](http://www.skimsac.edu.in) and no individual communication to the candidates shall be made in this regard.
11. Candidates shall ensure that their e-mail ID & Cell Number as specified in the application form is active during the Selection process.
12. The candidature shall be cancelled in case it is found at any stage of hiring that any fact has been misrepresented or miscommunicated or any fraudulent certificate/s has been produced to avail the engagement.

## Instructions for submitting applications:

Candidates are required to submit the application form on the prescribed format along with relevant documents in the office of HOD Psychiatry/ Nodal Officer ATF, SKIMS Medical College/Hospital, Bemina for which the candidate intends to apply.

## Documents to be submitted:

1. Essential qualification certificate
2. Marks certificate of essential qualification.
3. Registration Certificate from MCI/State Medical Council/J&K State Nursing & Paramedical Council.
4. D.O.B Certificate.
5. Domicile Certificate.
6. Certificate of training in management of substance use disorders.
7. Relevant experience Certificate.
8. One passport size self-attested photograph to be affixed on the application form and one spare photograph to be submitted along with the form.

No. SKIMS-MCH/PSY/2021/397-404

Dt: 18 -09-2021

Principal  
SKIMS Medical College

## APPLICATION FORM

Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF), SKIMS Medical College Hospital, Bemina

1. Advertisement Notice No. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Post Applied for: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name of Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Parentage: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Tehsil: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_ Block: \_\_\_\_\_
8. E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Contact No. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Details of Educational/Technical Qualification. \_\_\_\_\_

## Academic Qualification.

Examination Passed	Subjects/Branch	Examining Body/Board/University	Year of Passing	Marks Obtained/Out of	Total Marks	%age
10 <sup>th</sup>						
12 <sup>th</sup>						

## Professional Qualifications:

Examination Passed	Subjects/Branch	Examining Body/Board/University	Year of Passing	Marks Obtained/Out of	Total Marks	%age

## Experience

S.No	Designation	From	To	Total Experience

## Declaration

- a. I do hereby declare that:
- b. The statements in his application are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
- c. I have never been debarred from appearing in any examination/interview.
- d. I have never been convicted by any court of law in India for breach of any law in force nor have I been involved in any act involving moral turpitude or any such act which is aimed against the unity and integrity of India.
- e. I undertake that any willful concealment of the facts shall result in the cancellation of my candidature and the appointing may debar me from applying for future selection.
- f. I shall accept the selection made by the selection committee, which will be binding on me.

Date: DIPK-NB-3644/21

Signature of Candidate



## Govt Committed To Promote Kashmir Craft: Advisor



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Basir Ahmad Khan said that the government is fully committed to promote all the crafts and handicrafts of Jammu and Kashmir and is taking several initiatives in this regard.

He made these observations while inaugurating the Celebration of Vanija Saptah at Kashmir Haat here, as part of the Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav, which marks the start of the 75th year of Indian Independence.

Vanija Saptah is a two day event being organised by Department of Handicrafts and Handloom in collaboration with Ministry of Commerce, Carpet Export Promotion Council India, Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Department of Industries and Commerce Jammu and Kashmir. On this occasion around 65 stalls have been installed at Kashmir Haat providing a platform to artisans and weavers who are displaying and marketing their goods.

On the occasion, Advisor Basir Ahmad Khan said that Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is committed to give a boost and expand the handicrafts of Jammu and Kashmir across the globe and several initiatives in this regard are being taken.

Advisor said that the whole idea of showcasing these stalls is to generate awareness among the people in order to promote art and craft to the next level. He said the endeavors of this nature provide a platform for the marketing of products in addition to the support that is provided at the micro level by the government to the artisans and weavers.

He said that government

has taken slew of measures to uplift the economic conditions of the artisans and weavers. In this regard, he said, Education scheme is being introduced for the children of artisans and weavers so that they will be able to provide best education to their children. He said that the export of crafts had seen a decline in the past due to absence of 'GI' certification but now the matter stands resolved. He said that the introduction of GI tagging and certification has given a boost to the confidence of customers and bogus and fake products have been eliminated.

Due to government's intervention on all aspects of the handicrafts and the artisans, local craft is again resurrecting and has started to provide gainful employment opportunities to the artisans.

Emphasizing on the need for holding more exhibitions in the UT and outside, Advisor directed the Department of Handicrafts to hold more such exhibitions in the UT and outside on reciprocal basis. He said that this would ensure the publicity of the Kashmiri craft, which is renowned worldwide for its intricate designs and elaborate craftsmanship at national and international levels.

Responding to the demands of a facilitation centre here, the Advisor assured artists of strong hand holding and marketing support through Exhibitions within and outside the Union Territory. He said that the government is committed to provide every kind of help to the artisan community to make them self-sufficient. Advisor also said that e-commerce is another platform where the artisans get an additional channel to display their goods.

## DG Horticulture Visits Shopian

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** Director General Horticulture Kashmir, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat (JKAS) Tuesday visited various areas of district Shopian regarding the incidence of insect pest leaf miner at villages Babarpura, Amnura and adjacent villages of Zainpura Shopian.

He was accompanied by Associate Director Extension, SKIASH-Kashmir Chief Horticulture Officer Shopian, Scientist from KVK, Balpora Shopian besides other field functionaries of the Department.

Director General inspected the affected orchards and took stock of the severity of the pest. He advised the farmers to utilize different techniques besides chemical control like

orchard sanitation, use of pheromones etc. for controlling the pest. Director General emphasized on the orchardists to have a close liaison with the department for better management of the pest. He further added that the advisory for the control of the insect will be shared by the department with the farmers from time to time.

DG Horticulture also hoped that with the proper pest management and cooperation of the orchardists the said pest will be completely eradicated.

Moreover, spraying of infested orchards should be ensured in and around the infested area immediately with combo product (Chlorophosph 50% + Cypermethrin 5%) @ 100ml/100 litre of water.



## We Have Clear Instructions To Hear From Businessmen In J&K: MoS Finance

Visits J&K Bank Headquarter, meets industry representatives

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Union Minister of State for Finance, Dr. Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad Tuesday visited J&K Bank headquarter and interacted with Bank's CMD R K Chhibber along with the senior management.

Acknowledging the Bank's vital role in the overall economic development of J&K, Dr. Bhagwat expressed satisfaction over the Bank's recent performance and overall functioning.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad said, "Our Prime Minister is very concerned about business and its progress across the country and we have clear instructions to hear from businessmen in J&K. I am happy to see that J&K Bank is doing a wonderful job here."

"J&K is gifted with natural resources. Having a great scope for Ayurveda medicines and other products, the aspiring entrepreneurs of the valley should take advantage of the schemes that the concerned union ministry has devised for the sector," he added.

The Union Minister also held a

meeting, facilitated by the Bank, with a delegation comprising of members representing valley's prominent industry associations in presence of Additional Chief Secretary Finance, Atal Dulloo and J&K Bank CMD R K Chhibber at the Bank's corporate headquarters, DG Budget, M. Y. Itoo, Commissioner State Taxes Showkat Azaj Bhat, and Director Resources Finance Dept Shweta Hussain Mir and senior management officials of the Bank were also present on the occasion.

Briefing the Minister about the Bank's history, CMD R K Chhibber highlighted the Bank's systemic role in the overall economic functioning of the region besides emphasizing upon its major contribution in the financial transformation of J&K and Ladakh for over eight decades.

He said, "Bank's foundations are fundamentally strong because of the huge emotional equity of the people of the region besides the continued support and guidance of its promoter and major stakeholder i.e. UT Government. We have been playing instrumental role in the implement-

ation of Union Government's flagship programs like Financial Inclusion under Prime Ministers Jan Dhan Yojana, PM Mudra Yojana, and other Social Security Schemes and more recently during the Covid19 pandemic we have contributed majorly in implementing the Finance Ministry's CECL Scheme under Amanirbar Bharat Abhiyaan."

Additional Chief Secretary Finance, Atal Dulloo said that the government was formulating various schemes to help the local businesses. "Owing to Covid19, 1350 CR rehabilitation package was announced by UT Government to revive businesses in J&K which included 5% interest subvention besides certain waivers of PDD and PHE dues. GST reimbursement is also being done regularly," he said.

Besides thanking the minister for patient listening, the business delegation commended the Bank's management especially CMD for providing them the platform to express their views and convey concerns to the visiting dignitary in a very free and frank manner.

## Gadkari Pitches For Fixed Driving Hours For Commercial Truck Drivers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi:** To reduce road accidents, Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday pitched for fixed driving hours for commercial truck drivers similar to that of pilots, as well as on-board sleep detection sensors in commercial vehicles.

In a series of tweets, the Road Transport and Highways Minister said driving hours for truck drivers should be fixed similar to pilots' to reduce fatigue-induced road accidents.

"Have directed officers to work



on a policy to include On-Board Sleep Detection Sensors in Commercial Vehicles, at par with European standards," he said in a tweet.

The minister said he will also write letters to chief ministers and district collectors to ensure that district road committee meetings are held regularly.

Earlier on Tuesday, Gadkari attended the introductory meeting of new members nominated to the National Road Safety Council (NRSC).

The minister also said he has now directed the council to meet every two months and share their updates.

## Programme Rolled Out For 1500 Mini Sheep Farms For Tribal Areas

Scheme to benefit 12000 tribal youth: Dr Shahid

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Tribal Affairs Department has rolled out plan for establishment of 1500 mini Sheep Farms during current financial year. Selection of beneficiaries has been initiated for establishment of 750 farms in 13 districts under Phase-I of the scheme. The scheme was announced by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha last week as flagship initiative for tribal welfare.

Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary informed that the ambitious plan for establishment of 1500 sheep farms was planned recently and the scheme has been rolled out with active role of Sheep Husbandry Department J&K. The scheme is being implemented in two phases with 750 units each. The farmers selected under the scheme will also be provided skill development for livestock product management and access to various schemes.

Dr Shahid informed that department is also planning establishment of larger sheep farms with 200 animals per unit and encourage establishment of Farmers Produce Organisation for institutional incentives.

Government is awaiting marginal tribal farmers to establish their own mini sheep farms with an aim to generate employment and supplement the meat and wool production as well as value

addition of livestock product and market linkages. J&K has tremendous potential in meat industry and wool processing which is being harnessed by tribal affairs department by initiating a network of tribal youth across all districts to become suppliers of livestock as well as to establish a value addition chain with focus on wool processing. Mission Youth has been rolled up for skill development Trainings and establishment of wool processing units.

The mini Sheep Farm Scheme has been rolled out by tribal affairs department in collaboration with Sheep Husbandry Department under which there will be 20% addition of units every year beginning from third year of the scheme rollout. It is aimed to provide gainful employment to more than 12000 youth in next three years. A budget of Rs 150,00,000 Lakh has been earmarked by the tribal affairs department for the current year which also includes sheep farming in model villages.

The scheme guidelines issued by the department lay a focus on migratory tribal population, women and youth. A special component has been reserved for the population migrating to highland pastures during summers and villages having sufficient grazing lands are being mapped for Micro level planning to prioritise establishment of larger sheep farms.

## Airtel Joins Global Efforts To Combat Climate Change

Commits to 50% reduction in GHG emissions by FY31 across its operations

**SRINAGAR:** Bharti Airtel Limited ("Airtel"), India's leading provider of telecommunications services, Monday announced its commitment to contribute to global efforts to mitigate the impact of climate change and build a sustainable planet.

Airtel has joined the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) "Business Ambition for 1.5°C" campaign and adopted targets to significantly reduce its carbon footprint and emissions from its network operations. With this, Airtel joins the league of leading global corporations who have committed to the 1.5°C pathway outlined by the SBTi - a partnership between CDP, the United Nations Global Compact, World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

Vidut Gulati, Director - Legal, Bharti Airtel said: "Climate change is the biggest challenge facing humanity. We must act collectively without further delay to ensure we do not go past the point of no return and have a sustainable planet. Businesses have a fundamental responsibility to contribute to this effort and Airtel has adopted an ambitious target in this direction and will report its progress transparently."

In a related development, Airtel has also become the first Indian telecommunications company to join the United Nations (UN) Global Compact, the largest corporate sustainability initiative in the world. By becoming a signatory to the UN Global Compact framework, Airtel is aligning its comprehensive Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) initiatives to the global body's 10 principles spanning Environment, Human Rights, Anti-Corruption and Labour.

Airtel is already aligned to the Paris Climate Accord. It has a comprehensive environmental management framework and is proactively implementing clean, fuel-based power solutions for its towers, data centres, switching centres and other facilities. It has achieved 97% reduction in network emission intensity for mobile operations (from FY16) besides 25% increase in renewable energy deployment in operations over same period via various green power wheeling agreements which helped in saving CO2 emissions. For the FY ending 2021 Airtel e-bills initiative saved 667 tonnes paper sheets, besides 5,554.3 tonnes of e-waste was recycled.

### SHORT TAKES

## Kharif Foodgrain Output Estimated At Record 150.50 Mn Tonne This Year: Govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi:** India's foodgrain production is likely to touch record 150.50 million tonne in the ongoing kharif season on better rice output amid good monsoon, the agriculture ministry said on Tuesday.

In the kharif season of 2020-21 crop year (July-June), the foodgrain output comprising rice, pulses and coarse cereals stood at a record 149.56 million tonne.

Record production is pegged in rice, sugarcane and cotton. However, production of coarse cereals and oilseeds is estimated to be lower marginally during the kharif season of this year.

Sowing of kharif (summer) crops like paddy begins with the onset of the Southwest monsoon from June, while harvesting in most of the parts commences from October.

Releasing the first advance foodgrain production estimate for the ongoing kharif season, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said: "A record foodgrain production is estimated at 150.50 million tonne in kharif season."

Bumper crop is being achieved on account of tireless hard work of farmers and scientists besides farmer-friendly government policies, he said.

As per the data, pulses production is likely to increase to 9.45 million tonne in 2021-22 kharif season from 8.69 million tonne achieved in the previous year.

Production of tur, the main kharif pulse, is estimated to increase marginally to 4.43 million tonne from 4.28 million tonne. However, production of coarse cereals is estimated to decline to 34 million tonne from 36.46 million tonne.

## Gold Marginally Down; Silver Gains Rs 40

**New Delhi:** Gold in the national capital on Tuesday was marginally down by Rs 3 to Rs 45,258 per 10 grams inline with weak global precious metal prices and rupee appreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had settled at Rs 45,261 per 10 grams.

Silver gained Rs 40 to Rs 58,750 per kilogram from Rs 58,710 per kilogram in the previous trade.

The Indian rupee appreciated 15 paise to 73.59 against the US dollar in opening trade on Tuesday.

In the international market, gold was trading lower at USD 1,761 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 22.42 per ounce.

"The two-day US FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) meeting will start today and market players will await for any comments from FED officials to gauge tapering clues," according to HDFC Securities, Senior Analyst (Commodities), Tapan Patel. (PTI)

## Sensex Rebounds 514 Pts On Firm Global Cues

**Mumbai:** Equity indices clawed back lost ground on Tuesday, buoyed by a recovery in overseas markets as fears eased about the debt crisis at China's Evergrande group seeping into the global economy.

Investors scooped up IT, finance and metal stocks after the steep correction in the previous session, while a strengthening rupee also bolstered sentiment.

After a choppy start, the 30-share BSE Sensex gained momentum in late-afternoon trade to close 514.34 points or 0.88 per cent higher at 59,005.27.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty surged 165.10 points or 0.95 per cent to 17,562.

Bajaj Finance topped the Sensex gainers' list with a jump of 4.94 per cent, followed

by IndusInd Bank, ITC, Bajaj Finserv, Tata Steel, HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra and Infosys.

On the other hand, Maruti, Bajaj Auto, Nestle India, HDFC Bank, PowerGrid and Axis Bank closed with losses of up to 2.54 per cent.

"Domestic benchmark indices witnessed sharp recovery mainly led by brisk rebound in defensive sectors like IT, pharma and FMCG," said Binod Modi, Head - Strategy at Reliance Securities.

"Today's recovery in equities shows that markets have discounted possible fallout from likely default of Chinese real estate giant Evergrande, while Thursday would be crucial as USD 83 million interest payment is due for Evergrande on the day," he added.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services,

said, "Domestic indices staggered during the early trading session however positive trends in the global markets comforted Indian equities to rebound during the second half."

"Global stocks recovered from the fears sparked by troubles in the Chinese economy, ahead of the FOMC meeting that will start later in the day. All major sectors traded in the green zone while the auto sector remained under pressure due to rising input costs and the semiconductor shortage faced by the global auto industry," he added.

Sectorally, BSE realty, metal, tech, IT and basic material indices rallied as much as 2.93 per cent, while utilities, power, auto and bankex were in the red.

Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices rose up to 0.79 per cent. (PTI)



# India Warns Of Reciprocal Measures If UK Does Not Address Concerns Over New Vaccine Policy For Travellers

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** India on Tuesday warned of 'reciprocal measures' if the UK does not address its concerns over the new travel rules relating to COVID-19 vaccine certification with Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla describing these norms as 'discriminatory'.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also took up the issue of Covishield-vaccinated travellers being required to quarantine in the UK with newly-appointed British Foreign Secretary Elizabeth Truss at a meeting in New York.

"The basic issue is that here is a vaccine, Covishield, which is a licensed product of the UK company, manufactured in India of which we have supplied five million doses to the UK at the request of the government of the UK."

"We understand that this is being used under the national health system, and, therefore, non-recognition of Covishield is a discriminatory policy and does impact those of our citizens travelling to the UK," Shringla said at a media briefing here.

Official sources said India will



definitely take reciprocal measures against travellers from the UK if its concerns relating to the vaccine certification are not addressed by October 4, when the new rules will come into effect.

The foreign secretary said he has been told that certain 'assurances' were being given by the UK that the issue will be resolved.

"We have also offered to some of the partner countries the option of mutual recognition of vaccination certificates. But these are reciprocal

measures. We have to see how it goes. But if we do not get satisfaction we would be within our rights to impose reciprocal measures," Shringla said.

According to the new rules announced by the UK, Indian travellers who have received both doses of the Covishield vaccine manufactured by the Serum Institute of India (SII) will be considered unvaccinated and will have to undergo self-isolation for 10 days.

Developed by researchers at the University of Oxford and pharma giant AstraZeneca,

Covishield is one of the two anti-COVID vaccines used by India — Bharat Biotech's Covaxin being the other — in its vaccination drive across the country.

The new rules have drawn sharp criticism in India with the opposition Congress urging the government to immediately intervene and ensure that there is no inconvenience faced by Indian travellers.

It is learnt that New Delhi has already issued a note verbale to the UK on the matter.

In the meeting with Truss, the external affairs minister raised the issue with her and called for resolving it at the earliest to mutual satisfaction.

"Urged early resolution of quarantine issue in mutual interest," Jaishankar tweeted after the meeting.

From October 4, the current "traffic light system" of red, amber, green countries based on levels of COVID-19 risk will be replaced by one red list of countries.

The scrapping of an amber list, which is what India is currently on, means reduced PCR test cost burden only for those travellers.

The expanded list of countries whose vaccines are

recognised in the UK does not include India.

It means Indians vaccinated with Covishield would be required to undergo compulsory PCR tests as well as self-isolation.

The British High Commission on Monday said it is engaging with India to explore how it could expand recognition of COVID-19 vaccine certification issued by Indian authorities.

"The UK is committed to opening up international travel again as soon as it is practicable and this announcement is a further step to enable people to travel more freely again, in a safe and sustainable way, while protecting public health," a spokesperson of the High Commission said.

"We are engaging with the Government of India to explore how we could expand UK recognition of vaccine certification to people vaccinated by a relevant public health body in India," the official added.

Former union ministers and Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh, Anand Sharma and Shashi Tharoor have slammed the UK's travel policy, with Ramesh saying it "smacks of racism".

## Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari to be new Chief of Indian Air Force

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari will take charge as the chief of the Indian Air Force after the incumbent, Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhaduria, retires on September 30, the defence ministry said on Tuesday.

Air Marshal Chaudhari is currently serving as Vice Chief of the Air Staff.

"The government has decided to appoint Air Marshal V R Chaudhari, presently Vice Chief of Air Staff, as the next Chief of the Air Staff after the retirement of Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhaduria on September 30," the ministry said in a brief statement.

The government followed the principle of seniority in appointing Chaudhari to the top post.

He has held command, staff and instructional appointments at various levels and took over as Vice Chief of Air Staff on July 1.

Before becoming Vice Chief of the IAF, he was serving as commander-in-chief of the Western Air Command (WAC) that looks after the security of Indian air space in the sensitive Ladakh sector as well as various other parts of north India.

The officer oversaw various operational deployments of the Indian Air Force in frontline bases in the backdrop of the eastern Ladakh border standoff with China last year.

Following the escalation in

tension in eastern Ladakh in mid-June last year, the IAF deployed almost all its frontline fighter jets like Sukhoi 30 MKI, Jaguar and Mirage 2000 aircraft in the key air bases in eastern Ladakh and elsewhere along the Line of Actual Control. After their induction, Rafale jets too carried out sorties in various forward areas.

An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Air Marshal Chaudhari was commissioned into the fighter stream of the IAF on December 29, 1982.

In a distinguished career spanning nearly 38 years, the officer has flown a wide variety of fighter and trainer aircraft in the inventory of IAF.

He has a flying experience of more than 3,800 hours, including operational flying on MiG-21, MiG-23 MF, MiG 29 and Su-30 MKI fighter jets.

He was the commanding officer of a frontline fighter squadron and has also commanded a frontline fighter base.

Apart from various operational issues, Air Marshal Chaudhari will have to also address matters related to the ambitious theatreisation model of the armed forces.

The theatre commands are being planned to integrate the capabilities of the three services and to ensure optimal utilisation of their resources.

## US Opening A New Era Of 'Relentless Diplomacy' After Ending 'Period Of Relentless War': Biden On Afghanistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**United Nations:** The US has ended 20 years of conflict in Afghanistan and as Washington closes this period of relentless war, it is opening a new era of "relentless diplomacy" to lift people up around the world and renew and defend democracy, President Joe Biden said on Tuesday.

In his maiden address to the high-level 76th UN General Assembly, Biden told world leaders and diplomats gathered in the General Assembly hall that in his view the world is at an inflection point in history.

Instead of continuing to fight the wars of the past, we are fixing our eyes and devoting our resources to the challenges that hold the keys to our collective future — ending this pandemic, addressing the climate crisis, managing the shifts in global power dynamics, shaping the rules of the world on vital issues like trade, cyber, and emerging technologies and facing the threat of terrorism as it stands today.

"We've ended 20 years of conflict in Afghanistan and as we close this period of relentless war, we're opening a new

era of relentless diplomacy; of using the power of our development aid to invest in new ways of lifting people up around the world; of renewing and defending democracy; of proving that no matter how challenging or how complex the problems you're going to face, government by and for the people is still the best way to deliver for all of our people, he said.

Biden referred to the UN Security Council resolution on Afghanistan, adopted under India's Presidency of the 15-nation UN organ last month, and said that "while the United States will do its part, but we're more successful and more impactful if all of our nations are working together."

That's why more than a 100 nations united to get around a shared statement when the Security Council adopted a resolution outlining how we will support the people of Afghanistan moving forward, laying out expectations to which we will hold the Taliban when it comes to respecting universal human rights.

We will all must advocate for the rights of women and girls to use their full talents, to contribute economically,

politically, socially and pursue their dreams free of violence and intimidation, from Central America to the Middle East, Africa to Afghanistan, wherever it appears in the world, he said.

We all must call out and condemn the targeting and oppression of racial, ethnic and religious minorities, whether it occurs in Xinjiang (in China) or Northern Ethiopia, or anywhere in the world, Biden said.

He said, I stand here today for the first time in 20 years with the United States not at war. We've turned the page. All the unmatched strength, energy, commitment, will and resources of our nation are now fully and squarely focused on what's ahead of us. Not what was behind.

As we look ahead, we will lead, we will lead on all the greatest challenges of our time from COVID to climate, peace and security, human dignity and human rights but we will not go alone. We will lead together with our allies and partners and in cooperation of all those who believe as we do that this is within our power to meet these challenges, to build a future and lift all of our people and preserve this planet, the US president said.

## Jaishankar discusses Afghanistan, Indo-Pacific in bilateral meetings with global counterparts on UNGA sidelines

**United Nations:** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday discussed issues relating to Afghanistan and the Indo-Pacific during his bilateral meetings with global counterparts on the sidelines of the annual high-level UN General Assembly session.

Jaishankar, who arrived here on Monday to participate in the high-level 76th session of the UN General Assembly, started his day with a meeting with French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian.

Began the day meeting with our Strategic Partner France. A comprehensive discussion with FM @YLeDrian on Afghanistan, Indo-Pacific and other contemporary issues. India and France are solid partners in the UN Security Council, Jaishankar tweeted on Tuesday.

He then held a bilateral meeting with Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs Amirabdollahian.

Good to meet FM @Amirabdollahian of Iran again. Continued our conversation on strengthening bilateral cooperation. Jaishankar said in a tweet, adding that the meeting reaffirmed our convergence on regional issues.

Jaishankar met Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry in the UN headquarters on the sidelines



of the UNGA.

Good to meet FM Sameh Shoukry of Egypt. Agreed to take forward our bilateral cooperation. Exchanged views on the GEDR issue and Afghanistan, he said.

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrives in Washington later this week to participate in the Quad Leaders' Summit hosted by President Joe Biden, Jaishankar also met his Australian counterpart Marise Payne.

Met our Quad partner Australia. Took forward strategic conversations with FM

@Marisepayne from our last meeting. Was apprised of recent developments in the Indo-Pacific, he said.

On Monday, Jaishankar held bilateral meetings with Norwegian Foreign Minister Ine Eriksen S. Reide, Iraqi Foreign Minister Foad Hussein and the UK's new Foreign Secretary Elizabeth Truss.

Jaishankar and senior Indian officials arrived in New York for the annual high-level UNGA session which returned to a more hybrid and in-person format this year after going virtual last year

due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the week, Jaishankar will meet his counterparts from several member states and participate in the G-20 meeting that will focus on Afghanistan and the G-4 Foreign Ministers meeting with focus on Security Council reforms.

India will participate in three high-level meetings organised by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Climate, Energy and Food Systems.

The 76th UNGA session commenced from September 14 under the Presidency of Abdullah Shahid. The high-level week - the General Debate - commenced on September 15. President Joe Biden addressing world leaders.

Prime Minister Modi will address the General Debate on September 25.

The Taliban seized power in Afghanistan on August 15, two weeks before the US' complete troop withdrawal on August 31 after a costly two-decade war. This forced Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to flee the country to the UAE.

The Taliban insurgents stormed across Afghanistan and captured all major cities in a matter of days, as Afghan security forces trained and equipped by the US and its allies melted away.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### Army Intensifies

operation to ensure that the infiltrators, if any, do not get to the hinterland.

On Monday, the authorities had snapped all telephone and internet services in Uri as a precautionary measure.

The area where suspicious movement was observed falls near Gohalan, the same area from where the attack on Uri Brigade was launched by militants in September 2016.

#### Youth Hit By Bullet

ensure that the militants suspected to be hiding in the area do not flee.

Meanwhile, a police spokesperson said that the youth was injured in the firing by militants. "Terrorists fired upon security forces while on operational duty near village Lassipora Khag in which one civilian Bilal Ahmad Rather R/o Chahar received injury in the leg. The injured is stable and the search in adjacent area is going on. Credential of injured being ascertained," police posted on the official Twitter handle.

#### Army Chopper

Northern Command, Lt Gen YK Joshi paid rich tributes to the slain officers.

"Army Commander, Northern Command, and all other ranks salute the bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty on 21 September 2021 at Patnitop and offer deepest condolences to their families," the Army's Northern Command said in a tweet.

Officials said the incident reportedly occurred between 10.30 am to 10.45 am when the chopper was caught in bad weather, officials said, adding the helicopter belonged to the Army Aviation Corps.

There was a thick fog over Patnitop when the incident occurred, they said.

Local residents were the first to reach the site and they pulled out the pilots from the severely damaged helicopter, they added.

Police, along with the Army, rushed to the

scene to join the rescue operation and evacuated the injured pilots to a hospital, the officials said.

Pertinently, this is the second incident of chopper crash in Jammu division in less than two months. Earlier on August 3, army's Rudra helicopter crashed into Ranjit Sagar Dam in Kathua district leaving both pilot and co-pilot dead. Their bodies were recovered weeks after the crash. PTI

#### Police To File

Behaviour is observed by the general public, a police spokesperson said.

During the meeting, he said, a detailed discussion was held to create awareness about the necessary COVID-19 appropriate SOPs among the masses by engaging through public meetings. He further said that engagement with market associations, transport associations among others was underlined as paramount in the meeting.

"Various measures required to enforce the Covid appropriate behaviour were also discussed. These include imposition of fines on the violators as well as extending assistance to the teams of Civil administration. In cases of repeated violations of COVID-19 protocol, FIRs will be registered against the offenders," the police spokesperson said.

He further said that police have been at the forefront in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic and will continue to deploy all measures for the safety and good health of every citizen in these challenging times.

#### J&K Logs 145

the remaining 24 were detected in the winter capital on Tuesday thus taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 328,214.

Giving district wise details, the officials said that Srinagar reported 56, Budgam 19, Baramulla and Ganderbal 13 each, Pulwama,

Bandipora and Kupwara 5 each, Anantnag 4 and Kulgam 1 new case of Covid-19, officials said. No case was detected in south Kashmir's Shopian district.

Similarly, Jammu and Udhampur districts reported 6, Doda 4, Kishtwar 3, Ramban 2 and one new case each was reported from Rajouri, Samba and Poonch, officials said.

Moreover, they said, 154 more Covid-19 patients have recovered — 30 from Jammu and 124 from Kashmir.

Meanwhile, two more coronavirus related deaths were reported from Jammu division, this taking the overall fatality count to 2449 in J&K — 2172 in Jammu division and 227 in Kashmir.

#### J&K Is Crown

two-day visit to Ganderbal on Tuesday, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the political parties which met the Minister included Apni Party, District Congress Committee, BJP, National Conference and J&K Panthers Party who apprised the Minister about the issues and developmental needs in their areas.

While interacting with the political representatives, the Minister, as per the official spokesperson said that Jammu and Kashmir is the crown of the country and Central Government is focused to provide every support to the administration in its endeavours for overall development of the UT.

"Replying to issues and developmental needs raised by the political party representatives, he maintained that Prime Minister has directed all the Central Ministers to visit the UT with the purpose to interact directly with people and elected bodies to ascertain the needs of the locals at grassroots level so that the same may be fulfilled in a better and effective manner," he said.

According to the official spokesperson, the Minister handed over cheques among beneficiaries worth Rs 4.06 lakh under Chronic Disease Assistance and Education Assistance of

Labour Department.

Meanwhile, the Minister also distributed aids and appliances including wheel chairs, CP chairs and hearing aids among children with Special Needs (CWSN) and handed over keys of commercial vehicles under MUMKIN Scheme among beneficiaries. Karad, he said, also interacting with the beneficiaries and said that Union Government is determined to ensure welfare of all sections of the society in the UT and in this regards various financial assistance schemes have been launched in J&K.

"He added that launching of these schemes is in line with PM Narendra Modi's call for 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas' mantra. Dr. Karad also distributed sports kits, Golden Cards and pension booklets among beneficiaries," the official spokesperson said.

#### Discusses Development

Ganderbal district in central Kashmir as part of the Centre's special outreach programme for J&K.

"Today met Dr. Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad @DrBhagwatKarad, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Finance. Held discussion on a range of issues pertaining to the rapid development of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir," the I-G tweeted.

The minister also interacted with representatives of political parties like the Apni Party, the district Congress committee, BJP, National Conference and the J-K Panthers Party, an official spokesperson said.

#### IED Defused Along

sensitive defence and civilian installations, including Srinagar airport, Technical airport, headquarters of Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry of the Army.

The Army and police had launched a cordon and search operation in Gogo area Monday night following information about possible subversive activities there, they said.

According to the officials, the improvised explosive device (IED) was detected during the search operation. A bomb disposal squad was summoned and the device was destroyed.

#### Patwari Caught

Dab Wakra was arrested by a trap team of ACB after a case FIR No.28 of 2021, under section 7 Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 was registered against him on the basis of a complaint that he was demanding Rs 20,000 bribe from a person for issuing revenue extracts of land to him.

"The trap team laid a successful trap and caught red-handed Aijaz Ahmad, while demanding and accepting a bribe amount of Rs. 15000/- from the complainant. The amount of bribe was recovered on the spot in presence of an independent witness," the Bureau spokesperson said.

Divulging more details of the case, he said, Patwari had agreed to settle the matter against Rs 15000 bribe after negotiating with the complainant.

He said the investigations led to the constitution of a trap team that caught the revenue official red-handed.

"He was arrested and taken into custody by ACB," the spokesperson said, adding "Further investigation is in progress."

#### U.P Resident Among

resident of Bijnour Uttar Pradesh and Mohammad Umar Dar of Chanapora (Koter area of Kulgam) were arrested by police and army's ITR personnel in Frisal area of the south Kashmir district on Monday evening, local news agency GNS reported.

Sulmani runs a Saloon at Bijbehara. Quoting an unnamed police official, the report said that one pistol and some rounds were recovered from their possession.

Meanwhile, a case has been registered in this regard and further investigation taken up.



## DC To Resume Campaign Against SRH In IPL 2021



Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** Bolstered by Shreyas Iyer's return, Delhi Capitals will look to maintain the form they showed in the first half of the season as they resume their IPL campaign against a struggling Sunrisers Hyderabad Dubai on Wednesday.

Delhi are currently sitting on the second spot, with 12 points from eight games. On the other hand, Sunrisers are placed at the last spot, with just a solitary win from seven games and six losses.

The Rishabh Pant-led side ended the first half of the IPL with a win and would be keen to start on a winning note.

And to do that, the Capitals have enough power-hitters in their line-up, who can take any good attack to cleaners and Sunrisers won't be an exception. Opener Shikhar Dhawan (380 runs), would be keen to prove the selectors wrong after being axed from India's World T20 squad, while his partner young Prithvi Shaw (308 runs), would also like to get some runs under his belt.

DC boast of a strong middle-order comprising Shreyas Iyer, skipper Rishabh Pant (213 runs), Australians Steve Smith (104 runs) and Marcus Stoinis (71 runs) and Shimron Hetmyer (84 runs).

They will have to play their

roles well if the Capitals need to keep winning and in case the opener's fall, the middle-order will need to take responsibility.

Iyer, who is making a comeback after recovering from shoulder injury that he sustained in March, would also be keen to start the tournament well.

Delhi also have a settled bowling attack and they could go in with Avesh Khan (14 wickets) and Kasigo Rabada (8 wickets), who have been lethal at the start and at the death.

Delhi have array of spinners to choose from - be it wily old-fox Ravichandran Ashwin, experienced campaigner Amit Mishra, Axar Patel, Lalit Yadav or Pravin Dube.

For Sunrisers, a win would boost their confidence and help them stay afloat in the tournament.

However, their season's leading run-getter Johnny Bairstow, has decided to pull out and hence the marauding Australian opener David Warner (193 runs) will have to shoulder more responsibility.

The likes of Kane Williamson, Manish Pandey, Wriddhiman Saha, Kedar Jadhav, Abdul Samad and Vijay Shankar, will also need to chip in and contribute. Their bowlers, led by spin sensation Rashid Khan, also will have to put up a disciplined show to contain the Delhi batters at the Dubai International Stadium.

## Messi Out Of PSG-Metz Game With A Knee Injury

Agencies

**PARIS:** Lionel Messi will miss Paris Saint-Germain's next French league game at last-placed Metz after a knock to his left knee.

A scan confirmed "the signs of bone contusion," PSG said in a statement on Tuesday. Another assessment of Messi will be made in 48 hours. Messi was taken off in the 75th minute of his home debut on Sunday, when PSG beat Lyon 2-1 in the league.

PSG coach Mauricio Pochettino said he took the decision to replace Messi after noticing the six-time Ballon d'Or winner repeatedly touched his knee.

Messi, who hit the crossbar with a curling free kick, looked angry at being taken off.

"I'm really happy with what he did during the match, he played a great first half," Pochettino said during a news conference. "All the great champions don't want to leave the pitch."

Messi is still chasing his first PSG goal following his shock move from Barcelona this summer.

PSG's win against Lyon extended the club's perfect start to the season ahead of Wednesday's trip to Metz. PSG has won its first six league matches to open a five-point lead over second-placed Marseille, which has one match in hand.

## FIFA To Hold More Talks On Biennial World Cup

Agencies

**ZURICH:** FIFA will finally start speaking to football clubs, leagues and players' unions this month in the latest steps announced Monday in its push to organize a men's World Cup every two years.

All 211 member federations have also been invited to online talks on Sept. 30 as part of consulting on the future of national team football, including a biennial men's World Cup.

FIFA first sought approval this month from retired players, including World Cup winners who went to Qatar for a two-day conference, and commissioned surveys of fans in selected countries.

That process was criticized as flawed by FIFPRO, the global union for active players, which is now set to get a meeting with FIFA.

A "new phase of consultation" will start with organizations representing players, clubs, leagues and the six continental governing bodies, FIFA said Monday in a statement.

European football body UEFA has warned it could boycott if the World Cup moves from its historic four-year cycle, and South American counterpart CONMEBOL is also opposed. Their members dominate World Cups on the field but combine for fewer than one-third of the 211 federations who vote.

FIFA argues biennial World Cups will give more players and teams the chance to compete in meaningful games, improve talent



globally and raise more money for development programs.

Opposition has focused on diluting the World Cup's appeal, distorting the balance between domestic and international football and overloading players in a crowded schedule. The prestige of UEFA's European Championship and CONMEBOL's Copa America also risk being hit by playing more World Cups.

The World Cup debate has overshadowed an ongoing review of the FIFA-managed International Match Calendar, which mandate when clubs must release players to national teams.

The men's calendar expires in 2024 and there is broad agreement the current system is outdated. It requires players to travel for matches in separate windows

## Taliban Sack ACB Director, Ban IPL 2021 Broadcast

Agencies

**KABUL:** The Taliban have sacked the executive director of Afghanistan's cricket board, and on Tuesday directed to ban IPL 2021 broadcast in the country.

While ACB executive director, Hamid Shinwari posted on his official Facebook page on Monday that he had been fired by Anas Haqqani, the younger brother of the Taliban's new Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani.

He said he was not given any reason for his dismissal, but was told he would be replaced by Naseebullah Haqqani. The official Facebook page of the ACB also announced Naseebullah Haqqani as the new executive director.

The IPL 2021 ban comes even when top Afghan cricketers like Rashid Khan, Mohammad Nabi and Mujeeb ur Rahman are participating in the IPL in UAE.

Former Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) media manager and journalist M Ibrahim Momand said the live broadcast of IPL



matches was banned due to possible "anti-Islamic" content.

"Afghanistan national (TV) will not broadcast the IPL as usual as it was reportedly banned to live the matches resumed tonight due to possible anti-Islamic contents, girls dancing & the attendance of barred (sic) hair women in the stadium," Momand had tweeted on Sunday when the IPL action resumed.

Another journalist, Fawad Aman, who has also served as the spokesperson of the Ministry of Defence as per his Twitter handle, wrote, "Ridiculous: Taliban have banned the broadcasting of Indian Premier League (IPL) in Afghanistan."

"Taliban have warned that Afghan media outlets should not broadcast the Indian Cricket League due to girls dancing and the presence of female audience and spectators in stadiums."

The IPL 2021 season resumed in the United Arab Emirates, on Sunday (September 19).

## Srinagar Football Leagues: 4 Matches Played On Tuesday

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In the ongoing DFA Srinagar Football League 2021, four matches were played on Tuesday here.

In the Super Division, which has entered its second stage, two matches were played at Synthetic Turf, TRC.

The first match between Court Road FC and Jehlum Sports ended in a 1-1 draw. Jehlum Sports took the lead in the 53rd minute of the second half through Mehraj. Court Road players, however, struck back in the 70th minute through Azeb to equalise the match.

In the second Super Division match, Fort View FC took on Syed Tajuddin FC. The match was dominated by the Syed Tajuddin players who scored four goals to wrap up a comfortable tie. The first goal was scored by Sanjeev in the 9th minute. Wars then doubled Syed Tajuddin FC's lead in the 23rd minute. Shob scored the team's third goal in the 64th



minute, and the fourth goal was scored by Faisal in the last five minutes of the match. Syed Tajuddin defeated Fort View FC by 4 goals to nil.

In the 'K Division' League, which is currently in its initial league stages, two matches were played at Gindun Ground, Rajbagh.

The first match was played

between Haroon FC and Towheed FC. Anchar, Haroon FC won the match 4-1, courtesy of goals by Salman, Faizan, Burhan and Soban. Umer Habib was the scorer for Towheed FC.

The second match of the 'K' Division was played between Blossom FC & Majeed Bagh FC. The match ended in a goalless draw.

The first match was played

## Tour Cancellation ECB's Decision, Not Government's, Says British HC to Pakistan

Agencies

The British government's concerns about player safety played no part in the ECB's decision to withdraw its men's and women's teams from their tours to Pakistan next month, according to the British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Christian Turner. In a statement posted on Twitter, Turner said the ECB's decision not to tour was made independently of the country's government, and that the High Commission had supported the tour.

travel advice for Pakistan has not changed. I have been a champion of international cricket's return to Pakistan and will redouble my efforts in advance of England's autumn 2022 tour. My thanks to all at the PCB who have worked so hard in support of that."

Turner's statement could serve to incense an already angered PCB further. The ECB issued a statement yesterday confirming that it had decided to withdraw both teams, and while it did not cite a specific security threat, attributing the decision to "the



"I share the deep sadness of cricket fans that England will not tour Pakistan in October," Turner said. "This was a decision made by the ECB, which is independent of the British government based on concerns for player welfare. The British High Commission supported the tour, did not advise against in on security grounds, and our

mental and physical well-being of players and support staff", the statement did mention that there were "increasing concerns about travelling to the region."

The decision came three days after New Zealand pulled out from their tour of Pakistan minutes before the start of the first game in Rawalpindi following a "specific and credible" security threat.

## Pakistan Will Now Look After Its Own Interest: Raja

Agencies

**ISLAMABAD:** Ramiz Raja, the chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board, says the "western bloc" seems united after England became the second country to refuse to play in Pakistan.

"I am severely disappointed in England's withdrawal but it was expected because this western bloc gets united unfortunately and tries to back each other," Ramiz said in a video message.

The England and Wales Cricket Board withdrew its men's and women's teams from a tour of Pakistan for a limited overs series next month, citing increased concerns about travelling to the region. It also cited player fatigue ahead of the T20 World Cup in the United Arab Emirates.

New Zealand abandoned its tour to Pakistan last week moments before the toss for the first ODI at Rawalpindi. It did not give details of any security threats it had received.

"There was a sense of anger because first New Zealand got away without sharing information about the threat they were facing," said Raja, who took over as the PCB chairman on Sept. 13. "This [England] decision was expected but this is a lesson for us because we go out of our way to accommodate and pamper these sides when they visit."

Pakistan has twice toured England since the pandemic and travelled to New Zealand and the West Indies. The PCB had lined up a domestic season with teams like New Zealand, England, West Indies and Australia.

Pakistan was supposed to play



at least 12 Twenty20s ahead of the World Cup, but with the withdrawal of both England and New Zealand it will go into the event with just one completed T20. This was against the West Indies.

Raja said this put into question matches against the West Indies and Australia.

"We have a West Indies series that can also be hit, and Australia who is already reconsidering. This England, Australia and New Zealand are all one block. Who can we complain to?"

Raja said Zimbabwe was willing to play in Pakistan to fill the gap left by both New Zealand and England. Bangladesh and Sri Lanka had offered to send their second string teams. However, all these suggested tours could not materialize due to "logistical difficulties," Raja said.

Pakistan has scheduled its own domestic National T20 Cup in which all the World Cup players are going to participate. Raja said Pakistan has set its target to beat at least three teams.

"We had one team in our target, our neighbours (India), now add two more teams, New Zealand and England," Raja said.

## Rishabh's Level Of Maturity Has Gone Through Roof: Ponting

Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** Delhi Capitals coach Ravi Ponting feels his young skipper Rishabh Pant's level of maturity "has gone through the roof" in the last couple of seasons as he has evolved from a swashbuckling keeper-batsman to a leader of the pack.

The 23-year-old Pant was given the responsibility to lead Delhi Capitals in the first phase of IPL 2021 after regular captain Shreyas Iyer was ruled out due to a shoulder injury.

"Rishabh's level of maturity in the last two seasons has gone through the roof," Ponting, one of the game's all-time greats, described the cricketer on Tuesday.

"When I first came in, he just burst on to the scene. I had said we are going to see the unearthing of someone who is going to play for India for a long time. I could see how much he wanted to be in every Indian team."

"It will take a very good player to knock him off that Indian team." Under Pant's captaincy, DC reached their maiden IPL final

last season though they lost to Mumbai Indians in the summit showdown in the UAE.

"He has done a terrific job so far (leading DC in IPL). We are all striving for something special. This year we want to go one step further and Rishabh is going to play an integral part in that."

Before the first phase of the league had started in India earlier this year, Ponting had backed Pant as the team's skipper in the absence of Iyer, stating that the youngster would enjoy the extra responsibility. And he did as DC topped the standings with six wins from eight matches before COVID-19 cases in the IPL's bio-bubble led to a suspension of the event.

Eager to in their silverware, Pant said the team needs to give just 10-15 percent more than last season.

"We are better than last time this year. We have been focussing on the process for two-three years. We don't have to do too many things differently from last year. We can do the same things and give 10-15 percent extra," Pant said on the eve of their opening game against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

## Kohli Credits Shanker For Making Him 'Fitter To Fittest'

Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** Virat Kohli has narrated his struggles from persistent back pain in 2014 and how he overcame it with the guidance of former India strength and conditioning coach Basu Shanker.

In the foreword for Shanker's maiden book — 100, 200 Practical Applications in Strength and Conditioning — Kohli recalled how he was introduced to lifting weights by the S&C coach who helped him in becoming one of the fittest cricketers around.

"In the latter half of 2014, I found myself with a relentless back issue which was not easing off. Every morning I had to do a routine for 45 minutes to loosen my back, but the stiffness could come back at any time through the day," Kohli wrote.

"It was then that Basu sir and I had a conversation around lifting weights and getting over-all explosive strength in my body," Kohli added. "Shanker, who worked with the national team from 2015-2019, is seen as the man responsible for the transformation of Kohli and the Indian team's fitness."

"At first, I wasn't convinced (about lifting), but the only thing Basu sir

asked of me was 'trust'. I had full faith in his knowledge and experience. I remember in our series against Sri Lanka in 2015, I started learning lifting from Basu sir, understood the dynamics and the study behind the practice and felt I was working towards something amazing."

The results were outstanding, and that changed my perception of S&C and the importance of knowing exactly what you're working towards," he added. Kohli, who himself launched the book on social media last week, heaped high praise on Shanker, who is currently with RCB. "Basu sir is the best S&C coach I've worked with, and his ability to make you feel at ease with his template is absolutely amazing. Never have I worked with someone who knew exactly how to transform my physique and performance according to my needs, not through a set template that was common to everyone."

"I truly believe through this book one can dive into the details and the knowledge which can surely transform your perception of what training means, change the way you do things and how you feel about your physique after following the programme to the T, as Basu sir likes to say," Kohli added.



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